



Passionist International Bulletin

N. 1 - June 2003

The
Centennial
of
the
death
of
Saint
Gemma
Galgani



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Passionist International Bulletin

No. 1 - New Series - June 2003

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Easter 2003: Letter to all the Religious of the Congregation and to the Passionist Family

My dearest brothers,

It is within the context of the present moment of the passion and death of so many of our brothers and sisters in the world that I am sending these Easter greetings to them and to all the Religious of the Congregation and of the Passionist Family. Jesus continues to be humbled in so many persons. Holy Week, the week of Passion, becomes months and years of sufferings and crosses for many people especially in the more fragile and vulnerable guise of children, that can't understand the reason for so much violence and oppression. They that only want to play, as we have played, in a green meadow running after a ball; yellow children, black, white, of any race without distinction, in complete freedom, laughing. Instead they are forced to run away in fear and hide with hearts that beat wildly and often die, without understanding the folly of adults. Then the land mine: children without one or two arms, without legs, in a wheelchair or with crutches. We imagine Jesus at twelve years of age entering in the temple on crutches, with only one leg. It seems like blasphemy, and we blink away the image, and say: "It couldn't be! It's not possible, that this can happen to Jesus, the son of Mary." But Jesus suffers and lives in these children and their face is his face, and his face is in all those that suffer.

The world seems transformed into a big Calvary, and it is not only by Iraq that the mass-media has upset us by bringing into our homes via television scenes of destruction as if it was a show, or only Palestine and Israel, but also the other eighty and more unremembered wars currently taking place in the world. I want to remember, among these other wars, the war that has raged for five years in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with over three million people dead; a war that the Congregation lives in its own body through the presence of many religious who for the most part are also from the Congo and with some religious from Belgium. Part of the Passionist Vicariate is located in the zone controlled by the guerrillas and part in the zone controlled by the government. Our religious are divided between the two zones with all the difficulties of the instability of life, of communications and with the restrictions, needs, violence and death that a war involves. Our religious live and exercise their ministry among the people and with the people in these situations. We are in solidarity with

them and we pray that this period of the passion is brief so that days of peace will quickly return, thus permitting a more secure lifestyle and more effective work.

There is no justification for all this that is occurring in the Congo, in Iraq, in Israel and in Palestine or in other places of conflict; as there is no justification for the violence of regimes, for example in Iraq and other countries, perpetrated over so many years, in order to exercise and retain power, or because of terrorism, be it systematic or by small groups.

There is no end that could justify the use of violence and of war. We as the Passionist Family are opposed to all this. Our position is clear: we are called by our vocation to be at the foot of the Cross, lovingly gazing at the world with the eyes and the heart of the Crucified One. And we will always be with Him on behalf of the victims, whoever they are, without distinction: "today you will be with me in Paradise", purified by the martyrdom suffered on account of human violence.

But to have the heart of the Crucified means also that when all the earth becomes darkened, the hope of a new, day, filled with sunlight, always remains because the resurrection is certain. This is our faith and this we professed at the foot of the Cross and when we are absorbed in the sufferings of our people. For Jesus, his Passion and Death was a plan of life, and the passion and death of our people and of ourselves can partake of the same plan of life because we are united to that plan of Christ. Martyrdom doesn't belong only to the first centuries of Christianity; the earth is also drenched with the

CHRIST, JESUS

Again they have folded up time like a rush and on the arc they have placed inanimate the body of God.

Christ, gentle Jesus, your wounds have suffered the howl and the long sirens of the factory and ships of the harbor. Christ, Jesus alone, your death is within us who rebel against who those who wound the brother of poverty and of hunger.

Christ, Jesus we, on the sea have disentangled the algae of pain and weakness Christ weak but we have not stayed securely to discover you like ourselves insulted and dead. And your mother that wove in the bosom cradle of love now counts nails, thorns and children that die of hunger. Christ, innocent Jesus.

Ottaviano D'Egidio



blood of the martyrdoms of our times. We remember the blessed Martyrdoms of the Passionists of Daimiel, that of Blessed Eugene Bossilkov, Fr. Carl Schmitz and so many others that have died for a just cause whether within or beyond the Congregation.

Dear brothers, it is in the certainty of the Resurrection and in the living hope of new heavens and new times of peace throughout all the earth, that I express my wishes for a Happy Easter. With the hymn of the Vespers of the Holy Week we pray with all the Church: *"Hail, oh Cross, our only hope- in this time of passion- you grant grace to believers- you obtain Peace for the people. Amen."*

The cross is our only hope for obtaining Peace in this time of the passion. And when we say "the cross" by this we mean the mystery of the love of God expressed in the extreme sacrifice of self-giving: "he loved them to the end". The cross also means mercy, welcoming, listening, pardon; it means making people the center of our attention more than principles. How many times have we and the Church mercilessly sacrificed and used people, who should be respected and defended, for principles? For principles we have also carried out martyrdoms. The primary concern of Jesus is people: *"The Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath."* *"Woman, has no one condemned you?...neither do I condemn you; go in peace."* *"Mercy and justice I desire, not sacrifices"*.

The person is a value, the supreme value, and this is so because of his/her very existence, and consequently is welcomed and loved beyond his/her abilities and beyond race and religious affiliation.

We must believe that this is possible, that it is not a utopia, as ecumenism is not a utopia within Christianity and beyond Christianity. Unfortunately the process toward ecumenism, during these recent years, seems to have waned, but the war in Iraq, and the situations of continual violence between Palestine and Israel, North Korea and other situations make dialogue with Islam, with Judaism and the other major religions of the east indispensable. Blessed Domenic Barberi, Passionist, was a teacher of ecumenism by the constant dedication of his life that combined fidelity with personal liberty. The process toward ecumenism is about accepting cultural differences within the unity that comes from the one God that we adore and love.

In the future the Congregation should be more present in the field of the ecumenism. We must work together with the other major religions for the renewal of dialogue, of respect and of other values that enable, above all, the recovery of common values, which anticipate and prevent the same avoidable wars and the systematic violence of regimes and of terrorism. Ecumenism, clearly understood is one of the best instruments for understanding and peace.

But we must have courage, otherwise the fear of change will not only prevent us from growing, but will make us lifeless. If faith is authentic and if life is not static, it cannot be restrained. It moves deeply and it always embraces us in our totality, both personally and socially.

Hans Küng wrote that the only things that cause man's downfall are a lack of faith, desperation, the impossibility of believing in God, and not having any more dreams; this is the sin that can cause man's downfall.

But we believe. The stone was rolled away, the tomb is empty: *"Tell us Mary who you saw along the way?"... "the tomb of the living Christ, the glory of Christ risen...the shroud and the linens. Christ, my hope, is risen; and goes ahead of you there.."*

Yes, of this we are certain: Christ is risen and goes ahead of us, lives with us.

It is the presence of Jesus that strengthens and encourages us. He will be with us all the days of our life, in communities and in families; he won't leave us alone like orphans. He has promised it and Jesus' word is truth. He is the triumphant king who has conquered death and our loneliness. And in his presence, and from the light that shines from his glorious wounds that were still present after the Resurrection in his glorious body as a sign and eternal witness of love, we believe in that peace for the world that was envisioned in past and distant times by Isaiah the prophet: *"they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not lift the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again... The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the young lion will browse together with a little child to guide them."* (Is. 2:4; 11:6) And then we read in an ecumenical context the prophet Ezekiel 37:26: *"I will make a covenant of Peace with them...and put my sanctuary among them forever. I will be their God and they shall be my people."* To make the people of the world one people, redeemed and in peace seems like a dream, but we to this must tend to and work at this dream: one single God for one people, living in mutual respect of diverse cultures and religions and human expressions. Then we too, will experience the amazement of those various persons that crowded Jerusalem on the day of the Pentecost, *"people of every nation under heaven."* The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2, states: *"We are Parthians, Medes, Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." All were amazed and perplexed asking one another: "What does this mean?"* The Holy Spirit had enlightened minds and hearts; and made a small opening that offered a glimpse of a world of understanding and of welcoming. It is that small opening that we must find again and we must widen.

In hopeful expectation and in the dream of a world that is unified and in peace I extend to all people of good will my best wishes for a Happy Easter. May God send his Holy Angel to roll away the stone that weighs on the world and that constricts the hearts of the powerful per-



sons of the world. May the Lord also eliminate whatever impedes and slows down our journey of consecration toward the Passion of Jesus. May he help us to be credible witness of his crucified love.

In a special way I wish to extend my best wishes to the sick whether the religious or the laity, that they may relive in their flesh the Passion of Jesus. Happy Easter to young people! May they help us through their youthfulness and enthusiasm to believe in a better world and in a Congregation with greater vitality and credibility that knows how to work boldly for the Reign of God. May they help us to be even more daring! I greet and extend my best wishes to the cloistered Passionist nuns who by their silent prayer, missionaries in the monastery, accompany the apostolate of the Congregation.

I also greet the Passionist Congregations and Institutes of both consecrated religious and laity who together with us in varying ways, live the same charism of the Passion in different parts of the world and share our mission. I remember with particular fondness the laity of the Passionist Family: may they express our vocation as laity in the midst of the world in many different situations. I now want now to especially remember with great sadness, a member of our Passionist Family who died recently during the war in Iraq. Wars that don't touch one's own country, and are seen only on TV, seem unreal and distant until the day when a person that you know and for whom you have great fondness is wounded or killed. Only then can you fully understand the merciless reality of war.

At the celebration of 150 years of Passionist presence in America (USA) a journalist of the NBC Television News network, David Bloom, 39 years old, was present together with his wife, as members of the lay Passionist movement of the Province of St. Paul of the Cross (PAUL). During his talk at the conference center David, among other things, said: *"That peace for us Passionists, is born from the pierced heart of Jesus on Calvary, and must help us to understand why and how we must work for peace."* I knew him only for one brief day, as a

vibrant and enthusiastic man. He was sent as a correspondent reporter to the war in Iraq and died of an embolism last April 6. This took place while he was in a tank in the thick of a battle. We are close in prayer to his wife and to their three children. May God grant David eternal rest and comfort to his family.

I also want to send my special fraternal greetings to the Passionist bishops who are called by the Church to realize their vocation in service to Dioceses. May the fullness of their Priesthood increase in grace for all of us!

The celebration of Easter and of this first day of the Sacred Triduum, Holy Thursday, mystically unites once again all the Passionist family in one body and in one spirit. We are in fact founded upon the Eucharist and we live by the Eucharist, as is reaffirmed in the Encyclical "Ecclesia de Eucharistia" ("The Church draws her Life from the Eucharist") that was promulgated today by John Paul II.

A special and fraternal "Happy Easter" to the General Consultors, to the members of the Curia, to Fr. José Orbegozo, to the Provincial Superiors, the Regional Vicars, and all those who

collaborate with them in their ministry of leadership and responsibility. Best wishes to the religious of the Community of Sts. John and Paul, to the Mexican Sisters and to the laity that are employed in our community.

May Saint Paul of the Cross, our Father, and those that have preceded us into the eternal Easter be united with us in our Easter, celebrated in time.

May Mary, Mother of our Crucified and Risen Lord bless us. Amen.

Rome, SS. John and Paul
17 April 2003
Holy Thursday

Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio
Superior General C.P.





Restructuring the area of Communications

The last 15 of March I have sent one letter to all Major Superiors of the Congregation in order to inform them about the changes that happened in the field of information of the General Curia and to request their effective collaboration. Now, in this first number of the new course of the BIP/PIB, I wish to share with you that letter, asking you to collaborate and also for your suggestions.

"My brothers in the Lord,

My reason for writing you is to share some current aspects regarding "Communications" in the Congregation. The topic of "Re-structuring" has had its effects in the area of our communications.

With this letter I would like to offer you the Study done by an ad hoc commission and which we are implementing. Suggestions are always welcome in this regard, and so we want you to be among the first to receive this report. This report will also be published in the first issue of the new BIP/PIB to go out to the entire Congregation. Our hope is to involve everyone in the improvement of these means of communication for the sake of the Congregation's finality.

As you have read in the last BIP/PIB, in the summary of the last meeting of the General Council, Fr. **Fernando Piélagos'** service to the Congregation in this area is over. His fourteen-year service was always "timely, sage, and loyal."

Therefore, Fr. General and his Council have decided that this work should be taken up as of now, and according to the study of the commission, by the following Religious:

Fr. **Arthur Carrillo** will be responsible for the Website, PassioChristi.org, and for the News Bulletin.

Fr. **Marco Albarella**, will be responsible for the new BIP/PIB, with the collaboration of Frs.

Lawrence Rywalt and **Luis Enrique Bernal**.

These two operations will work in mutual collaboration.

Logically, your cooperation is also needed so that this service to the Congregation can be provided as well as possible. Here are three ways you can assist us:

1st: By naming your Provincial or Vicariate Secretaries correspondents for this office.

They can make use of e-mail to send their messages to this office:

commcuria@pcn.net

Or, they can use traditional mail:

Ufficio Comunicazioni

Curia Generalizia

Pz. Ss. Giovanni e Paolo, 13

00184 ROMA

Although the persons named above will be communicating with the provincial and vicariate secretaries to review the content of desired news items, and the format to use in sending them, we hope that they will respond with their own initiative from the present time.

2nd: The new BIP/PIB (integrated with the former Annual, Annuario) will first appear in the three official languages of the Congregation...Italian, Spanish and English. Therefore, we need to know in which language of the three you choose to receive the new BIP/PIB for your local communities.

3rd: The ad hoc Commission's Report has gone over many options in regard to the language(s) of the BIP/PIB. We need to know what you think. For this reason we are excerpting that part of the Report and printing it here to call your attention to the need



to consider and opt for the various alternatives to the printing of the BIP/PIB in various languages.

“Options for publication in the secondary languages:

1. For those countries that do not fall into one of these three language categories, one of the three issues would be made available and, as is currently the policy with these minor language groups, translations of the text would occur locally, be printed locally, and then included as an attachment to the publication.

2. Prior to being mailed from Rome, and following the current practice of locally translating the PIB into the minor languages, when the translations are completed, they would be printed here in Rome and then inserted as an attachment in one of the major language editions. It would then be mailed from Rome.

3. Produce the new PIB in the three primary languages of the Congregation, while continuing the former method of printing the PIB for the various secondary languages.

4. Another option would be to produce the new PIB in the three principal languages of the Congregation, furnishing versions in the secondary

languages of the new PIB on the WEB site.

5. Finally, the new PIB could be produced in two columns, the first being one of the three official languages of the Congregation, the other column in one of three other languages chosen from among those in use in the Congregation. We envision that these other three might be Portuguese, French and Indonesian. There are two principal reasons for considering these three: they represent areas where access to the internet is difficult, and they also represent areas of ongoing growth in the Congregation. According to this proposal, the PIB would be published in three bi-lingual editions: Italian/Indonesian, Spanish/Portuguese, and English/French. The other languages-German, Polish, and Dutch-would be found on the website”.

I am awaiting your opinions and suggestions. May the Lord of Peace convert us all into instruments for Peace.

Fr. Luis Alberto Cano C.P.
General Consultor



The new team



Visitation of the RES (Peru) Vicariate

Some points for consideration:

1. The missionary efforts of the RES Vicariate are truly valiant and impressive, especially considering that they are being carried out in the extremely vast region of the Peruvian Amazon jungle, a region needing personnel and resources for evangelization, in the Prelature of Moyobamba-Tarapoto as well as in the Apostolic Vicariate of Yurimaguas.

2. I was especially impressed by the missionary project of the Passionist Community of Yurimaguas. Unfortunately there are few religious (only six religious, of which one is a brother and one is a student in the initial phase of pastoral formation.) In addition to pastoral work in the cathedral, chaplaincies, radio programs and various ministries, the mission is directed toward the rural communities that are located throughout the Peruvian Amazon jungle and along its natural roads and rivers. Ministry in this area includes: the formation of community leaders, celebrations, assistance and social development of those villages which, although living in extreme poverty, are welcoming,

happy and creative.

3. I was very pleased to meet the students of the Vicariate (fourteen, who live and study in Lima) in the mission of Yurimaguas. Precisely during the days that I was visiting there, they were returning from a month-long missionary experience with the communities of the Peruvian jungle. In groups of two or three, they were distributed throughout innumerable communities, armed with enthusiasm, joy and the desire to share the Word of God with those people and also equipped with those indispensable items needed to survive in the difficult reality of the jungle: mosquito netting, to allow for much needed restful sleep; boots that make travel possible along muddy and often flooded jungle roads; lanterns, to illumine the road during the dark nights of the region that has no electricity. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to go down the Huallaga River (that was swollen on account of the intense rains during the so-called "winter" months) together with Brother **Abraham** (the first day we departed at 8:30 AM and we returned at 5:00 PM) in a boat named "Buena Noticia" (Good News), that

was manned by a native layman, a true expert in the secrets of the river. After several hours in the boat, we picked up the Passionist students, who were exhausted although happy following their experience. They were sad to have to leave those simple and welcoming people, who expressed their gratitude by gathering at the riverbank to bid them farewell. The following day (we departed at 8:30 AM and returned at 1:00 PM) our itinerary consisted of going up-river with the same objec-



Fr. Augusto, Community and Students in Yurimaguas.



Solidarity and Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation

The General Chapter mandated a very broad approach to sharing of life, personnel, time, energy and resources among Passionists, Passionist communities and Provinces. I work with the Solidarity Commission, created to advise the Superior General in this field and in the closely linked field of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. After hearing our advice the General has already called on provinces and other jurisdictions to contribute to the Solidarity Fund, which he controls here in Rome. Some contributions have been made, but the fund is still quite small.

We have made more progress in our project at the United Nations. Our representative, Father **Kevin Dance CP**, has been in New York since December 2001. He has participated in many conferences and committees and has been able to make a significant contribution to a number of UN decision making processes regarding protection of the poor, international debt, the rights of "First Peoples" or aboriginal groups, Palestinians, and others. Government officials of various nations have indi-

cated their respect for religious who speak up for the poor. In its recent meeting, the Solidarity Commission was looking for ways to link the UN project more closely with the wonderful things many Passionists are doing for Justice and Peace and the Environment around the world. If your people need help, or protection, perhaps the UN project can support you in ways you never thought of.

Fr. Jefferies Foale C.P.
General Consultor



The Solidarity Commission

tive: picking up the students. During both days it was very gratifying to witness the happiness with which they shared their missionary experiences. On these two days the celebration of the Eucharist in the afternoon was a great moment of thanksgiving for all that had been lived and experienced. After a day of rest, the experience was evaluated. This impression has remained with me: all the young students see in that region a missionary future for the Passionist Vicariate and they sense, deep with their hearts, a strong call to evangelize

these people.

With a deep sense of gratitude I thank the Brothers of the Vicariate of Peru for their kindness and their hospitality and I pray that God will repay them with those blessings that they need to continue to give witness to the Crucified and Risen One amidst the Peruvian people.

Fr. Augusto Canali C.P.
General Consultor



Visitation of the Conferences of North Europe and North America

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you some of the happenings in the Conferences of North Europe and North America.

Perhaps the singular event of these last months in the North American Conference was the Sesquicentennial Celebration, the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the Passionists in the United States. Nearly 800 people took part in this four-day event held in the City of Philadelphia, including our Father General **Ottaviano D'Egidio** and other Passionist men and women religious from around the world. The workshops on different aspects of Passionist life and ministry were both informative and engaging; the liturgies celebrated not only the past but a hope for the future. For me, the culmination of this event was the closing Liturgy celebrated in the Cathedral with over one thousand voices singing: *"How beautiful on the mountaintops are the feet of those who bring Good News!"*

Another gathering of Passionists from among the North European Provinces will take place this July at our retreat center in Minsteracres, England. It is the second such "Conversation Week" in which any religious from the North European Conference is invited to attend. Presentations followed by small and large group discussions will enable Passionists from a diversity of languages and cultures in Western and Eastern Europe to get to know one another and speak of their own experiences and hopes. The theme of this Conversation Week is: "How Do We Sing Our Song In A Secular Land", raising the questions of how we might live and minister as a community of charism within increasingly secularized societies. Father Ottaviano and some members of the General Council will also take part in this week, followed by a General Council meeting with the North European Provincials after the event.

A pilgrimage to the Shrine of Blessed Dominic Barberi and Elizabeth Prout in Sutton, England will

take place during the weekend of July 12/13. Father General Ottaviano will preside and preach at the Eucharistic celebration.

I have also been privileged in these last months to conduct the Canonical Visitation of Holy Cross Province (CRUC) in preparation for their Provincial Chapter in June. At their Pre-Chapter in Detroit, Provincial **Michael Higgins** presented a "State of the Province" in which he reported that while the membership of the Province has declined with the deaths of twenty-three religious in the last four years, some significant areas of growth are occurring. Among these are the opening of the novitiate in California and collaboration with the laity in life and mission, most notably the Community of Passionist Partners with communities in Birmingham, Chicago, Citrus Heights, Detroit, Houston, Cincinnati/Louisville, Pasadena/Sierra Madre and San Antonio. In addition, Michael reported that: *"We have lay administrators in the Province Finance Department, Archives, Development Office and Research Center. Each of the retreat centers has a lay administrator. Immaculate Conception Community now has a lay administrator so that the local superior can use his energy and time to provide spiritual leadership for the community. All of these administrative positions include important leadership responsibilities and the skills these various men and women have brought into our institutions have strengthened them greatly."*

Developments are continuing in the Regional Vicariate of the Canadian Martyrs for the construction of a new Saint Gabriel's Church and Parish Center in Toronto. Father **Gabriele Cingolani** (PIET) continues in his ministry of spiritual direction at the Diocesan Seminary.

Fr. Robert Joerger C.P.
General Consultor



The restructuring of the Congregation

My dear brothers,

Recently I wrote a letter to the major superiors to share with them some points concerning the topic of the restructuring of our Congregation. Since this topic should necessarily be studied on a basic level, I would like to share some portions of this letter with you, so that all will be involved in this process of giving our Congregation a new image.

By now the topic of restructuring is no longer a new issue within religious circles since many Congregations are currently working in this sector (Cf. the Days of recollection organized by the Superiors General). Also on the level of our conferences, there is continually more discussion about this restructuring and about how to make our presence in the world more effective. I see this as a positive sign that demonstrates that we are being attentive to the signs of the times and to the new realities that are being presented to us.

Furthermore, in the Congregation there are different entities: Vicariates, Vice-provinces and Provinces. Some are composed of young people, others have personnel that are advanced in age; some have many members, others few. Why not form two, three or four stronger and efficient entities, rather than maintaining a large number of entities, that give the impression of people who are contained within their own shell and in their own customs, without clearly considering the survival and the life of the Congregation as a whole? Being an international Congregation, we have a distinct advantage in facing the challenges that this world presents us. Some conferences include older members, even if in some cases, they are still vibrant; however it is necessary to find ways of rejuvenating that which is old. We need to refocus the energies in our structures and in our living situations. In this endeavor we are helped by the fact that we are an international Congregation. It would be deplorable to resign ourselves to accept the demise of Passionist life in any of our regions solely because we did not know how and we were not willing to work at maintaining continuity and also because we did not know how to take advantage of the international spirit of our institute in order to seek new ventures with new hope.

It would be erroneous to understand the restructuring of the Congregation merely in terms of a simple

change of our present structures or like a process of reduction of our present entities (provinces, vice-provinces and vicariates), even if, in this historic period, it is not at all possible to escape this process of a change of such structures, that includes aggregations or reductions of the same.

Today the goal or the demand of restructuring that the Congregation sets out for itself must be focused within the optic of re-vitalization, that is, of giving new life to our Congregation: "Restructuring for life." Please allow me to cite a portion of the presentation of the president of the Union of Major Superiors during the course of the meeting on the restructuring, which took place in Rome on November 23, 2002: *"It seems to me that the two key words key in the process of restructuring must be vitality and viability. Each process of restructuring, far from being a way of helping us to die well, must be an incentive to enhance life and to give life. Assuring the viability of our Provinces by means of new and renewed structures is the best way of assuring their vitality and their ability to be bearers of life. For this, the criteria that are used must direct the process of restructuring toward this goal. Criteria that possess the ability to guide, including possibilities in the areas of initial and on-going formation; that involve the richness of community life, together with a sense of mission and spirituality that is shared with the laity; that includes the ability of service to the poor involving financial autonomy and, above all, possessing a strong spirit of freedom and solidarity."*

If we point out the necessity in our Conference of making some changes in order to be more effective in our work as Passionists and above all for a greater vitality in the region, it is time to begin to devote some study on this topic during the course of our meetings and to find concrete and effective means for this work. For example: forming a small commission within the Conference to study the feasibility (by means of a questionnaire that is sent to all the religious, similar, for example, to that used in Brazil) and above all to allow the idea and the means to develop from the grass roots. In this way, all will be aware of the necessity of giving a new face to the Congregation.

Fr. Vital Otshudialokoka C.P.
General Consultor



Visitation of the Passionist Mission in Bulgaria

The presence of the Passionist Missionaries in Bulgaria dates to 1782, seven years after the death of the Founder. In various ways, we have always been present in the diocese of Nicopoli, in the northern part of Bulgaria, and, after the recent Communist period and the fall of the Berlin wall, the Italian Passionist missionaries returned there on June 1st, 1993. The Pieta Province has undertaken the Mission in Bulgaria. Herein I present my brief report on the situation of our mission, which points to a viable and fertile future for our charism in a land that has suffered from painful and unstable events.

1. I visited our Mission in Bulgaria from March 28 to April 2, 2003. I was immediately struck by the dire condition of the villages in Bulgaria where our religious minister. The re-awakening that occurred in other parts of Europe whether from cultural or economic stand point, are not in evidence here because the necessary conditions for such to occur are not available, and often, there is resistance on institutional and cultural levels. *"A problem that is always more acute is that of emigration whether internally or to foreign countries that results in the dispersion of the Catholic communities which in the past were more unified and stable in the villages and in the small towns. National migration, due to motives of study and employment, force Catholics to relocate to places*

where they are not known and where often there is no Catholic church." (Fabiano Giorgini, Letter to the Pieta Province 24/ 12/ 2002). The Latin-rite Catholics number approximately 100,000 in the midst of a population of seven and one half million inhabitants of which the majority is Orthodox Christian. Additionally forty years of active and systematic communism have affected the population harshly making different generations incapable of knowing and expressing a faith-life and leaving the few remaining parish structures in a state of progressive deterioration. With the arrival of our missionaries (June 1st, 1993) one notes real progress in the organization, in restoration of the churches and the houses where our religious live. The parishes have initiated and have developed youth groups according to the spirit of Vatican II. The Sisters of St. Joseph, the Benedictine Sisters, the Sisters of Charity, the Vincentians and the Passionist Sisters, present in the diocese, have made a major contribution in the area of pastoral ministry. The recent arrival of two Passionist missionaries, Frs. Corrado and Walter, was important for the creation of the diocesan pastoral Council and for catechetical activity on an inter-parochial level. The restoration and the construction of two new churches, on the part of the Bishop, have given new hope and life to the Diocese.

2. Currently there are six religious present in Bulgaria, located in the following areas:

- Frs. **Fortunato Grasselli** (1925) and **Jossiv Ionkov** (1926) in Oresh and also in two parishes of Svistof, Dragomiro. Ossif is the last living Bulgarian Passionist, he was ordained in the 1951 by Bl. Eugenio Bossilkov.
- Fr. **Corrado Gasbarro** (1936), superior of the mission, works in Belene where there are two parishes.
- Fr. **Remo Gambacorta** (1955) is in Malcika, also working in the parish of Trancioviza and on





Sunday travels to Gabrovo (approximately 130km distance) to celebrate Mass.

- Fr. **Angelo Giorgetta** (1966) is in Pleven and also ministers in Asenovo.

- Fr. **Walter Gorra** (1962) is in Russe and on Sundays he also goes to Velico Tarnovo for the celebration of the Eucharist.

There is a good relationship among our religious. They meet every fifteen days in one of the areas where they live. They are very involved in pastoral activity.



The Passionist missionaries in Bulgaria

Of primary importance is knowledge of the local language and cultural adaptation and the ability to practice the Catholic religion in the midst of an orthodox majority.

3. The Catholic Church in Bulgaria ministers in two dioceses: that of Plovdiv, in the south, and Nicopoli in the north. The northern diocese, to which we belong, has nine priests of which six are Passionists. It consists of approximately 20,000 faithful of which only 20% are practicing, out of a total population in the northern part of Bulgaria of around 3,000,000 inhabitants in a territory that is around a third of Italy. The Bishop is a Conventual Franciscan of Bulgarian origin. He is thinking of dividing the diocese in three zones: the western zone would be entrusted to the Polish Conventuals, and the central and the eastern zones to the Passionists. *"In the future we must be present not only in the small villages that have traditionally been Catholic, they easily decrease in population; but we must be also be present in the cities where there are the centers of study and of work*

and where the Catholics will always be present..." There the Catholics can't find any type of parochial organization and they disperse easily.

4. There is a pressing need for personnel for two reasons: so that at least two missionaries could live together for mutual support and assistance; to realize a new strategy of presence in the large urban centers that are always becoming more important also from a pastoral point of view. This trend is only beginning in these areas. The diocese doesn't have any local clergy in this region other than a seminarian that is studying in the Roman Seminary and a young man that will begin his philosophy-theology studies next September. After his visit to the Mission in Bulgaria Fr. Giorgini, of Pieta Province, wrote: *"I urge the Province to strengthen the community in Bulgaria with at least three religious in the near future... I strongly appeal to each religious to pray for the development of the evangelization of this people and at the same time I ask that some religious offer themselves to be assigned to Bulgaria. Offering to work in the missions does not mean that you must remain there for the rest of your life; an assignment of at least 6/ 7 years would be sufficient. With great faith I am hoping that some religious will communicate their availability for this assignment during the next several months."* (Letter of 24/ 12/ 2002)

5. Concerning our presence in Bulgaria we also need to think about establishing the Congregation in a way that is open to local vocations and acquiring or repossessing our patrimony. Certainly it will be a progressive process and that needs to be studied, but now there are favorable situations due to a certain political and religious liberty that has not existed for many generations. Particularly unusual is the situation of ownership of the buildings, land, etc.: before the advent of communism the Passionists had many buildings that were almost always identified with the Catholic Church. We must remember that there were 11 Passionist bishops up to Bl. Bossilkov who was martyred in 1952 and beatified by Pope John Paul II on March 15, 1998. The episcopal seat was then vacant until 1975, the year in which his death was officially acknowledged, and his successor was named. During communism all possessions were confiscated and our religious remained exclusively in the sacristies prohibited from doing any pastoral activity. Now many of these properties have been returned or were assigned to the Church since the Congregation is not recognized by the State as a legal entity.

Fr. Luigi Vaninetti C.P.
General Consultor



The status of the causes for Canonization

in process by the

Passionist General Postulation

Thanks to the work done by my predecessors- in particular I recall the last of these, Fr. Carlos Lizarraga- and to the contributions of various other religious who, according to their competencies, have assisted the active development of the Causes, I can present some information through the PIB, of the "status causarum".

Unfortunately the enormous increases in the number of Causes following the simplification of the process after 1983, and some decisions made by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, have significantly lengthened the time period of the process.

The following are listed in the Congregation of the Passion:

SAINTS

- St. Paul of the Cross, *Founder, canonized 29 June 1867.*
- St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother, *canonized 13 May 1920.*
- St. Gemma Galgani, *canonized 2 May 1940.*
- St. Vincent Maria Strambi, *canonized 11 June 1950.*
- St. Maria Goretti, *canonized 24 June 1950.*
- St. Inocencio Canoura Arnau, *canonized 21 November 1999 marking the final canonization of the second millennium.*

BLESSEDS

- Bl. Domenic Barberi, *beatified 27 October 1962.*
- Bl. Isidore De Loor, *beatified 30 September 1984.*
- Bl. Pio Campidelli, *beatified 17 November 1985.*
- Bl. Bernard M. Silvestrelli, *beatified 16 October 1988.*
- Bl. Charles Houben, *beatified 16 October 1988.*
- Blessed Niceforo Diez Tejerina and XXVI Companions Martyrs of Daimiel, *beatified 1 October 1989.*
- Bl. Grimoaldo Santamaria, *beatified 29 January 1995.*

- Bl. Bishop Eugene Bossilkov, *beatified 15 March 1998.*

VENERABLES

- Giovanni Battista Danei, *declared venerable 7 August 1940.*
- Galileo Nicolini, *declared venerable 27 November 1981.*
- Mother Crocifissa Costantini, *declared venerable 17 December 1982.*
- Giovanni Bruni, *declared venerable 9 June 1983.*
- Lucia Burlini, *declared venerable 23 October 1987.*
- Nazareno Santolini, *declared venerable 7 September 1989.*
- Giacomo Gianiel, *declared venerable 21 December 1989.*
- Gerardo Segarduy, *declared venerable 21 December 1991.*
- Antonietta Farani, *declared venerable 13 June 1992.*
- Fortunato De Gruttis, *declared venerable 11 July 1992.*
- Giuseppe Pesci, *declared venerable 6 July 1993.*
- Lucia Mangano, *declared venerable 1 July 1994.*
- Norberto Cassinelli, *declared venerable 15 December 1994.*
- Germano Ruoppolo, *declared venerable 11 July 1995.*
- Dolores Medina Zepeda, *declared venerable 3 July 1998.*
- Egidio Malacarne, *declared venerable 26 March 1999.*

SERVANTS OF GOD

- Stanislao Battistelli, *is being studied for further elaboration of the Positio.*
- Eugenio Faggiano, *is being studied for further elaboration of the Positio*
- Generoso Fontanarosa, *the Positio has been placed on file.*
- Maria Maddalena Frescobaldi *in imminent opening of the diocesan Process.*
- Gemma Eufemia Giannini, *the Positio has been placed on file.*

- Francisco (Patxi)Gondra, *the Positio has been placed on file.*
- Bernard Kryszkiewicz, *the Positio is partially elaborated.*
- Maddalena Marcucci, *the Positio has been placed on file.*
- Ignatius Spencer, *the diocesan Process in progress.*
- Elisabeth Prout, *the diocesan Process in progress.*
- Elisabetta Tasca, *the Positio has been placed on file.*
- Benito Arrieta, *the diocesan Process in progress.*
- Martin Fulgencio Elorza Legaristi, *the diocesan Process in progress.*
- Addolorata Luciani, *the Positio is partially elaborated.*
- Mother Leonarda Boidi, *the diocesan Process has been initiated.*

EXTERNAL CAUSES

In addition to the Causes of the Congregation and of Institutes that share our spirituality, we add some external Causes assumed by me and by my predecessors in varying degrees of involvement.

- Bl. Elisabetta Renzi.
- Bl. M. Cristina Brando, *beatified 27 April 2003.*
- Venerable Teresa G. Palmarola.
- Venerable Mary Potter.
- Venerable Maria L. Ranixe.
- Venerable Maria Pia Mastena, *with the elaboration of the Process of a miracle.*
- Venerable Giuseppe Gualandi.
- The Servant of God Orsola Mezzini, *the Positio filed in 2000 and with the elaboration of the Process of a miracle.*
- Venerable Giuseppe Morgera.
- The Servant of God Tarsilla Osti, *with the Positio filed in 1993.*
- The Servant of God Carmela Prestigiacomio, *with the Positio filed in 2000.*
- The Servant of God Don Sebastiano Zerbino, *at the initiation of the Pontifical phase.*



Since the new Curia entered office, we can offer these developments of the following causes, which update the information reported at the General Chapter:

The Beatification of Mother Maria Cristina Brando.

La declaration "Venerable" of Mother Maria Pia Mastena and the publication of the first half of the Process "super Miro".

La declaration "Venerable" of Don Giuseppe Gualandi.

The publication of the first half of the Process "super Miro" of Sister Orsola Mezzini.

The study in the initial diocesan phase of the "supposto Miro" obtained through the intercession of Blessed Grimoaldo

Santamaria, unfortunately without positive results.

Study in the Pontifical initial phase of the "super Miro" obtained through the intercession of Bl. Charles Houben.

Study in the Pontifical initial phase of the "super Miro" obtained through the intercession of Ven. Lucia Burlini.

Beginning stage of the outline of the "Positio" of Bishop Battistelli.

For Fr. Kryszkiewicz Bernard, the first half of the "Positio" elaborated.

For Sister Luciani Addolorata, the imminent publication of the complete "Positio".

Eugenio Faggiano, problems on the diocesan level have been resolved and is being studied for further elaboration of the

"Positio".

Maria Maddalena Frescobaldi, the diocesan "Processo" has been opened.

For Mother Leonarda Boidi, the diocesan process has been begun.

For the Servant of God, Don Sebastiano Zerbino we are at the beginning of the Pontifical phase.

I thank the Superior General for the trust that he has placed in me, and I also thank all my confreres that have also worked and continue to work for the benefit of the various causes, particularly those that represent the Postulation and the Congregation in the work on the various Causes.

Fr. Giovanni Zubiani C.P.
General Postulator



Passionist Historical Commission: The origins

The members of the Historical Commission of the Congregation of the Passion express their satisfaction and gratitude for the opportunity offered by the director of the PIB to communicate the activity of the Commission and especially to dialogue with the Passionist Family. For those who are not acquainted with the origin and the work of the Commission, we thought it opportune to begin our presentation by writing about the more significant moments lived in Congregation up until the nomination of the first members of this Commission.

We are leaving for another moment the important and irreplaceable activity taking place in the Congregation regarding its history and spirituality. We begin this report by citing the three recommendations of the 36th General Chapter (1-23 May 1952) to the future General Curia concerning the spirituality and the history of the Congregation. The Capitulars- expressing what might be called the lively and sincere conscience of the Congregation- urged the creation of a study commission whose purpose was to study: (1) the possibility of a journal of Passionist spirituality; (2) the institution and organization in the Retreat of SS. John and Paul, Rome, of special lessons on Passionist spirituality for the priests that attended the general course of spirituality in the Roman Universities and which could develop into a school of Passionist spirituality and, (3) the institution of a chair of history of the Congregation.

The General Curia, desiring to put into practice what the General Chapter had recommended, in the Consulta of March 21, 1953, discussed at length each of the three proposals, and after extended and exhaustive reflection and having consulted the study commission created for this purpose, and conscious of the great importance of the matter, with great regret, admitted that, at that time, there were no religious in the Congregation who were prepared to carry out what the Chapter had suggested, and consequently, decided to table the proposal for some other moment. To obviate this impediment they decided to facilitate the study of the spirituality and the history of the Congregation, even calling to Rome some religious that were experienced in these subject areas. It was also decided to offer in the Acta Congregationis an invitation to all the priests of the Congregation to study Passionist spirituality.

The General Curia never forgot the commission of the General Chapter. In the General Consulta of April 30, 1955 they discussed the possibility of establishing a

Passionist magazine of scientific nature, similar to that of many other religious Institutes. In order to study the possibility, the resources and the practical realization of the same, a commission was named, with the Consultor General, Fr. **Sebastiano Remijn**, the General Prefect of Studies, presiding. Nothing was accomplished.

Again, on April 14 1958 the General Curia tried to give some initiative to the mandate of the General Chapter regarding the topic of the Center for Passionist spirituality. *"Since February the General Prefect of Studies, appointed by the General Curia, distributed copies of a plan for the institution, in this Retreat of Sts. John and Paul, of a Center of Passionist Studies... During the present Consulta it was discussed at great length and it was concluded that, unfortunately, even at the end of the present term, the difficulties of a practical nature that have until now prevented the realization of this project... do not even at this point in time allow for the institution of this Center, even on a minimal basis."* (Oral report of the General Consulta)

Since it was not possible to arrive at an acceptable solution during the term of 1952-1958, the topic of the history and the spirituality of the Congregation appeared again at the 37th General Chapter (30 April- 22 May 1958). Among the recommendations, the third read as follows: "The Chapter, deeply convinced of the present necessity of a more in-depth acquaintance with the history of the Congregation for the spiritual life of the religious, as well as for the apostolic activity of the Institute, strongly recommends to the Superior General that, with the consent of his Counsel, an Historical Commission be formed of religious specializing in history, whose task it would be gather, organize, investigate, and, in the opportune moment, print the material and the documents that refer to the history of the Institute and to its spiritual and apostolic life."

During the first meetings of the new General Curia, September 18, 1958, "in conformity with the recommendation of the General Chapter," calling for the formation of a permanent Historical Commission of our Congregation, the following religious were named to this commission: **Fabiano Giorgini** (PIET), designated head of the commission and that it will elect a General Chronicler of the Congregation during the General Consulta of 20-21 February 1959. On March 21, 1953 **Paulino Alonso B.** (FAM) was elected archivist responsible for assisting the religious of the Congregation, especially with respect to a



General Secretariat: General Consulta of April 7-11 2003

The second General Consulta of 2003 took place from 7-11 April at which the entire Council was present. It was preceded, on the morning of the 6th, by a meeting with the Solidarity Commission at which there was a presentation regarding the work that was done on 5-6 April dealing with the topic of consciousness-raising and self reflection on the topic of Solidarity in the Congregation at large. Simultaneously another meeting took place at SS. John and Paul, on 6-7 April, at which the Superior General was present, of the Commission for the development of the SALV Vicariate, Dem. Rep. of Congo (Frs. **R. Joerger**, **G. Sionneau**, **G. Antonelli**, **J. Sherrington**, and also Frs. **F. Damen**, GABR Provincial, **E. Muakasa**, Regional Vicar SALV and **V. Otshudialokoka**, General Consultor. The SALV Vicariate will soon become the first Passionist Vice-province in Africa. During the meeting discussions took place regarding the pastoral, formative and economic elements needed for the autonomy of the future Vice-province.

During the consulta, the Superior General reported primarily on the three Chapters of the Italian provinces DOL, PRAES and CORM at which he had presided at the beginning of this year. He highlighted the initiative and the common sharing on the part of the participants leading to constructive dialogue, in particular underlining the role played by the younger religious, which dealt with restructuring for the spiritual, apostolic and formative revitalization of the Provinces.

The General Consultor, **L. A. Cano**, reported on the program that is being undertaken by the Communication Commission, i.e. regarding the "Newsnotes" that is published on the internet in three languages and the New PIB which is now ready for its first publication. Any suggestions and observations from the Major Superiors are welcome.

The Consultor **A. Canali**, after giving a brief report on the assembly of ERPAL (Reflection Team for Latin America) that had studied the topic of "Accompanying and Discernment in Passionist Formation," which took place in Chosica, Peru, he also reported on his visitation of RES Vicariate (Resurrection), Peru, of the CORI province, in which the vocational and form-

ative sectors have experienced remarkable development.

The Consultor **L. Vaninetti** reported on the canonical visitation which he did in the Mission of Bulgaria, of the PIET province, in preparation for the Provincial Chapter. He explained the dedication of the missionaries, the necessity for additional personnel and the extreme poverty of the people inherited from Communist regime.

The Consultor **J. Foale** presented the letter written to the PASS Province, the Philippines, regarding his fraternal visitation, in which he recalled the principal elements for ongoing improvement of the organization and the stability of the Passionist religious life of the young Province, particularly involved on the pastoral level. He spoke of his fraternal visitation of the flourishing THOM Vicariate of India, of the CRUC Province.

The Consultor **Vital O.** presented his letter on the "Restructuring for the revitalization of the Congregation," that was sent to the Major Superiors in preparation for the next General Synod that will also address this topic.

The Consultor **R. Joerger** spoke about the financial organization of the Generalate, pointing out the various possibilities for investment of funds and the various types of general administration of the same. Additionally the financial report and the general budget for 2002 were presented by the General Econome Fr. **Giulio Zangaro**.

Various other topics were discussed; of these we briefly highlight the following: the preparation of the Norms for the representation of the Vicariates and the Vice-provinces and of the Brothers at the General Chapter; approbation of the Decrees of CONC Chapter (Argentina), MACOR (Korea, first Provincial Chapter), MAIAP (Japan, first Congress of the Vice-province), DOL (Italy, Naples); publication in Spanish and in English of the History of the Congregation, Vol. II, 2 of Fr. F. Giorgini; formation of a small commission for Bethany, requested by the CORM Chapter; personnel for the community of the SS. John and Paul; etc.

Fr. Umberto Palmerini C.P. *General Secretary*

better acquaintance with the history and spirituality of the same, for safeguarding and organizing the General Archives according to the method used and recommended by the Holy See. **Enrico Zoffoli** (PRAES), on 11 January of the same year 1958, was the person commissioned by the same General Curia for the editing of a new critical biography, and in some way definitive, of our holy Father, Paul of the Cross, a need which was particularly acute and

desirable in anticipation of the celebration of the centennial of his canonization, proclaimed by Pius IX, in 1967. And thus, finally, the Historic Commission was born. The next issue will treat of the development of this Commission.

Fr. Paulino Alonso C.P.
Fr. Fabiano Giorgini C.P.
Historical Commission



Visit to the Passionist Mission in Mozambique

January 17-30, 2003

Which memories stand out in my mind following my visit to the mission in Mozambique? What impressed me the most?

It's not easy to express them...but how can I forget the many "experiences of life" that I lived during these days? There is no precedence, because they all form a single entity and have a first place in my mind and in my heart. From the first day of my arrival in Maputo I was confronted with the reality of the situation, at times overwhelmed by the contrasts of this very beautiful and very poor country. On the way from the airport toward the house, the two nuns that welcomed me upon my arrival enabled me to visit an area of the capital city that was completely swept away by the flood of 2000. The mud covered everything. Here and there can be seen the ruins of what once must have been hovels, now all covered by the crumbled mud. It is impressive how they were completely covered up to the roof. Some have tried to rebuild on the same location, re-using what had remained. Along the street one is impressed by the striking difference between the wealthy areas, with brick houses, surrounded by green grass, flowers, and by barbed wire for protection, and the poor areas, with straw huts of mud and cardboard.

The same contrasting situation between rich and poor areas also exists in the city of Pemba with its 100,000 inhabitants, the capital city of the province of Cabo Delgado. It is situated on the coast on a very beautiful bay which is starting to become a destination for tourists. Recently the Moslems have built a hotel there, on the style of "a thousand and one nights." But all the rest is poverty, bleakness, extreme misery. The people live in crowded huts, constructed with reeds and mud and a straw roof.

I finally arrived at the location of our mission and together with Fr. Luis and Fr. Fernando I went to see the land that we recently acquired, to be used for the construction of our house. Here there

are two young men who tell me that they are doing an experience of vocational discernment, and that they are completing the construction of the first hut. In Metoro, the village where the mission is located, half of the families live in simple house-huts built on the grounds of the mission. Not all the families are Christian; many are Moslem. The house of the religious is an old school. It has been restored with the help of Caritas. There is no church and for the moment we squeeze into a classroom of the elementary school. There is a small hospital and health center that, concerning its equipment and its personnel, leaves much to be desired. All the houses are structured of reeds, mixed with mud and straw. In the village there is still no electricity. The schools are in very bad condition. During the upcoming year, they will become the responsibility of the mission. They are missing the essential things, beginning with the classrooms and the seats. The classes are held in the shacks, in the open, or under any tree.

We then went to visit an orphanage for motherless and abandoned children. It is run by a young Italian woman, who originally went for a one-year missionary experience but has remained to begin this wonderful work that cares for young, abandoned children, about ten of them, to which several more are added who come from morning and until late evening and then return



A group of girls at the "House of Reception"



home. There is a lot of collaboration with other laity and it all goes along with great simplicity and dedication and freedom.

We went to Orchiu to visit the Missionaries from "Boa Nova" They administrate a medical dispensary and a pre-school center or day care center. Additionally they take care of the pastoral needs of 80 Christian communities. Instead in San José de Mapuez there is a community of three nuns. One works in the local hospital, another is busy in the parish and youth ministry, the third is the director of a "LAR" or "House of Reception" for children that are poor and in crisis. The latter of these, whose name is Sister Laura, was taken captive during the revolution and she remained in the hands of the rebels for nine months. It is impressive hear her tell the story of her experience. After lunch Sister Laura brought us to visit the house for the children. They gathered to greet us with songs sung in Portuguese. They live in the house, crammed into small rooms, with bunk beds, that rise to the roof. There are 53 children and there are many more applications for residence. Sister Laura explained to us that the purpose of their work is to help the children to continue to study after the third and fourth grades, which is the equivalent of our third and fourth grade of elementary school. In many villages these classes do not exist and without these schools they run the risk of premature maternity and other threatening situations. Although their surroundings are characterized by extreme poverty, nonetheless they are calm and joyful.

With Fr. Luis we also visited Mahera, a community that numbers 1,200 inhabitants. There is a chapel constructed of tree trunks and mud with the usual straw roof, fairly spacious. Alerted by the sound of a bell rung by a "town crier" who criss-crosses the entire village, the people start to gather. We begin the celebration at 8:15 A.M. The songs and the dances during the celebration are very beautiful and all join in the singing, the children, too, that sat on the ground to left of the altar, next to me. I counted up to 150 of them. Many others were outside the door, because there is no room for all of them. The celebration of the Eucharist is in Portuguese and "makua". There is a catechist that interprets. The celebration lasts one hour and fifty-five minutes.

At the end of the celebration, I greeted the community that, as a sign of welcome and of acceptance, offers me a bunch of bananas, dry manioc, ears of corn, beans and millet. A woman steps forward and places in my hands some coins to pay for the trip, in the amount 32.500 "meticais", local coins, that are the equivalent of \$1.75 US. As we were getting ready to leave and were already in the car, an elderly woman approached us, and at the car window, she offered me two cool eggs. The poor are truly gracious in their generosity. The episode



Passionists with Missionaries of Boa Nova

of the widow of the Gospel came to mind who in the sanctuary had offered a small coin, "all which she had to live on", Jesus tells us. It happened just that way.

From there we finally visited the "Center Talitã Kum" a recovery center for young mothers in difficulty. Often, when a girl becomes pregnant, she is thrown out of her house or forced to have an abortion. Presently the center houses 10 girls, while others are cared for on a non-residential basis and are helped to bring the pregnancy to completion, to be re-assimilated into the society, and to again discover a sense of their own dignity.

Reflecting on all that I have seen, I thought: "So many problems, so much suffering, but also so much love and what great hope, joy and the will to live!" "Love is ingenious," said our Holy Founder. I think only love, free from the red-tape of our western bureaucracy, succeeds in accomplishing so much good, with so much simplicity and dedication. In our country, this would not have been possible, because the bureaucratic machinery would have to be put in place: scholastic, educational, formative, supplementary, medical, health-- that would delay if not totally obstruct everything, as is so often the case. So much can happen with love and only because of great love. I am sure that so much of our sophisticated health education experts, specialists in human development, standing before programs like these, can do only one thing: observe and be in awe.

These, then, are the precious memoirs that remain with me after my visit to the missions in Mozambique: the smile of the children of the "Lar from Esperanza," the "will to live" of the young mothers of the "Center Talitã Kum," the beatific greeting of the young along the street; Father Luis... Father Fernando...; the shy, silent, delicate presence of so many people that I met during these days!

Fr. Antonio Curto C.P.
General Secretary of the Missions



The General Archives: Historical Memory of Congregation

I am happy to have the opportunity to open a window for the benefit of all of our Passionist Family, regarding the General Archives, surely not the most important among the offices of the General Curia, but, without a doubt, that which by its very definition, preserves the heritage and the patrimony of our history and spirituality.

I in this first issue of the new PIB I want to briefly update you as to the present state of our General Archives. From October 1995 we, Fr. **Juan Llorente** (SANG), as director, and Fr. **Silvio Vanzan** (CORM), have been responsible for the care and of the management of the Archives.

Currently we have more than 15,000 files with around 100,000 documents, almost completely catalogued and indexed. This documentation is organized in sectors, on shelves and classifiers according to the common archival containers, and covers the entire history of the Congregation: that is to say, from its origins, the beginnings of the XVIII century, to the present time; in depth, all of the current organization of the Congregation, with the relative varied geographical divisions and areas of responsibility. Among these can be found material on our Saints, Blesseds and Venerabili, General Chapters, Synods, Popes and the Holy See and their relative relationship with the Passionists, the Superior General, Passionist Nuns, female Passionist Institutes, the Missions, manuscripts of Passionist authors and, naturally, a file for each of our Provinces (including documents from their foundation until today), Vice-provinces and Vicariates and of the Community and Basilica of Saints John and Paul. Finally, there are files of most of our deceased religious and of those that have left the Congregation.

Naturally, that which is most precious in our archives are the manuscripts of our saints, especially of our Founder (his letters) and the books that record the history and the accounts of the first years of our Religious Family: annals, "platea", family registers, registers of offices and the celebrations of Masses, also the first Bulls and papal documents that record

our existence in the Church.

An important section of the General Archives is its library- distinct from the library of the Generalate - it occupies approximately one half of the space of the Archives. In this section are kept and catalogued the majority of the books that have been published in the course of the centuries regarding our Congregation: hagiographies, biographies, history, spirituality, etc., in addition to the theses and research documents of our religious, especially of those who studied in the Roman universities. Also the bulletins, the magazines and the other publications of the Passionists have a place here, and are catalogued and preserved. Over the past number of years we in the General Archives have also been working on the creation of a database of this library. At the moment there are almost 10,000 books already listed in the computer, which greatly facilitates the production of indices and, consequently, searches and studies of the texts.

Finally, during these last years, an important collection of photographs of all of the provinces has been catalogued and organized, making them easily accessible.

These are only some of the aspects of our General Archives. In future issues of the PIB, we will further develop these and other topics.

Fr. Juan Llorente C.P.
General Archivist





CIPI

DOL - Italy Provincial Chapter

From 20 to 24 January 2003 the 74th Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Our Lady of Sorrows was celebrated at the Institute of the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Hearts in Formia, (LT). The new Provincial is Fr. **Antonio Rungi**, and as consultors Fr. **Stanislao Renzi**,

Fr. **Pierluigi Mirra**, Fr. **Antonio Siciliano** and Fr. **Antonio Mannara**.

According to the approved Provincial Project, the Provincial Superior and his Council has been mandated to strengthen and re-qualify the fraternal and prayer life of the Communities, evaluating them in light of

the apostolic goals, and the re-modeling of some houses. With this end in mind, it was also decided to re-dimension the presence and apostolic activity of the religious within the Province by the reduction of at



least two houses within the next two years, and eventually, as necessary, of another two houses within the next four years.

Special attention was given to vocation ministry and to youth ministry. The Provincial will compose a team, headed by the VFS Consultor that will have the task of devising a program that will involve all of all the religious of the Province. The privileged places for this ministry are our religious houses, the parishes entrusted to us, the popular Missions and the various ecclesial movements.

Finally it was decided to develop ways in which the laity can be present in our spiritual experiences and pastoral activity, as expressions of our charism, and for studying new forms of communion and also of collaboration with the Passionist family.



CORM - Italy Provincial Chapter

During the week 10 -15 February the Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CORM) celebrated its 37th Provincial Chapter. It elected: Fr. **Giuseppe Martinelli**, Provincial; Fr. **Antonio Gatti**, Consultor for Finances and Solidarity; Fr. **Giuseppe Cortese**, Consultor for the Charism and Spirituality; Fr. **Leonello Leidi**, Consultor for Formation; Fr. **Giuseppe Adobati**, Consultor for the Apostolate. Continuing in the process of spiritual renewal and of re-qualification of community life and apostolate in the style of the "Primal Announcement" and of the "Memoria Passionis", the Provincial Chapter studied during three different sessions, the last of which was canonical, the topic of: "Sharing in Passionist Community for a prophetic presence." They studied the situation and developed operative choices for ongoing growth and maturation in the individual religious and in the communities. They highlighted the importance of "Sharing" in the light of the Word of God, of the charism, of the relation to the family Passionist and to the laity, in view of an ever more motivated and prophetically qualified response within the local church and beyond.



PRAES - Italy Provincial Chapter

The Provincial Chapter of Presentation province (PRAES, Italy) took place in the Retreat of the Presentation, Monte Argentario. Fr. **Adolfo Lippi** was confirmed as Provincial. The Provincial Council is as follows: Fr. **Paolo Podda**, First Consultor for formation; Fr. **Fiorenzo Bordo**, Consultor for the Apostolate; Fr. **Mario Capitanio**, Consultor for Finances; Fr. **Pablo Costantino Lorenzo**, Consultor for Spiritual Life and Charism.





PIET - Italy
Convention at the Shrine of St. Gabriel

In the first months of 2003 two important meetings on a national level took place at the Sanctuary of St. Gabriel. On January 27 approximately one hundred religious and priests from various sanctuaries of Italy, participated in a two day course of moral-pastoral updating for confessors. The title of the course was: "The sacrament of healing". The speaker for the meeting was Fr. Sabatino Majorano, Redemptorist, of the Alfonsiana Academy of Rome. The Sanctuary of St. Gabriel was chosen, among other reasons, because it is currently one of the most frequented sanctuaries in Europe for confessions.

From 22 to 25 April approximately two hundred men and women religious and laity met again at St. Gabriel's, for the 18th Seminar on formation and spiritual direction, sponsored by National Center for Vocations on the theme of: "Affectivity, sexuality and vocations: the walk of maturation in spiritual direction." Among the goals of the course was also that of identifying spiritual role models and the families of consecrated life to which they are associated, and to involve them in the vocation ministry of the Italian Church. The figures selected this year and presented by Fr. **Adolfo Lippi** (PRAES) were in the relation to the topic: "The young men and women Passionist saints: from the education of affectivity to holiness." They were all associated with the Passionist family: St. Paul of the Cross, St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Gemma Galgani and St. Maria Goretti.

CTI

FAT - Portugal
A photograph album of the Synod in Korea

Fr. **Manuel Caridade Pires**, Provincial of FAT, Portugal, has published two CD's that are a collection of the extensive number of photographs that were taken during the last General Synod in Korea. It is a veritable family photo album in which all the events that took place during the Synod are recorded. The photographs are organized by sections and are easy to access. A copy has already been sent to all the participants of the Synod. It is a laudable initiative for which we are most grateful.

SANG - Spain
The death of Fr. Monsegú

Fr. **Bernardo Gómez Monsegú** (SANG), better known as "Monsegú", died last March 20 in Madrid at the age of 94. The Congregation is greatly indebted to this Spanish religious who made many literary contributions in the field of Passionist spirituality. He was an eminent scholar in philosophy and Mariology. Additionally, he was a prolific writer, publishing numerous books and articles in theological and philosophical journals. He was a professor of the internal school of theology at Sts. John and Paul, as well as a member of the General studies commission from 1945-1954. He was a "peritus" during Vatican Council II, a member of the Post-Conciliar General Chapters for the revision of our Constitutions and director of Passionist magazines for many years, in particular of the "Pasionario" and "Roca Viva". He resided in the community at the Sanctuary of St. Gemma in Madrid for many years. His life of intense activity, participation in Congresses, publication of articles, conferences, diminished due to age and Alzheimer disease. During his final years he needed constant attention. Monsegú was born in 1909, professed vows as a Passionist in 1925 and on 19 February he celebrated 70 years of priestly life.





CLAP

FID - Colombia

The death of Fr. Agustín Guericabeitia

Last February 14, in Medellín (Colombia), four days after celebrating his 80th birthday, Fr. **Agustín Guericabeitia**, a Basque religious of the Vice-province of Colombia, died of a massive heart attack. He arrived in Colombia 40 years ago, after several years in the Dominican Republic. From the beginning he was one of the supporting pillars of the newly established vicariate and later vice-province. He was greatly loved by the religious and laity, carrying out his ministry primarily in the Student Center of Cajicá, in central Colombia. Here, he was regional superior of the Passionists for several terms and rector of the College-Seminary, a ministry he did after serving the Congregation in this country. During his final years he was present to the novices sharing with them his joyful and exemplary communitarian life-style, while not abandoning his apostolic work, which gradually diminished.

His death is a great loss to the young Colombian vice-province, whose religious always considered Fr. Agustín a strong, sustaining presence along the often difficult road of establishment and development of Passionist life. Fr. Agustín was born on 10 Feb. 1923 in Vizcaya. At the age of ten he entered the Passionists and professed vows in 1941 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1947.



REG - Mexico

Collaboration between the REG Province and the GUAD-FAM Vicariate

In the area of collaboration between provinces and other areas of the Congregation that was requested by the last General Chapter, the efforts at understanding and mutual assistance between two areas of our Congregation in Mexico is noteworthy: that of the Province of Cristo Rey (REG) and the Vicariate of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (GUAD-FAM), especially in the area of formation. Currently they share a common novitiate and they are investigating other forms of collaboration.

REG - Mexico

The death of Fr. Pio Castagnoli

Fr. **Pio Castagnoli**, an Italian religious of the REG Province, died suddenly last Feb. 21 in Cuernavaca, due to a heart attack, several hours after celebrating his 73rd birthday. He professed vows as a Passionist in 1947 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1954. Two years later he went to Mexico, where he resided until his death. There he was a well known missionary, an author of several books, a director of formation, pastor and superior. His most notable ministry was with the laity, being a model for the entire Mexican province. He was the founder of the Family Movement COFAMI and the animator of the Secular Institute of the Passion.

MON - Mexico

The Passionist Nuns of Querétaro

The monastery of the Passionist nuns of Querétaro, Mexico, is being renovated to better serve the needs of the Community. The Community is comprised of 10 members. There are three perpetual professed - Mother Maria Victoria and Sister Ana Maria from Spanish, and a Mexican, Sister Lily - two nuns in temporary vows - Lupita and Adriana - and two novices, two postulants and one aspirant. The cloistered Passionists arrived in Mexico in 1995 and, thanks to the hospitality of the Province of Cristo Rey, they established their monastery in Querétaro. After several years they were able to live in their own house and they are already reaping the fruits of their labors.



IPCCM

PAUL - USA

Forty five years of Radio/TV broadcasting

PAUL - USA

New Life for the Passionists in Jamaica

On November 19, 2001 Fr. **Gaston Nsongolo**, C.P. of the SALV Vicariate, arrived in Jamaica, West Indies. It was an historic moment for the SALV Vicariate and for the PAUL Province. He assumed duties as the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Stony Hill and also as novice director of a Jamaican candidate, Ian Gayle. On October 27, 2002 the Superior General designated the parish as the novitiate for the Passionists of the West Indies. Fr. Gaston reports that the presence of the novitiate has sparked new interest in the Passionist charism, in particular, in the area of vocation discernment.

The year 2002 marked the 45th anniversary of the "Chalice of Salvation" television program. Through this weekly televised Mass program, the Passionist religious of PAUL province, together with many committed lay people, have worked to bring the Good News of the Gospel to the homebound and shut-in throughout the western part of the state of Massachusetts (U.S.A.). In 1953, under the direction of Fr. **Fidelis Rice**, a radio program was begun known as "The Hour of the Crucified". With the introduction of television, the radio program evolved into a televised Mass in 1957. Brother **Terence Scanlon**, the current executive producer, is one of more than thirty-seven Passionists that worked in this ministry, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes. "Chalice of Salvation" also offers parish and diocesan groups the opportunity to worship together at the televised Mass by involving a variety of presiders, music ministers and altar servers from the different parishes of the diocese.

PAUL - USA

150 Years of Passionist Presence in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Passionist community of the Province of St. Paul of the Cross concluded the celebration of the Sesquicentennial of Passionist Presence in North America with a celebration of 150 years of Passionist presence in the city of its original foundation -- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On December 7, 2002 the Passionist community together with the local bishop, Most Rev. Donald Wuerl, Bishop **Norbert Dorsey**, C.P., Fr. **Terence Kristofak**,

CP (provincial) and Fr. **Robert Joerger**, CP (General Consultor) as well as numerous laity, gathered in the monastery church of St. Paul of the Cross. In 1852, then bishop, Michael O'Connor, made his plea for assistance to the Superior General, Fr. Antonio Testa. Led by Fr. Antonio Calandri, the first four Passionists, three priests and one Brother from the Pietà Province, arrived in Pittsburgh. Currently there are twelve Passionist priests and Brothers in the community that serves the local church through its sacramental ministry as well as through its retreat house, which forms part of the complex.





PAS PAC

REPAC - Indonesia *Pastoral Lent*

During Lent, more precisely on Friday 28 March, the Christian employees of the Sukarno-Hatta international airport of Jakarta asked the Passionists to give a lecture on the Passion of Jesus in the area of the "velodromo". This event, despite its simplicity, is noteworthy because it attests to how highly regarded the Passionists are in a country of 200 million inhabitants the great majority of whom are Muslim (87%), with a Christian community (Catholics and Protestants) of a little more than 10%.

SPIR - Australia

Via Crucis in the "Sacred Garden"

Over 50 years ago the Passionists of Holy Spirit Province (SPR), Australia, acquired 14 Carrara marble sculptures depicting the Stations of the



Cross. These beautiful pieces were originally commissioned by the Passionists and will form the focus for the new sacred garden to be located in the grounds of St. Paul's. These significant works of art are from a workshop of Franco Miozza of Pietrasanta, Tuscany - the heartland of Carrara marble and the source of Michelangelo's David (Florence) and the Pieta (St Peter's). Each station is a tableau of three or four half life-size figures and weighs a half a ton. The stations have been relocated to St Paul's Retreat, Glen Osmond, South Australia, and official opening of this new way of the cross will be held at St Paul's on Good Friday

The General House of Saints John and Paul

The death of Bro. Saverio Aldaya Colomo

As we write these thoughts about Brother **Javier** ("Saverio") **Aldaya Colomo**, we still feel the pain of his death (25 April 2003), a pain that is exceeded by affection. He was born on February 23, 1933 in Ayorbe, a beautiful and pleasant region of Navarra, not far from Pamplona. This was the site of his childhood and adolescence. His parents, José and Ceccilia, lovingly attended to his growth, accepting his decision with deep Christian faith to enter the Passionists at the Sanctuary of our Lady of Angosto (Alava), the novitiate of the Passionist Province of Sagrado Corazón de Jesús (CORI). With the religious name of Saverio of Our Lady of Sorrows, Pedro-baptismal name- professed first vows on August 13, 1950 and Perpetual vows on October 6, 1955.

Helpful and generous, available and self-sacrificing, persevering and faithful, tenacious and certain, clear-thinking and logical, deeply devout and observant in community life, enlightened and inspired by his profound devotion to Jesus Crucified, to Our Lady of Sorrows, to our holy Father, Paul of the Cross and to St. Francis Xavier, he was a faithful and devoted son of the Church and of the Congregation, leaving his imprint on the different communities of his Province, up until his arrival in Rome in 1963. This would be his community until his death, except for the years 1982-1988, when he went to the Vicariate that his Province has in Peru. It was a period in which he was marked with the missionary spirit that characterizes the Passionists.

Many sick experienced the care of Fra Saverio in the community of Sts. John and Paul. More than 20 religious died in the Lord within his arms. He was in charge of the finances of the community, striving to faithfully fulfill the ministry that was assigned to him

Without a doubt, Javier experienced the affection, the cheerfulness, the gratitude and the fraternity of his brothers in community. The respect and consideration, the gratitude and the fraternal affection that the local superiors and the superiors general had for him and for his ministry were obvious. The community demonstrated the same on the occasion of his celebration of 25 and 50 years of Profession, respectively celebrated in 1975 and 2000 and during the last months of his life.





Ordinations and Professions



Francis Nakamura, Francis Yamauchi, Paul Matsumoto

The following religious have professed First Vows: Fr. **Kingsley Wayne Asphall**, of the Province of St. Paul of the Cross (PAUL, USA), on 12 January 2003; **Constant Bikuku** and **Gaston Djonga-Otokoye wa Otempa**, of the Vicariate of Christ the Savior (SALV-GABR, Congo) 23 February; **Daniel Myoung-II Chang** and **Simon Jin-Wook Choi**, of the Province of the Korean Martyrs (MACOR, Korea), on 27 February; **Joseph Someno**, of the Vice Province of the Japanese Martyrs (MAIAP, Japan) 10 March; **Eric Funtanares**, **Locarno Anor**, **Rolando Padreganda** and **Joselito Padulla**, of the Province of the Passion of Christ (PASS, Philippines) 2 May.

The following religious have professed Perpetual Vows in the Congregation: **José Roberto Dos Reis** and **Guilherme Alves Moreira**, of the Vicariate of Christ the Liberator (SPE-LIBER, Brazil), 8 February; **Rogério De Lima Mendes** and **Paulo César Munhoz Torres**, of the Calvary Province (CALV, Brazil), 15 February; **Peter Hyeon-Seung Seo** and **John Jin Kim**, of the Province of the Korean Martyrs (MACOR, Korea), 1 March; **Francis Nakamura**, **Francis Yamauchi** and **Paul Matsumoto**, of the Vice Province of the Japanese Martyrs (MAIAP, Japan) 10 March; **Benson Valiyaveetil** and **Antony Arackal** of the Vicariate of St. Thomas the Apostle (THOM-CRUC, India) 16 March.

These religious were ordained deacons: 12 January: **Gaby Makila**, **Jean-Jacques Mbunzimi**, **Aimé Tilimbini**, **Jules Mapela** and **Timothé Poso** of the Vicariate of Christ the Savior (SALV-GABR, Congo); 19 March, **Benson Valiyaveetil** and **Antony Arackal** of the Vicariate of St. Thomas the Apostle (THOM-CRUC, India); on 30 April, **Massimo Granieri**, of the Province of Sacro Costato (LAT, Italia).



Massimo Granieri

Finally, the following were ordained to the priesthood: Fr. **Dieudonné Butshinayi**, of the Vicariate of Christ the Savior (SALV-GABR, Congo), on 12 January; Fr. **Ferdinand Dulong**, of the Province of the Passion of Christ (PASS, Philippines) on 20 March; Fr. **Biju Ignatius Joseph Paliyath**, of the Vicariate of St. Thomas the Apostle (THOM-CRUC, India), on 24 April; Fr. **Michele Pomili**, of Pietà Province (PIET, Italy) on 26 April.



Ferdinand Dulong

To each of these religious we extend our sincerest prayers and best wishes. May the Passion of Christ be an integral part of their religious life and the model to imitate in their priestly life. Congratulations!



The centennial of the death of St. Gemma Galgani

Good Friday, 11 April 2003, marked the centennial of the death of St. Gemma Galgani. A concelebrated Mass took place at the Sanctuary in Lucca. The principal concelebrant was Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, prefect of the Congregation of Bishops. He preached the homily that focused on the centrality of the Gospel in the life of the young stigmatic, and aligned it with the spirituality of the Family Passionist.

Numerous clergy were present from the various dioceses of Tuscany, among them Bishop M. Bianco, bishop of Volterra and Bishop L. Coletti, bishop of Livorno. Bishop Bruno Tommasi, archbishop of Lucca, greeted the Cardinal and invited the assembly to pray for peace. The sanctuary was filled to capacity, some people having to follow the celebration on loudspeakers set up outside the Basilica.

The cardinal's homily briefly summarized the spiritual itinerary of the Saint, especially highlighting the suffering she endured at the death of her parents and the social alienation which she bore with heroic courage, as well as the burden of her illness with which she was afflicted. The central message of St. Gemma- as stated by the bishop- "is in the cross, because for her Christ constituted all, and she related to Christ from within the context of his passion and death." The cardinal did not omit highlighting her great simplicity

through which she received numerous, extraordinary mystical gifts, of which the stigmata rendered her similar to Christ. He also spoke of the great familiarity with which she conversed with the Lord, the Virgin Mary, her Guardian Angel and St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, who called her "my sister."

Among those who participated in the solemn commemoration of the centennial of the "transitus" of Saint Gemma were the consultors Fr. **Luigi Vaninetti**, representing the Superior General and Fr. **Vital Otshudialokoka**. Also present were Fr. **Adolfo Lippi**, provincial PRAES, together with the provincial economo, Fr. **Mario Capitanio**, as well as the Master of Novices, Fr. **Fernando Taccone**, along with the novices and other religious of various communities. The Sisters of Saint Gemma were also present with their Superior General, **Mother Antonia** as well as numerous Sisters associated with the Passionists who shared in the joy of the nuns, the custodians and animators of the sanctuary of St. Gemma in Lucca.



April 23: The Pope receives the parchment commemorating the Centennial

After the celebration, despite the rain, a sizeable group of the faithful assembled at the chapel-room of the "transitus", in "Via della Rosa".

Fr. Tito Zecca
C.P.

Secretary of
the Centennial
Committee



Passionist Ministry with Central American immigrants in the United States

The lay Passionist family gives daily witness to their love of Christ Crucified and their vibrant Passionist spirituality. **Gustavo Monzón** is a lay Passionist who works with Central-Americans that have immigrated to the United States. Previously he collaborated with the Passionists of the Vicariate of Central America and now he is doing the same with the Passionist Mexican Sisters. Below is an extract from one of his recent letters: *"This year we are dedicating ourselves to defining Passionist Identity and to move from being a group, to that of a Missionary Community, given that the lay element of the same has already been defined. Our community dynamic consists of forming community, sharing our reality, seeking enlighten-*

ment concerning the Memoria Passionis so as to arrive at the point of making concrete commitments in our area and in the Ecclesial Communities 'de Base', within community support groups, the work place, schools, etc.

"At present what we most need, above all what I need as the coordinator for formation, is not only material, that is, what was produced at the General Chapter in Brazil, by the Synod or by other areas that bring about reflection and theological study on the Passion, which enlighten this project... above all what I am urging is communication about places and times for reflection, formation and sharing on the experience of the Passion today, in this time period in which we are living. We also need companioning to be able to continue to live clearly, intuiting how this road leads to Golgotha, to contemplate the Crucified One, who lives in the reality of these crucified immigrants in the southern part of the United States."



ADECO

The Passionist entity in Spain for social matters, ADECO (Friendship, Development and Cooperation) is numbered among 27 Non-Governmental organizations of this country who have just completed a new common initiative. They are seeking to develop a new authoritative and effective voice in favor of efforts for human rights and for the right of humanitarian development according to Gospel principles. The members of these NGO groups are also members of religious, Catholic institutions and other Christian organizations or at least are sponsored by them.

Formation of the Passionist Family in Spain

In the Preciosísima Sangre (SANG) Province of Spain, in the community of Las Presas, a day of reflection took place last December 27 based on the topic: "Passionists: laity and religious". Various religious and numerous laity attended, offering an opportunity for a better understanding of our charism and spirituality. The laity are people who usually work with the Passionists. Fr. **Mario Melgosa** (CORI) gave a conference which focused the day's reflections: the identity of the laity and the religious; co-responsibility for ecclesial life; fidelity to one's own vocation. The work continued concerning the role of the laity at the last General Chapter and concluded with some orientations for the future: common efforts at promoting the charism, avoiding passivity; the need for formation in Passionist spirituality; a greater knowledge of the documents that help with this formation; growth in the capacity for dialogue and conversation regarding diversity; frequent contact in everyday life in order to create a family "atmosphere".



CENTER-FORUM

Second meeting of the Commission



During February 3-4 the Commission of the Center-Forum met in the Generalate for their second work session. Those present were **José Agustín Orbegozo**, **Tito Amedeo** (PRAES), **Ernst Henau** (GABR), **Octavio Mondragón** (REG), **Adolfo Lippi** (PRAES), **Christopher Monaghan**

(SPIR), **Tarcisio Gaitán** (FID) and **José Luis Quintero** (SANG). The secretary was **Luis Enrique Bernal** (FID). Absent were Frs. **Stanislaus Breton** and **Donald Senior**. Fr. General was present with them on the first day. On the second day, Sister **Patricia Rodríguez**, the Regional Superior for Europe of the Hijas de la Pasión attended. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the work begun the year before and to further elaborate future steps to be taken. Briefly, the meeting can be summarized as follows: Fr. Octavio Mondragon was named the general secretary of the Center-Forum. He chaired each meeting and was responsible for directing future steps to be taken. The new leader presented a work schema, based upon information from the Synod in Korea. All of the work of this session was around this topic. The commission agreed to an experience of life and work in the retreat of San Giuseppe on Monte Argentario during the second half of next June. The next ordinary meeting of the commission will take place in Mexico, 3-7 January 2004.

St. Gabriel and the Internet

As the result of a research project sponsored the "Eco di San Gabriele" it was discovered that on the Internet there can currently be found more than seven hundred sites that refer to the young saint from the Abruzzo region of Italy. Obviously not all the sites are of a religious nature; some are of institutional character (the Abruzzo Region etc.) or tourism. The extensive number of sites demonstrates that St. Gabriel is well known and loved throughout the world and how also, via Internet, one can communicate the message of his sanctity.

Letters of St. Paul of the Cross

Fr. **Max Anselmi** (CORM) has published, in Italian, Volume I of the Letters of St. Paul of the Cross to Laity (Paolo della Croce, Lettere di Formazione e Direzione spirituale ai Laici) - two tomes consisting of 2,510 pages. The volume is a collection of 890 letters that are known to us as of the present date. Each letter is accompanied by ample introductions and information drawn from annotations, research dating, notes and historic and spiritual contextualization that make the text and the spirituality more comprehensive and accessible. The first tome contains an abundant introductory study

by the author on the person of San Paul of the Cross-- his spirituality and his spiritual direction, and a study by Fr. Adolfo Lippi (PRAES) on the spirituality of the Cross proposed by St. Paul to the laity.



TV drama of Goretti

In the context of the Centennial of the death of Saint Maria Goretti mass communication on the national Italian level

has also taken an interest in the event. The RAI (Italian Radio Television) produced, with the assistance of our Institute, a TV film on the life of Saint Maria Goretti. It was televised on February 23, 2003. The film was viewed by almost 10 million spectators. The great success of the film testifies to the fact that Maria Goretti is among the most beloved saints on a popular level and that her story has a value for our present society. It highlights once again the importance of the family and education based on values, in contrast to a culture of hatred and immorality (the hard and miserable life in the pontine swamps at the beginning of the 20th century) within which the assassin of Maria grew up.



NOTITIAE OBITUS: USQUE AD DIEM 6 MAII 2003, ACCEPTAE

1. Die 14 februarii 2003, e Provincia CORI,
Obdormivit in Domino P. Agustín Guerricabeitia Barructabeña.
qui, natus anno 1923, vota nuncupaverat die 5 iunii 1941.
2. Die 21 februarii 2003, e Provincia PIET,
Obdormivit in Domino P. Flaviano Generali
qui, natus anno 1914, vota nuncupaverat die 31 octobris 1932.
3. Die 21 februarii 2003, e Provincia CORM,
Obdormivit in Domino P. Pio Castagnoli
qui, natus anno 1930, vota nuncupaverat die 8 septembris 1947.
4. Die 23 februarii 2003, e Provincia CRUC,
Obdormivit in Domino P. John Anthony Parenza
qui, natus anno 1920, vota nuncupaverat die 9 iulii 1943.
5. Die 28 februarii 2003, e Provincia DOL,
Obdormivit in Domino P. Silvio Pompei
qui, natus anno 1926, vota nuncupaverat die 8 novembris 1942.
6. Die 7 martii 2003, e Provincia PIET,
Obdormivit in Domino P. Marcello Di Pietro
qui, natus anno 1920, vota nuncupaverat die 22 septembris 1938.
7. Die 7 martii 2003, e Provincia DOL,
Obdormivit in Domino P. Emilio Vicini
qui, natus anno 1923, vota nuncupaverat die 22 septembris 1940.
8. Die 20 martii 2003, e Provincia SANG,
Obdormivit in Domino P. Bernardo Gómez Martín (Monsegú)
qui, natus anno 1909, vota nuncupaverat die 17 novembris 1925.
9. Die 2 aprilis 2003, e Provincia PIET,
Obdormivit in Domino P. Basilio Saulini
qui, natus anno 1915, vota nuncupaverat die 25 octobris 1933.
10. Die 25 aprilis 2003, e Provincia CORI,
Obdormivit in Domino Fra. Javier Aldaya Colomo
qui, natus anno 1933, vota nuncupaverat die 13 augusti 1950.

1. Die 17 martii 2003, e Monasterio Passionistarum de Bilbao,
Obdormivit in Domino Sr. M^{re}. Pabla (Josefina) Pichel Fernández
quae, nata anno 1926, vota nuncupaverat die 11 februarii 1962.
2. Die 31 martii 2003, e Monasterio Passionistarum de Campagnano,
Obdormivit in Domino Sr. M. Annunziata (Angela Rosa) Pulcini
quae, nata anno 1913, vota nuncupaverat die 30 augusti 1936.

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