

Passionist International Bulletin

N° 14 - New Series, June 2007





CHARLES HOUBEN of Mt. Argus: SAINT "a Masterpiece of the Wisdom of God" "a true Son of the Passion"

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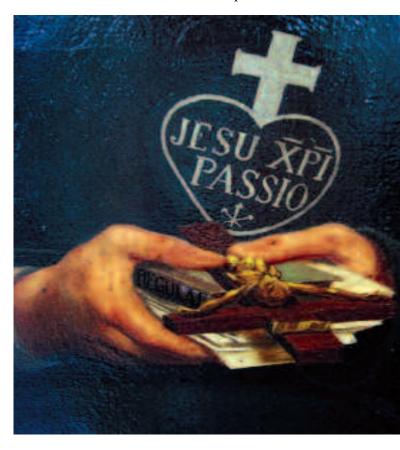
MESSAGE OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE PASSION ON THE OCCASION OF THE CANONIZATION OF FR. CHARLES HOUBEN OF MT. ARGUS

Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio, CP Superior General

Together with the Provincials of Holland, Fr. Leo Bos, and Ireland, Fr. Martin Coffey, I can think of no better way to begin this message on the joyful occasion of the canonization of our brother, Fr. Charles of Mt. Argus, than with the words which he himself wrote from the Retreat of St. Joseph in London on 7 October 1873 and by means of which he tried to console a person who was afflicted with many sufferings:

"I hope that she will be resigned to do the holy will of God in this small suffering that she is experiencing. The cross that is borne with patience for love of God is of great benefit to one's eternal salvation. I am certain that everything will be alright according to what is pleasing to God. Every day, for several minutes, try to think about the cruel sufferings of Jesus Christ."

These words remind us that the life of Fr. Charles was deeply rooted in the cross and the last station of the *via passionis* was exemplified in his life: crucifixion and death. However, his canonization reflects the resurrection that Christ offers to his faithful servants and it offers us hope for the future of our religious and for the Catholics of those countries that Fr. Charles loved so much: Belgium, England, and especially Holland, his



"He was often seen kissing the Holy Wounds of the small crucifix which he always carried in the palm of his hand."



Tomb of St. Charles in the Monastery Church of Mt. Argus, Dublin

homeland, and his beloved Ireland where he is buried.

For him, the Crucifix was a book which always fascinated him and which he studied more profoundly every day. This was his great treasure, and he was often seen kissing the Holy Wounds of the small crucifix which he always carried in the palm of his hand.

He also frequently recommended to others that they use the Crucifix. In one of his letters to a man who was in danger of death and was who was alienated from the Church, among other things he advised that an image of Christ in Agony be





Relic of St. Charles of Mt. Argus presented during the Canonization ceremony

shown to the man, who by his indifference was deprived of the light of Faith.

In another letter that was addressed to a woman he wrote: "If your dear daughter is sometimes impatient and screams, place a crucifix in her hands and say to her: My daughter, look how Jesus Christ suffered."

Finally, many recall that when he celebrated Mass and he came upon Scripture passages that referred to the Passion, he could not hold back his tears. His heart was filled with compassion for Him who "was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins." (Is. 52).

Therefore the message that Fr. Charles offers to the Church, to the Passionist Congregation and to today's world is that of deep fidelity to Christ, even at the cost of one's life. It is an invitation to keep alive the memory of Jesus Crucified – a gift that is given for the well-being of every person; a gift that for the Passionist becomes the well spring which in turn is poured out for others even to the point of death. This was the hope of St. Paul of the Cross when he wrote:

"The religious...effectively detached from earth and

dead to themselves, are better disposed to receive the effects of divine grace so that afterwards in due time, with hearts filled with the love of God, they may undertake great things for the glory of God and for the defense of Holy Church even at the cost of their own lives, sparing neither privation nor labor." ("Account of 1768", Studies in Passionist History and Spirituality, No.1, p. 17, #5)

In those moments in which fidelity to Christ called for heroism, Fr. Charles, as a Christian and as a Passionist, turned to Jesus in Gethsemane through personal prayer and through the intercession of our Founder St. Paul of the Cross. He prayed for the strength to do the will of our heavenly Father as it was manifested in the lives of those who trusted in him and who assented to being a grain of wheat that is buried in the earth in order to rise to new life and become a source of sustenance for others.

Therefore, in this spirit of resurrection that emanates from the event of the canonization of Fr. Charles Houben, I invite you to join with me in prayer that in Holland, Ireland and every nation where the Congregation is present, and all Passionists may enthusiastically announce and give witness with their lives to that Crucified Love that is Jesus who died and who rose for us. Rome, 1 May 2007



L-R: Frs. Paul Francis Spencer (PATR), Leo Bos (SPE) and Frank Keevins (PATR).



BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES HOUBEN

Fr. Giovanni Zubiani, C.P.

Fr. Charles of St. Andrew, known in secular life as John Andrew Houben. was born on 11 December 1821 in Munstergeleen, in the diocese of Ruremond (Holland), the fourth of eleven children. He was baptized the same with the day name John Andrew.

He received his First Communion on 26 April 1835 and the sacrament of

Confirmation on 28 June in the same year. He began his formal education in Sittart and then in Brochsittard. In 1840 he had to interrupt his studies to enter the military. It was during this latter period that he first heard about the Congregation of the Passion. At the end of his military service he completed his studies and requested to be admitted to the Congregation. He was received by Blessed Dominic Barberi, Passionist, and he entered the novitiate in the Belgium city of Ere, near Tournai on 5 November 1845. In December of that same year he was vested with the Passionist religious Habit and was given the name of Charles of St. Andrew. Having completed the canonical year of novitiate he professed First Vows on 10 December 1850. At the conclusion of his studies he was ordained a priest by Bishop Labis, the ordinary of Tournai.

Immediately he was sent to England where the Passionists had founded three monasteries and it was here that, for a period of time, he undertook the ministry of vice-master of novices in the monastery of Broadway. He also did parochial ministry in the parish of St. Wilfred and neighboring areas until 1856 when he was transferred to the



Birthplace of St. Charles, Munstergeleen, Holland

newly established monastery of Mount Argus, on the outskirts of Dublin.

Blessed Char-Houben les lived almost the remainder of his life in this retreat and was greatly loved by the Irish people to the point that they referred to him - a native Holland - as Father Charles of Mount

Argus.

He was a particularly pious priest. He was outstanding in exercising obedience, in the practice of poverty, humility and simplicity and to an even greater degree, to devotion to the Passion of the Lord.

Due to his poor mastery of the English language, he was never a formal preacher and he never preached missions. Rather he very successfully dedicated himself to spiritual direction, especially through the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

The fame of his virtue was such that great crowds of people would gather at the monastery to seek his blessing. There are also numerous testimonies to the outstanding miraculous cures that he worked to the extent that even during his lifetime he was known as a miracle worker.

It was precisely because of this fame that extended throughout all of Great Britain as well as in America and Australia that in 1866, in order to afford him some rest, he was transferred to England where he lived for a time in the communities at Broadway, Sutton and London. There he ministered as usual and there too, inside and out-



side the monastery, he was sought by the faithful, both Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

He returned to Dublin in 1874 where he remained until his death that took place at dawn on 5 January 1893.

During his very solemn funeral that was attended by people from all of Ireland there was definite proof of the popular devotion that had surrounded him throughout his life. In a newspaper of the time we read: "Never before has the memory of any man sparked an explosion of religious sentiment and profound veneration as that which we observed in the presence of the mortal remains of Father Charles." The Superior of the monastery wrote to



Mr. Adolf Dormans and his wife

his family: "The people have already declared him a saint."

The cause of his Beatification and Canonization was introduced on 13 November 1935.

The Apostolic Processes were undertaken by the Curia of Dublin from 1936 to 1938, in 1931 by the Curia of Southwark (England) and from 1936 to 1937 by the Curia of Roermond.

The validity of all the Processes was issued on 14 December 1945.

Finally, the Congress of Theologians took place

on 11 July 1978 and the Plenary Session of Cardinals on 30 January 1979. The Decree proclaiming his heroic virtues entitled "coram Sanctissimo" was solemnly read on 10 May 1979. A canonical process concerning a miraculous healing in the diocese of Roermond and an Apostolic Process in the same diocese took place during 1954-1955. The validity of this process was declared on 13 June 1986 and on 16 October 1988, His Holiness John Paul II presided at his beatification.

The miracle that led to his canonization was obtained through his intercession on behalf of Mr. Adolf Dormans of Munstergeleen, the birthplace

of the Blessed. The diocesan inquiry *super miro* was also undertaken in the diocese of Roermond (Holland) from 6 November 2002 until 19 February 2003 at which time the validity of the miracle was recognized by a Decree from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on 7 November 2003.

The medical consulta convoked on November 2005 and following the investigation of the matter, the members unanimously expressed that the cure of Mr. Dormans of "perforated, gangrenous appendicitis with generalized peritonitis that was multi-organically compromising and included extenuating and prolonged agony" was "not scientifically explainable".

The theologian consultors, in the particular Congress of 21 February 2006 and the Ordinary Congregation of Cardinals and Bishops of 12 December 2006 also gave their unanimous approval of the supernatural aspect of the said healing.

The Decree concerning the miracle was given in the presence of the Holy Father, Benedict XVI on 21 December 2006 and subsequently on 23 February 2007 the Holy Father set the date for the Canonization of Fr. Charles for 3 June 2007.



IN THE ECUMENICAL FOOTSTEPS OF BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI PRAYER AND SACRIFICE TO REUNITE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE SAME FAITH

Fr. Fabiano Giorgini, CP

On 12 February 1895 Cardinal Herbert Vaughan presented a memo to Pope Leo XIII concerning the preparation of a pontifical letter to encourage intense prayer for the return of England to the Catholic Church. In his proposal he cited many passages from the diary of the Passionist, Fr. Ignatius Spencer who in July 1844 had visited the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Gioacchino Pecci (the future Pope Leo XIII), the bishops and the religious communities of Belgium to urge them to pray constantly to obtain from God the reunion of England with the Catholic Church.

Previously in 1830 in Rome, Spencer had met with Blessed Dominic Barberi and he experienced the great zeal that Dominic had for the return of England to the Catholic Church and how, from approximately 1820, he had begun to organize a prayer crusade for this cause, being certain that only by God's powerful inspiration could minds be sufficiently enlightened and wills be adequately disposed to overcome the difficulties that were obstacles to return of the English to the Spencer, who has just Catholic Church. entered the Catholic Church, was now preparing to be ordained a Catholic priest. He was impressed with the zeal of Bl. Dominic and he joined in the prayer crusade for the return of the English to the Catholic Church. He was received into the Passionist Congregation by Fr. Dominic and, following the sudden death of Dominic in 1849, he succeeded him as local superior. Among the fruits of the prayer crusade Cardinal Vaughan cited the return to the Catholic Church of various distinguished Englishmen, among them Cardinal Newman. It was in the presence of Blessed Dominic that Newman made his profession of faith as a Catholic on the night of 8 October 1845.

Charles received the news of these

events. He had just entered the novitiate on 5 November 1845 and he was living in the Passionist community of Ere, Belgium. He joyfully received the report of Newman's passage to the Catholic Church which Blessed Dominic had enthusiastically announced during his visit there toward the end of October. As a result of the meetings that Charles had with Dominic together with Spencer when he visited Ere as Provincial superior and the subsequent meetings that he had with him in Belgium as well as in England, Charles learned of the profound ecumenical dimension that was present in the Passionist vocation since the time of the Founder, St. Paul of the Cross. In the monastery



Blessed Dominic Barberi (1792-1849)



of St. Wilfred in Cotton Hall, Charles met and became friends with Fr. Paul Mary Pakenham, a military officer who had converted to Catholicism in 1850 and then entered the Passionists in 1851. As a result of this friendship, Charles became more interested in the area of ecumenism.

He dedicated himself to this cause through prayer and sacrifice in order to obtain this grace from God. He wrote to the members of his family about this matter and this was certainly something that he referred to in his conversations with people in England and at Mount Argus.

The apostolate of Charles Houben is a shining example of the validity of the Passionist vocation as it was lived and taught by Blessed Dominic in his role as the first Passionist superior to transplant the Congregation in North Europe:

Belgium, Holland, England and Ireland. He believed that fidelity to the Rule of the Founder, which was simultaneously both real and dynamic, and radical adherence to the demands of the Passionist vocation could even be embraced in the northern European countries by men who were truly called by God to this vocation.

He was convinced that the outstanding qualities of the Passionists would help our separated brothers and sisters to return to the Catholic Church. His life, as well as that of Ignatius Spencer and Paul Mary Pakenham, testifies to the validity of the support that was given to the ecumenical movement by the witness of holiness and assiduous prayer combined with penance.

From the spirituality of St. Paul of the Cross, Fr. Charles drew the strength and energy needed to undertake his apostolate. The historical documents testify that Charles excelled in the virtues of humility and prudence. The time was not yet ripe for theological encounters and inter-religious gatherings in order to study areas of commonality and to address points of divergence. The focal point of Charles' ministry was the Gospel of the Passion which our non-Catholic brothers and sisters also have as the basis of their faith and hope.

During the years that he spent in England and in Ireland, Fr. Charles was an authentic witness to Christ and a fervent apostle of the message of salvation in his spirit of dedication and charity which in turn made him appreciated and loved by all who came in contact with him. The seed that he sowed ushered in a new season of Christian unity and the entire ecumenical movement.



The Servant of God, Fr. Ignatius Spencer (1799-1864)



BINDING UP WOUNDS AND HEALING THE BROKENHEARTED:

Always available to visit hospitals and the homes of the sick in Dublin

— Fr. Paul Francis Spencer, CP

Every day crowds of people visit Mount Argus (Dublin, Ireland) to pray at the tomb of Charles Houben. Most of these come to pray for a cure, seeking the grace to be freed from some physical, mental or spiritual illness for themselves or for others. For people of today, as well as for those among whom he lived and ministered, Charles is best known for his gift of healing.

During his lifetime, every day hundreds of people came to the church of Mt. Argus so that he could pray over them and be blessed with the relic of St. Paul of the Cross, the Founder of the Passionists. A contemporary of Fr. Charles stated: "There were many healings and many genuine, verifiable miracles; but we never thought much about it, even less Fr. Charles himself."

His apostolate often took him outside the monastery. Day and night he was called upon to bless the sick in their houses or in various hospitals of Dublin. Often when doctors and nurses could do nothing else for a patient who was close to death, they would council family members to "go and call Father Charles."

Those who knew him recalled his kindness, his patience, and above all his availability. He was "totally available to the sick, the poor and the dying." He was always ready, at the first request, to leave whatever else he was doing, in order to go and pray with them. One of his Passionist confreres noted that "he never complained, even when he was asked to do what was unreasonable, as often happened."

Charles' compassion for the needy seemed to be limitless: "What was important for him was that they were in difficulty and needed his help; and he gave it to them immediately and with great love." Such compassion for others was the fruit of his profound love for Jesus Crucified and his personal experience of suffering.

During the final years of his life, following an accident during one of his travels, he was in constant pain. This situation was an opportunity for him to draw even closer to Christ. In one of his letters we read: "The Cross that is borne patiently is a great help for eternal salvation." His "sickly



Monastery of Mt. Argus, Dublin, Ireland

demeanor" was already an eloquent homily about the love of God. He "had the appearance of a person who was very tired, gaunt and bent over from illness and who should be resting in bed." Instead he worked ceaselessly, praying and blessing innumerable persons.

In his apostolate, by means of prayer and preaching, he tried to guide people to experience the healing power of the love of Christ, that love that He displayed on Calvary: "By his wounds we were healed." (1 Pet.2:24) His apostolate was rooted in the Passion of Jesus which "reveals the power of God which penetrates the world, destroying the power of evil and building up the Kingdom of God." (Passionist Constitutions, #5)

Not all those who went to Mt. Argus to receive his blessing were physically healed. To some he spoke words of encouragement and acceptance; others he told to prepare for death. Through his gift of discernment he was able to help everyone to know and accept the will of God and, by means of prayer, to give them interior healing and profound peace.

Those who came in contact with Charles were strengthened by his example of faith. One of his companions wrote: "The faith and the trust that the people had in him was so great that they thought it was possible for him to do everything. However he himself was the greatest miracle, living for so many years totally dedicated to his vocation."



TO KEEP THE MEMORY OF THE PASSION OF CHRIST ALIVE IN HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Fr. Paul Francis Spencer, CP

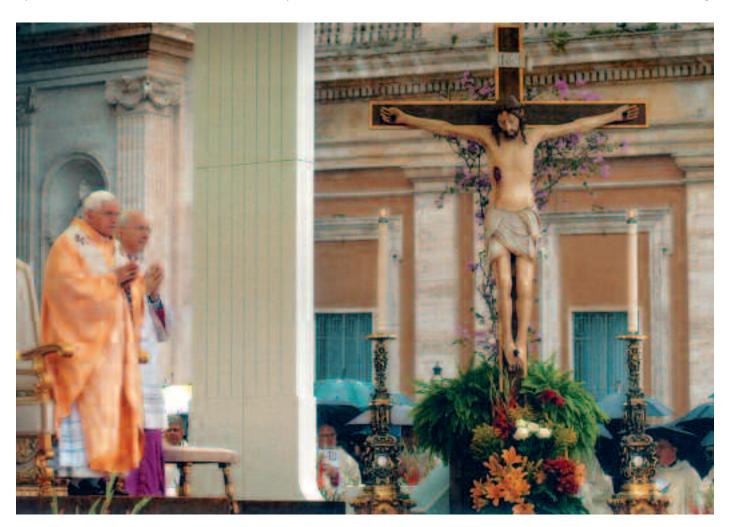
The apostolic aim of the Congregation of the Passion is that of keeping alive the memory of the Passion of Jesus Christ in the hearts of the people of God. St. Paul of the Cross was convinced that not remembering the love that Jesus showed in his Passion is the cause of our alienation from God and falling into sin. He wanted his sons to guide others to gratefully remember Christ Crucified.

Charles of Mount Argus used every opportunity to preach the message of the Cross to the sick and the suffering. In a letter that he addressed to a sick person he wrote: "You need to dedicate at least several minutes every day to love the sufferings of Jesus Christ." Like St. Paul of the Cross he believed that the Passion of Jesus is "the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love." (Letters of St. Paul of the Cross, II, 449).

Well aware that the message of the Cross can be announced to others only after it has penetrated one's own life, Charles spent hours and hours every day contemplating Christ Crucified. He carried a small crucifix in his hand wherever he went and according to what one of his confreres wrote: "the simplest discourse on the Passion would move Charles to tears."

Following the teaching of St. Paul of the Cross, Charles based his own on the three fundamental values of the Passionist Rule: prayer, penance and solitude. His apostolic activity flowed from his interior life, so much so that just looking at him was a source of goodness: "If his exterior aspect was a reflection of his soul, then it could be said that he was on fire with the love of God."

For those who knew him the most outstanding



"Crucifix at the Papal Altar during the Canonization."



characteristic of his life was his spirit of prayer: "He was constantly in union with God." He continually lived in the presence of God and in his preaching he encouraged others to do the same: "Let us keep God before our eyes day and night and we will grow in perfection."

The Founder of the Passionists was not only a great mystic, but also a great master of prayer. In the Rule he wrote that one of principal objectives of the Congregation is "to earnestly teach people to recall devoutly the memory of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ." Every day before blessing the people at Mt. Argus, Charles would give an instructive exhortation about prayer and then he would spontaneously pray out loud, allowing them in some way to share in his own experience of Jesus Crucified.

His spirit of penance was expressed not only by fasting, by vigils and other types of mortification which were mandated by the Rule of St. Paul of the Cross, but also by his acceptance of his own sufferings. Sometimes the other members of his community understood this; at other times he was mocked and humiliated by those who were jealous of his fame for sanctity. Having understood that these situations were above all opportunities to share in the Passion of Christ, he wrote: "only those who accept to be stepped on, ridiculed and humiliated, who carry the cross with Jesus every day, who

walk in his footsteps and follow his example: only these will be saved."

Even while fully participating in the life of the religious community and tirelessly dedicating himself to the poor, the sick and the dying, at the same time he used every opportunity to cultivate a true spirit of interior solitude. His free moments were spent before the Blessed Sacrament. He could not



"If his exterior aspect was a reflection of his soul, then it could be said that he was on fire with the love of God."

be any happier than when he was "alone with the Alone" and in keeping with the teaching of St. Paul of the Cross: "Stay within yourself, in the interior reign of his spirit." (Letters I, 558).



THE MARIAN DEVOTION OF CHARLES OF MT. ARGUS: remembering the sorrowful heart of the Mother at the foot of the Cross

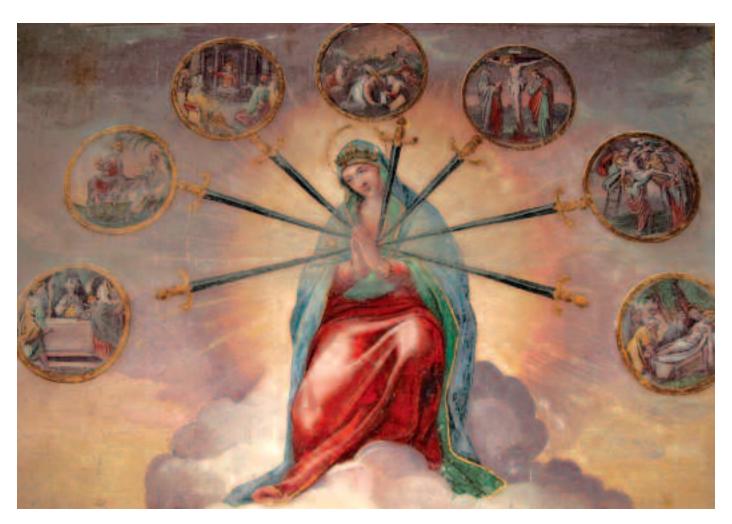
Fr. Giovanni Zubiani, C.P.

As a young man, as a novice, as a student and as a priest, Fr. Charles was known for his filial devotion to the Virgin Mary. Hundreds of times every day (perhaps even thousands of times) he pronounced the holy name of Mary. Entering or leaving his cell he genuflected and recited a Hail Mary and to whoever knocked on his door he responded: "Ave Maria". Whenever he spoke her name in any setting, he raised his biretta as a sign of profound respect for the Queen of Heaven. By means of this name it can truly be said that he crushed the head of the serpent, and he was zealous to teach children as well as adults about the frequent invocation of her Name.

The prayers that were written by Fr. Charles during his lifetime could easily fill a book and it

would be difficult to find one that did not seek to inspire feelings of affection for Mary Immaculate and to ask for help. This name that was his shield during his lifetime was recited by him with particular fondness during the final hours of his life. Every day he prayed the holy rosary and the Litany of Loreto, and there was no more fervent voice than his that sang "Tota Pulchra es Maria" during the novena to the Immaculate Conception.

There was no greater joy for the heart of this dear old man than to assemble the young religious to sing together with him a hymn to Mary. And when the church bells sounded to praise Mary, he paused and listened with obvious delight. The sublime words of the Magnificat that were sung during solemn Vespers made his heart beat faster



"The most remarkable aspect of his veneration of Mary was his devotion to her Sorrows". (The Seven Sorrows of Mary, Church of Santo Stefano Rotondo, Rome)

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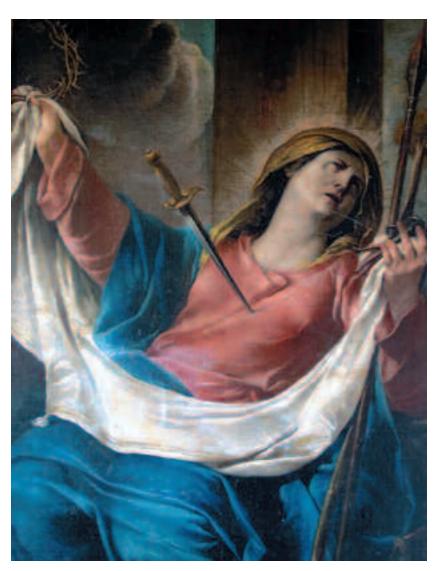
and he seemed to be rapt in ecstasy. Similar to St. Paul of the Cross, Charles had great devotion to the Immaculate Conception who, many years before it was defined as an Article of Faith by Pope Pius IX ("The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.") had declared that he (St. Paul of the Cross) believed this and that, if necessary, he was willing to shed his blood to defend this belief.

When the month of May, the month of Mary, arrived and crowds gathered, the music sounded, the bells pealed and the multicolored banners were unfurled as children strew flowers, there was no more contented person at Mount Argus than Fr. Charles. Despite his weariness, the venerable Father would always participate in the processions with great joy. As he walked he meditated on the happiness that Mary enjoyed in heaven and the people, observing him, would gather around him to kiss his Habit and even

at times, to try to take a little piece of it as a relic.

However the most remarkable aspect of his veneration of Mary was his devotion to her Sorrows. It seemed as if he continually meditated on those sorrowful events that inundated the heart of Mary and made her suffer more than the martyrs. After the sacred Passion, there was nothing else that could detach him from any worldly attraction, with its enticements and allurements, and inspire him to persevere in his vocation than the memory of the sorrowful heart of the Mother at the foot of the Cross.

He always wore the chaplet of the Sorrowful Mother around his neck and he used every opportunity possible to encourage devotion to her Sorrows. To console others who were burdened by concerns, he would explain to them all that Mary had suffered from the time of the prophecy of



Our Mother of Sorrows, Monastery of Sant'Angelo of Vetralla

Simeon until she, with her holy hands, placed her divine Son in the tomb. By means of this kind of meditation he offered numerous individuals the strength to willingly bear the heavy yoke of the crosses of the world by helping them see the life of Mary reflected in their own lives and so be able to assume a spirit of interior acceptance of their sufferings.

However, the most perfect devotion that Fr. Charles had for the Blessed Virgin was that of imitating her virtues, especially her affection for her Divine Son. Not only during his lifetime but also in the final days of his life, Charles shared in Mary's sufferings – she who was the most faithful imitator of Him who would mark Charles' death with pure love.



THE CANONIZATION

St. Peter's Square



Zucchetto worn by Pope Benedict XVI during the canonization and presented to the Passionists

At 10:00 AM, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, the Holy Father Benedict XVI celebrated the Eucharist in the piazza of the Vatican Basilica and canonized four Beati among them Charles of St. Andrew Houben (1821-1893).

In the course of the Mass, after the Rite of Canonization and the proclamation of the Gospel, the Pope preached the homily which, in part, is quoted below:

"God's Wisdom is manifest in the cosmos, in the variety and beauty of its elements, but his masterpieces, where his beauty and his greatness truly appear much more, are the saints.

"The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us."

Truly, in the case of Passionist priest, Charles of Saint Andrew Houben, we see how that love overflowed in a life totally dedicated to the care of souls. During his many years of priestly ministry in England and Ireland, the people flocked to him to seek out his wise counsel, his compassionate care and his healing touch. In the sick and the suffering he recognized the face of the Crucified Christ, to whom he had a lifelong devotion. He drank deeply from the rivers of living water that poured forth from the side of the Pierced One, and in the power of

the Spirit he bore witness before the world to the Father's love. At the funeral of this much-loved priest, affectionately known as Father Charles of Mount Argus, his superior was moved to observe: 'The people have already declared him a saint.'...

Dear brothers and sisters, let us thank God for the



wonders that he has accomplished in the Saints, in whom his glory shines forth. Let us allow ourselves to be inspired by their example; let us be guided by their teaching; so that like them, our entire life may become a canticle of praise to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity. May Mary, the Queen of the Saints, obtain this grace for us and may these four new "Older Brothers and Sister" whom we joyfully venerate today, intercede for us. Amen.

The Greeting Of The Holy Father At The End Of The Celebration Of The Eucharist For The Canonization Of The Four Beati

In Dutch:

Van ganser harte begroet ik de officiële Delegatie en alle pelgrims die uit Nederland hier zijn gekomen voor de heilegverklaring van de Priesterpassionist Pater Karel van Sint Andries Houben, geboren in Munstergeleen. Moge het Nederlandse volk, op zijn voorspraak, altijd in geloof, hoop en liefde blijven leven.

cordially Ι thegreet Official Delegation and the pilgrims that came from h Netherlands for the canonization of the Passionist priest Charles of St. Andrew Houben, native of



Fr. Joachim Van Der Heijden (SPE), Vice-Postulator for the Cause of St. Charles Houben

Munstergeleen. Through his intercession may the People of God of the Netherlands always walk in faith, hope and love.



Fr. Giovanni Zubiani, Postulator General and Pope Benedict XVI, Canonization in St. Peter's Square











































50 YEARS SINCE THE DEDICATION OF THE SHRINE OF SAINT GEMMA IN BARCELONA, SPAIN

On 14 May 2007, the solemnity of Saint Gemma, the Archbishop of Barcelona, Luis Martínez Sistach, presided at a concelebrated Eucharist to mark the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Shrine.

Construction was begun in 1953 and concluded in 1957. It was blessed on 9 January 1957. It is a modern style building consisting of three naves and has a capacity of 1,000 persons. On the occasion of the first centenary of the death of St. Gemma, the great organ was dedicated on 10 January 2004.

The Shrine is one of the most frequented Catholic worship sites in Barcelona. Each Sunday over 5,000 persons attend Mass and other religious services. It is currently staffed by a community of eight Passionists – seven priests and one Brother of the FAM Province.



COPAL

LATIN AMERICA

THE SUPERIOR GENERAL AND GENERAL CURIA MEET WITH CLAP AND COPAL

The Superior General and General Curia met at the St. Gabriel Passionist Community of Cajicá, Colombia with CLAP (Latin America's Passionist Family), May 14 - 20, 2007and COPAL (Latin America's Passionist Superiors) May 21 - 25, 2007.

The CLAP Coordinating Team of President, Sr. Lourdes Margarita Mesa (México) and Vice-president: Anna Culliton (Chile) addressed the following issues: the financing of the organization and its meetings; the participation of the laity by zone; and study of the present structure of the organization.

The next CLAP Assembly will take place in May, 2010. The specific objectives of this Assembly

will be: 1) Sharing experiences about the areas of justice, peace and the integrity of creation from the biblical-charismatic perspective and keeping in mind the conclusions of the 5th CELAM meeting; 2) the Passionist laity; 3) Women in Passionist life and spirituality.

The COPAL meeting had Restructuring as the topic of its meeting. It's mission statement summarizes this objective:

"We the Passionists of COPAL, inspired by the Memoria Passionis, commit ourselves to prioritizing our common projects toward the areas of formation, justice and peace and the integrity of creation; the option for the young and Passionist laity in order to animate the process of Restructuring."

The new president of COPAL as well as the Regional Coordinator for Restructuring in Latin America is Fr. Norberto Donizetti (CALV) and his substitute is Fr. Miguel González (FID).



ASSEMBLY OF THE SANG - EXAL VICARIATE (BOLIVIA)

The Assembly of the SANG-EXAL Vicariate of Bolivia took place during 23-27 April 2007 at La Paz with 15 religious participating. Fr. José María Hernando, CP, Regional Vicar, presided. The Assembly studied the document entitled "Areas of Priority" of the 45th General Chapter.



IPCM USA - CANADA

32nd PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF HOLY CROSS PROVINCE (CRUC)

Vowed Passionists and lay associates gathered on June 15th at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in Sierra Madre, CA, to begin the 32nd Provincial Chapter. The Chapter began with a two-day retreat facilitated by V. Rev. Denis Travers, CP.

In addition to electing new Council members on Friday, June 22nd, other issues to be voted upon include the affirmation of the Province's Strategic Plan, a revised Mission Statement, the creation of a Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office, an Office for Young Adult Ministry, and new Vocation initiatives.

The following religious were elected to positions of leadership in the Province: V. Rev. DONALD WEBBER, CP, Provincial; First Consultor: James Strommer, C.P.; Second Consultor: Joseph Moons, C.P.; Third Consultor: John Schork, C.P.; and Fourth Consultor: Philip Paxton, C.P.

In his opening address to the Chapter Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio, Superior General, stated: "St. Paul of the Cross was a great mystic, a man of faith and therefore, in a certain sense, a "dreamer of God"; but he also was a man who knew how to be practical. Practicality in faith is what is required of us today, during this Chapter, with reference to how much good can be accomplished, with the help of God, and how to discern for the future. I want to be encouraging and truthful. In preparation for the Chapter, Fr. Denis carried out the canonical visitation meeting with the religious individually and in groups. I see great vitality and the desire to work hard even if there are problems as human as they are.... I wish to again thank the Province for the religious that it has placed at the service of the General Curia over these many years. The vitality of the Passionists in Japan, in Korea and now in India is greatly due to the generosity of the men of this province. Additionally, the Province can also be proud of its high quality work in the vital area of instruction at CTU, as well as its ongoing work of collaboration with the laity of the Passionist Family. A special word of thanks to Fr. Michael Higgins for the contributions that he has made to the life of the Congregation during the eight vears of his two mandates."



(L-R: Frs. James Strommer, Joseph Moons, Donald Webber, John Schork and Philip Paxton.)



CIPI ITALIA

DOL PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The DOL Provincial Chapter took place from 23 to 27 April 2007 in the Jesuit retreat house in Naples, Italy. The theme of the Chapter was: "Hopeful for the renewal of our life".

The Chapter addressed several areas of concern which included: vocation ministry and initial and on-going formation; fraternal life for mission; culture and history as part of its presence in specific geographic areas; possible forms of collaboration on inter-provincial and international levels especially with the Passionists of the European continent and the world especially collaboration with its Brazilian regional Vicariate.

During the Chapter the following religious were elected to positions of leadership: Fr. Salvatore Enzo Del Brocco, Provincial Superior; Fr. Mario Caccavale, Vice-provincial and Consultor for finances; Fr. Costantino Comparelli, Consultor for community and spiritual life; Fr. Amedeo De Francesco, Consultor for the apostolate; and Fr. Antonio Mannara, Consultor for formation.

Fr. Salvatore Enzo Del Brocco:

"A valuable collaborator – a good ambassador"

During Fr. Ottaviano's first term as Superior General he was assisted by Fr. Enzo Del Brocco as his personal secretary. Below are the comments

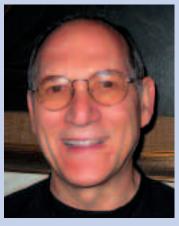
that Fr. Ottaviano made at the conclusion of the DOL Provincial Chapter at which Fr. Enzo was elected Provincial Superior of that Province.

"The election of Fr. Enzo Del Brocco as Provincial Superior deprives the General Council and me of an excellent and valuable collaborator – attentive and diligent in the various assignments that he undertook, with particular giftedness in the area of simultaneous translation where he was able to communicate even the most subtle aspects of the subject matter. Thank you, Fr. Enzo -- with your joyful and optimistic nature you have also been a good "ambassador" to the Congregation during our visits to its various regions. I am sure that the community of Sts. John and Paul is also grateful to you for your presence and availability."



L-R: Fr. Mario Caccavale; Fr. Costantino Comparelli; Fr. Salvatore Enzo Del Brocco, Provincial Superior; Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio, Superior General; Fr. Amedeo De Francesco and Fr. Antonio Mannara

MEETING OF THE INTERPROVINICAL ITALIAN PASSIONIST CONFERENCE (CIPI)



Fr. Antonio Curto (LAT), CIPI Director.

From 11 to 13 June 2007 the Interprovincial Italian Passionist Conference (CIPI) met at the Generalate of Sts. John and Paul, Rome. The Provincials and their Consultors discussed various matters dealing with the topic of Restructuring.

The following religious were elected to positions of leadership within the organization:
Fr. Antonio Curto (LAT),
CIPI Director, and Fr. Leone Masnata
(CORM), Regional Coordinator for
Restructuring.



Fr. Leone Masnata (CORM), Regional Coordinator for Restructuring



LAT PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The 27th Provincial Chapter of the LAT Province of southern Italy took place from May 28 to June 1st, 2007 at Laurignano, Italy. The following religious were elected:

Fr. Antonio Curto (Provincial Superior); Fr. Augusto Sagaria (First Consultor, Community life) Fr. Cosimo Chianura (Missions); Fr. Mario Madonna (Formation); Fr. Mario Lifrieri (Solidarity and Finances).

The theme of the Chapter was: "With Hope Renewed". In its preparatory study document we read: "We want to remember that moments of trial, in God's plan, are always moments of grace. Perhaps more today than ever before, we are aware of our inadequacy not only in carrying out our mission, but also in living our vocation. We need to recognize our inability to faithfully follow Christ. However this is not a confession of failure, because to the degree that it helps us to be truthful, it can serve to discover the new possibilities. It is necessary to realize the impossibility of traveling the road by ourselves... At this difficult time in our history it is necessary that our eyes

be fixed "more than ever on the Lord." (NMI, 16)... More than all our other possible initiatives his gaze will be that which enlightens and transforms our life, making it a reflection and a proclamation of God. Thus, we Passionists will remain faithful to our vocation and fulfill our mission."



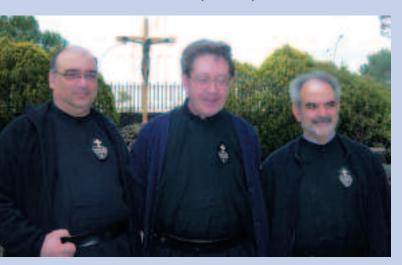
L-R: Fr. Cosimo Chianura; Fr. Mario Lifrieri; Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio, Superior General; Fr. Antonio Curto, Provincial; Fr. Mario Madonna and Fr. Augusto Sagaria, First Consultor

In the opening address of the Chapter the Provincial, Fr. Leone, a religious of the CORM Province, shared the following words within the

context of Restructuring. It provided a context for the gathering: "The Spirituality of the Cross is spoken in Hope on the highest level and we Passionists should be men that are filled with Hope because, through us, the Holy Spirit wants to draw to Himself people of today who frequently are hopeless."

The theme of hope, which the Church of Italy sensed the need to rediscover at the Convocation of Verona, demands an approach that is specifically Passionist. In fact, it seemed to us that the conferences of the presenters at the Convocation did not give sufficient attention to the "two thirds" of the Easter message: the cross, the tomb, i.e. the mystery of Holy Saturday, and the glory of death on the cross. While it is true that the white light of the Resurrection enlightens all things, it is hidden in dark light of Kenosis. God, in fact, reveals Himself by self-emptying; in Jesus He becomes the curse that becomes a blessing (Gal. 3: 13-14), He becomes sin that justifies. (2 Cor.5:21).

THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF THE HOLY CRUCIFIX (CFIXI) PROVINCE OF



L-R: Fr. Gioacchino Zagarrì; Fr. Leone Masnata (CORM), Provincial; Fr. Gianni Trumello

SICILY (ITALY)

From 11-14 April 2007 the Passionists of Sicily celebrated their Provincial Chapter and the following religious were elected: Fr. Leone Masnata (CORM), Provincial; Fr. Gioacchino Zagarrì, 1st Consultor; Fr. Gianni Trumello, 2nd Consultor.



75 YEARS OF PASSIONIST PRESENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (SALV)

During May 4 - 6, 2007, the Superior General, Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio, opened the events marking 75 years of Passionist presence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (SALV).

A Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Andrés Carrascosa Coso. Additionally, there were various activities including cultural performances and con-

ferences on the history and spirituality of the Passionists in Congo. The closing Eu-charistic was presided over by the Auxi-liary Bishop of Kinshasa.

The estable of the Province was originally founded by the Province of St. Gabriel (GABR) Belgium that heeded the appeal of the

The Congregation began to expand beyond the initial missionary zone and in 1964 it entered Kinshasha and then in 1983, Lumbi. In 1980 the first candidates for Passionist life were accepted and in 1982 the Regional Vicariate of Christ the Savior was erected. In 1986 the Provincial Chapter established a fund for formation in the Vicariate and in 1989 the Province and the Vicariate began



"Mass celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Passionist foundation in Congo."

Congregation for the Propa-gation of the Faith and began ministry in the missions in the Congo on 18 December 1930 with the first two missionaries, Fr. Giorgio Joye and Fr. Benedetto Weetjens.

During the first thirty years our Passionist presence was limited to the Apostolic Vicariate of Tshumbe which became a diocese on 10 November 1939. At this point the mission consisted of 11 primary stations and 45 secondary stations where 36 Passionist priests and 11 Brothers ministered.

the joint endeavor of the Kisima African Theologate Project in Nairobi.

At the General Synod of 2006, the Vicariate was raised to status of a Vice-Province.

The Vice-Province numbers 60 religious in 10 communities: Kinshasa-Limete, Kinshasa-Ksangani, Kinshasa-Binza, Kinshasa-St. Chritophe, Kinshasa-Makanza, Lumbi-Paroisse, Lumbi-Noviciat, Lodja, Ototo, and Lovo.



ASSEMBLY OF THE SALV VICE-PROVINCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The first Assembly of the SALV Vice-Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo took place on 1-2 May 2007 at the St. Vincent Mary community at Kinshasa. Together with the Vice-Provincial, Fr. Emery and approximately 30 religious of the Vice-Province, Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio, Superior General and Fr. Luis Alberto Cano, General Consultor were present for the event.

During the course of the Assembly, the Superior General, Fr. Ottaviano, said that: "the Vice-Province has many opportunities for development and for service to the Catholic Church in Congo. The first of these initiatives was delineated in the Congress of 1983 and it became a reality with the creation of the Vice-Province. However there is still a need to work together with good will in order to accomplish the two other objectives, i.e.: create a group mentality among the religious that originate

from different parts of the country and from different tribes; and secondly, to discover and render fruitful the liberating power of Jesus Crucified and Risen in order to be liberated from self-centered initiatives and personal interests in order to be more aware of the common needs of the Congregation as a family at the service of the Gospel.

It is also necessary to be continually open to other areas of Passionist presence in Africa so as to sustain initiatives in initial or on-going formation that can insure the vitality of these initiatives and create better understanding and cooperation for the good of all. The process of Restructuring of the Congregation that was begun at the Synod of 2004 and that was confirmed by the General Chapter of 2006 calls us to search for opportunities for solidarity in the broad sense within Africa with its various realities and nations and with the Congregation at large."



SPECIAL EVENTS



On 3 May 2007 the Vicar General of Rome Camillo Cardinal Ruini issued a proclamation inviting the faithful to submit manuscripts, diaries, letters and any other private written material of the Servant of God.

THE VICARIATE OF ROME

Cause

for the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God

FATHER THEODORE OF MARY IMMACUALTE FOLEY

(known in secular life as, Daniel)

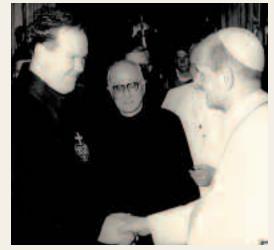
a Professed Priest of the Congregation of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and former Superior General

PROCLAMATION

On the evening of 9 October 1974, the **Servant of God, Theodore of Mary Immaculate Foley** (**known in secular life as Daniel**), a Professed Priest of the Congregation of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ and former Superior General, died in Rome.

The Servant of God, a very prayerful man, possessing great interior stability, was greatly loved and esteemed by everyone who came in contact with him, due to his goodness, affability, refinement and above all, simplicity, even while exercising the ministry of Superior General of the religious Congregation. He gave witness by his life and his words to the mission that was given him by the Church of announcing the Gospel of the Passion, exhorting his brothers to live fully the essence of their religious vocation.

Since the fame of his sanctity has continued to increase with the passing of the years, and since there has been a formal request to begin the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God, in order to inform the ecclesial Community, we invite individuals and the faithful at large to directly communicate with us or to inform the Diocesan Tribunal of the Vicariate of Rome (Piazza S. Giovanni in Laterano, 6 - 00184 ROMA) all information by means of which we may gather positive or negative material concerning the fame of sanctity of the above stated Servant of God.



The Servant of God, Fr. Theodore Foley and Pope Paul VI

Furthermore, since all written matter attributed to him must be collected as legal depositions, by means of this PROCLAMATION, all those who are in possession of the same are asked to kindly submit to this Tribunal any written document that was authored by the Servant of God, and which was not previously submitted to the Postulation for the Cause.

We remind you that by written matter we do not only mean published material, which may have already been collected, but also manuscripts, diaries, letters and any other private written material of the of the Servant of God. Those who may wish to retain the original copies may present duly authenticated copies of the same.

Finally, we state that this same PROCLAMA-TION remain posted for the period of two months at the doors of the Vicariate of Rome and that it be published in the "Rivista Diocesana" ("Diocesan Review") of Rome and in the "Passionist International Bulletin" of the same religious Congregation.

Given at Rome, at the Seat of the Vicariate, 3 May 2007

CAMILLO Card. RUINI Vicar General

Giuseppe Gobbi, Notary

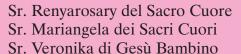




PROFESSION IN MEXICOPassionist Nuns

Sister María Rocío Martínez Sánchez March 3, 2007 Passionist Monastery of Villa Corregidora, (Qro) México

RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS IN ITALY: MONASTERY OF THE PASSIONIST NUNS OF VIGNANELLO (VT) On June 23, 2007





MEETING OF THE LAY PASSIONIST MOVEMENT "AMICI DEL CROCIFISSO"

(Friends of the Crucified)

The meeting of the Lay Passionist Movement "Amici del Crocifisso" met on 20 May 2007 in the Shrine of St. Gabriel, Italy.

This group was founded in 1989 in response to a request by many of the laity who wanted to share in Passionist spirituality. Today it numbers over 2,580 members. It was organized by Fr. Alberto Pierangioli, CP (PIET), approved by the then Provincial Superior, Fr. Floriano de Fabiis, CP and encouraged by Fr. General.

The aim of this movement is to help the laity to journey on a path to holiness that is inspired by the love of Jesus Crucified.





DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

On 15 May 2007, Angelo Zilioli of the CORM Province of Italy was ordained to the diaconate.

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

On 3 May 2007, Fr. Sidnei da Silva and Gesner José Coube were ordained in the CALV Province of Brazil. In the CRUC-THOM Vicariate of India, on 11 April 2007, Fr. Jose Mathew Kulangarathottiyil was ordained to the priesthood. Finally, the following religious were ordained in the PIET Province of Italy: Fr. Marco Pasquali, on 12 May 2007 and Sandro Pippa on 23 June 2007.



Fr. Sandro Pippa (PIET)



Fr. Jose Mathew Kulangarathottiyil (THOM)



Fr. Marco Pasquali (PIET)

PROFESSION OF FIRST VOWS

In the PASS Province of the Philippines, Alexander Bentolano Arellano, Andrew Quinton Gumboc, Vivien Lugo Nuera, Crisanto Renacido and Dimaculangan professed First Vows on 2 May 2007. And five religious of the CRUC THOM Vicariate of India professed vows on 16 May 2007: Rockson Balummel, John Varghese Thadathil, Jose Mejo Nedumparambil, Joel Sathya Ratna and Einstein Thyparampil.



Celebration of First Vows in the PASS Province of the Philippines



Celebration of First Vows in the CRUC-THOM Vicariate of India

PROFESSION OF FINAL VOWS

In the CALV Province of Brazil, José Francisco do Nascimento, Sérgio Raczkóviak, José Jaílson da Silva and Mário Porfírio Ferreira professed Final Vows on 22 April 2007. And on 2 May 2007 in the PASS Province of the Philippines Evan Basiao Esmade, Locarno Otar Anor, Eric Felonia Funtanares and David Te Ong professed Perpetual Vows.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bordo, Bernardino, C.P.

UN PROCESSO che interpella tuttora la coscienza

dell'umanità

Edizione: G.E.I. Anno Edizione: 2007

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Edizione: Roma Anno Edizione: 2007

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I registri dei ministeri dal 1828 al 1902

Edizione: Roma - Scala Santa, Apostolato

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Zecca, Tito Paolo, C.P.

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Alcune Riflessioni Nel III Centenario Della

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Edizione: 2007

Estratto da Studi Romagnoli, LVI 2005

ALTRI AUTORI

Barlocci, Moreno (Don)

FRATEL LORENZO DELLO SPIRITO SANTO PASSIONISTA IL QUESTUANTE DI

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Edizione: Editrice Rogate Anno Edizione: 2004

Anche testimonianze: M.R.P. Ottaviano

D'Egidio, Superiore Generale e P. Adolfo Lippi,

Provinciale passionista

Boidi, Leonarda, cp

UNA PASSIONISTA ALESSANDRINA

Ricerche e studi

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Prima Parte: Madre Leonarda Nella Storia Della

Sua Famiglia

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Seconda Parte: La Vita Santa Di Leonarda Boida

Tra Le Passioniste

Carla Matilde,cp

CANTICO DI LODE ALLA PASSIONE DEL

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Edizione: Monastero delle Passioniste - Ovada

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Holbock, Ferdinand

DIE NEUEN HEILIGEN DER KATHOLISCHEN

KIRCHE

Von Papst Johannes Paul II. In den Jahren 1988 bis 1991 kanonisierte Selige und Heilige Band 3

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Niceforus, p. 142; Salvi, p. 146; Arnau, p. 180

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Paulus Vom Kreuz, pp. 258-261

Gemma Galgani, pp. 308-309

Volpe, Benedetto

INVENTARIO DEL FONDO ANTICO

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NOTITIAE OBITUS



Usque ad diem martii 2007 - iunii 2007, acceptae

DIE	OBDORMIVIT IN DOMINO	PROVINCIA	NATUS	VOTA NUNCUPAVERAT
24 martii 2007	Fra. Domingo García R.	SANG	1929	08 maii 1949
24 martii 2007	Sac. Andrew Kennedy	PATR	1915	17 septembris 1933
30 martii 2007	Fra. Tomás Aizpuru Zinkuneg	i CORI	1930	01 octobris 1933
10 aprilis 2007	Sac. Nicolás Gill	PAUL	1913	15 augusti 1933
24 martii 2007	Sac. Miguel Julián Llamazarez	z SANG	1921	24 septembris 1937
19 maii 2007	Sac. Paulino Alonso Blanco	FAM	1927	05 novembris 1943
01 iunii 2007	Sac. Victoriano Balenziaga M.	CORI	1923	23 maii 1943
03 iunii 2007	Sac. Justo Olaetxea Irazola	CORI	1937	12 iunii 1955
18 iunii 2007	Sac. Manuel Elejalde Ugarte	CORI	1926	23 maii 1943
19 iunii 2007	Sac. Ángel Goiburu Insausti	CORI	1918	25 septembris 1935

MONIALES ET SORORES

24 aprilis 2007	Sr. Gemma di Gesù	Monasterio Passionistarum (Loreto)	1912	24 maii 1940
04 iunii 2007	Sr. Maria Eufrosina	Monasterio Passionistarum (España)	1924	28 maii 1961
16 maii 2007	Sr. Ma. Rosa Rodriguez	Monasterio Passionistarum (Brasil)	1915	16 iulii 1954

PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF SAINT CHARLES

Eternal Father,
you called Saint Charles of Mount Argus
to bring good news to the poor
and to heal the brokenhearted;
you opened his eyes to see the presence
of Christ Crucified in those who suffer.
Through his intercession,
may we come to know your compassionate love for us,
by experiencing the blessing of your healing power,
through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

St. Charles of Mount Argus, pray for us!

F. Charles van'st Andreas. Bussionist



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