



Passionist International Bulletin

N. 4 - April 2004

Easter
2004:
Letter
of
the
Superior
General



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N. 4 - New Series - April 2004

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EASTER LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION AND THE PASSIONIST FAMILY

Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio, C.P.

Easter Message 2004

My dear brothers of the Congregation and my brothers and sisters of the Passionist Family,

I would not be surprised if the world, the earthly globe and its continents, oceans and glaciers were to assume the form of a cross, so great is its suffering.

It seems that there is no end to the violence, the evil, the inhuman brutality: children, women - there are no distinctions. There are declared wars and terrorism with daily deaths. There is the daily certainty of victims of the acknowledged wars and those wars that are undeclared. What is not known is the number of the victims. There is extreme poverty throughout the world and there is wealth: the rich continue to keep the numerous "Lazarus's" at their feet, their wounds licked by the dogs.

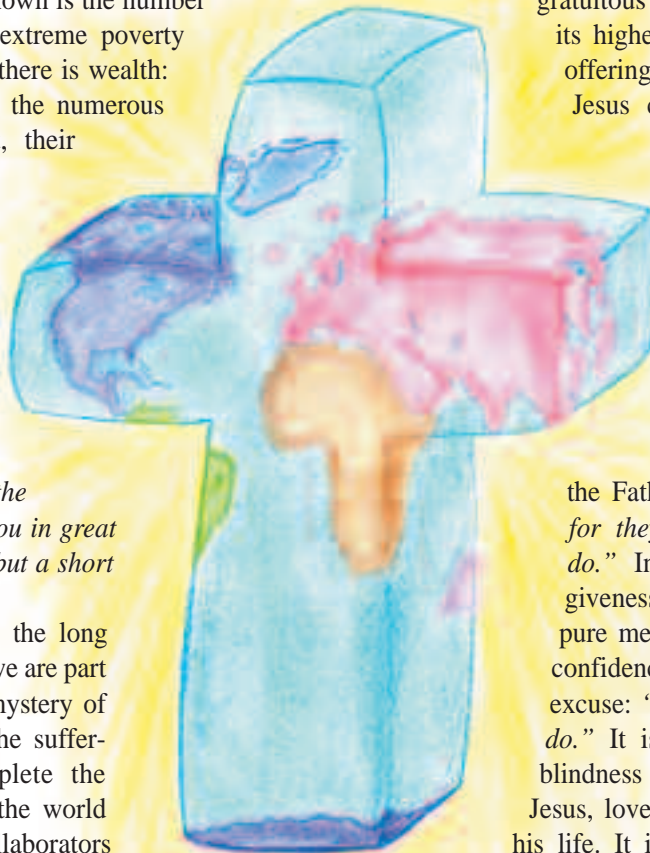
It is as if the world was given to "the enemy" and he is harvesting it: *"Therefore, rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them. But woe to you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury, for he knows he has but a short time."* (Rev. 12:12)

We are living through the long week of the Passion. And we are part of it. Through the great mystery of the purification of sins, the sufferings of the world complete the Passion of Jesus, so too the world and we, who are active collaborators with Jesus, through Jesus and in Jesus, are part of the Father's plan of salvation. Can we shorten the time of suffering in the world by a holier life and a more positive attitude toward others? What would the world be like if it adhered to the Gospel?

Dear brother religious and laity of the Passionist family, how many times have we been tempted to ask ourselves: "But how am I involved in the events of September 11th, with Palestine and Israel, with the war and post-war in Iraq, with the dramatic events that

caused the almost 200 deaths in Madrid and with the wide-spread violence and poverty in families and in the world? Others deliberated; others made those decisions - not me; not us!

St. Paul of the Cross, our Father, saw that the cause of so many of the evils of the world was rooted in not keeping alive the memory of the Passion. It might seem to be spiritual sentimentality, but keeping alive the "memoria", calling to mind the Passion of Jesus, is something more profound than mere pious sentimentality. It is in entering into the mystery of the gratuitous love of God that it achieves



its highest expression - that of the offering of Jesus on the Cross. And Jesus completely offers himself, unconditionally, taking our sins upon himself, as if they were his own - thousands are hurled into his heart and are purified by his blood. Again today, Jesus, his glorious wounds visible to the Calvary of the world, prays his prayer to the Father: *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

In addition to asking for forgiveness and entrusting us to the pure mercy of the Father, with the confidence of a son, he also offers an excuse: *"they do not know that they do."* It is our ignorance; it is our blindness that makes us crucify love.

Jesus, love, has "us" as the center of his life. It is as if his "I" had disappeared, being replaced by "us": *"Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins...he gives his life as an offering for sin."* (Is. 53:4-5, 10) He disregards himself and his equality with God and he makes himself completely vulnerable in order to assume all of our weaknesses and wounds.

And we, religious and laity, called by our baptismal and Passionist vocation to the charism of the Passion,



are witnesses to this love. At the feet of the Crucified One we learn how much one can love and how much one can forgive. God has given us the task of being leaven for the world through the “memoria passionis” that is lived and announced.

Therefore “to keep alive the memory” of the Passion of Jesus is a life-long project. It involves making the paschal mystery the motivation of our choices, be they in our relationship with God or with our neighbor, beginning with the community of our fellow religious or, for the laity, the members of our own family, as well as in our relationship with the world and its sufferings, its poverty and its power. “To keep alive the memory” of the Passion of Jesus is to undertake the project of the Crucified One and to live it. This is no minor undertaking. In fact, the integrity and the honesty of our life will determine the efficacy of our preaching. And the evils that affect humanity will diminish in propor-

not perish.” (Jonah 3:8-9) God saw their repentance and Nineveh was acquitted. And even if there is no direct link between sin and suffering (cfr. Jn. 9:3) the calamitous situation that surrounds us and which seem to have arrived at its extreme limits, are an invitation to penance and conversion. *“At that time some people who were present there told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacri-*



Fr. Ottaviano with the Postulants and the community in Santo Domingo



Fr. Ottaviano with the Passionist Community in Panama

fices. He said to them in reply, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them - do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!’”

tion to the increase of love in the world and in our conversion. This is our mission: to undergo conversion and to grow in mutual charity for the salvation of the world.

“Return to the LORD, your God...For gracious and merciful is he...relenting in punishment.” (Joel 2:13). I recall the conversion of Nineveh at the preaching of Jonah and the decree of the king who covered himself with sackcloth and ashes: *“Call[ing] loudly to God every man shall turn from his evil way and from the violence he has in hand. Who knows, God may relent and forgive, and withhold his blazing wrath, so that we shall*

(Lk.13:1-5)

“Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole”. (Is. 53:5) It is the mystery of sin and expiation that Jesus, in the Passover, by means of his blood that was shed and by his resurrection, transforms into a covenant and changes sinners into children of God.

This is the work and the gift of mercy that we should re-live in the upcoming celebration of Easter: the great mystery of the purification of sins and the promise of new life.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The for-



Fr. Ottaviano with the Passionist Family in Cuba

mer heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away.' The one who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'" (Rev. 21:1-5)

And it is my wish that we become new people, re-born in the baptism of the paschal mystery that is once again given to us to celebrate this year, 2004. This wish is personally for each one of us: men and women religious and the laity, for communities and families, the Provinces and the entire Congregation.

The Resurrection of Jesus is an opportunity that should not be missed. Once again, it is an opportunity to rise to new life: from the treasury of the empty tomb we must bring forth both the new and the old. "He who separates" should have no place in our heart or in our communities or in our families. Beginning with the primitive Christian communities, charity and love were essential. It was said of them: "See how they love one another."

Let us show consideration to one another, especially toward the sick who most clearly take on the appearance of the Crucified One and also the aged.

I fondly remember and I extend my best wishes for a peaceful Easter to those religious, whom I have recently visited, visits which have kept me away from Rome for almost three months. It is always a gift of God to meet and to share community, even if only for a

few days, with our religious in the local areas where they live and carry out their mission and with those to whom they minister.

I refer to those with whom I lived the experience of Congregation and of family Passionist, who profess the same charisma in the Passion of Jesus, even if in diverse cultures and settings. Last January, February and March I did visitation of the communities and I presided at the celebration of the Congress in Colombia (FID). I recall: the meeting of the General Council with the Curias of North America, PAUL and CRUC, attended also by Fr. Alfonso Iberri

and Fr. Héctor Rangel Galván, the Consultor of the Mexican Province (REG) in our Retreat House of North Palm Beach, Florida; the visits to the communities of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic (PAC-CORI), Panama (SANG), Cuba (FAM) and finally India (THOM-CRUC) where, among other events, I received the perpetual profession of two of our students, Bruno Robert D'Souza and Jenish Maria Edwin. I also participated in their deaconate ordination which took place together with 22 young men of other religious congregations. I send my best wishes for a Happy Easter to all of the religious and laity that I met and also my gratitude for the charity and the faith with which I was welcomed - rich and powerful experiences of fraternity and future hope.

I especially wish to extend my best wishes to the religious and to the members of the Passionist Family of the provinces of MICH (France), SPE (Netherlands/Germany), VULN (Germany), PATR (Ireland/Scotland/France) and REG (Mexico) which after Easter, during the next four months, I will join for the celebration of their respective Chapters.

To the cloistered Passionist nuns that accompany us in prayer, to the women religious and the laity of the Passionist Family and to all of the religious of the Congregation, including the Passionist Bishops, together with the recently consecrated Bishop Afonso Fioreze, I wish a "Happy Easter" using the words of St. Paul of the Cross: "I wish you the most holy Peace of Jesus, our Well-being". May Mary, Mother of the Risen One, bless us.

Fraternally,

Palm Sunday
Rome, 4 April 2004



NEW MISSIONARY CHALLENGES

Fr. Jefferies Foale, C.P.

Congress in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Not long after ordination I volunteered for the new Passionist Mission to be founded in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea, in the Pacific islands. I served there ten years, being the first missionary to live among the stone age people in the districts where I founded three missions. Those were the early days, full of enthusiasm, full of a hope to overcome all obstacles. We walked great distances over mountains and rivers; we planted the Christian community with practically no physical resources. Our buildings were made of sticks and leaves. We left behind schools, hospitals, churches and airfields.

Last September I had the opportunity to go back, renewing my acquaintance with people in the villages where I was the first messenger of the Gospel 40 years ago, Ossima, Wasengla and Kamberatoro. The reunions were both happy and sad. Happy to see old friends, sad to find that most of the people I knew have already died, and sad to see so many sick people, adults and children, sad to see so little progress in education, in health and development in those remote parts of the country, sad to see people in some villages discouraged and demoralized. It was sad too to see that our Congregation can no longer find enough missionaries to staff any of the inland parishes of Vanimo Diocese.

I was present to see how deeply PNG affected

Father Ottaviano, our Superior General. He appeared to fall in love with the people and the country. He wanted to know why Papua New Guinea had been kept a secret for so long. I know that he gave much encouragement to our brethren there.

I attended the Papua New Guinea Vicariate Congress in February. It is an interesting time for the Vicariate, as it faces many difficulties, but strong signs of hope too. There are sixteen reli-

gious serving in the Vicariate, two priests, two Brothers, a professed student and three novices from Papua New Guinea, two priests from Indonesia, one priest from the Philippines, and three Brothers and five priests from the mother Province in Australia and New Zealand. The new Regional Vicar is Father Tony Egar,

First Consultor is Phil Smith and the Second Consultor is Valensius Son. Valensius is a missionary from Indonesia who has served two years in PNG.

New Missionary Challenges

While in Florida for a General Council meeting in January I was able to attend a meeting of the charitable trust, "St Paul de la Croix", initiated by Theresa Luu. The trust has supported charitable works in Vietnam and other Passionist projects. Father John Schork CP, Superior of the Harlem Avenue Community in Chicago, has joined the board, and together we hope to expand



The Superior General in Papua New Guinea



the donor base to make the body capable of supporting new initiatives.

New York our Father Kevin Dance was already a familiar figure in the corridors of the international community. He has been very effective, wearing a borrowed entry badge, at raising issues on the environment, indigenous peoples, Palestine and others. We are now establishing a new corporate entity, called Passionists International, which will represent the whole Passionist Family before the UN. After Passionists International has been in existence for a certain period it will apply for Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This status enables more direct participation in major conferences, more input into debates, hopefully more influence. At this stage our partners in Passionists



Fr. Jefferies with a child of Papua New Guinea

As I travel around I have found a keen interest on the part of a few of the brethren regarding the apostolic opportunities that face us in China and Vietnam. I believe this interest would be much higher if our men knew more about these wonderful lands and the situations that we face there, the great hunger for God. Last October the Korean Provincial, Father Augustine, announced to the Paspac Assembly in Papua New Guinea that his Province is ready to receive more volunteers from other Provinces or Vicariates to join the three men already giving generous service in China. China needs us, China which is so vast and so hungry for the good news. Vietnam too, calls on our generosity and courage. Please write me if you are interested in this challenge to the Congregation.

Justice and Peace

In 2000 the General Chapter decided we should raise our voice for the poor, the oppressed and the environment (JPIC) at the United Nations. Father Kevin Dance has been in New York for two years. In December the UN Public Information Office recognized the Congregation of the Passion as one of the Non Government Organizations (NGOs) admitted to various UN forums at a preliminary level. After two years in



Foto of the group of religious ministering in Papua New Guinea

International are the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, with their Generalate in England. All members of the Passionist Family are welcome to participate, individuals and Congregations.

Again and again the work of religious at the UN has born fruit in the form of decisions that give protection and relief to the poor and oppressed. Powerful leaders listen to our voices because they see us as the authentic voice of the poor. This work will be more successful to the degree that our Representative is aware of the JPIC issues that you struggle with in your own situation "at the grass roots". Passionists struggling for justice need to talk to each other, to encourage each other.



RESTRUCTURING IN ITALY

THE CIPI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2004

Fr. Luigi Vaninetti, C.P.

In *Vita Consacrata (Consecrated Life)* John Paul II invites us to learn how to distinguish “*the historical destiny of a specific Institute or form of consecrated life from the ecclesial mission of the consecrated life as such.*” The former can change along with a change of circumstances; the latter is destined to remain constant. And then he adds: “*What must be avoided at all costs is the actual breakdown of consecrated life, a collapse which is not measured by a decrease in numbers but by a failure to cling steadfastly to the Lord and to personal vocation and mission.*” (VC, #63)

Therefore, to address the topic of restructuring, an act of faith in the future is needed; faith in the validity of our life and of our mission in the Church and in the midst of our sisters and brothers, the mission of announcing the Gospel of the Cross. While this idea attracts us, we also experience the limitations of an historical model of religious life that runs the risk of no longer being meaningful and which can no longer be sustained by the present resources of people and energy. Furthermore, new perspectives and new developments have for some time now, confronted each other on the world level and on a local level, and have affected the Church and the Congregation and challenge the identity and mission of our life.

Today we should not limit ourselves to the matter of existence; rather we should concentrate our efforts on long-term programs that work toward regeneration and renewal of the Institute. Such a program is elaborated within a faith setting because it aims at giving meaning to charisms and evangelical counsels in new socio-cultural contexts, of a restructuring of forms of presence, the tasks and the models of Consecrated Life. All of this should also be accompanied by a **revision of the structures** that should give consistence to the restructuring itself. The process of restructuring should involve individual religious, but above all it should affect the life of the community and the organization of the Province.

“*The finality or the need that the Congregation should address today of attending to its restructuring should be understood within the perspective of its revitalization, i.e. to give greater life to our Congregation: “Restructuring for life”* (Letter, 13

April, 2003, of Vital O., General Consultor responsible for the sector of restructuring in the Congregation.) It is important to understand the relationship, the profound bond between revitalization and restructuring.

The de-structuring that is currently occurring might be defined as: “*the interruption of a cycle of reproduction in an institution*”: the decline in vocations, aging, the inadequacy of the forms and structures of life, especially the consequent precariousness of motivations, the fragmentation of consensus all of which negatively impact on the quality of our life and our apostolic effectiveness. Therefore restructuring is a process that enables a capacity for a meaningful and sustainable future. Above all it is significant because it can offer a credible reality of an ecclesial interaction with present day times.

It is sustainable in this phase when the available resources for change are taken into account. The resources are not only and above all not the quantity of the group and their capacities, rather it is the strength of renewing together the original motivation, the choice for Christ, that is, the charismatic inspiration by which the Congregation exists.

In this context, and accepting the invitation in the letter of Fr. Vital: “*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 already time to begin to devote some time for study on this topic during the course of our meetings in order to find concrete and effective means for this work*”, the National Assembly of CIPI (*International Conference of Italian Passionists*) met during Feb. 15-18, 2004 in Rome in order to reflect and better understand the topic of restructuring.

The Assembly was composed of the six provincial Councils of the Italian provinces, the President and the Secretary of the same, the Master of the National Novitiate, the Director of the STIP (Interprovincial Italian Student Theologate) and the MLP Assistant (Lay Passionist Movement). The guest speaker was Fr. Vital O., the General Consultor whose area of responsibility is restructuring.

The primary and most important question with regard to the process of restructuring concerns the



“why” of the matter: *“How can we give sense and meaning to our presence and evangelical witness in the Church and in the world in the service of our brothers and sisters? What is needed is evangelical courage in order to analyze the meaning of our varied forms of presence, of questioning the ecclesial and apostolic meaning of the same, while avoiding easy rhetoric concerning the marvelous history to be recounted. And it is based on a clear response to these questions that an Institute of Consecrated Life may arrive at the process of restructuring that enables it to continue its own future history. Even the most exact effort at institutional engineering will prove to be a useless endeavor if it does not become a visible sign of ecclesiastical presence and pastoral significance.”*

This study was initially begun with a questionnaire given to the individual CIPI Provincials along with their Councils concerning the necessity/ advisability of institutional reorganization and about the possible strategies for trying to bring about a vision and participation in order to address the present situation. The synthesis of these questionnaires, presented to the Assembly as a study instrument, reveals a convergence toward denounce “de-structuring” as

something which tends to cause the qualitative worsening of the presence and of the mission of the individual provinces. On the other hand, the religious of a particular province continue to identify the province as “their institute”, including the historical, ecclesial and pastoral patrimony, together with the tendency to sink roots on the local level, are considered to be undeniable elements by the Provinces and the religious that comprise it.

Therefore, there is a convergence in the identification of the ecclesial objective of the Passionist presence in the Announcement of the Gospel of the Passion and the Memoria Passionis, and a consensus about the “status questionis”, i.e. “a consensus of perspective” that reveals “a cautious waiting that includes an ascetical element” with regard to the necessity to activate restructuring in the Italian region in keeping with the re-qualification of our apostolic presence.

Even the small groups of this Assembly have confirmed what has already emerged, precisely, a dialectic between awareness of disintegration in fact and the resistance, more or less veiled, in thinking about the future as a reorganization of the existing institutions, *“an eventuality situated in a still distant*



A work session during the Assembly



future.” This allows for the emergence of different approaches and formulations of this reality, the diversity of languages and a persistent effort to “divest” oneself of one’s local reality which is necessary for reflecting upon wider horizons and perspectives. There was agreement on general objective of the witness of unity of life and of the Memoria Passionis and the urgency to involve all of the religious so that they become mindful of the issue of restructuring as an opportunity that invites them to be protagonists.

At this point the Assembly was enriched by the intervention of Fr. Gianfranco Casagrande, an Augustinian religious, who was a key figure in the process of unification of the seven Italian provinces of his Order. This process was begun in 1983 and lasted for several years and was completed only several years ago. He spoke about the fundamental element that put the process of restructuring in motion which is the awareness of being a great Family at the service of the Church in order to announce the Good News. The provincial structures were relative, “instrumental” in the service of the Gospel and of the Church. The desire to renew this mandate of the Order at the present time implied a process of renewal and of conversion that was both existential and institutional. This fundamental objective of restructuring continually needed to be re-formulated and to be programmed so as not to leave the questions hanging, while respectfully, acknowledging ties to the past, to the history of the individual Provinces, to present-day institutions, to the individual presence in that area. He invited us to realize the truly urgent nature of restructuring, which is the qualifying element of religious life, to open ourselves to the horizon of the Congregation the true body to which we belong, more than to the individual provinces, and to promote a dynamic of listening, of challenge and of co-responsibility freed of every form of self-sufficiency and from every territorial and institution autonomy.

The final phase of the Assembly had as its objective arriving at “a consensus as to a common plan.” Fr. Pierluigi Nava wisely guided us to a clarification and a contextualization of the possible path to be taken that would take into consideration time elements that were not yet quantifiable or identifiable. The road could be summarized and articulated in four segments:

- Conceptualization is a cognitive process in which one tries to understand and to accept that the renewal of Religious Life concerns everyone, involves everyone in the search for a solution. It is necessary to correctly understand the problem, in its diverse aspects and perspectives, in its effect on our identity

and mission and by means of clarification of language.

- Consciousness-raising which, different from conceptualization, has as its objective that of studying some of the proposals that lie at the foundation without arriving at solutions or prefabricated proposals. It is an on-going evaluation of the proposals.

- A plan that is not a pretext for a completely predetermined route but rather is about the activation of priorities and operative choices. It is a plan “in itinere” that discerns the steps that are being taken with strong dialectic ties to the periphery (the Province) and the center (General authority).

- The programming is the concrete actualization of the plan within which the *when, where, who, at what point* are progressively determined.

Currently we find ourselves in the first phase, wanting to talk about restructuring, its meaning and its urgency and we want to talk about it from the perspective of an ever closer unity with the Congregation and in the knowledge that only the Congregation can be the horizon within which we operate. Therefore, while we await and prepare ourselves to be involved and guided by the upcoming General Synod, the CIPI Conference at the conclusion of this Assembly has decided to dedicate itself to:

- ***entering into a process of conceptualization by means of a unified, inter-provincial plan;***

- ***The CIPI president will elaborate a plan that is unified, shared and approved by the Executive Council.***





INTER - PROVINCIAL MEETING PAUL-CRUC 26 - 28 JANUARY 2004

Fr. Robert Joerger, C.P.

Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center provided a beautiful setting for the annual meeting of the provincial councils from Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross provinces. Also present for this gathering were the Provincial and Consultor from Mexico, Frs. Alfonso and Hector, and the Regional Vicar from Canada, Fr. Stephen Dunn. This year the meeting took on a more unique character as those assembled were joined by the Superior General, Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio, and the members of the General Council. This was the first time that the General Council has met with the full provincial councils of a particular region, an action recommended by the General Chapter of 2000. Brother Paul Michalenko, who has served as facilitator for the provincial chapters of both provinces and for the last General Chapter, served as facilitator for this meeting.

Input and dialogue on a variety of topics took place with a particular focus on the collaboration that has already begun and that is being proposed for the future, especially in the areas of initial and lay formation. After reviewing the respective formation programs of both provinces, a joint meeting of the formation boards was proposed to discuss future collaboration, notably in regard to an inter-province novitiate.

Philip Paxton (CRUC) and Gerald Laba (PAUL) then gave an overview of programs for the laity in their respective provinces. These include, from Holy Cross, Passionist Partners and Passionist Lay Missioners, and from St. Paul of the Cross, Mission Fulfillment, Passionist Associates, Passionist Volunteers, and Passionist Volunteers International. In August 2003, a formal dialogue began among the leadership of these programs. Inter-province participation in programs and events is being planned in the spring and summer of this year. Dialogue will also take place in regard to future cooperation between the Passionist Volunteers and Passionist Lay Missioners. The goal of these two programs is compassionate outreach to the poor and to those in need.

Dialogue followed reports from the provincials, Fr. Michael Higgins (CRUC)

and Fr. Terence Kristofak (PAUL), and from the Regional Vicar, Fr. Stephen Dunn (PAUL-MACAN). The discussion then turned to the Restructuring of the Congregation and Provinces. Within the context of our charism and mission, and building upon a history of inter-province collaboration, the participants suggested that further cooperation between the provinces might take place in particular areas of ministry, administration, and communication.

Other topics on the agenda included a review of the Sexual Misconduct Policy adopted by both North American provinces and a presentation from Fr. Kevin Dance on the Passionists at the United Nations. Kevin reported that the Passionists are now officially recognized as "Passionists International".

In personal remarks to the gathering, Fr. Ottaviano expressed appreciation for the way in which the provinces address issues and plan for significant gatherings, i.e., provincial chapters and the Sesquicentennial celebration. He also encouraged more investment in vocation animation and in the study of languages, and asked for observations in regard to the restructuring of General government and the Generalate, and communication from the Generalate to the Congregation.

In all, there was excellent participation from those assembled, who spoke in three languages. The agenda and dialogue flowed smoothly, thanks to the efforts of the facilitator, Brother Paul, and to those who served as translators, Frs. Enzo del Brocco, Alfonso, and Alex Steinmiller.

Fr. Gerald Laba, C.P.





VICARIATE OF CHRIST THE SAVIOR (Democratic Republic of the CONGO)

Fr. Vital Otshudialokoka, C.P.

1. The Passionists in the diocese of Tshumbe (Sankuru)

The Vicariate of Christ the Savior is present in three dioceses of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: the diocese of Tshumbe, of Kitwit and the archdiocese of Kinshasa. The Passionists arrived in Congo in 1930 specifically in the diocese of Tshumbe, thus making it the cradle of the Passionists in Congo.

From the beginning, the Passionists have been involved in the foundation of the local church in the diocese of Tshumbe. The first bishop was a Passionist, his Excellency Bishop Victor Hagendorens, who also founded two diocesan congregations: the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi and the Congregation of the Brothers of the Passion of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin.

Currently, all of the apostolic responsibility is in the hands of diocesan clergy. The Passionists have remained only in two localities: the parish of Ototo and the catechetical center of Lodja, recently established for the formation of catechists. Geographically, the diocese of Tshumbe is located in the center of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Region of Kasai-Oriental, the Province of Sankuru.

For five years this region has suffered greatly on account of the war and has been under the control of rebels supported by Rwanda and Uganda, two nations that share the eastern frontier of the country. When the conflict erupted, four Passionists were working in the area. From the very beginning they experienced the horrors of the war. Many times each week they had to seek refuge in the nearby forest. The parish of Ototo has suffered much structural damage. The pastor, Fr. Michel Woko, with great skill, was able to prevent many goods from being stolen by the invaders. And it is truly admirable that he never once abandoned his primary responsibility, that is, his pastoral ministry, especially in the area of youth work. He continued to visit the Christian communities

in centers beyond the mission and he did so on foot or by bicycle, at least until his motorcycle, that was robbed and then ruined by the military, was repaired. Thanks be to God, there was no human loss of life in either community. God cared for the lives of our religious.

For various reasons, two of our religious had to leave the area and seek refuge in Kinshasa. For a long period of time, therefore, only two religious remained *in situ*, one in each house. These two religious imitated the good shepherd who doesn't abandon his sheep in difficult moments. They remained close to their people. "One knows a true friend in moments of trial."

The war has been a real challenge to the Passionist community of the Congo. "You will recognize them by the way they love one another." In living out these words of Jesus, the Passionists chose to stay close to the people of God to whom they were sent. This choice to remain where Passionist life in the Congo began has required much faith, much courage and a great spirit of sacrifice. Fortunately today, following the agreement between the government and the rebels, life is getting back to normal, although at a slow pace.

2. The administration of Caritas entrusted to a Passionist

Several years ago, the diocese of Tshumbe, in the person of Bishop Nicholas Djomo, entrusted the administration of the diocesan Caritas to a Passionist, Fr. Czeslaw Duda, a Pole, the first Consultor of the government of the SALV Vicariate and superior of the house in Lodja. What does Fr. Czeslaw do? He was named the representative of the diocese for international charitable organizations. His responsibility is to study and program humanitarian projects and to present them to international organizations in order to acquire the necessary financial assistance to bring them to fruition. Furthermore, he is responsible for the distribution of materials received





from Caritas. He also coordinated the evacuation of refugees from the capital to the region of Sankuru, with the help of MONUC (the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.) The photos show him distributing goods to the people, especially to school children and also scenes of the arrival of refugees of Kinshasa by the ship rented by MONUC. This is the difficult work of Fr. Czeslaw. The principal goods distributed are: salt, soap, clothing, tents (due to the fact that the houses in many of the villages were burned by the military, something that frequently occurred during the war), machetes and plows for agriculture. Thanks to the Caritas organization, the diocese has been able to confront and overcome many problems of first aid for the people during this time of war. It is unfortunate that this program was so late in beginning because of the ill will of the protagonists of the war. It is good to remember that our religious shared in the same difficulties as their people.

Fr. Czeslaw is doing excellent work and feels greatly fulfilled in serving the needs of others. In the eyes of the people, Fr. Czeslaw is like Santa Claus or St. Nicholas, who always brings good things for them. However this is not all. Father assures only the control and just distribution of the goods that Caritas gives to the diocese. The most important thing is the love with which he undertakes his work, work done with a sincere and generous heart.

In Fr. Czeslaw's work those qualities of a Passionist clearly emerge such as compassion, kindness and benevolence toward people in difficulty of any kind and almost left to fend for themselves. Our Lord Jesus always gave a place of priority to the poor, to the little ones, to the suffering. Our Founder, St. Paul of the Cross, always tried to concretely live out this attitude in his life and wanted his sons to acquire the same attitude of association with the poor, the suffering, the marginalized, etc.

The time of war was not only a period of terrible difficulties for our religious and everyone else in the Congo, but always an opportunity for the Passionists to deepen and live the spirit of a missionary even under extreme conditions and above all it was a time to take to heart the virtues of St. Paul of the Cross, who always chose to reach out to people who were suffering. The Passion of Jesus is nothing other than a dialectic of love between the Father and the Son for the good of mankind, and which should always challenge us to reach out to others, above all those who are in difficulty.

3. The great Passionist family in Kinshasa.

In the spirit of the 44th General Chapter, the



Passionists in the Congo, at least in those areas where it is possible, try to unite themselves with other institutes that share their charism (the congregation of the Passionist Sisters of Signa, the Mexican congregation of the Daughters of the Passion, the Congregation of the Brothers of the Passion of Jesus Christ), thus entering into the great Passionist Family of the Congo. It is a wonderful beginning that should be further encouraged. This project has especially been undertaken by the communities that are in Kinshasa, where each month they have a retreat day to which the extended Passionist Family is invited, during which they share experiences of prayer, and which is concluded with a shared meal. The Passionist community is working toward incorporating laity, men and women, who are interested in our spirituality and our charism, thus further developing the Lay Passionist Movement. What will it be called? We still do not know. At this time we will settle for this generic title.

The effort at placing the Congo within the general plan of the Congregation and of taking all the other initiatives to root our Passionist identity in this country is evidence that the Passionist community in the Congo is on the road toward recognition of its status as an autonomous entity of the Congregation, capable of assuming its responsibilities within the framework of the spirit of St. Paul of the Cross, lived in the context of the reality of the times and seeking to attentively respond to the challenges of a world that is quickly evolving.

On the occasion of the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross I was in Kinshasa and I had the opportunity of participating, together with the extended Passionist Family, in the celebration of the Eucharist on the feast day, whose principal concelebrant was Father Martin Fripont, the counselor for community life and charism in the SALV vicariate.



COMMUNICATIONS: A SECTOR OF COMMON INTEREST

Fr. Luis Alberto Cano, C.P.

I am very pleased to share with you some brief reflections that I recently requested from Fr. Antonio Garcia, CP (author of numerous publications) regarding his impression of the new PIB. I believe that this page should not only give me the possibility of sharing with other members of the Congregation my reflections about this important sector of communications, but it should also be available to anyone of you who would so wish to avail yourself of this opportunity. Below is what Fr. Antonio sent to me:

"I am sincerely pleased to share with you some brief thoughts of interest to everyone.

Communication is the usual path by which the members of a community enter into relationship with each other. Communication is fundamental for us to interact with each other, to come to know one another, to be near to one another, to create a family atmosphere. Communication enables us to realize that we are a Congregation that is united despite geographic distance and that we comprise one body composed of various members. Communication is like the hearth in a home.

Indeed, communication must be truly simple, transparent, confidential, trustworthy and pleasing, especially during this period of history in which advanced means of communication are ever more attractive. If communication is not pleasing to the eye it becomes heavy and does not awaken curiosity.

A proper equilibrium must be maintained between official and anecdotal styles. Over a period of time, if the PIB tries to be a magazine of articles by the members of the Curia the result may be tedious. Being a consultant doesn't necessarily include the gift of grace or the gift of being a good narrator or journalist. The same article, well or poorly written, can either attract attention or leave one indifferent.

If communication does not engender unity and political, financial and spiritual solidarity, the fundamental nucleus of the news is unfruitful. Information cannot be non-incarnated information. At the level of the Congregation the PIB is

a means of drawing upon those realities that gather us into a collective unity. In essence, it deals with brothers of the same family.

An overabundance of articles becomes tiring. In-depth articles for the PIB consisting of long paragraphs are not inviting. We are not necessarily in the presence of a Stauros publication where sitting down to read involves deep, cerebral study of the text. I believe that perhaps what is needed is less intellectually demanding material in favor of material that touches the heart. The news article is like a blood transfusion with its supply of red and white blood cells that affect the entire body.

The PIB is paper, is news, is an image; it is congregational communication. It should awaken interest and stimulate curiosity. The new format of the PIB has the aspect of a serious, well-structured, carefully designed magazine. The majority of the pictures serve more as a reminder of the past through their uniformity of dress and ceremony, rather than a vision of current realities and the normalcy of life."

As you have read there is much food for thought about such an important topic as that of communication and often one person's point of view is reflective, such as it is, of his own social and cultural roots. In the hope of trying, as far as this is possible, to give a more multi-cultural face to the Sector of Communication I once again invite everyone to share your own ideas with the rest of the Congregation.

New internet options for the Generalate.

The internet connection of the Generalate has undergone some revisions with the start of the new year. In order to provide more opportunities for development of our communications network, the Generalate switched providers from the PCN (Peace Communication Network) Consortium to a commercial provider, Mc-Link. At the same time, the domain of the Generalate Website (PassioChristi.org) was moved onto the Mc-Link server. Under the new ISP (Internet Service Provider), we manage our e-mail addresses directly ("in-house"), and are able to provide up to 150 mailboxes. Some confusion resulted around the congregation from the change in our Generalate e-mail addresses from "@pcn.net" to "@passiochristi.org". If when sending an e-mail to one of the members of the Generalate you received a message that read "address non-existent" or "user unknown", it may be due to fact that we have switched from the previous domain of "@pcn.net" to the new "@passiochristi.org". In most cases, the part of the address that precedes the "@" has remained the same. Please make note of these changes and inform us of any difficulties that you may encounter in this area.



THE SHRINE OF BLESSED CHARLES HOUBEN IN MUNSTERGELEEN

Fr. Giovanni Zubiani, C.P.

Last January Fr. Harrie, the pastor of Munstergeleen invited me to visit the birth place of Blessed Charles Houben. Fr. Enzo Del Brocco, who already knew Fr. Harrie, agreed to accompany me in order to help me with English translation and to organize the trip that was offered to us. The following article consists largely of the report of Fr. Harrie Broers concerning the fame of the saint in that place; a possible miracle obtained through the intercession of Blessed Charles and the account of the serious accident that befell the Vice-postulator for the cause, Fr. Joachim. They testify to the protection of Blessed Charles in their regard, obtained in answer to their prayers.

Blessed Charles was born here in Munstergeleen, the Netherlands in 1821. During the early twenties of the last century, the Passionists had the opportunity to buy a part of the farm where Blessed Charles was born. And more specifically, that corner of the farm in which the room where he was born is located, was converted into a small chapel. However as the popularity of Blessed Charles increased, it soon became too small for all the pilgrims. In the early fifty's it was possible to purchase the remainder of the farmhouse and barn and the Passionist who was Postulator at

that time (Fr. Xaverius, CP) decided to change the barn into a chapel. It was consecrated in 1954 and became a well known and treasured place of worship for many people here in the south of our country. Over the years more and more people discovered Blessed Charles, and since assuming the role of Postulator, Fr. Joachim has zealously labored to create an atmosphere of faith and devotion.

In 1982 he was able to reside near the shrine itself. This offered the possibility of celebrating daily Mass and also provided for a very special kind of apostolate and evangelization. Because of his affable character, his great faith, his unconditional loyalty to the Church and, last but not least, his sincere way of life as a devout and convinced Passionist, he won the hearts of thousands of people, bringing them into contact with Blessed Charles and also witnessing to the graces received in answer to their prayers.

The shrine, already visited by a large number of people, has continued to become even more popular. On an average, people light 100,000 candles a year. They come from all parts of the surrounding area, and at the time that the chapel opens at 9:00 in the morning, there are always some people waiting to get in. There is a book in which people can write their

prayer intentions — a silent witness of all those who have great faith in Fr. Charles' intercession. You meet young couples and old people, boys and girls who have to pass their exams; you meet influential and educated people, gypsies and Hells-Angels. Young couples come to pray for healthy pregnancies and, in turn, want to have their baby baptized here. Last year there were 119 baptisms and in 2002 there were 154.

Was the healing of my parishioner, Mr. Dolf Dormans in 1999, through the intercession of Blessed Charles, a true miracle? In April, 1999 he suffered because of a very



Foto of the celebration of January 5



complicated appendicitis, which caused irrevocable damage to the intestines. The surgeon of the hospital told him and his wife and children that he should call for a priest to anoint him and to help him to prepare for death. The surgeon said to them: *“Do what you have to do quickly, because soon you will be in a coma and won’t wake up anymore. You have only 24 hours to live.”* Indeed we can testify that he was dying, and soon went into a coma. Mr. Dormans, who has great confidence in Blessed Charles –he was a cousin of his grand-mother- held the relic of Charles in his hand and prayed. Because he is a very well known and beloved person in our village many people from the parish were praying for this recovery at the shrine where Blessed Charles was born. He went into a deep coma that same day, April 11th. Then the miracle happened: the next day he woke up and was completely clear of mind and his vital signs continued to improve. The recovery had begun!

With this information the Postulator, Fr Joachim van der Heijden cp and I, Fr. Harrie



Blessed Charles Houben

Broers, pastor of Munstergeleen, talked things over, spoke with the surgeons and decided to

ask the Bishop to establish a tribunal to investigate this presumed miracle. The Bishop was positive and the members were given on oath on November 6th, 2002. Now we - I was one of them- could start the work which, I must confess, was the most interesting and wonderful thing (in addition to celebrating Mass and the Sacraments) that I had to do up to this point in my priestly life. Thanks to blessed Charles, it was one of the most incredible experiences of my life! Yes, as you will see, it changed my life. On February 19th, 2003 we went back to the Bishop to have the final session of the tribunal and had the documents placed under the episcopal seal. Then on February 20th we went to the Papal Nuncio who would take all the documents to the Vatican. So that day, in the early morning, we departed: Fr. Joachim van der Heijden cp, the Delegate of the Bishop for this Tribunal, Prof. Dr. Stefaan van Calster and I. Prof. Van Calster drove the car and I was sitting in the front (after first having argued with Fr. Joachim who insisted that he had to sit in the back: “You sit in front,” he said, “I want to take a nap, it’s been a fatiguing day!”) All went well until we approached Utrecht where we encountered a traffic-jam. All the traffic slowed down: 70 km..., 50 km... At the moment that we and all the cars stopped, we were hit from behind by a huge Mercedes-van which, ignoring all signs, drove at high speed and hit us and the car in front of us and an additional three more cars. Fr. Joachim was in the back of the car and was bleeding and showing no signs of signs of life. I climbed out over the steering-wheel and climbed into the back to get to Fr. Joachim and gave him general absolution. As I was holding him he started moving again and I had to try to keep him calm. He was in terrible pain. Soon an ambulance arrived and brought him to the nearest hospital. Because the situation was so hectic, we could not accompany him on his trip to the hospital. We followed later.

Meanwhile Prof. Van Calster was collecting the packages of the documents and X-rays which were strewn all over the highway. As we arrived at the hospital they were attending to Fr. Joachim who, we were told, was in very critical condition. He was sedated. He had 7 broken ribs, punctured lungs, a broken pelvis and cheek-bone, and was connected to a respirator. He continued in this highly critical condition until March 25th, but did not open his eyes until April 13th. For us here in the parish it was a period of fear and faith: Blessed Charles



won't let him die! So we started to pray a novena every evening at 6:00 PM in the Shrine, until he awoke from the coma. The Shrine was completely filled every evening with not only people of our village, but also from the wider area. It was incredible! The surgeons' diagnosis of Fr. Joachim was very pessimistic:

if he survives, what will the prognosis be? When finally he opened his eyes on April 13th, he appeared to be completely lucid! We said with tears in our eyes: Praised be our Blessed Charles! Now he is in a rehabilitation clinic and is undergoing therapy in the hope that slowly he will be able to walk again; however, that will still take a long time.

The celebration on the diocesan level of the presumed miracle was the occasion for Fr. Giovanni Zubiani, CP and Fr. Enzo del Brocco, CP, the personal secretary of the Superior General, to come to Munstergeleen. With great joy we welcomed them here during the early days of January, to see, experience and meet a "living" Blessed Charles. On the Solemnity of Blessed Charles, January 5th, they celebrated Mass in our parish church and Fr. Enzo preached the homily in English. For the occasion Fr. Joachim, in a wheel chair, left the hospital for the first time. The Provincial of the Dutch-Passionist province, Fr. Leo Bos, assisted. It was such an emotional Mass, that even now, four weeks later, people here in the village are still talking about it. The church was overflowing, about 1200 people (on a Monday evening!). After Mass the people came to venerate the relic of Blessed Charles. During the following days the telephone didn't stop ringing with requests for Masses, relics, prayer-cards and baptisms. In the shrine the number of candles that were lighted doubled: last Sunday we counted 180 new novena-candles that burn for 9 days and 750 little candles!

We all hope and pray that the Vatican will approve the presumed miracle and that Blessed Charles will soon be canonized. We also pray for Fr. Joachim that he will recover. And, if, at

his age (74), he won't run very quickly anymore, he at least will not need a wheel-chair and be able to return here. Through the intercession of Blessed Charles may the Congregation be blessed with many young Passionist vocations and, through his powerful intercession, may Blessed Charles bless all of you! That's my prayer here in at the Shrine in Munstergeleen for all of you."

Currently, thanks to the work done by the Tribunal of Roermond and by Fr. Joachim, the diocesan process has been officially opened at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints – at



From left to right: Fr. Zubiani, Fr. Joachim Van Der Heijden and Fr. Enzo del Brocco

which a decision will be made concerning the presumed miracle – thru the study at the Pontifical level of March 27, 2003. Present together with me were Prof. Van Calster, the Episcopal delegate and dear Fr. Broers who, in addition to being the pastor is also one of the notaries of the process at the diocesan level. Furthermore, the Congregation is deeply grateful to him for the warm and generous hospitality that was shown to us as, well as for the faith that he has in the intercession of Blessed Charles Houben and for the fraternal kindness that he showed to Fr. Joachim following his accident.



THE INTEREST OF THE GENERAL CHAPTERS AND THE GENERAL CURIAS IN THE HISTORY AND THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CONGREGATION

Fr. Fabiano Giorgini, C.P.



Fr. Paulino Alonso

C. The establishing of the Historical Commission (cf. BIP, No.1, p.16) is the fruit of a collective awareness that began in a significant way in the Congregation on the occasion of the second centenary of its foundation (1720-1920). The then Superior General, Fr. Silvio Di Vezza, on 18 Oct. 1919 launched the celebration and, in addition to other aspects, he encouraged the Provinces to bring about the following as fruits of the celebration:

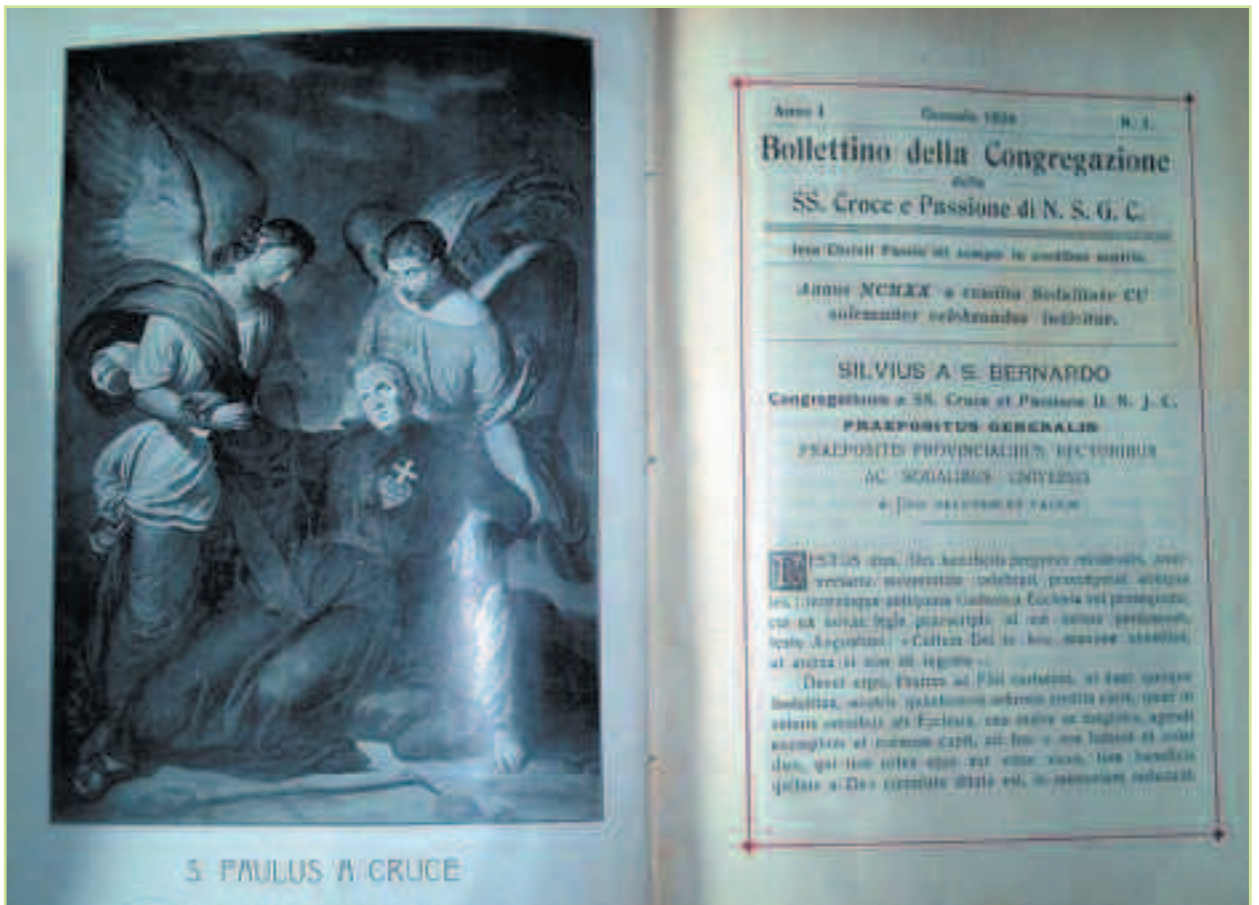
- the historical annals of each Province that would serve for the writing of the general history of the Congregation;
- to care for and promote the growth of the Confraternity of the Passion of Jesus which over the period of two centuries was a great help to the Congregation in carrying out its mission.

On his part, he dedicated himself to printing

the letters of our Founder, which in fact occurred in 1924 in four volumes. He also founded the *Bollettino della Congregazione (The Bulletin of the Congregation)* in order to circulate current news items of the Congregation and to present documents and historical synopses of the past. (*Bollettino della Congregazione*, I, pp. 28-29).

The exhortation of the General produced several works that even today serve as valid reference material:

- ** *Brevissimi Cenni storici della Provincia religiosa di Maria Santissima della Pietà*, Senigaglia, 1923, pp. 35.
- ** P. Amedeo del Buon Pastore, *I Passionisti nell'Alta Italia*, Pianezza, 1922, pp.389.
- ** Felix Ward, *The Passionists. Historical and personal Sketches*, New York, 1923, pp. 478.
- ** Herbert, C.P., *The Preachers of the Passion; or*



Frontispiece of the 1st issue of the Bulletin of the Congregation



The Passionists of the Anglo-Hibernian Province, London 1924, pp. 236.

** Bernaola de San Martín, C.P., *Album histórico de los Pasionistas de la Provincia de la Sagrada Familia*, México, 1933, pp. XV-533.

Fr. Gaetan du Nom du Marie began systematic research on the sources of the life of St. Paul of the Cross in preparation for a scientific biography and also facilitated the publishing of various works that illustrated the life and the activity of Paul of the Cross. After 1920 almost every Province gradually dedicated itself to the publication of a magazine in order to promote Passionist spirituality among the laity, but which often contained historical articles dealing with various communities or provinces.

The Superior General, Fr. Leo Kierkels encouraged many to study Passionist spirituality especially by means of his circular letter dealing with the study of the Passion of 25 Feb. 1930 (*Acta Congregationis* XI, 1930, 05-62).

In the first issue of the magazine (PIB I, pp. 16-17) we were informed about the effort of the General Chapters XXXVI(1952) and XXXVII(1958) and of the General Curias of that time to encourage the study and the teaching of the History and the Spirituality of the Congregation. Mindful of the creation of the Historical Commission (September 1958) and its members, we now propose to briefly present the efforts undertaken by the General Chapters and the General Curias to develop and consolidate the institution and organization of the study of the Theology of the Passion and the History and Spirituality of the Congregation.

One of the recommendations of the General Chapter XXXVIII (1964) was to ask the Historical Commission to publish a magazine with certain periodicity, for example once or twice a year, which would contain documents and studies. Even the title, “*Archivium C.P.*” was proposed. However many obstacles prevented its realization.

At the XXXIX General Chapter (18 April – 19 June 1970), decree number 10 of the legislation dealt with the study of the Congregation. They sought to bring about a more widespread diffusion of all materials that referred to the special vow and proposed to the Superior General and his Council the development of a program for the overall study of the Theology of the Passion, of the history of the Congregation and of its

Spirituality. According to the intention of the Chapter this institute should be of interest for all of the Congregation and the religious who are entrusted with this work should, in addition to the research, supply the sources that form the basis for the studies to be published (*Acta Congregationis*, C.P., XXV(1969-1971), 197).

The General Chapter XL (1976) asked for the creation of a center of Passionist History and Spirituality. The General Council prepared a program that was presented to the provincials for them to study in preparation for their approval at the Synod that took place in Lima. On the part of the General Curia, Fr. Fabiano Giorgini, then Vicar General, agreed to continue his work on the General Curia, as the director of this center (BIP, 83, p. 118).

The XLI General Chapter (1982), expressing satisfaction for the volumes dealing with the History of the Congregation that were recently published and that were to be published, desiring an International Passionist Center of Culture and Spirituality, recommended that the General Council do a study about the History of a School of Passionist Spirituality (BIP 1/83, p. 10). In the meantime a “historical sampling” for the use of the novices and the students was published in Italian in 1986 and entitled: *La Congregazione della Passione di Gesù. Saggio storico*. The same volume was published in English in 1988 and in Spanish in 1989.

In light of the General Chapter XLII (1988), seconding the suggestion of the Conference of Provincials of Northern Europe, the General Council named a small commission and gave it the task of preparing two or three proposals directed to the Chapter with regard to the publication of inspirational documents of the Congregation. In the Acts of this Chapter the only recommendation to the Superior General that can be found is that which refers to the creation at Sts. John and Paul of a library specializing in the various elements of the Memoria Passionis.

Beyond these endeavors, the General Curias have expressed great interest in the efforts of the members of the Historical Commission because of their work and have made great human and economic sacrifices for the publication and the translation of all that has been written on the Memoria Passionis and the Spirituality of the Congregation. Without their contribution many projects would never have seen light.



THE GENERAL CONSULTA OF 29 JANUARY - 4 FEBRUARY 2004

Fr. Umberto Palmerini, C.P.

The first General Council Meeting of 2004, at which all of the Council was present, took place at our Retreat of Our Lady of Florida, North Palm Beach FL. The Meeting began on January 29, and concluded on February 4. Just prior to the General Council Meeting, from January 26 to January 28, the two provincial councils of the United States held their annual Interprovincial Council Meeting (IPCM). At this meeting, whose theme was “Restructuring”, the moderator was Bro. Paul Michalenko of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity. Also invited to take part were the Regional Vicar in Canada, Fr. Stephen Dunn, and the Provincial from Mexico, Fr. Alfonso Iberri. The entire General Council took part in the Interprovincial Council Meeting.

At the start of the Council Meeting, there was a brief review of the meeting just completed (IPCM), with favorable comments for the fraternal welcome and hospitality, the sharing, and the general agreement on the fundamental necessity of a restructuring.

The Council Meeting first undertook a meeting with the Provincial from Mexico (REG), Fr. Alfonso Iberri. The material had to do with the organization of the coming Synod (personnel for the Secretariat, participation of the Regional Vicars of Latin America, etc.). Thereupon the usual Council Meeting agenda was followed with reports from the Superior General, the General Consultors, particular cases, and the ongoing preparations for the General Synod.

Father General reported on the Congress held in Colombia (FID) from the 19 to the 23 of February. Previously, from the 10 to the 19 of February, he conducted a fraternal visit to the communities. He reported on the notable work being done both in the pastoral and in the formation areas, and he mentioned his suggestions

made to the community in Bogota, seat of the Vice-province, regarding their personnel and community organization. The Congress, moderated by Fr. Antonio Munduate, produced a good scheme for guiding the Vice-province during the coming years, and was carried out with the cooperation of all.

Father General then took part in the solemn celebration of the 50th anniversary of Passionists in the Vicariate of Our Lady of Victory (VICT) in Brazil, part of the Italian province of the Sorrowful Mother (DOL). On this occasion, our parish church, which is dedicated to St. Paul of the Cross, was elevated to the status of a Shrine Church (“Santuario”) by the Cardinal of Belo Horizonte. The celebrations were accompanied by vast crowds of the faithful. From Brazil, Fr. General traveled to Venezuela



Father Ottaviano with the Passionist Family of Caracas

for a fraternal visit on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Passionist presence in the Vicariate of Our Lady of Coromoto (COROM), which is part of the Spanish Province of the Holy Family (FAM). Fr. General commented on the joy and the pastoral commitment of the religious as well as on the efforts made to collaborate with the laity.



The General Consultors each gave their reports about the principal activities of their spheres of responsibility.

Luis Alberto Cano, a former provincial of Holy Family Province, accompanied the present provincial, Fr. Fernando Rabanal, in a visit to the communities of Central America. In Honduras, where he had been the Regional Vicar, Fr. Luis Albert took part in a study week on the emerging theology of Latin America. There are five Passionist Centers there which operate under the structure of several parishes. In El Salvador, the province of the Holy Family has acquired a religious house which at one time belonged to Mons. Oscar Romero.

Jefferies Foale, had taken part in a meeting in Rome with the designated moderator of the coming General Synod, and he is working on the preparation and review of the Statutes for "Passionists International", which is the body representing the Passionist Family at the United Nations. He also gave a brief report on the Vicariate in India (THOM).

Augusto Canali took part in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Vicariate VICT, in the celebration of the Vicariate Congress in VICT, and also assisted at the extraordinary Assembly of the Brazilian province CALV, which had to elect a new consultor to take the place of Fr. Afonso Fioreze, who had been named coadjutor Bishop of Luziania. Fr. Alcide Bassani was elected consultor and first consultor. The Assembly also expressed itself positively with regard to a considered move of the students to Rio de Janeiro.

Vital Otshudialokoka reported at length on Kisima, the International Theologate for Passionists in Africa, and also reported, more briefly, on his visit to Tanzania. With respect to Kisima, he explained the report presented at the Board of Directors meeting about the life of the community, and the proposal being considered of handing over the theologate to one of the three provinces participating there (PATR, CORM and GABR). Such a proposal would be experimental, and would result in the house being under the direction of one of the provinces, rather than under the direct authority of the General. However, the nature of the house as an international formation community for the Passionists in Africa would be maintained. Father General, together with the Council, expressed his willingness to go forward with the proposal. At this time, a response from one of the three provinces is being awaited.

Fr. Vital had been invited by the Regional Vicar in Tanzania, Fr. Cesare Pozzobon, to take part in the inauguration at Dar-es-Salaam of the Joyful Village ("Villaggio della Gioia"), a home for homeless children, developed under the auspices of Fr. Fulgenzio Cortesi, and with the cooperation of generous benefactors. The children are looked after by the Passionist Sisters (Signa). Giving special solemnity to this inauguration was the presence of the Cardinal of Dar-es-Salaam, and the wife of

the President of Tanzania.

Fr. Vital also mentioned, in the context of the Commission established to prepare for the promotion of the Vicariate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the level of Vice-province, that the future Vice-province's pastoral plan was still being awaited so that it might be studied by the "economic commission" which would then have fulfilled its mandate.

Luigi Vaninetti reported on his meeting with the community of Sts. John and Paul when the division of the administration of the house was divided between Casa and Curia. He also spoke of the printing of the Acts of the Seminary held in honor of Fr. Stanislas Breton on the occasion of his 90th birthday. He spoke of the meeting for our Missionaries in Italy, which was attended by a good number of younger religious. Finally, he spoke of the impending canonical visit to the community of Sts. John and Paul, for which a new superior is to be named this year.

Robert Joerger spoke principally of his visit to the Province of Our Lady of Holy Hope (SPE, Holland-Germany), and of his visit to the communities in France. In SPE the religious are in two communities, one in Holland, and the other in Germany. The religious who are working in the parish ministry outside of one of these two houses spend one day a week in one of the local communities of the province. Those religious who have need or special care, for reasons of health or age, are cared for in religious houses for that purpose. Fr. Provincial visits these religious quite often. Fr. Robert also took the opportunity to visit the religious in these care facilities at the same time as he was visiting the communities. The vicariate of this province, LIBER, in Brazil, is moving toward its own future and counts on its local vocations for that future.

The General Synod was the principal agenda item for the Consulta. The discussion revolved around several points: the meaning of "restructuring", which is the theme of the Synod; the need to restructure; various models for restructuring; the engagement of the Provinces, Vicariate, communities and individuals in the process; the relationship of this synod with the work of the prior synod in Korea, and the preparation of the program and the convocation letter to be issued. Restructuring is an important element in the future of the Congregation because it touches personnel, apostolate, sharing and solidarity in an ever more globalized society, Church, and Congregation. The theme will be taken up again with the assistance of the Moderator, Brother Luis Garcia Sobrado of the Marist Brothers, at a meeting scheduled for March 5.

Among the single points to be treated, much of the time was spent in examining the statutes for "Passionists International".



CALLED TO MISSION

Fr. Christopher Gibson, C.P.

It took me several weeks to build up the courage to get out there with the car, not only to drive in Roman traffic, but also to do this in an unfamiliar layout of the city on one-way streets, without getting lost. It would have been so much more comfortable not to make that effort to venture out, but then I would have remained stuck only with the alternate public transport or depending on the good will of others to take me to a certain spot. I'm fine with public transport but having to get quickly to and back from the Vatican bank in the middle of a busy schedule can be problematic.

The reason I share this experience is because I think it reflects a common pattern which one way or another we all experience in life. It takes some effort on our part to move out of our comfort zone into the new, the unknown, and the risky and yes, even the dangerous.

Yes. We as Passionists are called to mission. We, like Paul of the cross, are called to move off the ordinary into the unexpected way, to reach out to those 'bandits living on the margin of society' so to speak or to those living in those swampy areas and whom no one reaches out to; to give that special attention to a returning Christian in a parish mission, to reach out to the needy of our parish areas, many of whom are un-churched, maybe even consider 'adopting a parish' in a much poorer area of the world other than our own, to reach out to those in a hospital or prison whom maybe no one visits, to go out to the youth on the street caught up in gangs and drugs, to the alcoholic who struggles to get back on their feet, to take on a mission in a place where no one wants to go, to participate in movements that could bring about change in society. And without doubt there are plenty of heroic examples of this spirit in the Congregation.

But what I feel we have to be on guard, is allowing our communities to become closed in comfortable nests that lose its awareness and sensitivity to the needs of a larger world, and therefore of its sense of mission to that world. Our parishes can also become closed in spiritual clubs. Our parish missions and retreat centers could become simply a means of bringing in funds for the community.

Yes, we are constantly invited to conversion. We are constantly probed by the Spirit to move out of that comfort zone and to reach out knowing that we are more than likely to make mistakes in the process of learning new ways. I feel privileged to have been called to ministry in this new unique way within the congregation as mission secretary.

I would have never remotely imagined it as a possibility at this time last year. It was last June when the general asked me if I was willing to consider it and I without knowing exactly what I was getting into said 'yes'. But by saying 'yes' I realized it would have a very radical effect on my life.

Diving into a new culture (including the Passionist aspect of it), language, ministry and into the world scene, having to attend to the needs of my ministry while learning the 'tools' to do it well, be it the Italian language as an important means of communication, or new computer programs in order to handle better the book keeping and other aspects of this ministry, has all been a challenge and I'm happy for it, even when it has not by any means been easy. In the middle of the ministry I have taken on within the congregation, I am fully aware that we are in the process of looking for ways of re-structuring our Congregation and I know that this will also affect my office in ways I still cannot foresee but which is already in the making. That is part of this adventure we are all called to be part of, as we move from structures that were good for our founder in his time and that seem to have become inadequate for a very different world stage of our time. It's another way in which the Spirit is inviting us to go out to the challenge of renewal as an effort to respond to the directives of Vatican Council II

I want to take this occasion to thank all those who have assisted me at this time of transition, especially the different helping hands in performing my ministry. In this sense I have formed a small assisting group from our community at John and Paul's, representing different mission areas of the world: they are Fr. Emery Kibal (from Congo), Fr. Nicodemus (from Indonesia), Bro. Ernaldo Reátegui (from Perú) and Fr. Roy Scrampical (from India).

Lets not lose hope in the middle of our troubled times and dare to venture out to meet the challenge of a renewed way of being Passionist.





CIPI

The Conference of Italy

CORM - Israel

Bethany and the “security wall”

The construction of the safety wall between Israel and Palestine is in progress and has almost arrived at the borders of our house in Bethany. It will probably go beyond the confines of the property, thus dividing the property itself. The situation for our community is very delicate, exacerbated by the continuous flow of hundreds of Palestinians who, in order to save numerous kilometers to reach the city, quietly pass through our gardens. Given the present situation and the total lack of pilgrimages, at the present time, the religious community can merely undertake a few ministries within the confines of the neighboring religious communities.

CIPI Seminar on Mission

The Generalate was particularly busy from the 12th to the 16th of January, during the workshop on “Mission: The Nature and Activity of the Church”, sponsored by the Italian Interprovincial Conference of Passionists. Religious and Laity from Italy followed lectures, workshops and discussions, and prayerful times together as they explored ways of enriching the Passionist Mission at large, and to families in a world that is quickly changing.

PRAES - Italy

150 years of Passionist presence at the Scala Santa, Rome

On 29 November 2003, the Passionists of the Scala Santa (PRAES) here in Rome are celebrating their 150th anniversary since the conferral of the Shrine to the Passionists by Blessed Pius IX because of his esteem for the Congregation from the days of his youth. At the same time as the Passionists received care of the Scala Santa, Blessed Pius IX also had the attached monastery built for the community. Since then the Passionists, in keeping with the charism of the “Memoria Passionis” care for the sanctuary dedicated to the Passion of Jesus, one of the most venerated shrines of Rome, undertaking various pastoral activities in particular, the welcoming of pilgrims and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Seminar:

St Gemma Galgani

At the civic auditorium located in the historic center of the city of Lucca, from 19-21 February, a study seminar and celebration took place on the occasion of the centenary of the death of Saint Gemma Galgani (11 April 1903). The theme was: “Mystical oblation, salvation and redemption in the experience of Saint Gemma Galgani.” There were seven conferences and eleven interventions. The opening address to the group of over 250 people was delivered by Bishop Bruno Tommasi and the mayor of Lucca, Pietro Fazzi. Bishop Tommasi recalled, among other points, the pontifical exhortations, at the dawn of the third Christian millennium concerning the call to holiness as the true and authentic Christian witness in a world that is ever more diversified. Also Fr. Luigi Vaninetti, General Consultor, representing Fr. General, gave one of the presentations. Additionally there was a concelebrated Mass in the Sanctuary of St. Gemma at which the Archbishop of Lucca, Bishop B. Tommasi was the principal concelebrant and who was joined by his co-adjutor, Bishop Italo Castellani and by Bishop Piergiorgio Nesti.





CLAP

The Conference of Latin America

FID - Colombia

Congress of the Vice-province

Fr. General was present at the VI Congress of the Colombian Vice-province, FID, together with the General Consultor for Latin America, Fr. Augusto Canali. The Congress took place from the 19th to the 23rd of January in Cajicá. All the Passionists in final vows that are currently ministering in the country participated, among whom were six Basques. The young province proposed five basic objectives for its programming during the next four years: revitalization of community life; re-animation of the apostolate through study, publications and the Mass as part of a pastoral plan; greater efforts with the Passionist Family; the revision and restructuring of the government and the finances of the vice-province; and finally, the possibility of a new foundation of a mission in the southern area of the country. It is noteworthy that for the first time in its history, the two consultors of the vice-province have been given responsibility for specific sectors. At the same time, a religious will coordinate the work with the lay Passionist family. The following religious were elected to positions of leadership in the Vice-Province: Vice-provincial, Fr. Miguel Enrique González Carvajal (re-elected); I Consultor, Antonio María Munduate Larrea (CORI); II Consultor, Joaquín María Vargas Salas. On the 10th of January, Fr. General made a fraternal visit to the six communities and to all the religious of the Vice-province.



VICT - Brasil **New Regional Vicar**

On 04 December, the Vicariate of Our Lady of Victory (DOL-VICT, Brasil), elected its new leadership. Fr. Genilson José Dallapicola was elected Regional Vicar. Frs. Luiz Carlos Miniguite and José Ricardo Zonta are the two Consultors, in that order.



DOMIN - Brasil **X Congress of the Vicariate**

The vicariate of Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God (PRAES-DOMIN) in Brazil held its Congress recently. On 22 January, the new curia was elected. The Regional Vicar is Pe. Stéfano Soresina (stevesoresina@uol.com.br). The two consultors are Pe. Robson Rios Pinto, 1° consultor; and Pe. Marcos Antonio Souza de Jesus, 2° consultor. Congratulations to them and to the vicariate. Fr. Adolfo Lippi, provincial of PRAES, was present. The principal points that were discussed during the Congress and considered as priorities for the upcoming year are: concrete organization of the various sectors; greater attention to community life; deeper awareness of the Passionist charism; search out new ways of addressing financial difficulties.



PASSPAC

The Conference of Asia-Pacifico

VERB - Papua New Guinea Assembly of the Vicariate

On Monday, February 23, 2004, Fr. Jefferies Foale notified the Generalate of the outcome of the elections held during the Assembly of the Vicariate in Papua New Guinea (VERB). Elected Regional Vicar was Tony Egar, the two consultors are Valensius Son (REPAC) and Philip Smith. Philip Smith was also elected first consultor. A more in depth analysis of the Province appears in Fr. Jefferies article in this issue of the PIB.

REPAC - Indonesia New Provincial House in Indonesia

On Sunday, 4 January 2004 the new province center for the Passionists of Indonesia was inaugurated, the gift of the Catholics of Jakarta to our Congregation. At the end of the celebration marking this event, the Vice-Provincial, Fr. Sabinus Lohin, C.P., in the name of the Passionists of Indonesia and the world, thanked the Catholic community of Jakarta for this great act of generosity, a sign of the esteem and affection of the people for the apostolic ministry carried out by the Congregation in that nation.

SPIR - Australia Visita in Vietnam

Fr. Tom McDonough (SPIR) has spent part of the month of January in Vietnam in order to acquire a better knowledge of the country and its people and culture, given that so many of our parishioners in Marrickville, Sydney (Australia) are Vietnamese. His trip also served to get a broader view of the reality in that country, given the desire of the Congregation to open a mission there. The Church is undergoing a spurt of growth in Vietnam and, despite all the difficulties created by the authorities for the establishment of foreign religious Congregations there, the Church is in dire need of reinforcements from outside in order to help meet the needs of a people who have lived through many long years of warfare, persecution and poverty.



CPA

Conference of Africa

GEMM - Tanzania Inauguration of the Village of Joy

On January 11, 2004, the "Village of Joy" was inaugurated in Dar Es Salam (Tanzania). The Mass that was celebrated to mark the event was concelebrated by Cardinal Polycarp Pengo and twelve priests. The "Village of Joy" currently houses 12 children and is administered by the Passionist Sisters of Signa, Italy. The founder of the Village, Fr. Fulgenzio Cortesi, received the greetings of Fr. General. The event was reported by the press and television of Tanzania.



MATAF - South Africa The Passionists and AIDS in South Africa

Last November, Fr. Kierna Greagh, C.P., who for many years has ministered in the parish of Atteridgville, near Pretoria (South Africa) has volunteered, together with 24 other persons, for an experimental project of a new vaccine for AIDS. His decision to participate in this initiative had its origin in his on-going contact during recent years with dozens of people that were terminally ill with AIDS in this parish. It is hoped that the vaccine, the first tested on human beings in South Africa, will bear positive results from the immune system of the volunteers. Additionally, with the assistance of the Irish government Fr. Kieran, who is from Ireland, is presently overseeing the construction of a hospice for the sick called "Leratong" (which means: "The place where there is love").



NECP

The Northern European Conference



ASSUM - Poland

Symposium celebrating 80 years of Passionist Presence in Poland

Fr. Waldemar Linke (ASSUM) sent a notice of a recent symposium held in Warsaw, Poland, to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Passionist presence in Poland. The symposium took place at the Catholic University of Warsaw on 26 November.

The presenters and their subjects were: Fr. Adolfo Lippi (PRAES), "The Trinitarian Mysticism of St. Paul of the Cross"; Fr. Gregor Lenzen (VULN, who could not be present, but whose paper was read by Fr. Marek Miotk), "The Vocation of St. Paul of the Cross and the Passionist Vocation"; Fr. Tomasz Galkowski (ASSUM), "The Efforts of St. Paul of the Cross to Organize the Passionist Congregation"; Fr. Damian Woystyska (ASSUM), "The Passionist Presence in Poland"; Fr. Jerzy Kopec (ASSUM), "Consecrated Life in the III Millennium"; Fr. M. Ratajczyk, "The Treatment of Death in St. Paul of the Cross"; and Fr. Waldemar Linke, "The Bible in St. Paul of the Cross".

IPCM

The Nord America Conference

PAUL - Honduras

The Province of St. Paul of the Cross (PAUL) in Honduras

During the past month of January, Fr. Joseph Jones, C.P., Fr. Melvin Shorter, C.P., (Provincial Consultors), Fr. Bill Murphy, C.P., (former missionary in Honduras), Bro. James Johnson, C.P., Dr. Eliot Casey, Christopher Jungers, (Provincial Secretary) and John DeGraaf (Director of Development) made their annual pastoral visitation to the Passionist ministries in and around Tegucigalpa, Honduras. They met with Hernan Reyes Soto, the Director of St. Benedict's Clinic in Tegucigalpa, a medical facility sponsored, in part, by the PAUL Province. This clinic cares for approximately 200 people each day. They walk for hours to receive exams, diagnoses, treatments and medications. A large percentage of the patients are children brought by their mothers and grandmothers. The other large group of clients is young women who come for pre-natal and post-natal care. Six medical doctors, several skilled assistants and two dentists staff the clinic.

They also visited Casa Pasionista, the Passionist AIDS Hospice in La Venta, about a 2 hour ride from the Capital. Founded by Fr. Rick Frechette, C.P., the comfortable home houses ten residents, the youngest being a boy who is 14 years old. In addition to being home for those who have nowhere else to go, there is now an outpatient clinic available at Casa Pasionista for people with HIV. The patients, who have homes and families, come regularly to the facility for antiretroviral medications and treatment; about 40 use the clinic in this way each day.





PAUL - Haiti

A dramatic experience

(Fr. Rick Frechette (PAUL) writes the following reflection about the recent political upheaval in Haiti and its effect on his ministry in that country.)

“Haiti is a land which, without any exaggeration, is in the crucible of suffering. Poor beyond description, torn by political violence and socioeconomic chaos, and reeling from crime and drug traffic, Haiti’s people know the dark skies of Golgotha. Most people that I know cannot send their children to school, do not eat every day, and cannot bury the dead they mourn.

As Ash Wednesday approached... I was called to bless the bodies of a number of poor people who were savagely killed after giving their life-savings to get a place on a boat heading for Miami. It was a poor, rickety boat that, for them, meant hope and deliverance. They were deceived, betrayed and murdered, and their rotting bodies were washed up on the shore of a fetid slum. It was a very dark moment. My only thought, as I stood aghast, was how to bring some dignity to this nightmare...I carefully blessed each one with holy water.... I did my best to bring dignity to the moment, and to focus the attention of all present through prayer- prayer against evil, prayer for the deceased, prayer for a better tomorrow. As I left that dreadful place, a man approached me and said, “Thank you for coming to pray. You are the only priest who ever comes here. We cannot let goodness perish, along with everything else.” I was very moved by his words. They come from the very heart of passion, and proclaim the message of hope, the message of Calvary, which we Passionists are privileged to proclaim with our lives and our words. We preach Christ crucified, and His love which will never perish.”



Passionist Life - Witnesses of the Passion



50th Jubilee of Profession of Bishop Nesti

One of the major festivities of the recent weeks was the celebration here at Sts. John and Paul of the 50th Anniversary of Profession of Bishop Piergiorgio Nesti, C.P., who is the Secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The occasion also recalled the 10th anniversary of his being named a Bishop. A banquet followed the Eucharist, which was celebrated in the Founder’s Chapel of the Basilica. Joining Archbishop Nesti for the Mass was Cardinal Secretary of State, Angelo Sodano. Concelebrating with Archbishop Nesti was the Nuncio to Italy, Bishop Paolo Romeo. Other prelates assisted and joined in the commu-

nity celebration afterwards at table. Archbishop Nesti was professed on 08 September 1953, for the Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CORM).

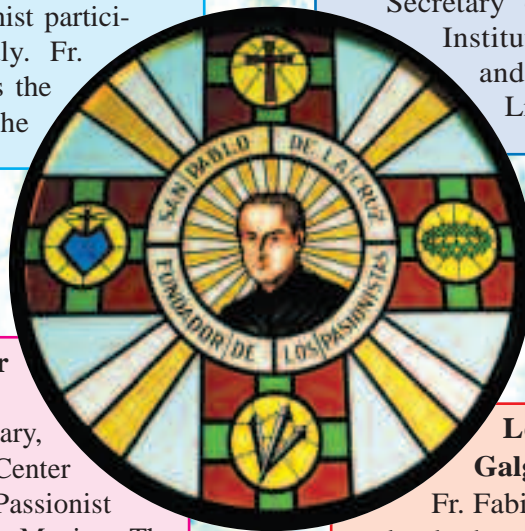


VII National MLP Convention

The Passionist Lay Movement in Italy announces a coming 8th National Convention, 27-30 May, 2004, to be held at the shrine of St. Gabriel. The principal presenter is Fr. Gabriele Cingolani, C.P. (PIET), who is presently working in Canada at the Toronto Major Seminary. These assemblies are held every two years, under the direction of one of the six Italian Provinces of Passionists. This year, the Province of the Pietà is responsible for the program. The Passionist Lay Movement in Italy (Movimento Laicale Passionista, or MLP) is an umbrella organization which takes in the varied local forms of Passionist participation by the laity in Italy. Fr. Alberto Pierangioli (PIET) is the national coordinator for the

Appointment of a Delegate for the Italian Monasteries

Fr. Paul Francis Spencer (PATR), presently Superior and Pastor at St. Mungo's Parish in Glasgow, Scotland, has been named by the Holy See as Pontifical Delegate for the preparation of a Federation of Passionist Nuns in Italy. The letter, dated January 12, 2004, was issued under the name of our Archbishop Piergiorgio Silvano Nesti, C.P., who is the Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.



Stained-glass window in our church in Cajicá, Colombia

Meeting of the Center Forum in Mexico

During the early part of January, the first meeting of the Center Forum took place in our Passionist Spiritual Center in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The facilitator of the meeting was Fr. Octavio Mondragon of the Province of Cristo Rey (Mexico). Six Passionists, 20 laity and two Sisters participated. Together they studied the topic of the re-foundation of our faith and Christian-Religious consecration. The main themes were: the importance of an attitude of contemplation and awe; the encounter with the Living God that we share with our Jewish brothers and sisters; the Christological moment that is concentrated in the contemplation of the Crucified One; and the effort to keep the memory of the Passion alive and active, which is specific to us Passionists. They reiterated that the central context of the Center Forum is the Passionist Family, together with other men and women religious and the laity. However in the near future they are considering inviting other religious to participate in this project.

Letters of St. Gemma Galgani

Fr. Fabiano Giorgini has published a book that brings together the correspondence with and about St. Gemma Galgani. The work is a compendium that will guide a serious inquiry into the life of this mystic of the Passion. Still only in Italian, the work comprises 1) the diary of Gemma (July 13 to September 3, 1900), 2) her autobiography (written at the insistence of Fr. Germano), 3) Letters of Gemma...to Mons. Volpi (87)...to Fr. Germano (151)...to various others (45), 4) Gemma's "Dialogues" with Jesus in her ecstasies, 5) Fr. Germano's letters to Gemma (36), 6) Cecilia Giannini's letters to Fr. Germano (129), 7) Fr. Germano's letters to Cecilia Giannini (176), and 8) Fr. Germano's letters to the Giannini family. Fr. Fabiano's presentation of the book is published in the most recent, special edition, of the magazine, La Sapienza della Croce.



Passionist Life - Ordinations and Professions

With joy and thanksgiving to the Lord, we fraternally greet our Passionist brothers who completed the formation process and have taken steps of profession and ordination during this period.

During this period there were numerous religious who professed First Vows: December 8th, 2003 the young Colombian **Fredy Leopoldo Venegas Mendoza** of the FID Vice-province; on 11 Jan. 2004 various young Brazilians professed vows: **Edinaldo Leandro Fernandes**, **José Milton Ferreria da Silva**, **José Francisco do Nascimento**, **Oswaldo Victorino Garcia Aquino**, **Sérgio Raczkóviak**, **Paulo Afrânio da Silva**, **José Jailson da Silva** and **Mário Porfírio Ferreira** of the CALV Province. On 17 Jan., **Joedson Brito dos Santos**, **Davi Oliveira dos Santos**, **Adilson Santana do Carmo** and **Uildefonso Machado de Souza** of Vicariate of Bl. Domenic, PRAES Province; on 7 Feb., **Francisco César Ferreira** of the Victoria Vicariate, DOL Province and, finally, **Ribamar Divino Vieira de Souza**, of the Vicariate of Christ the Liberator, SPE Province on 20 March.

During these months six religious professed Perpetual Vows: **Pedro Luis Fuentes Valencia**, a Bolivian of the Vicariate of the Exaltation, SANG Province, on 6 Nov. 2003; **Patricio Manosalvas**, an Ecuadorian of the LAT Province, Italy, on 6 Jan.; on 10 Jan., **Rosendo Aquilino Goñe Buiza**, Peruvian of the Vicariate of the Resurrection, CORI Province; on the 25th of the same month, **João De Souza Cabral Junior** and **Everaldo Galheira**, Brazilians of the CALV Province; and finally, on 13 March, **Lorenzo Mazzocante**, an Italian of the PIET Province.



João De Souza Cabral Junior and Everaldo Galheira



Patricio Manosalvas

The following were ordained to the diaconate: **Gianluca Zanni** and **Erasmus Sebastiano**, Italians of the DOL Province, last December 20th; **Antonio Rodríguez López**, on 9 Jan. of the FAM-CHRIC Province; **Patricio Manosalvas**, Ecuadorian of the LAT Province, Italy, on 27 Feb.; **David Benito Martín**, Spaniard of the SANG Province, on 28 Feb.; and **Aristide Zini**, of the CORM Province, Italy, on 28 March.



Fr. Paulo César Munhoz Torres

Lastly, the following three Brazilian Passionists were ordained to the PRESBYTERATE: Fr. **José Roberto Dos Reis**, LIBER Vicariate- SPE Province, on 7 Dec. 2003; and Frs. **Paulo César Munhoz Torres**, on the 13th of the same month and **Rogério De Lima Mendes** on 7 Feb. 2004, both of CALV Province.

We extend our best wishes to these religious on behalf of all of the Passionist Family. Thanks be to the Lord of the Harvest for their vocations!

Usque ad diem 9 martii 2004, acceptae

DIE	OBDORMIVIT IN DOMINO	PROVINCIA	NATUS	VOTA NUNCUPAVERAT
29 novembris 2003	P. Emiliano Yagüe Miguel	SANG	1944	25 octobris 1964
8 decembris 2003	P. Armand Groothaerd	GABR	1915	18 septembris 1933
30 decembris 2003	P. Ramón Alvarez Vázquez	CORI	1942	9 augusti 1959
7 ianuarii 2004	P. Damian McHale	CRUC	1926	9 iulii 1954
12 ianuarii 2004	P. Antonio Doyle	CONC	1923	28 decembris 1941
14 ianuarii 2004	P. Celestino Giannelli	LAT	1912	29 octobris 1931
16 ianuarii 2004	P. Joseph Regis Mulligan	PAUL	1910	15 augusti 1930
16 ianuarii 2004	P. Clement Paynter	CRUC	1917	9 iulii 1945
22 ianuarii 2004	P. Cletus Dawson	PAUL	1917	15 augusti 1937
30 ianuarii 2004	P. Simone Simeone	DOL	1910	26 aprilis 1926
4 februarii 2004	P. Silvio Mazzarotto	CALV	1913	14 novembris 1929
5 februarii 2004	P. Linus Kelly	PATR	1928	15 septembris 1948
8 februarii 2004	P. Karel Imbrechts	GABR	1926	4 septembris 1944
1 martii 2004	Fra. Joseph O'Brien	SPIR	1913	8 decembris 1946
9 martii 2004	P. Pedro Lain	CALV	1941	14 februarii 1960

MONIALES ET SORORES

3 decembris 2003	Sr. Carla Teresa Beccaro	MON Costigliole d' Asti 1917	28 octobris 1939
4 decembris 2003	Sr. Dionisia Argia	Inst. S. P. S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) 1911	19 maii 1938
10 decembris 2003	Sr. Agata Semeraro	Inst. S. P. S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) 1923	15 septembris 1948
19 decembris 2003	Sr. M. Godelieve Berben	MON Tielt (Belgium) 1912	16 septembris 1943
2 ianuarii 2004	Sr. Maria Gema Canga	MON Oviedo 1906	7 augusti 1929
29 ianuarii 2004	Sr. Rosalia Porrello	MON Tarquinia 1913	18 februarii 1936



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