PASPAC *e-Newsletter* SEPTEMBER 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Executive Secretary, Christopher Akiatan, has prepared an e-Newsletter to share some of the information that may be new to you or that you wanted to know more about. I congratulate him on his efforts to keep all of the members of our PASPAC Configuration aware of what is happening around the Asia Pacific region.

In a month's time PASPAC shall be gathering for an Assembly – that is a meeting of all of the Leaders of PASPAC and the three commissions that make up the membership of the Assembly. Like all of the other Configurations around the world, PASPAC must prepare itself to conform to the directives and decrees of the 2012 General Chapter. This Assembly, to be held in Munakata, Japan, will be a very intensive effort to bring ourselves up to date with all of our Brothers around the world. About twenty-five Passionists will gather in the Munakata Retreat Centre of our Japanese Vice Province. Please keep them in your prayers.

I will be attending the first gathering of the Extended General Council in late September in Rome. This is the first time that this newly created body will meet together with the Superior General and his Council. We will be discussing the various efforts that are underway around the Congregation, and also to discern various issues that were left to this meeting by the General Chapter. We will be talking about finances and financial responsibility for each Province, Vice Province and Configuration. There will also be discussions centring on the whole area of Formation – and how to interpret and implement the decision of the General Chapter to create an office of Formation in the General Curia. There will be reports on the recent creation of the new Province of the Sacred Heart that includes most of the Iberian Peninsula and vast areas of Latin America. Since the General Chapter the realignment of the Province of the Caribbean has come into reality with the election of a new Provincial and Council for this Province. In the relatively near future the new Provinces in Italy, France, Portugal plus Brazil and Argentina remain to be formed into two new Provinces.

The era of re-configuring our Congregation globally is a work in process. The efforts of the past ten and more years are bearing fruit in new, creative ways around the world. PASPAC – that is you and me – also will be facing new realities and new pressures that will force us all to grow into a greater maturity and fruitfulness as ministers of the Gospel in the great variety of apostolates that reveal themselves around our Configuration.

The Spirit is at work in our small, humble, Congregation of the Passion. For this we all give thanks and ask the Lord's continued protection of each and every one of us – the men and women who make up the Passionists in Asia and the Pacific.

United always in the Crucified One,

Laurence M. Finn C.P.
President of PASPAC

The Fourth Provincial Chapter of the Province of the Passion of Christ in the Philippines

Fr. Gwen Barde, C.P.

On May 20-24, 2013, Monday, Most Rev. Joachim Rego, CP, Passionist General Superior, presided the Fourth Provincial Chapter of the Philippine Province of the Passion of Christ (PASS) held at Holy Cross Spiritual Center, Calumpang, General Santos City. In his opening address, in the afternoon of May 20, Fr. Rego affirmed the vibrancy of the Congregation of the Passion in the Philippines marked by a growing number of personnel and expansion of her missionary reach. The theme of the Chapter was "Province of the Passion: Journeying in Christ Crucified for the New Life and Mission." Sixty two religious were present; fifty three were voting members. The proceedings were facilitated by Fr. Eugene Cañete of the Missionaries of Jesus.

Fr. Julito Villarente, CP, the Provincial Superior, delivered his State of the Province Address at the beginning of the first session on May 21. A series of reporting followed: On The Passionist Benefactors Society (PBS) and Procuration Office by Fr. Evan Esmade, CP; The Passionist Technological Institute, Inc. by Fr. Ramel Poquita, CP; Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) by Fr. Rey Carvyn Ondap, CP; Retreat by Fr. Marito Varquez, CP; Formation and Lay Partner by Fr. Vicente Gabut, CP; and Vocation Promotion by Fr. Joseph Alesna, CP.

Reporting continued on May 22: On Properties by Fr. Vicente Supranes, CP; Proposed Phase 8A Parish by Fr. Vivien Nuera, CP; Sweden Mission by Fr. Gabriel Baldostamon, CP; and Canada Mission by Fr. Brando Recaña, CP.

May 23, the fourth day, was spent on Legislations and New Proposals drawn from the reports. The following new proposals were adopted:

1) Setting aside Ten Million Philippine Pesos for investment to be handled by the Financial Committee
2) Appointment of a Special Projects Coordinator who shall chair the Land and Building Commission
3) Allowing the use of cell phones among students in formation
4) Development of the newly purchased Cebu Property
5) Establishment of Phase 8A (Bagong Silang) as a mission station

On the final day, May 24, the Capitulars solemnly elected the new Provincial Superior, Fr. Apolinario Plaza, CP and his council composed of Frs. Gwen Barde, CP, Louie Fuentespina, CP, Julito Villarente, CP, and Rey Carvyn Ondap, CP.

The week-long gathering offered a prayerful and inspiring renewal and redirection of the fifty-five year-old province.

The First Vice Provincial Chapter of the Passionists in India (THOM)

Fr. Louis Stanislaus, C.P.

"Be lifted by His passion to fly high" – they will fly like a bird…and I will place them in their houses (Hosea 11:11) was the theme of a week-long Chapter.

The Passionist fathers and brothers of St. Thomas, the Apostle Vice Province, India had their first Vice Province Chapter from 29th of April to 3rd of May 2013 at Passionist Jyothir Bhavan, Carmelaram in Bangalore. Together with the General Superior Rev Fr. Joachim Rego (President and Moderator of the Vice Provincial Chapter) and his Council member, representatives from the PASPAC as well as Provincial and Council members from the Holy Cross Province, the 39 delegates of the Chapter focused, reflected and prayed over the theme and arrived at the following Vision – Mission Statement that would give a right orientation to the life and mission of the Vice Province

Vision Statement:

"WE PROCLAIM THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST, THE OUTBURST OF DIVINE LOVE FOR THE HUMANITY", we the Passionist Fathers and brothers of St. Thomas the apostle Vice Province strive to grow and cultivate and integral Passionist Spirituality in its personal, communitarian and apostolic dimension in our daily lives and launch deeper into life of the people.

Mission Statement:

We the Passionist, family of priests and brothers and laity, reaching out with compassion to the crucified of today, with our commitment to the primal call to keep alive the memory of the Passion through community life, prayer, ministry of Word, Sacraments and enlightening young minds and service to the needy. We seek to evangelize and be evangelized by the power of the cross.

The Chapter delegates who were working in abroad had a half day preparation for the Vice Province Chapter directed by Rev Fr. Paul Cherukoduth CP. It was indeed an insightful and informative (an update on the pre-congress as well as progress of the present Situation of the Vice Province) and a time of discernment, a journey of self-introspection and exteriorization of oneself as well as the community.

In his key note address, Fr. Mike Higgins CP emphasized on the essential element of the "We Experience" as the important part in the Chapter of a religious Congregation. In this journey he helped the delegates to be aware of our personal, Congregational and professional identities wherein we were challenged to make a harmonious blending of all these aspects so that Passionist Fathers and brothers become effective and relevant in their mission today.

The Chapter continued its reflection on discernment and Presentation of the Legislation of the Vice Province with Fr. Paul Cherukoduth CP, on Monday morning. It was an exploration of the norms and values behind building consensus and dealing with conflict in a way that was constructive and respectful. As part of the process of discernment we thought about what we need to do so as to be Passionist in India at their best.

On Tuesday continued the theme of Formation, Mission and Ministry. Most of the day was spent presentation of the report on Formation, Mission-Ministry, working in small regional groups. Members of each small group discussed proposals on how we could work together in formation as well as in mission-ministry.

The day (Wednesday) began with Fr. Antony Xavier Tharayil CP (Regional Superior) Report. He spoke of the many highlights during his administration including the celebrations of the foundations in Nilambur (Novitiate Community), the development of Indian Passionist collaboration in abroad through PASPAC, the establishment and development of the Community in Randham as well as Bhopal etc. He also identified challenges faced by his Regional Superior Team that would carry over to the next administration. These included keeping the voice of God alive, promoting a better sense of community, vocations' promotion and formation, lay collaboration, membership and dialogue, the responsibility for property and the needs of our overseas missions. Later on in the day Frs. Sony Kannanaikal CP and Joseph Xavier Tharayil CP presented the financial report. Stressing accountability and transparency they went through a thorough account of our financial position and allowed ample opportunity for discussion and reflection.

On Thursday morning started with the celebration of the Penitential Rite of the Eucharist for our morning prayer. It was a day of elections. We had to elect new Vice Provincial as well as four Provincial Councillors. We started our process of discernment with a time of personal reflection on scripture. In personal reflection we tried to name the skills and talents necessary for leadership as well as some of the challenges that will face the incoming Leadership Team. To this end lists of qualities were drawn up which included the need to be prophetic, to be a

listener, a leader, a person of compassion, someone with vision and heart, with love for the brothers, but above all someone who was human. At mid-morning we celebrated the Prayer of the Discernment in the Chapel and then proceeded to the election of the Vice Provincial and mid-day to the election of the four Provincial Councilors. These were carried out with a great degree of prayerfulness, patience, thoughtfulness and perseverance.

The Chapter was moderated by Rev. Fr. Joachim Rego the Superior General of the Congregation. During the Chapter the election of the Vice Provincial Superior and Vice Provincial Councillors was held. Fr. Tomy Kanjirathinkal was elected for the first term to the office of the Vice Provincial Superior, Fr. Roy Srampical, Fr. Antony Xavier Tharayil, Fr. Maria Edwin Jenish and Fr. Sony Kannanaikal were elected as Vice Provincial Councilors.

On Friday, a discussion of new ministries and other agendas was prompted by a number of submissions to the chapter preparation committee and followed by interaction with new Vice Provincial Team. Again we reflected on the signs of the times and where God was calling us as a congregation today. There was a desire to look at a new vision and new ways of ministering within our existing ministries in India as well as abroad. Suggestions around new models of formation, mission-ministry and community and involvement with laity were also proposed.

Having concluded the business of the Vice Provincial Chapter on Friday evening, the final day ended with the celebration of Mass and Banquet. On Saturday morning, the delegates from the Various Provinces and guests had Bangalore Darshan and in the late afternoon, participated in the priestly ordination of the Deacons Titus CP and Nambikai Raj CP

We are grateful to God Almighty for his rich blessings upon our Congregation and particularly on our Vice Province of St. Thomas the Apostle. As we continue our journey, may our Founder and Father Saint Paul of the Cross and other Passionist Saints guide and support us in witnessing the Lord in our mission in the world especially in India.

Profession and Ordination in Indonesia (REPAC)

Fr. Basilius, C.P.

Indonesia province had some happenings that were celebrated during July-August 2013. They are beautiful and amazing grace, namely the receiving of novices, the first and final profession, and the ordination. We should say thanks to the Lord for everything has been happening. The following are the events that occurred in some places in REPAC's province.

On 2nd July 2013, there were 11 postulants have begun their year of canonical novitiate in the novitiate house, St. Gabriel, Batu. This happening was signed with using a cloak to every postulant by Novice Master, Fr. Romeo CP. They are Rovinus Longa, Petrus Yuniarto, Lusius Riyanto, Agustinus Ga'a Dela, Eduardus Madha, Viktor Riyadi, Delfinus Dhobu, Heribertus Peri, Ignasius Dendi Sunarya, Yohanis Yodi and Yohanes Yustinus Doi. Lusius Riyanto is candidate for brother and the others are candidate for priest.

In Nanga Mahap Parish, Sekadau, West Kalimantan, on 7th July two students pledged the final profession. They are Marius Rusli CP and Antonius Kema CP who pledged the vows were accepted by vice provincial, Fr. Ligorius Jalak, CP. The parishes welcomed happily and they prepared a plenty of food to enliven this event.

On 9th July, at 09.00 am in Novitiate House, Batu, there were eleven Novices who recieved the first profession namely: Yohanes Windy CP, Yulius Nyipa CP, Fransiskus Endi Agung CP, Alexius Mbenga CP, Agato Edi CP, Asranius Jito CP, Krisantus Gore CP, Lusianus Rudin CP, Edmundus Anu CP, Gumarus Satriawisti CP and Fransiskus Nong Budi CP. The celebration was organized modestly and solemnly and attended by the students and priests who live in Malang, some companions and the religious around Malang. The celebration of Eucharist was led by Provincial of Passionist Indonesia, Fr. Nikodemus Jimbun, CP. In his homily, he reminded more the attending people about the meaning of the fourth vows, namely: the vow of chastity, poverty, obedience and memorial of the Passion of Jesus Christ. After that all of the guests were invited for amicable to express the excitement together with the Passionist family.

In St. Jerome Church, Pontionak, on 27th July four deacons received a priestly ordination from Mgr. Hieronimus Bumbun, OFM.Cap. He is the archbishop of Pontianak. The fourth of deacons were D. Kanisius Kariono CP, D. Petrus Albertus Parkis CP, D. Nikodemus Gerunung CP dan D. Gregorius Eddy Priya Santosa CP. This celebration was attanded by sixty priest, from Pasionist, Diosese, SJ and OFM.Cap. Also, a lot of people and family came to the church to witness this event. The same event, on 22nd August there were two deacons was ordinated by Mgr. Kherubin Parera, SVD (Bishop of Maumere) in St. Marry Magdalene, Nangahure-Flores. They are D. Krisantus Siga, CP and D. Petrus Baru Wake, CP. The ordination was attanded by a lot of priests and people came from around Maumere, East Indonesia.

Novitiate Program in Japan

On the first day of April 2013 the Passionists in Japan is deeply thankful for the gift of Passionist Vocation that God has bestowed upon them. Brother Joseph Yoshiaki Inaba, 47 years old and a native of Yokohama, joined the Passionist Community and has started his novitiate year program in Mezu, Takarazuka. His Novice Master at the present is Fr. Francis Yamauchi, C.P. Brother Joseph has been seriously and enthusiastically undergoing his initial formation in the community. May the spirit of our dear founder St. Paul of the Cross be his guide and inspiration in offering his life to God, the church and the congregation.

Fr. Hilarion Walters, CP (1918-2013)

Fr. Gwen Barde, C.P.

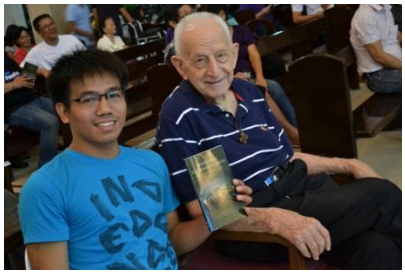
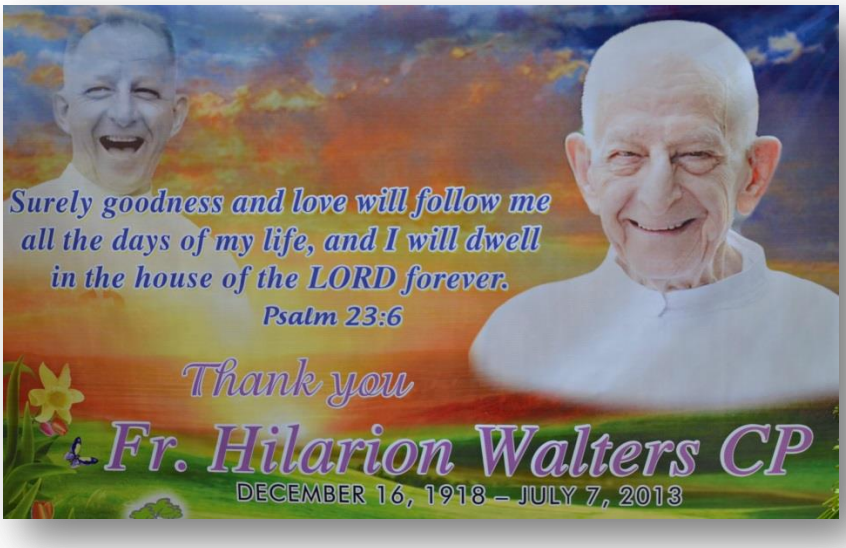
The Philippine Province of the Passion of Christ (PASS) was stunned by the news of Fr. Hilarion Walter's death on July 7, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., Sunday. Minutes after receiving communion, Fr. Walters closed his eyes and triumphantly returned to the Lord at ninety-four years of age, sixty five years of priesthood, and seventy three years of being a Passionist. The priests and brothers at the Passionist Theologate community in Loyola, Quezon City, gathered around his death bed singing "Old Rugged Cross."

Fr. Walters was born on December 16, 1918 in South Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA). He is the third of seven children. His two elder sisters, Frances and Mary Anne, are Franciscan nuns. Fr. Walters joined the Passionists and professed his first profession of vows on August 15, 1940. Seven years later, on April 28, 1947, he was ordained priest.

Fr. Walters's aspiration to become a missionary first occurred to him when he was in third grade. He dreamt of the Blessed Virgin pointing to the East. On June 10, 1948, over a year after ordination, the dream came to initial realization as he was sent to China. However, he was still studying in Beijing when the Communists took over China. Fr. Walters then returned to the U.S. served the Lithuanian Mission Band in Pittsburgh. Ten years after, on February 1958, he was sent to the Philippines along with eight others to work in the southern part of Cotabato in Mindanao. Fr. Walters was assigned in parishes and formation houses. His fifty five years of living in the Philippines are marked by zeal and extraordinary simplicity.

Fr. Robert Joerger, CP, the provincial of St. Paul of the Cross Province (Eastern USA) has this to say about the missionary commitment of Fr. Walters: "Fr. Hilarion is our longest serving missionary…He served with consistency and distinction during this past sixty five years. No one

from the Province of St. Paul of the Cross can compete with him." Indeed, he is a powerful inspiration for young Passionists, not only in the Philippines but also in the Asia-Pacific. The PASPAC students witnessed his exemplary religiosity even in his deteriorating condition. In a book dedicated to him goes this intense missionary zeal and readiness: "Home is where God wants me, and I believe He wants me here. God's will, not mine, will bring peace and fulfillment. He will let me know if He wants me somewhere else."



Fr. Hilarion Walters was finally laid to rest on July 18, 2013, Thursday with a funeral mass presided by Most Rev. Dinualdo Gutierrez, DD, Bishop of Marbel. An estimated three thousand (3,000) people attended the funeral. He was buried in the Passionist Cemetery at Holy Cross Spiritual Center, Calumpang, General Santos City.