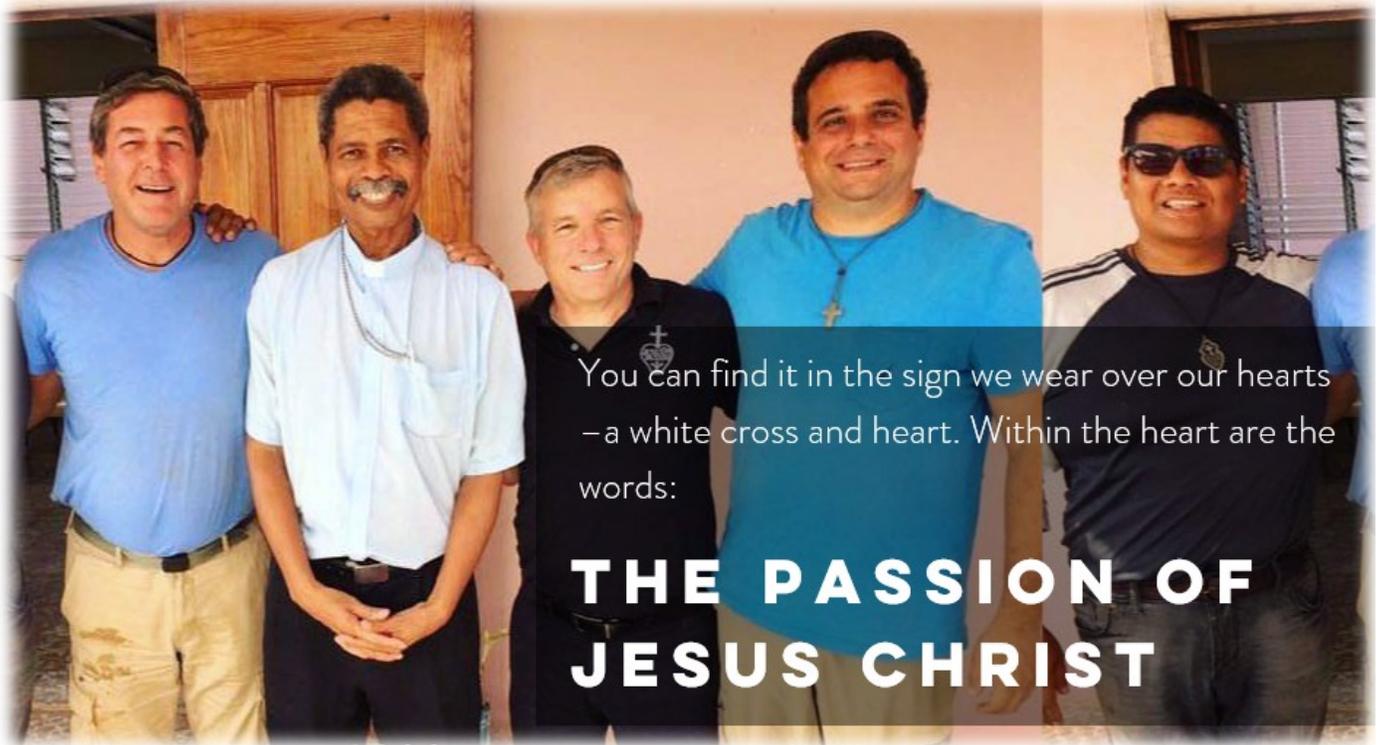




New Vocation Website BeAPassionist.org



Day	Birthday
2	Gaston Nsongolo
7	Terence Kristofak
	Claudio Piccinini
11	Augustine Lowe
12	Edward Buchheit
15	Theophane Cooney
20	Thomas Bonacci
26	Robin Ryan

February 24th is Passionist Vocations Day,

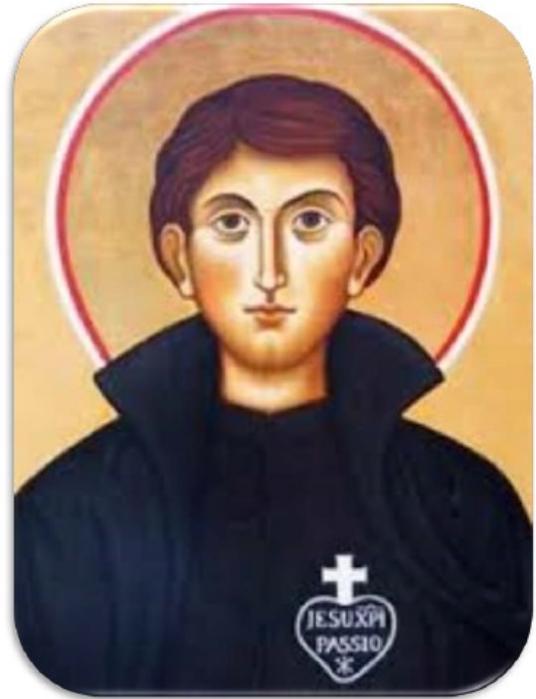
This is an occasion to pray together as a body with our brethren and laity who share our charism. We have three Come and see Weekends scheduled.

- On February 22-24 at Puerto Rico
- March 1-3 at Our Lady of Florida, North Palm Beach, FL
- March 2-3 in Haiti

Day	Ordained
22	BUCHHEIT, Edward
28	DAVIN, Neil
	MOCCIA, Bonaventure

PRAYER FOR PASSIONIST VOCATIONS

Jesus,
you gave your life on the Cross
so that we could share in God's own life
and know his love for us.
May the love that flows from the Cross
transform our hearts,
so that we can bring your love and compassion
to those whose lives we touch,
especially those who are suffering.
Give the light of your Holy Spirit
to those young people who have received
the grace of a Passionist vocation.
Inspire them to give their lives
as Passionist priests, brothers,
nuns, sisters or associates,
keeping the Memory of your Passion alive
in their own hearts and in the hearts of others.
May Mary, who stood by the Cross,
be their example,
and may Saint Paul of the Cross be their guide.
Amen.



PASSIONIST VOCATIONS DAY

ST. GABRIEL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Oración por Vocaciones Pasionistas

Jesús,
te entregaste enteramente en la Cruz
para que nosotros compartiéramos
la misma vida de tu Abba-Padre
y conociéramos su amor por nosotros.
Haz que el amor que fluye de tu Cruz
transforme nuestros corazones,
para que llevemos ese amor compasivo
a aquellos cuyas vidas nos acercamos,
especialmente a quienes están sufriendo.
Concede la luz de tu Espíritu Santo
a los jóvenes que han recibido
el don de una vocación pasionista.
Inspíralos a entregar sus vidas
como Pasionistas
ya sean sacerdotes, hermanos, monjas,
hermanas o laicos asociados,
para mantener viva la memoria de tu Pasión
en sí mismos y en los corazones de los demás.
Que María, la mujer al pie de la Cruz,
sea su ejemplo,
y san Pablo de la Cruz, su guía.
Amén.



DÍA DE VOCACIONES PASIONISTAS

SAN GABRIEL DE LA DOLOROSA

Where in the World are the Passionists?

[Interactive Map](#)—*can zoom in to see details*



Why are the Passionists in the World ?

“WE SEEK THE UNITY OF OUR LIFE AND MISSION IN THE PASSION OF JESUS”

Fr. Martin Coffey

“St. Paul of the Cross was shaped by two complementary energies:

- the inner mystical concentration on the Passion, and
- his outward concern for the evils afflicting the people.

He believed that the MOST EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR THE ILLS OF HIS TIME WAS THE MEMORY OF THE PASSION OF JESUS. The memory of the passion has the power to change hearts and lives.”

Read the rest of the story on the next 2 pages



“WE SEEK THE UNITY OF OUR LIFE AND MISSION IN THE PASSION OF JESUS”

Fr. Martin Coffey (Executive Secretary for Formation)

[Editor's Note: During 15-19 January 2018, the PAUL Province of the USA held its Pre-Chapter at its Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford, Connecticut. The keynote speaker was Fr. Martin Coffey, the Executive Secretary for Formation of the Congregation. Below are some excerpts from his address that included a PowerPoint presentation.]

The Passionist Charism and its relevance and vitality at this time.

I am pondering this... all the time as I travel around and meet Passionists from all over the world. The great variety and at the same time the fundamental togetherness of Passionists today is striking. One thing we all have in common is the search for a new story, a new narrative that tells in an attractive and credible way the story of who we are and what we are about. That narrative has not yet been found or articulated. In this paper, I am going to try to suggest, very tentatively, some of the elements for such a new story.



“The memory of the Passion [of Jesus Christ] has the power to change hearts and lives.”

Some aspects of the changing times

Everyone here has experienced the huge changes that have taken place in one short lifetime. The point I want to insist on is that change has now been accepted as an inevitable ingredient in the life of the Church and the Congregation. We are no longer frozen in some extra-terrestrial zone of the absolute and immutable. To live is to change and to deal with

change all the time. There is no once and for all settled answer or solution.

The dynamic combination of the intellectual and industrial revolutions that shaped the modern world is in crisis... There is, however, another energy or force in the world that is pointing in a different direction towards dialogue, cooperation, mutual respect. That force is Pope Francis. For me the big question is, where do we want to be? In which direction do we want to move?

The Passionist Charism

“Charism” is an ambiguous term. It refers to many different things. The charism of St. Paul of the Cross was unique and unrepeatable. The Charism of the Congregation is expressed in the institution, in our documents and Constitutions, it’s what gives us our role and mission in the Church. Then the charism is alive in each one of us. It is not just a formula of words in a document, or the accumulated history in the archives and museums of the Congregation. If it exists at all, it is in us.

St. Paul of the Cross was shaped by two complementary energies-- the inner mystical concentration on the Passion and his outward concern for the evils afflicting the people. He believed that the **MOST EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR THE ILLS OF HIS TIME WAS THE MEMORY OF THE PASSION OF JESUS.** The memory of the passion has the power to change hearts and lives.

We Live By Means Of Stories

I am going to look more closely at our story. To do this I’ve chosen the New Evangelization as the frame on which to hang the few reflections I want to share with you. John Paul II used this expression for the first time in Latin America in 1983, when he recalled the First Evangelization of South America associated with Columbus and the arrival of the Spanish... For the Passionists too, it is time to embark upon a new kind of evangelization.



1720-1965 – A First Evangelization/First story

For 250 years, the Passionists were part of the missionary arm of the Church and shared the mindset of the Church of that time, fixed after the Council of Trent and shaped by the events of 18th and 19th century Europe. The Church adopted a negative stance towards the modern world that was judged to be anti-God, anti-faith, and anti-Church.

From our beginnings in 18th century Italy, the focus of our mission has been the salvation of souls. By preaching missions and reminding the people of the Passion of Jesus, we helped them to repent and turn back to God and so avoid the pains of hell. The repentance of the sinner and the reception of the sacraments were the goals of our preaching. In this, we were an integral part of the missionary thrust of the post-Tridentine Church... Religious congregations like ours were dependent on the parish structure and we in turn supported and reinforced them by our annual week of more intense spiritual exercises. We provided other auxiliary services too such as confession and weekend assistance in neighboring parishes. We promoted the devotional life of the people. In general, we were a necessary and valued aid to the structures and rhythm of parish life in the Church of that time.

Vatican II, the Passionists and their New Story

How can we reimagine our mission? What form does the message take today? Pope Francis calls us to an encounter with Jesus and to keep our focus on Jesus. It is only then that we can have the joy of the Gospel in our hearts and go to share that Joy with others. The encounter with Jesus equips us to Evangelize and to touch the wounds of the suffering Christ in the poor and suffering people of today.

We learn from Francis that the credibility of our mission requires a match between Words and Deeds. A deep spirituality and a commitment to people embrace, in our consecration to the crucified. We see in the one glance the Crucified and the crucified of today...

A religious congregation is part of a greater whole. It has its place in the bigger picture of the Church and the world. It is part of a larger narrative about human life and destiny, about God and salvation, about the Church and her mission. It finds its meaning within that narrative... We are gradually recovering the richness and diversity that was a mark of Christianity in the first millennium. The ideal is no longer uniformity and sameness. There is no longer only one version of the faith and one Christian cul-

ture. Cultures are many and there can be many Christian cultures. This will be the basis of the new synodality that Pope Francis is advocating...

We Passionists will be a strong fraternity together with our lay associates gathered around Jesus Crucified. We will be filled with the joy and gratitude of sinners who have experienced God's acceptance and mercy... In line with Pope Francis, we have to insist that the charism today is experienced and internalized through an encounter with Christ crucified. It is the impact of this encounter on the heart that makes one a Passionist. *Memoria Passionis* is the ongoing transformation of one's life as a result of this encounter.



"The charism today is experienced and internalized through an encounter with Christ crucified. It is the impact of this encounter on the heart that makes one a Passionist."

What Is The One Thing Necessary?

The *Memoria Passionis* is the memory of Jesus' entire life and mission that inevitably leads to his passion and death... For the Passionist, the Passion of Jesus is the one thing necessary. It is the focus of our life and mission. We are men and women of the Passion because it is the way to the fullness of life. The Passion is made real and actual in a particular form of remembering. We remember the Passion as the culmination and summation of Jesus entire life and mission. We are Passionists because we focus everything on Jesus in the Gospel, and particularly by nourishing our life and ministry on the Gospel accounts of the Passion... Passionists hear the call of Jesus, "Remember me!" Remember me and I will be with you. Remember me and I will draw you into my life and share with you my mission. Remember me and I will transform your life until it is a living image of me, a constant witness to me, a reliable instrument of my love and mercy in the world.

Memorial of Haiti Earthquake January 12, 2010

Dear Friends,

When Haiti was devastated by the infamous earthquake of 2010, the world had not seen a comparable disaster since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

It was also one of the first disasters in the age of cell phones and instant messaging. The size of the disaster, and the ease of instant communication worldwide, sparked immediate and universal awareness, concern, and mobilization to help the suffering.

The devastation in Haiti was similar to the damage from war, with 200,000 fallen buildings and dwellings, massive damage to urban infrastructure, and a death count believed to be at least 230,000. Since the earthquake hit the most populated area of Haiti, more than 2,000,000 people were severely affected and 300,000 critically injured.

When we see such high numbers of destruction, we tend to freeze up in our minds and hearts. It is hard to comprehend the number of people killed during World Wars I and II, including the unspeakable deaths, numbering in the millions, of the *Shoah*. How to imagine the numbers massacred in Rwanda in 1994, or the hundreds of thousands who died in the earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004? It all seems too surreal to be able to touch us.

And yet, much of the sorrow and pain comes through to us.

Many of you reading these words share our sorrow at the loss of scores of cherished workers, friends, and family members whose brutal way of dying left our hearts shocked and empty.

Many of you came here to help us tend to the wounded, the sorrowful, the thousands of children who could not find their mothers. You came to help save the dying and to bury the dead. You came not only to help share food, clothing, water, but also to share tears and to share hope.

I think all of us were inspired by the deep faith of the multitude of survivors, chanting day and night their lamentations and hymns of supplication from their makeshift tents on boulevards, in city squares, and by every wayside.

We were inspired by heroism that could not be dreamed up by the craftiest novelist: fathers digging for trapped children through rubble with bare and bleeding hands, limping mothers carrying their wounded children on their backs to St. Damien Hospital for help, and many of our staff who, while wounded and grief stricken themselves, worked long shifts day and night to assist the endless lines of those rushed to our care, crushed and in agony.

It was a time of darkness, and yet a time of great light. A time of enormous tragedy and also of unbelievable heroism.

On January 12, we will once again place a wreath where our original St. Damien Hospital once stood in proud service for many years, and then crumbled to nothing in 34 seconds on that day in 2010.

We will offer prayers for the dead and sing the Easter proclamation for all those who died, especially for Molly Hightower and Ryan Kloos, who died there in our original hospital. We will pray in thanksgiving for the survival of Erin Kloos, Dr. Manuel Castro, and Rachel who were spared death in that place on that day.

In the afternoon, we will celebrate Mass in Titanyin, the site of hundreds of people we buried ourselves over those days and where there are many mass graves of countless dead, resting there near the sea.

Please join us in spirit, in sentiment, and in prayer, as we relive the ninth anniversary of our great national sorrow.

We also take this occasion to rekindle our deepest gratitude and bonds of friendship with you, for the love, solidarity, and help so generously shared over those many trying months.

Fr. Richard Frechette CP DO
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
January 10, 2019



Memorial wall at the rebuilt St. Damien Hospital displaying the names of the dead of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake.

Good News from Haiti

Dear Friend of the Passionists,

I received an update from Fr. Hugo Esparza-Pérez, CP, on recent events happening at our mission in Haiti. I would like to share his updates with you:

- We closed the year with our Christmas Party for our children's youth group, *Little Stones*. The party was filled with chants, poetry and games prepared by our participants. Of course, since we were celebrating Jesus' birthday, we had cake.



Passing out cake at the *Little Stones* Christmas party.

Little Stones seeks to create a space for children and youth, ages 4 to 17, through guidance and religious formation prepared and given by other young adults. So far, two chapters have been established. There is one in Cite Soleil, which has been active for almost three years, and one in our community residence in Tabarre, which was started in September 2018. Every Saturday, we receive a total of about 400 children and 30 young adults between both groups. The day begins with a meal around 9:00 am and finish with formation around 1:00 pm. Our seminarians serve as support for the leadership in both of our *Little Stones* groups.

- Currently, there are 13 Seminarians in formation. Ten of the Seminarians joined our Aspirant Program in August 2018. The other three had already been living with us, studying Philosophy and other subjects. For the 2018-2019 school year, it was decided that all 13 Aspirants should participate in a year-long program with other young men and women who are entering religious life. This program will helped them reflect from basic elements of religious life to more personal human development. In addition to this program, all of our seminarians take French courses that will prepare them to enter Philosophy School at our community residence.



Selfie of Fr. Hugo and the Seminarians first dinner together.

- Over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, Fr. Hugo traveled to Mexico to visit Samuel Joseph, one of the Haitian Seminarians, who is currently attending a local university where he is learning Spanish. Samuel is preparing to enter novitiate in Mexico in May. Fr. Hugo invited Samuel to visit Hugo's family during the holidays.

The trip also gave Samuel the opportunity to meet some of his extended Mexican Family at NPH. Samuel became an orphan at a very early age and he grew up in the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) / Nost Petites Freres et Seoures Orphanage that Fr. Rick Frechette founded in Haiti in the late 1980s. For children in the care of NPH, the organization becomes their family. We visited Cuernavaca, Morelos (South of Mexico City), where NPH was founded and is the hometown of Fr. Hugo too!



Fr. Hugo, his mom and Samuel Joseph in Mexico.

As we begin the New Year, my brother Passionists and I wish you good health, happiness and peace. Know that you are in our prayers, and I ask that you keep the Passionists, especially those serving in our mission in Haiti, in your prayers as well.

Yours in Christ's love,

Fr. Michael Higgins, CP
Spiritual Director