

September 2020

Volume 5

Number 9

Passionist News Notes

St Paul of the Cross Province



Date	Birthday
2	HAVEY, Lee
	POWERS, John
4	MOCCIA, Bonaventure
5	CUSACK, Paul
8	TURNER, Daniel
15	CASEY, Kevin
	MCEACHERN, Bernard
19	CINQUEGRANI, David
22	JONES, Joseph
23	BECK, Edward
26	MCCANN, Thomas
28	DUNN, Stephen

Date	Professed
5	SKORKA, Terence
8	TURNER, Daniel
15	DROTAR, William

Date	Ordained
10	RYWALT, Lawrence



Short Video commentaries by Fr. Edward Beck, C.P.

IS THE END NEAR?

Pandemics, Earthquakes, Fires, Economic Distress...Are these signs that the end is near? Or is something else near that we prefer not to look at...?

Ass-U-Me

Do assumptions really make an...well, you know...

THE UNZIPPED PANTS OF JERRY FALWELL JR.

Why the unzipped pants of Jerry Falwell Jr. is a lesson for us all...

SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL

This past week my bed began to shake at 4:30 A.M. Not a normal occurrence for this celibate priest, I can assure you. It was a ...

The KO of AOC

How can we change the ways we talk to and about one another? An incident on the steps of the Capitol may be instructive. (4:00)

Provincial Updates

St. Paul of the Cross Province

August 10, 2020



Movements and Updates

Dear Brothers, Associates and Friends,

I hope that you are enjoying some time for renewal this summer, despite all that burdens our human family. I wanted to share some important information with you.

Luis Daniel Guivas, after spending a summer in Atlanta and having completed three years of theology, will now begin a pastoral year. During this year, Daniel will immerse himself in the lived experiences of the *Crucified of Today*. He will be ministering in Haiti (3 months), at the border in Mexico with the Passionists Sisters (3 months) and in NY studying the works of Thomas Berry and the encyclical *Laudato Si*, as well as assisting with the care of our infirmed brothers (3 months). Please pray for him as he deepens his solidarity with the Crucified of Today.

Cristian Martinez Montalvo spent his summer in New York feeding the hungry and is set to begin studies at CTU in September.

Samuel Joseph, who professed his first vows as a member of our province on July 4, 2020 in Mexico, is expected to come to Jamaica New York to begin studies in English at St. John's University this Fall.

Jonathan Ramos began his year of Novitiate in Mexico along with three young men from our Haitian Mission, **Daniel Cadet**, **Saverno Borsa**, **Adenald Fleury**. They join novices from Mexico and Dominican Republic.





John Gonzalez, a native of Puerto Rico, will begin a formal time of discernment with the Province this Fall beginning with several months in Jamaica, NY doing language studies and some initial work with the community.

Edwin Moran will join the Jamaica, N.Y community this month. We hold Edwin in our prayers and wish him well as he begins a new phase of life and ministry.

Anibal Rodriguez was appointed Pastor of Santa Gema Parish, Carolina, PR by Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez. We offer Anibal our continued support for all he does for the community.

Carlos Rodriguez was appointed Administrator of La Piedad Parish, Carolina, PR by Archbishop Gonzalez. Many blessings to Carlos.

Michael Salvagna will join the community in Scranton, PA. We accompany Michael with our prayers and fraternal support.

Important Dates:

- **Province Jubilee Celebrations** – On August 15, 2020 we ask all our communities to celebrate with their jubilarians. We will receive a special video tribute prepared by Jim Price. We are grateful for the years of service and inspiration our men have offered to the community and the world!
- **Province Zoom Meeting on Jamaica Retreat House** – Wednesday August 12, 2020, 3-5 pm – All province members and staffs are welcome to join the call.
- **Province Virtual Assembly** – We would like to host an assembly meeting of all province members on Thursday October 15, 2020. More information to follow.

Finally, we are filled with gratitude that all the men of the Jamaica community are, as of this week, now back home. The long hard road of the COVID crisis has, at least for now, eased, and our brothers have returned. Please offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God!

In JXP,

Fr. Jim O'Shea, CP
Provincial

Provincial Updates

St. Paul of the Cross Province

August 10, 2020



Queridos hermanos, asociados y amigos:

Espero que disfruten de un tiempo para la renovación este verano, a pesar de todo lo que agobia a nuestra familia humana. Quería compartir contigo información importante.

Luis Daniel Guivas, después de pasar un verano en Atlanta y haber completado tres años de teología, comenzará ahora un año pastoral. Durante este año, Daniel se sumergirá en las vivencias del Crucificado de Hoy. Estará ministrando en Haití (3 meses), en la frontera de México con las Hermanas Pasionistas (3 meses) y en Nueva York estudiando las obras de Thomas Berry y la encíclica Laudato Si, además de ayudar con el cuidado de nuestros hermanos enfermos. (3 meses). Oren por él mientras profundiza su solidaridad con el Crucificado de hoy.

Cristian Martinez Montalvo pasó su verano en Nueva York alimentando a los hambrientos y está programado para comenzar sus estudios en CTU en septiembre.

Se espera que **Samuel Joseph**, quien profesó sus primeros votos como miembro de nuestra provincia el 4 de julio de 2020 en México, venga a Jamaica Nueva York para comenzar sus estudios de inglés en St. John's University este otoño.

Jonathan Ramos comenzó su año de Noviciado en México junto con tres jóvenes de nuestra Misión Haitiana, **Daniel Cadet, Saverno Borsa, Adenald Fleury**. Se unen a novicios de México y República Dominicana.

John González, nativo de Puerto Rico, comenzará un tiempo formal de discernimiento con la Provincia este otoño comenzando con varios meses en Jamaica, Nueva York, haciendo estudios de idiomas y algo de trabajo inicial con la comunidad.

Edwin Moran se unirá a la comunidad de Jamaica, Nueva York este mes. Mantenemos a Edwin en nuestras oraciones y le deseamos lo mejor en el comienzo de una nueva etapa de vida y ministerio.

Anibal Rodríguez fue nombrado párroco de la parroquia de Santa Gema, Carolina, PR por el arzobispo Roberto González. Ofrecemos a Anibal nuestro apoyo continuo por todo lo que hace por la comunidad.

Carlos Rodríguez fue nombrado Administrador de la Parroquia La Piedad, Carolina, PR por el Arzobispo González. Muchas bendiciones para Carlos.


Michael Salvagna se unirá a la comunidad en Scranton, PA. Acompañamos a Michael con nuestras oraciones y apoyo fraterno.

Fechas importantes:

- **Celebraciones del Jubileo de la Provincia** - El 15 de agosto de 2020 pedimos a todas nuestras comunidades que celebren con sus jubilares. Recibiremos un video tributo especial preparado por Jim Price. ¡Estamos agradecidos por los años de servicio e inspiración que nuestros hombres han ofrecido a la comunidad y al mundo!
- **Reunión de Zoom de la Provincia en la Casa de Retiros de Jamaica** - Miércoles 12 de agosto de 2020, 3-5 pm - Todos los miembros y el personal de la provincia son bienvenidos a unirse a la llamada.
- **Asamblea Virtual de la Provincia** - Nos gustaría albergar una reunión de la asamblea de todos los miembros de la provincia el jueves 15 de octubre de 2020. Más información a continuación.

Finalmente, estamos llenos de gratitud porque todos los hombres de la comunidad de Jamaica están, a partir de esta semana, ahora de regreso a casa. El largo y duro camino de la crisis de COVID se ha aliviado, al menos por ahora, y nuestros hermanos han regresado. ¡Ofrezca una oración de acción de gracias a Dios!

En JXP,



P. Jim O'Shea, CP
Provincial

Video commemorating the 70th, 60th, 50th and 25th jubilees of our vowed members of St. Paul of the Cross Province.



Because we could not gather to celebrate these jubilees at our annual Assembly due to the pandemic, this video is a way for us as a province to mark this significant milestone for these men and to publicly acknowledge their vocation and dedication. *Fr. Tim Fitzgerald, C.P. was gracious enough to record a reflection on the meaning of this day in the name of all the jubilarians. As always, his eloquence and warmth continue to inspire us.*

To see Video Click [HERE](#)

KEEP CALM AND STAY POSITIVE



~ Letter from the Superior General to the Passionist Family ~

As I walked among the small crowd of people here in Rome yesterday afternoon, I noticed the sign on the T-shirt of a young man: *KEEP CALM AND STAY POSITIVE*. Not a bad message, I thought, for these times – but it is a big ask!

In my last letter, *ENCOURAGEMENT IN TRYING TIMES*, I reflected a little about “*living as hope*” ... and we must continue not to lose hope, without which we cannot ‘keep calm and stay positive’. But, for how much longer? It seems like our hopes have been dashed! No sooner have we weathered the storm caused by the Covid-19 pandemic with promising hopes that we’ve got things under control, than, like a tsunami, a ‘second wave’ of the Covid-19 virus (more devastating than the first) wreaks havoc – compounded by other natural and man-made disasters (like the devastating chemical explosion in Beirut). Not so easy to ‘*keep calm and stay positive*’ in these circumstances or to keep on clinging to the anchor of hope.

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the fact that everyone in the world faces ‘storms’ in life. No one is immune from the pain, difficulties and trials that is part of life. This pandemic is one particular ‘storm’ which we are currently battling in life.

In this letter, I wish to share with you some insights and reflections based on the Gospel story of Jesus walking on the stormy water and inviting Peter to do so also – Mt. 14: 22-33:

*“...while the boat, by now far out on the lake,
was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind.”*

In these lines we have a good symbolism for life and its vicissitudes. Life is like sailing on the high seas. As we grow up, we leave the safe shore and gradually sail farther and farther out to sea. And that’s where we meet with storms, strong winds, and heavy seas... problems, difficulties and trials. But it is important that we understand and reflect on the meaning and place of problems in life. Otherwise, we are bound to be terrified like the disciples and start “seeing ghosts” where there is only Jesus “walking on the water”.

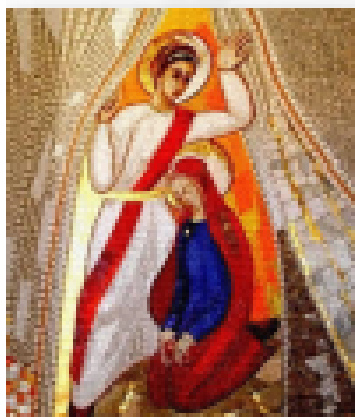


Problems are part of living and growing. They are opportunities for growth and invitations to grow. While we naturally look for solutions to our problems, we know from life’s experience that there are some problems which cannot be solved. In these situations, rather than becoming discouraged, losing faith or complaining, the more healthier and helpful way of looking at problems is to see them as opportunities for growth and invitations to grow. Could it be that when we become too complacent or comfortable that nature – and God – will ‘force’ us to move on by ‘putting a bomb under us’ in the

form of problems? Problems are God's and nature's way of making us grow. They are invitations and reminders of our call to grow.

It is true that some problems are created by ourselves through our own fault, negligence or sheer malice. We may have deviated from God's plan and that's when troubles begin: we lose our way. The problems that come in this way are in reality reminders and warnings that we are on the wrong track or heading in the wrong direction and that we had better retrace our steps and go back to the original path or else we lose our way. The call is to change – if not the situation, then oneself. Your change is growth.

There is no doubt that the problem of Covid-19 has seriously disturbed us in so many ways. Like the disciples in the midst of the storm, we are frightened and terrified and perhaps even start to see 'ghosts'. But this sort of disturbance is an inseparable companion of growing. In growing, we leave one familiar stage where we enjoy 'at-homeness' and enter a new and unfamiliar stage. It is natural to feel lost and disturbed in unfamiliar grounds. But the disturbance is an indication that we have entered a new, higher stage of growth. The disturbance that we suffer when we encounter a problem is a sign that something new and wonderful is taking place or about to take place, namely, that God has entered our life and is going to do something beautiful. Now, when God enters our life, we will be disturbed. Because when God comes into our life, He does so to rearrange it, and rearrangement always brings with it newness and the loss of familiarity. But, when the rearrangement is done by God Himself, we can be sure the result will be beautiful.



We can get assurance of this in the example of Mary. When God entered Mary's life, she too was disturbed – “*deeply disturbed*” – according to Luke 1:29. But she was immediately reassured: “*Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favour in God's eyes...*” (vs. 30). God entered Mary's world to rearrange her life plans; that is why she was disturbed. But the result was even more beautiful than her own already beautiful original plan. She had found favour with God, i.e., she had become God's favourite. Similarly, when we are disturbed by our problems, let us prayerfully reflect and discern God's intervention and find favour in God's eyes.

But problems also bring pain, which, like problems, is a sign of growth...either a sign that one is growing, or a sign (a warning) that one must grow. The following story by Khalil Gibran (“The Oysters”) makes the point:

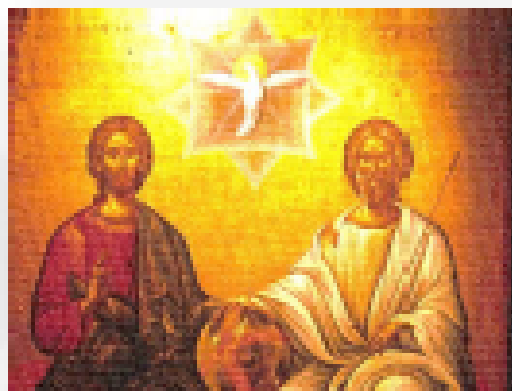
One day two oysters were conversing on the seashore. The first oyster said to the other, «Woe to me! There is something very heavy and painful within me. I cannot jump, I cannot play.» The second oyster said, «Thanks to the heavens and to the sea! There is nothing heavy and painful within me. I can jump and I can play.» A turtle, which was then passing by, overheard their conversation and said to the second oyster, «Yes, it is true. There is nothing heavy and painful within you, so you can jump and play, while your neighbour – there is something heavy and painful within her, so she cannot jump, she cannot play. But I tell you this: that something heavy and painful within her is the pearl that is growing.»

The pain caused by the problems that you carry can be a sign that the 'pearl' within you is growing...you are growing into a person.

Of course, there are times when problems become overwhelming and the pain is unbearable. In the present situation of the pandemic many people, including ourselves, have found it extremely difficult to cope, to hope and to believe. Perhaps we have complained that God has forsaken us, and precisely when we need Him most. However, the revealed Word of God, and our Passionist spirituality, assures us that there is absolutely no chance of God ever abandoning us, especially in our darkest moments:

*«I shall not forget you.
Look, I have engraved you
on the palms of my hands.»
(Is.49:15-16)*

*«God loved the world so much
that He gave His only Son
so that whoever believes in Him
may not be lost but may have eternal life.»
(Jn.3:16)*



KEEP CALM AND STAY POSITIVE.

When the heavy sea and the headwinds become frightening, listen to that voice behind the storm, or from within the storm: *“Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.”* Or when you find yourself sinking like Peter, cry out like him: *“Lord, save me!”*

- ❖ IN WHAT WAYS CAN THIS CURRENT PROBLEM BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH FOR YOU?
- ❖ IN WHAT WAYS IS GOD ASKING YOU TO GROW BECAUSE OF THIS PROBLEM?
- ❖ CAN YOU FIND IT IN YOU TO THANK GOD FOR THIS PROBLEM, AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH?

DISTURB US, O LORD

Disturb us, O Lord

when we are too well-pleased with ourselves;
when our dreams have come true
because we dreamed too little;
when we have arrived in safety
because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord

when with the abundance of things we possess
we have lost our thirst for the water of life;
when, having fallen in love with Time,
we have ceased to dream of Eternity;
and in our efforts to build new earth
have allowed our vision for the New Heaven
to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord

to dare more boldly,
to venture on the wider sea,
where storms shall show Thy Majesty,
where losing sight of land
we shall find the stars.
In the name of Him
who pushed back the horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow Him.

¶ m e n.


- Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P.
Superior General

10 August 2020