Configuration of Jesus Crucified

BULLETIN XII

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Soup Kitchen
" Love and Service"

Vestition of Novices and Inauguration of the New Novitiate House

Introduction to Bulletin XII of the *Configuration of Jesus Crucified*

The Servant of God, Fr. Theodore Foley, C.P

Introduction to Bulletin XII of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified

Dear brothers and sisters,

The participants of the XII Assembly of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified, celebrated in the Novitiate Community in el Pueblito, Querétaro, México, from February 3 to 7, 2019, repeated the necessity of strengthening our bonds of communion, participation and communication.

The Major Superiors of the five autonomous juridic Entities of the two Zones of the Configuration—Northern Zone (St. Paul of the Cross Province: USA, Canada, Jamaica, Haiti and Puerto Rico) (Holy Cross Province: USA) (Cristo Rey Province: Mexico and Dominican Republic);—Southern Zone: (Gethsemani Province: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Mozambique-Africa) (Exaltation of the Holy Cross Province: Brazil)—elected Fathers Francisco Valadez, of Cristo Rey Province, and Aurelio Miranda, of Exaltation of the Cross Province, as President and Vice-President/Secretary, respectively.

We have been charged with emphasizing and building up communication and collaboration among the entire Passionist Family of our Configuration, and with the Province of the Sacred Heart - SCOR .

One instrument which is very effective in the achievement of this objective and for the revitalization of the Configuration is the Bulletin, without disregarding, obviously, other initiatives which will be pointed out in due time.

I am happy to present you the XII BULLETIN, which will be issued quarterly, and which will be a bit more extensive for this number. We are presenting the reality of our Configuration in various perspectives, including its foundations and the valuable and generous missionary contribution which the Religious in its various countries have given throughout the Congregation.

Furthermore, on the occasion of 300 years since the founding of our Passionist Congregation, we will be publishing various reflections which will surely generate harmonic resonance with the men and women Passionists, the Passionist Nuns, and the Laity who share our charism and spirituality.

In each Bulletin, we will inform you about the more significant events which reveal the “the never-ending love of God.”

We ask you for and are grateful for your occasional reporting of how God's activity is seen in your Entities so that we may be engaged with one another and that we may get to know one another more deeply.

May the Passion of Christ be always in our hearts!

Francisco Valadez Ramírez C. P.
Configuration President

CJC

Configuration of Jesus Crucified

USA

Chicago 1, CRUC
Citrus Heights, CRUC
Detroit, CRUC
Houston, CRUC
Louisville, CRUC -
Sierra Madre, CRUC
Jamaica, PAUL -
Pittsburgh, PAUL
Scranton 1, PAUL D
West Hartford, PAUL D
Birmingham, CRUC
Atlanta, PAUL
North Palm Beach, PAUL
Pelham, PAUL M
Scranton 2, PAUL
Birmingham - CRUC
Fairfield, CRUC
Clayton, PAUL

PUERTO RICO

Dorado, PAUL
Isla Verde, PAUL
Lares, PAUL
Vistamar, PAUL

REPÚBLICCA DOMINICANA

Santo Domingo, REG
La Peña, REG

CANADÁ

Willowdale , PAUL
Rexdale, PAUL P

MEXICO
Cuernavaca, REG
Escandón, REG -->
Guadalajara 1, REG
Querétaro - Beato Isidoro, REG
Querétaro - El Pueblito, REG
San Angel, REG
Guerrero, REG

HAITI
Port-au-Prince, PAUL

JAMAICA
Mandeville, PAUL
Kingston, PAUL

MOÇAMBIQUE
Pemba, GETH

BRAZIL
Belo Horizonte - Prov., EXALT ;
Colatina, EXALT
Itabuna, EXALT -
Jardim América, EXALT -
Jequié, EXALT -
Milionários, EXALT
Salvador, EXALT
São Luís de Montes Belos
Colombo, GETH
Curitiba, GETH -
Pinto Bandeira, GETH
Ponta Grossa, GETH
Rio de Janeiro, GETH -
São Carlos, GETH
São Paulo, GETH -
Barbacena, EXALT
Goiânia , EXALT
Campina Grande, GETH
Cascavel, GETH
Guarapuava, GETH
Osvaldo Cruz, GETH
Porto das Caixas, GETH
Vila Adriana, GETH
Iporá, EXALT
Janaúba, EXALT
Luziânia, EXALT
Rio Branco - Acre, EXALT

ARGENTINA
Buenos Aires, GETH
Ingeniero Juarez, GETH

URUGUAY
Montevideo, GETH

Provincial Curia of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified

EXALT

Fr. Giovanni Cipriani - Provincial
Fr. José Roberto - First Consultor
P. Adilson Santana
Fr. Henrique Evangelista de Oliveira
Fr. Vanderlan Gomes

REG

Fr.Francisco Valadez - Provincial
Fr. Héctor Rangel -First Consultor
Fr. Victor Hugo Álvarez

GETH

Fr. Leudes Aparecido de Paula - Provincial
Fr. Edilberto Lins de Meneses- First Consultor
Fr. Francisco Chagas Marques
Fr. Francisco Rodriguez
Fr. Alan Hildeu Felício

PAUL

Fr.James O'Shea - Provincial
Fr. Salvatore Enzo Del Brocco - First Consultor
Fr. Hugo Esparza-Pérez
Fr. James Price.
Fr.William Murphy

CRUC

Fr. Joseph Moons - Provincial
Fr. David Colhour - First Consultor
Fr. James Strommer
Fr. Philip Paxton
Fr.Alfredo Ocampo.

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1720-2020

Servant of God
Fr. Theodore Foley, C.P

The Servant of God, Fr. Theodore Foley, C.P., was born in 1913 in Springfield, Massachusetts into a devout Catholic family. He attended a vibrant Catholic Parish and had contact with the Passionist Monastery in West Springfield. As a young boy of 14, he was attracted to the missionary spirit and spirituality of the Passionist Community. He entered the Minor Seminary and took his vows in 1933 and was ordained a priest in 1940. He did graduate and post-graduate studies in theology and received his degree from Catholic University in Washington, DC. He served as a spiritual guide to many of our students. He taught theology and was Director of Students. He was gentle and kind. At the end of each academic year, he tore up his notes, so that each year he could bring fresh material and enthusiasm to his teaching. He brought this enthusiasm into the parlors of our monasteries where he was a spiritual guide. He taught catechism classes to converts. He was a popular confessor for religious and lay alike. He was constantly available for the Sacrament of Penance. In 1956, the Provincial Chapter elected him Rector of our first monastery in America, St. Paul of the Cross Retreat in Pittsburgh, PA. He was a gentle and kind superior. He no longer carried with him text books but he did bring the tools of spiritual concern and discernment. He made himself available to hear confessions everywhere. He did not drive a car at this time but walked or took the streetcar and weekly heard confessions in parishes, convents and regularly in our Monastery Church. He was the regular confessor of our Passionist Nuns in Pittsburgh.In 1958, the General Chapter elected him General Consultor for our worldwide Congregation. He took up residence in Rome at Sts. John and Paul on the Coelian Hill. On May 7, 1964, he was elected Superior General of the Passionists and successor to St. Paul of the Cross.

His same dedication to ministry followed him to Rome. At a certain point in the morning, he disappeared from his office. For a few minutes, he visited the Mexican Passionist Sisters who ran the kitchen and laundry at our Motherhouse and had a coffee with them. Other times he could be found in the confessional of the basilica of Sts. John and Paul. He was a regular confessor to St. Pope Paul VI and also to the Superior General of the Jesuits. He led the community through the turbulent dacades of the 1960s and 70's when there was so much social unrest. As traditional values came into question and church membership, including membership in his own community, began to decline, he was a rock of hope to those shaken by the times. His theological training and background prepared him to participate as Superior General as a Father of the Second Vatican Council. Fr. Theodore worked tirelessly to bring the message of Jesus Christ Crucified to our world. Seeking new opportunities, he traveled to Asia, Africa and Oceana to extend the missionary outreach of the Passionists. He promoted the study of the Passion for a world in danger of forgetting God. A gentle man, faithful to prayer and unfailingly kind to others, he left Rome for a final three month visitation of the Far East and the South Pacific.Somehow, he contracted a para-typhoid infection. On his return, he attempted to attend other chapters but was forced to return to Rome. Hospitalized in September of 1974.

The infection affected his heart and he died on Oct. 9, 1974 at Calvary Hospital. His last words were: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph." After the funeral in Rome, his body was flown to the United States. He was buried with his Passionist Brethren at the Monastery in West Springfield, Massachusetts. When that foundation closed his body was brought to Pittsburgh, where Fr. Theodore had served as Rector in the 1950's. Pope Benedict XVI declared Fr. Theodore to be a Servant of God in 2007. On Thursday, Sept. 30, 201o, the Passionists formally inaugurated his Cause at St. Paul of the Cross Church. A new tomb had been prepared for his body which now rests in our church. On all Mondays throughout the year, four novena services are held to our Passionist Saints. All the Masses conclude with prayers for the beatification of Fr. Theodore Foley. Daily people are seen praying at his tomb. There are two large books that receive daily entries. One is from people requesting Fr. Theodore's intercession for various needs. There is the other book where people note favors granted. There are many pages of both. Some favors are extraordinary. In the past few months, the Passionist Community has undertaken an extensive restoration of St. Paul of the Cross Church. The first church in all the world named for our Holy Founder and first opened 160 years ago. It has been a lighthouse on the hill all these years, a beacon of God's mercy and forgiveness. We hope to soon have the church re-dedicated and more beautiful than ever. Something very special about our church is that it will have the shrine of the Servant of God, Theodore Foley, and the restored confessional he used regularly.

★March 3, 1913

†October 9, 1974

Servant of God

Fr. Theodore Foley, C.P

VESTITION OF NOVICES

AND INAUGURATION OF THE NEW NOVITIATE HOUSE

In 2018, the Provincials of the Southern Zone of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified made the decision to transfer the novitiate, beginning with the year 2019, from Ponta Grossa to the Community of Cristo Libertador [Christ the Liberator], which is located in the city of São Luís de Montes Belos, in the state of Goiás.

Thus, after an initial period in the novitiate, on April 3, at the Eucharistic celebration, the novices received and vested in the Passionist habit. Lucas, José Osvaldo and André are from Gethsemani Province; Cleyton and Victor belong to the Province of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The rite, both simple yet profound, expresses the spirit of the novitiate —to make memory of the Passion of Jesus Christ—and reflects the passage from Ephesians: You were to put aside your old self, which belongs to your old way of life and is corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind was to be renewed in spirit so that you could put on the New Man that has been created on God's principles, in the uprightness and holiness of the truth. (Ef 4,22-24).

The formation community at the Novitiate is made up of: Fr. José Roberto, master of novices, Fr. Weslei Pereira, vice-master, and Fr. Tarcílio Maia, Pastor of the Santa Cruz parish in São Luís de M. Belos, and of São Sebastião, in the city of Córrego do Ouro.

On April 5, Fr. Mark-Robin, the Provincial of the Province of Mother of Holy Hope (Holland), blessed the remodeled section of the house and the addition of the new novitiate wing. This addition of 12 rooms with baths will contribute to an atmosphere of greater interior solitude and contemplation. The construction was made possible by the grant in solidarity given by the Dutch Province.

These two significant events in the progress of the Passionist novitiate were also attended by the presence of the Provincial Superiors, Fr. Giovanni Cipriani, CP. and Fr. Leudes Aparecido, CP, together with their Provincial Councils.

ASSEMBLY- REG

I will briefly share with you a report of the work of the Assembly: The Religious of the Cristo Rey Province in Mexico and the Dominican Republic celebrated their annual assembly in the Passionist Spirituality Center, Cuernavaca, Morelos, from the 12th to the 14th of June, 2019.

The Provincial Superior, the Provincial Econome, and the Local Superiors presented their respective reports on the achievements of the past year. At the same time, they presented a "memory of the future," a way of visioning the future with regard to challenges, and emphasizing the life-giving elements of our lives. The basic theme of the Assembly revolved around a first reflection on the three priorities given by the 47th General Chapter: Our Common Life; our Initial and Lifelong Formation; the strengthening of our Configurations which are the principal structures for Solidarity. One of these three areas was assigned to each of the days of the Assembly.

Personnel changes were announced and approved for various communities because of the incardination into our Province of Religious and Houses in the Dominican Republic; the election of Fr. Rafael Vivanco, Master of Novices, as General Consultor; the conclusion of the academic year for some University and Theological brethren; the opening of the new Community for the theology students (a new presence); some illness, etc.

The Assembly also elected the Preparatory Commission for our Seventh Provincial Chapter, which will be held, God willing, from June 1-5, 2020. The Theme and the Motto were also selected.

Finally, we began to study the questions which were presented by letter of May 8, 2019, to the Major Superiors of the Passionist Family in America, by the General Consultors, Fr. Rafael Vivanco and Fr. Juan Ignacio Villar:

1. What memory remains in your Entity of the CLAP experience?
2. Would you be willing to recover, support and update that experience of communion and participation?
3. If affirmative in your answer, What steps do you think could be taken?

This last set of questions was not difficult to envision since Fr. Francisco Valadez served for 12 years as Secretary of CLAP, and another 12 years as President of the same. The historical memory was relatively easy to recapture.

The Assembly ended with a reminder of the up-coming events in the Province, some references to Canonical Visitations already concluded, and some to come; and, obviously, an evaluation of the Assembly.

The moderator, Fr. Clemente Olvera C. P., leads and guides with flexibility, creativity and clarity. The priority of events is respected, especially with regard to the Eucharistic celebration, and the especially significant moments of morning and evening prayer which are prepared ahead of time by the different communities of the Province.

May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts.

Francisco Valadez C. P.

Passionist Mission

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Soup Kitchen

"Love and Service"

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To establish and strengthen the lived experience of God for our volunteers, migrants and street people, based on the Passion Charism which proclaims Christ Crucified-and-Risen, in order to respond with love on behalf of our brothers and sisters in need.

HISTORY

The "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" soup kitchen began more than 20 years ago. It was the response of the Passionists to the need for food experienced by the migrants who were coming from Central America. The initiative was begun by Fr. Luis Zárate, followed by Passionists César Navarrete and Jesús Mendoza; who were, in turn, joined by a group of women who served at the Perpetual Help rectory. Since then, this service has been provided for our migrant brothers and sisters, and for others who are "on the street." In the meantime, a more useable space has been created in order to better provide this service.

OPERATION

There are approximately 21 volunteers, who are grouped into five teams. To them are added the philosophy students, who take over on holidays, when the volunteers get to rest. Each team is responsible for preparing and serving the meals; each team also cleans up afterwards. Meals are prepared from donations to the pantry, and meals brought over from some restaurants. The former community gym was converted into a kitchen. Meals are served from Monday to Friday, between 9 and 10 a.m. The majority of persons coming are men, and occasionally complete families appear. Donations of medicines and clothing are very carefully apportioned.

Deacon César Navarrete and Bro. Jesús have also offered, in addition to meals, time together to share Christian reflections, and to socialize with one another, including the volunteers. It is also noted that some volunteers come from other parishes, but who found in this soup kitchen a concrete expression of the following of Jesus by serving one's neighbor.

In closing, a word from Pope Francis, taken from one of his homilies in Panamá: "…one's neighbor is first of all a person; someone with a real face; not someone to be overlooked or ignored, no matter what his situation. On his face one sees our own humanity, often suffering and ignored. Our neighbor's is a wonderfully uncomfortable face because it confronts us with what is really important and frees us from banalizing or dispensing with the true following of the Lord.…"

In the Crucified…

Fr. César Antonio Navarrete Ferrusquia, CP

Passionist Nuns

A new juridical structure for government

in communion, we will grow in creative and responsible fidelity as Passionist Nuns!

In 2015, in accord with the guidelines given by the Church, the Institute of Religious [women] of the Passion of Jesus Christ (Passionist Nuns), began traveling a new pathway. Madre Fernanda Barbiero, a religious of the Teaching Sisters of Saint Dorothy, was invited by the Holy See (CIVCSVA) to direct this process toward the revitalization of the Passionist Nuns' Monasteries and to constitute a new structure for communion between the Monasteries.

The first step was the convoking of a worldwide assembly of the Superiors, which took place from September 19 to October 5 of that year in Rome, at the house of Sts. John and Paul, and also at the Shrine of Saint Gabriel. Its objective was to assess the present reality, and establish some future steps leading to communion.

Following the Assembly, up to 2019, the visits of Madre Fernanda, SMSD, to each of the communities signaled the beginning of an arduous and silent work for all of the Monasteries: how to shape a new reality in accord with the guidelines given by the Assembly, as well as in accord with the directions of the Holy See.

During this time, two new documents were issued by the Church to guide Contemplative Life: Vultum Dei Quaerere and Cor Orans; these proposed a process which, to some extent, we had already begun in 2015.

The modality suggested and accepted to create this juridical structure for communion was that of a Congregation. The Statutes which were created to government the Congregation of Nuns of the Passion of Jesus Christ say: The Congregation is established to advance the growth and life of the sui juris monasteries, who are its members, according the Gospels, the Rule of St. Paul of the Cross, its own Constitutions, and its General Statutes, so as to contribute to the growth of the Body of Christ.

The foregoing will be implemented through the fraternal cooperation of the Sisters, by means of appropriate juridical measures, and with regard for the principles of just autonomy, subsidiarity, and legitimate cultural and social diversity.

On June 29, 2018, under the authority of the Church, the Decree erecting the Congregation of Nuns of the Passion of Jesus Christ was promulgated. As a result of this action, it was necessary to convoke the first General Chapter of the new Congregation.

Thus, from January 21 to February 3, under the motto From within the heart of the Church, we radiate a Crucified Love, at the Retreat of Saints John and Paul, we celebrated the first General Chapter of the Passionist Nuns, under the presidency of the General Delegate, Madre Fernanda Barbiero, SMSD, and with the assistance of Fr. Floriano de Fabiis, C.P., who acted as General Assistant to the Passionist Nuns, and with the help of so many other Passionists, in addition to the collaboration of the Sisters of St. Paul of the Cross for translations.

Capitulars came from different places, nations and cultures. There were 42 capitulars, 3 invitees, and 15 collaborators. As was stated in the Chapter's Final Document, “a beautiful experience of internationality and intercultural presence; but especially of joy in sharing an overwhelming charism which has set down roots in so many different parts of the world.”

During these days of intensive capitular labor, reports from the Monasteries gave a sense of the present reality of the Passionist Nuns, and the new juridical structure to build communion was presented with the help of various presenters, among them: Archbishop José Rodriguez Carballo, O.F.M., Secretary of CICSVA, as well as our brother Passionist, Fr. Leonello Leidi, and others. The canonical norms contained in our Constitutions were reviewed in the light of changes to be made in them on account of the new directives of the Church, of Canon Law, and of the General Statutes of the new Congregation. The new government was elected which will serve for a period of six years, and some guidelines were laid out for this initial period of governance. The first governing officers of the Congregation are the following:

- Mother Catherine Marie Schuhmann, of the Lucca (Italy) Monastery, President.
- Mother Gertrude Poggio, of the Croisy (France) Monastery, Vicar.
- Madre Ana Maria Cabañas, of the Querétaro (México) Monastery, Councillor.
- Sister Maria Martina Naiman, of the Tarquínia (Italy) Monastery, Councillor.
- Sister Luzia Daniela Almeida Prado, of the São Paulo (Brazil) Monastery, Councillor.

A special joy for the Capitulars, no doubt, was the participation in the weekly Audience with the Holy Father; Pope Francis, who posed with the group in a photograph. On this occasion, the Holy Father encouraged the Nuns to be "Passionate" about being Passionists.

On the entire American continent, the Passionist Nuns are present in five countries:

- Argentina: Merlo
- Brazil: São Paulo, São Carlos, Pato Branco and São Luís de Montes Belos
- Colômbia: Medellin
- United States: Clarks Summit, Ellisville, Erlanger, Pittsburgh and Whitesville.
- México: Querétaro

We ask all of the members of the Passionist Family in the Americas, as we have said in the Chapter's Final Document: "the Chapter has concluded, but more than ever, we now continue to need your help and support. We ask you to not leave us in solitude. Help us with Vocational Ministry, with formation, and in living each day, more and more, our Passionist identity and [common] charism!".

Sister Luzia Daniela da Trindade, C.P.
Santa Gema Monastery – São Paulo, Brazil.

Passionist Nuns

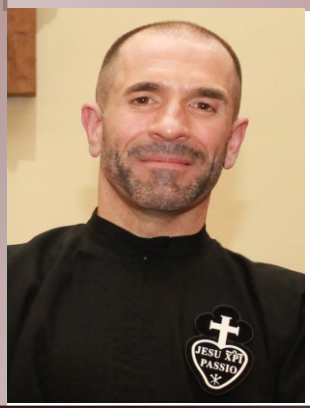
NEWS

Passionist Graduations

Congratulations to our Passionist Family members who graduated this Spring, earning advanced degrees

Fr. Enno Dango, CP, - Ph.D. in Interreligious Dialogue, University of Notre Dame.
Photo: Fr. Enno Dango, CP (right), with his Dissertation Director, Professor Gabriel Reynolds, Ph.D.

Fr. Bruno D'Souza, CP, - Master's Degree in Pastoral Theology, Loyola Marymount University.



Passionist Student, Nicholas Divine, CP – Master's Degree in Divinity (M.Div), Catholic Theological Union.

NEWS

On 28 April 2019, in the parish church of St. Augustine, (Pemba, Mozambique) Fr. Armindo Balthazar was ordained by the imposition of hands of the bishop of Pemba, Bishop Luiz Fernando Lisboa, C.P.

On 05 May 2019, in the Shrine of St. Paul of the Cross (Belo Horizonte, Brazil) Edson Terra da Silva professed Perpetual Vows.

On 25 May 2019, in the Shrine of Jesus Crucified (Jequié, Bahia, Brazil) Fr. Sandoval Dias de Jesus was ordained by the imposition of hands of the Passionist Bishop Tommaso Cascinelli.

The Passionists of Holy Cross (CRUC) Province (the "western province" of the United States of America) conducted their 35th Provincial Chapter from June 6 to June 11, 2019, at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center, Sierra Madre, California.
On Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019, the Chapter re-elected Fr. Joseph Moons to the office of Provincial Superior on the first ballot. On Monday, June 10, 2019, the Chapter voted for the four Provincial Consultors: Frs. David Colhour (First Consultor), James Strommer, Philip Paxton and Alfredo Ocampo.Moons, Provincial, Philip Paxton, y Alfredo Ocampo.

Next events

June 29: Ordination of Cesár Antonio Navarrete Ferrusquia
June 30: Perpetual Profession José Paulo, CP - GETH
July 29 to August 2: EXALT Retreat / Assembly

06 July: Religious profession novices REG
Diaconate of Sebastián Cruz Gomes
Presbytery of Juan Manuel Rodrigues Mejía
August 16-18: Passionist Alumni Association, Passionist Crossing Retreat Center, Detroit, Michigan

Testimonial Statement of Sebastián Cruz Gómez, CP

I am aware that to be a religious means to accept great challenges, and at times, great sacrifices. In today's Church, there is a need for persons who can witness to the love of Christ, who will give their all for the sake of the Kingdom, and who offer hope to this world in which we live.

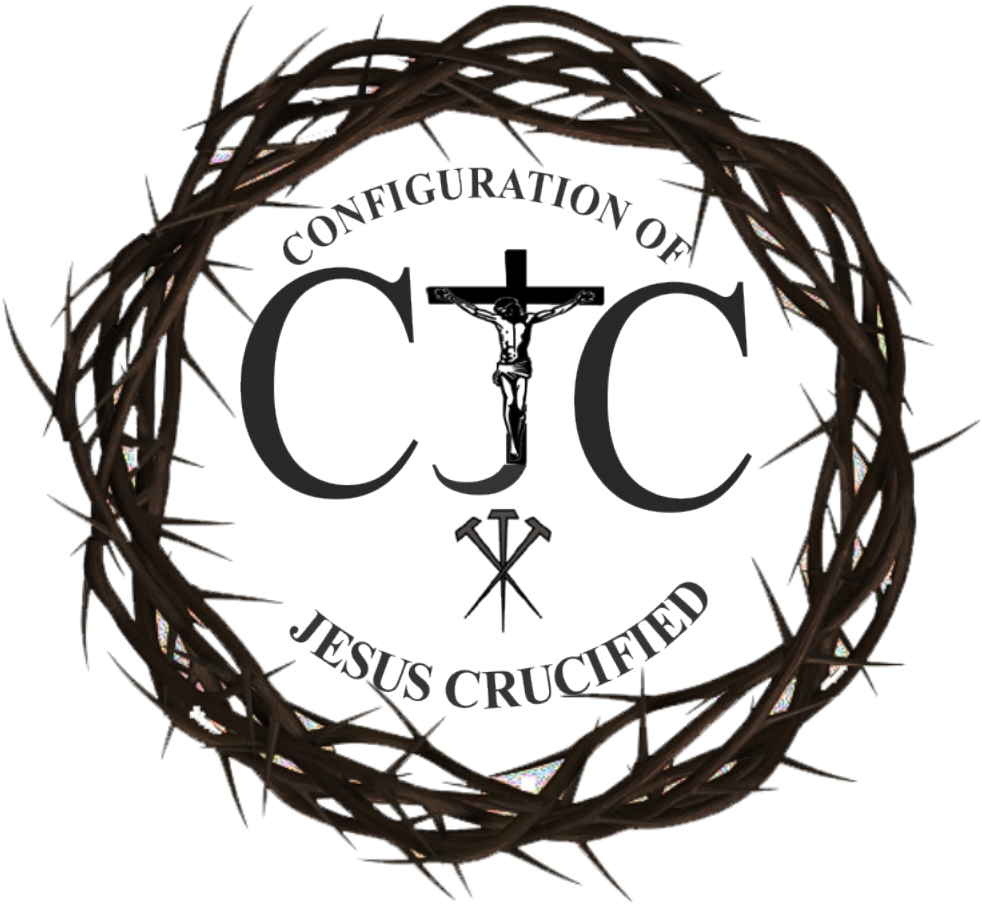
I consider it fundamental to live the Charism in the daily reality, especially when one is alongside and sharing in the sorrow and suffering of a loved one, or in the company of those whom we meet in popular Missions and other apostolic works.

Meditation on the Passion is fundamental in my life. I bring before me in meditation those who are crucified in today's world especially by the violence and insecurity which our society visits on people.

I have concluded the last year of my theological studies, and I am finishing my thesis; these are the concluding stages of my academic life at the Instituto de Formación Teológica Internacional de México - IFTIM – affiliated with the Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, Colombia. Naturally, it is time for me to be make clear and definitive decisions regarding my future.

Conscious of my own human frailty, and trusting in the grace of the Lord, I have requested with absolute liberty to be ordained to the Order of Deacon, and accept all that this decision carries with it.

I feel called to live this kind of life, to become and to promote the memory of the love of Christ Crucified-Risen in a world which calls out for new life, and which cries out for resurrection.



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