

# THE PASSIONISTS JOURNEY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

## *A Message from the 47<sup>th</sup> General Chapter*

Dear young people of the world,

We Passionists congregated in Rome for our General Chapter from 6 October to 27 October 2018. During the same time period, an international meeting of bishops (Synod) took place at the Vatican. The topic that they studied was, “*Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment*.” You were present in our prayers during these days because we want to share our mission and charism with you. The values which you embrace and express challenge us to renew our Passionist vocation. Like you, we also need to overcome prejudices. We need to begin our conversion if we want to move forward together with you.

From the Cross, Jesus Crucified gazes upon all people because He knows the sufferings of every person, especially those who are excluded, exploited, manipulated, or those who are abused in various ways. For this reason, Jesus Crucified calls us to reach out to you, wherever you are, and to offer you our loving service, just as the Church has ministered to humanity from its very beginning. If we hear and talk about your apathy, if we perceive some of you as unbelievers, if we classify you as being “alienated from the Church”, in part we must blame ourselves because we have failed to be attentive to you. We believe that a way to renew our mission is to learn how to care for you.

We, the Passionists, are in the process of examining and renewing our Mission and we know that this process includes risks. Nevertheless, we want to take risks with you and for you. We know that in this process we can learn much from you. We want to connect with you and share with you the joy of the Gospel, especially through digital media by creating a social network with evangelical values. We thank God for your presence and openness to dialogue. We hope that you will join us in this new means of evangelization.

All of us share a common vocation to holiness that we received through our baptism. Our mission calls us to proclaim the Gospel of the Passion to the world with our life and our apostolate, according to the spiritual teachings of St. Paul of the Cross. You can help us fulfill this mission, because you have your own means of expressing your faith and of taking risks in order to commit yourselves to sharing the Gospel and transforming the various realities that continue to crucify humanity. The spirituality of the Passion provides you with multiple opportunities to volunteer and fulfill your vocation by being in solidarity with and reaching out to those who are on the peripheries of our world. This is the missionary vocation by which the Church calls us to live in a prophetic way.

We Passionists want to live, share, and witness the charism of the Passion with you by offering responses of hope to those who are seeking meaningful ways to live their life. Together we want to increase and reinvigorate your sense of happiness, hope, confidence and commitment, and to offer you a clearer vision for the future. Thus, remembering the words of Pope Francis to young people in Cracow, Poland, during the World Youth Day 2016, we Passionists want to say that the world has no need for “*young retirees, nor young people of the sofa*”. Young people and the Passionists need to journey together. Young people and the Passionists need to walk the city streets. Side by side, young people and the Passionists need to travel the roads of the world toward the future.

With you, we Passionists want to renew our Mission. In a spirit of gratitude to God, we know that we are family; with a spirit of prophecy, we will face the challenges ahead; and in a spirit of hope, we embrace the Cross of Christ.