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Passionist News Notes
St. Paul of the Cross Province

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"Come and See"- Puerto Rico

On November 29, 30 and December 1, we had our first "Come and See" in Puerto Rico. It was held at our house in Dorado, the former Passionist Seminary, which has been closed for about 4 years. Father Anibal, with a group of parishioners from the Saint Gemma Parish and the parents of our Brother Jonathan, prepared the house for us to carry out this vocational meeting.

Four young guys arrived from three towns: Vega Baja, Aguadilla and San Sebastián. From Vega Baja came Luis Angel Morales, 17years, and Victor Cruz, 16 years, from Aguadilla, John Gonzalez, 30 years and from San Sebastián, Gabriel Acevedo, 21 years.

The theme of this first meeting revolved around discernment and who we, the Passionists, are. During the weekend we had moments of prayer. We shared delicious meals. The guys had time for personal reflection. We presented some conferences. We also shared a film. On Saturday night we had a moment of questions and answers. We even spent some time doing some work around the house. It was a very pleasant weekend for all, especially for us, the Passionists who were there (Fr. Moises, Br. Jonathan, Br. Luis Daniel, Cftr. Cristian and Jonathan Ramos (postulant)) and remembered the special moments we lived in that house and talked about the dreams (and desires) that we can realize in that house.

The young guys expressed their joy of having shared with us that weekend. We finished our meeting with the Eucharist of the first Sunday of Advent and a good lunch.

"Come and See"- Puerto Rico

Durante los días 29, 30 de noviembre y 1 de diciembre, realizamos en Puerto Rico nuestro primer "Come and See". Se llevó a cabo en nuestra casa de Dorado, anterior Seminario Pasionista, que lleva cerrado alrededor de 4 años. El P. Aníbal con feligreses de la Parroquia Santa Gema y los papás de nuestro Hno. Jonathan, acondicionaron la casa para que realizáramos este encuentro vocacional.

Llegaron 4 jóvenes procedentes de tres pueblos: Vega Baja, Aguadilla y San Sebastián. De Vega Baja vino Luis Ángel Morales de 17 años y Víctor Cruz de 16 años, de Aguadilla John González de 30 años y de San Sebastián Gabriel Acevedo de 21 años.

El tema de este primer encuentro giraba entorno al discernimiento y quiénes somos los pasionistas. Tuvimos momentos de oración y comida en común, trabajos personales de reflexión, conferencias, película, momentos de preguntas y respuestas y trabajo comunitario en torno a la casa. Fue un fin de semana muy agradable ya que, todos los pasionistas que fuimos (P. Moisés, Hno. Jonathan, Hno. Luis Daniel, el Coh. Cristian y Jonathan Ramos- postulante) recordamos los momentos especiales que vivimos en esa casa y los sueños (deseos) que en ella podemos realizar.

Los jóvenes manifestaron su alegría de haber compartido con nosotros ese fin de semana; finalizamos nuestro encuentro con la Eucaristía del primer domingo de adviento y un buen almuerzo.

Passionist Lay Movement- Puerto Rico
Special Thanksgiving breakfast, with the wanderings of the town.

After the 7:00 am Mass on November 29, 2019, a group of parishioners members of the Passionist Lay Movement of San Sebastián; San Pablo de la Cruz Province; He went to an adjoining room carefully decorated with tables, tablecloths, table arrangements, buffet service, cake, desserts and more. They expected to share a succulent breakfast with special guests. For these there was also a gift table, cake and another with clothes, shoes, etc. And is that the members of the Passionist Lay Movement carefully prepared a special breakfast to share with the wanderers of the town.

The initiative was full of love and solidarity towards the less fortunate. It was not just about giving them a succulent buffet-style breakfast, but it was a hand-to-hand sharing with each of them. Everyone had breakfast together, talked and laughed like a family. More than 36 wandering and about 28 members of the Passionist Lay Family, the Passionist religious sisters and Pastor P. Angel Luis, joined in a share of joy and joy, where each face showed Jesus on the Cross, following the premise that where there is a pain or a need, there is a place for a passionist.

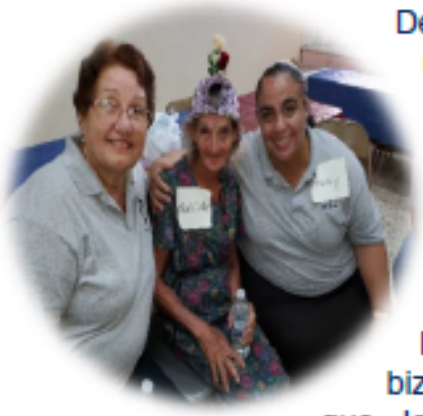
The activity began with a prayer directed by Fr. Eric Bosques.

After sharing breakfast, a dynamic of integration was carried out where they played and laughed together. Subsequently, gifts were given to each one and they were given clothes, shoes, etc. that they took from a table, according to what they needed.

It was a very enriching experience, which the Lay Movement wishes to continue doing because "giving is when we receive the most" and there is much need in today's crucified.

By: Vivian Méndez- Coordinator

Movimiento Laical Pasionista- Puerto Rico
Desayuno de Acción de Gracias especial, con los deambulantes del pueblo.



Después de terminada la misa de las 7:00 am, del 29 de noviembre de 2019, un grupo de feligreses miembros del Movimiento Laical Pasionista de San Sebastián; Provincia San Pablo de la Cruz; se dirigió a un salón contiguo cuidadosamente decorado con mesas, manteles, arreglos de mesa, servicio bufet, bizcocho, postres y más. Esperaban compartir un suculento desayuno con unos invitados especiales. Para estos había además una mesa de regalos, bizcocho y otra con ropa, zapatos, etc. Y es que los miembros del Movimiento Laical Pasionista prepararon con esmero un desayuno especial para compartir con los deambulantes del pueblo.

La iniciativa estuvo llena de amor y solidaridad hacia los menos afortunados. No se trató solamente de darles un suculento desayuno estilo bufet, sino que fue un compartir mano a mano con cada uno de ellos. Todos desayunaron juntos, hablaron y rieron como una familia. Mas de 36 deambulantes y cerca de 28 miembros de la Familia Laical Pasionista, las hermanas religiosas pasionistas y el Párroco P. Ángel Luis, se unieron en un compartir de alegría y gozo, donde cada rostro mostraba a Jesús en la Cruz, siguiendo la premisa de que donde hay un dolor o una necesidad, hay un sitio para un pasionista.

La actividad se comenzó con una oración dirigida por el P. Eric Bosques. Luego de compartir el desayuno se realizó una dinámica de integración donde jugaron y rieron juntos. Posteriormente se le entregaron regalos a cada uno y les dieron ropa, zapatos, etc. que ellos tomaron de una mesa, según lo que necesitaban.

Fue una experiencia muy enriquecedora, que el Movimiento Laical desea continuar realizando porque "dando es cuando más recibimos" y hay mucha necesidad en los crucificados de hoy.

Por: Vivian Méndez- Coordinadora

Passionist Missionaries in Haiti
Haiti Happenings: October to November 2019
by Fr. Hugo Esparza, C.P.

Sant Pastoral Pasyonis

After three years of developing friendships with our neighbors and service for and with them, we decided to seal our commitment with the community under the name of Sant Pastoral Pasyonis (Passionist Pastoral Center).

We have launched different initiatives for the youth and adults of the community and we maintain our weekly program. The motto of our center Anpil Menm Yon Sel Ke ("Many hands one heart") reflects our mission in the community. We are many hands that do the work with one heart, to build and create community so that we may thrive.

Jenerasyon Laudato Si

On satuday October 5th, celebrating the witness of St. Francis, with some of our youth we launched Jenerasyon Laudato Si (Laudato Si Generation is a global movements inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical). JLS is made up of 16 to 20 year old men and women, former members of our Kids and Youth Program.

After a few months of discernment and conversations they decided to base the group under four values:
STUDY of our environment and natural world, the
ADVOCACY for our common home and concrete
ACTIONS that safeguard our health and health of the planet. This will be hold by our personal and communal **PRAYER** (Meditation).

We began to plant fruit trees from seed. We will use to plant around our center or a specific part of the neighborhood.

Our youth in JLS preparing the soil and planting trees as their concrete action

Konbit Pierre Toussaint

In the midst of harsh unemployment, political gridlock, unprecedented violence in the streets of Haiti, we started a volunteering pilot program, following the model of the PVI (Passionist Volunteer International).
We are calling this program Konbit Pierre Toussaint. Pierre Toussaint, a former slave of Haitian descent, is now a blessed in the church recognized for his generosity.

Under his intersection we have invited 7 young adults who serve as alphabetization teachers for the adults in the community. We have two of them volunteering at a local orphanage for children with severe mental and physical challenges.

Our goal was to have our youth in the Konbit Pierre Toussaint inspire others through their service. So far, we can say for sure, that after 3 month of the program, our volunteers that are being inspired. They are realizing they can make a difference in the life of others

This are some of our students and teachers as we started our program

Formation

Despite the national strike that has stopped the whole country, especially the school for all children, our seminarians have been busy. Beyond the manual labor we do around the house, from clearing the brush, to painting our houses, our seminarians are putting other talents at work. In mid November, a few young people from our program told me that they were tired from not going to school and asked if the seminarians could sit down with them to teach them.

We started with 9 students. We are up to 40. We sit down with these children for three hours a day (2 hrs for review and 1 hr. for homework).

While our 4 philosophers, cannot go to school we have been taking advantage of the internet and the great resources we have found there. We have taken great courses on Logic, Intro. to Phil., and the History of Philosophy.

Our first year students have been taking their French courses with one very brave young woman, Madam Montez, who has to go through blockades and burning tires, just to teach our young men three times a week.

Our formation community during our celebration for St. Paul of the Cross

Our seminarians are working hard clearing some of the brush to make our roads a bit safer

Vacations

Fr. Hugo, CP will be in Mexico visiting for the holidays our 3 postulants (Adenald Fleury, Daniel Cadet and Saverno Borsa). They will spend Christmas with Fr. Hugo's family in Tlaxcala and New Year's in Queretaro at the novitiate with our Haitian Novice, Samuel Joseph

Sr. Carmelina Tarantino, Toronto's First Saint?

by Santilli-Raimondo, Vanessa Thursday, October 17, 2019 Archdiocese of Toronto

To mark the end of the first phase of investigation into the possible canonizing of Sr. Carmelina Tarantino, Cardinal Thomas Collins will preside at the 4 p.m. Mass this Sunday, October 20, at St. Leo's Parish at 277 Royal York Rd., Toronto.

Sr. Carmelina could very well become Toronto's first saint. Born and raised in Liveri, Naples, Italy, she immigrated to Toronto in 1964, at the insistence of her siblings who were concerned about her health. Doctors suspected she had a rare form of cancer and gave her months to live. Sr. Carmelina, however, lived for another 24 years – bedridden in hospital, where she counselled thousands about their daily trials and tribulations.

Fr. Claudio Piccinini, Sr. Carmelina's confessor and spiritual director, weighs in below on her lasting impact.

Sr. Carmelina Tarantino, left, pictured with her spiritual director Fr. Claudio Piccinini. (Photo by Guido Capotosto)

1. How did you come to meet Sr. Carmelina?

On September 23, 1973, Fr. Luigi Malorzo, CP, and I participated in a radio call-in show called, "Let's Talk About It Together," on CHIN Radio. Not being able to answer all the callers, we gave the monastery's phone number so listeners could call us there. Sr. Carmelina was one of the listeners and she called me from her bed at Riverdale Hospital where she had been suffering from cancer since 1969. She called to compliment me on how I addressed faith issues.

2. How did you become her spiritual director?

I was deeply impressed with Sr. Carmelina's acceptance of her great suffering and I asked to meet her. During that meeting we spoke about our lives and what we were doing. Out of this conversation, Sr. Carmelina heard the scope of Società Unita - The United Society and Teopoli which is meant to promote family unity and to better fulfill our Christian vocation. She became a member and volunteered by spreading the news to her numerous family.

On New Year's Day 1974, I decided to spend the whole afternoon at the hospital in Sr. Carmelina's company. I brought the book *Journal of a Soul: The Autobiography of Pope John XXIII* and other religious reading materials.

In 1976, I called Sr. Carmelina to see how she was doing. I felt bad because I realized that we had not been in touch since January 1974. I met with her the next day. During that conversation, knowing that she was writing a diary, I asked if I could see it and she agreed. She presented me with the diary and there I learned for the first time that on June 2, 1975, Jesus had come to see her. I felt the need to ask Sr. Carmelina to ask Jesus whether or not I should be involved in her life. As a result of this discovery, I became her confessor and spiritual director.

3. What kinds of miracles did you see unfold at the hands of Sr. Carmelina?

As someone who was intimately involved with Sr. Carmelina's life, the first thing that comes to my mind is how day in and day out in that hospital room Sr. Carmelina accepted her suffering and used that acceptance for the greater glory of God and His mysterious love for every one of us.

This understanding was verified by other things that happened outside of her life. For example: an incident that took place in West Springfield, Massachusetts, where I was stationed at Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery.

A lady came to speak to a priest at our retreat house. I noticed that she was really distressed and was crying uncontrollably. She told me that she had come from her family doctor who had told her that she was never going to have a child because, as she put it, the doctor said there was no room in her womb to host a child.

She continued to cry uncontrollably. Not being a doctor, I really could not say much about what she had shared with me. I simply tried to say that she needed to have faith in God because if God meant for her to have a baby, she will have a baby.

As I said this, knowing that I could not help the lady in any significant way, I thought of Sr. Carmelina.

I mentioned to the woman that I had a friend in Toronto and I would ask her (Sr. Carmelina) to pray for the woman. I do not know exactly what she heard but she must have thought it was positive because she wiped her eyes, stood up, took her purse and was ready to leave.

I went to my room, called Sr. Carmelina and tried to explain this woman's situation to her. I asked if she could pray for her because of the tears she was shedding. Sr. Carmelina told me that she would pray for the woman.

About a week later, I called Sr. Carmelina and she told me to tell the woman that she would have a baby.

I was not surprised at what Sr. Carmelina was telling me. But I was concerned about calling the lady and telling her without any doubt that she would have a baby. I told the woman to trust in God and be grateful.

About a couple of months later, the woman came back to the retreat house wanting to speak to the Italian priest with a beard. I happened to be the only one fitting that description. There we were in the same room we were in previously but this time she was not crying. She proceeded to tell me that she was coming from her family doctor and the doctor told her she was expecting — even though the doctor did not believe it.

The doctor told her that he hoped the birth would be by cesarean so he could see where this baby was because, according to his conclusion, there was no room for the baby in her womb.

Nine months later, the woman was hospital about to have her baby by cesarean birth. Her husband was waiting outside of the operating room when its doors swung open, the doctor came out still wearing his operating uniform, approached the man and asked him, "Do you believe in miracles?"

The husband answered, "Yes, I do."

"Well, you just received one," The doctor concluded. "You are the father of an eleven pound baby."

The doctor walked down the corridor shaking his head incredulously.

I saw the baby a few days later and he was a big baby. Many years later, I saw the young man again and he was towering over his mother at over six feet tall.

There is no question in my mind that Sr. Carmelina intervened in a very beautiful and miraculous way. Such incidents happened more than 30 times when I stopped counting them.

4. What was Sr. Carmelina like?

I would describe Sr. Carmelina as prayerful, patient, welcoming, prudent, selfless, determined, strong and courageous.

5. She lived in pain for 24 years. What kept her going throughout that suffering?

She was deeply aware of the presence of God in her life and she knew that whatever happened to her was willed by God. She desired to respond to God's love by suffering in union with Jesus on the Cross.

6. What is the greatest lesson Sr. Carmelina taught to those around her?

Her patient suffering and constant trust in God's will gave those who visited her the desire to imitate her courage and accept whatever happened in their lives as God's will for them. It's important to understand and I quote:

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." Romans 6:5 (NRSV)

Even if we have never been called to suffer, the fact that we know that one day we will die will make us suffer. Suffering is a straight channel to God's heart.

Pittsburgh Associates Covenanting

Celebrated on the Feast of our Founder, St. Paul of the Cross.