



# IN BETWEEN

## Holy Cross Province

### October 2020

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October 2020

Dear Passionist Family:

***For Everything There is a Season,  
and a Time to Every Matter Under the Heaven:***  
--Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (RSV)

When we pray over the entire passage, we realize that God has a full spectrum of grace and opportunities, as well as challenges and difficulties. We are in the eighth month of the pandemic, and our lives have undoubtedly covered many seasons that have clouded our skies with uncertainty. Yet, we are called to be children of light and of hope. We are sons and daughters, born to serve and love others where the need is great. We are created in the image of a God, who is Love.



As Passionists, we are assured that no matter the season, God is always with us. He guides and provides us the grace to see each other through times like what we are currently experiencing. Let us not allow the cloudy skies of today block the sure light of hope that has been entrusted to us each day in name of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. It is He who shows us the light where we are able to serve others. With all the needs that are out there among God's people, the only season that matters today under the heaven is to whom God calls you and I to serve. Yes, now is the season of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

#### **Vision Fulfillment Process:**

The Vision Fulfillment Commission continues to move forward the *Call to Action* from the June 2019 Provincial Chapter through the Vision Fulfillment Teams. The identified Project Proposals are to be undertaken by various entities and organizations throughout the Province. Over these past few months, the Vision Fulfillment Teams have been meeting with Tim O'Brien, our facilitator, to move these Project Proposals forward.

There are now plans for a *Leadership Day of Reflection* via Zoom on December 3 in preparation for a *Leadership Day Update on the Vision Fulfillment Process* via Zoom on December 10. This day is to review the progress of the identified Project Proposals and how these are being addressed by the various Working Groups they are assigned to across the Province.

Our Vision Fulfillment Newsletters will help keep you updated on our steps forward. Together, with God's help, let us keep this process in our prayers as we secure the future of our Passionist Mission as Holy Cross Province.

## **Passionist Solidarity Network:**

### ***Waking Up: Conversations about race for the Passionist Family***

Having ministered in the African American Community for nine years back in the 1980s in Birmingham, AL, as you can imagine, racism was prevalent. Today, I realize it is still going on, and that I still have much more to learn about racism.

I just read an article about a Catholic African American farming family in Louisiana. The family had been stymied by their local bank in obtaining timely crop loans. Even the local branch of the United States Department of Agriculture could not be of help. Unfortunately, the family lost their farm to foreclosure in what appears to be discrimination. The family and the bank have been in court since 2018 attempting to resolve this case. If you would like to listen to or read the story, here are the links:

**[Episode 5, Part 1](#)**

**[Episode 5, Part 2](#)**

David Horvath, Lissa Romell and Jack Conley, C.P., are continuing their series titled *Conversations about race for the Passionist Family*. I invite you to be a part of the conversation. This conversation is essential to our mission as Holy Cross Province and to the broader Passionist Congregation. To find out more, please click either of the following links:

**[Click here](#) for more information.**

**[Click here](#) to register.**

When I began my ministry at our Holy Family Parish and Schools in Birmingham, AL, I realized that I was living in a bubble. I was protected from the issue of race that the parishioners grew up in and were going through. Today, I still live in that bubble, for I can never experience what they experienced. I can see through the bubble a little bit more clearly now as to what is happening because I have taken the time to listen to the stories they tell me.

## **The Association of Local Superiors (ALS) and its Zoom Gatherings:**

Under the leadership of Phil Paxton, C.P., as chair, the ALS has been gathering via Zoom monthly since March with the Provincial alternating between faith sharing and a business meeting. These gatherings have been especially supportive, productive, and informative and helps us to keep in contact with each other during this time of separation.

## **Alex Steinmiller, C.P., and his Zoom Meetings - *An opportunity to share as members of the Province:***

Alex Steinmiller, C.P., has started a series of dialogues with some of the vowed members in the Province sharing issues that we face as a Province and as a society. These meetings have had good participation and continue to overcome the distance between us as we seek to build our future together.

## Passionist Retreat Centers:

Back in March, the retreat center directors and some of the administrators started to meet weekly to support each other and to share their stories, successes, and challenges. The board chairs, along with the myself and Elizabeth Velarde, have been gathering every other month to share their stories, successes and challenges, too.

## Nicholas Divine, C.P.:

We congratulate Nicholas Divine, C.P., on his call by the people of God to the Order of the Diaconate on September 26, 2020. We are blessed to have him among us serving as a Passionist in his new assignment as Director of Ministry at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center in Houston, TX. Our prayers are with Nicholas and the staff of Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center as they move into their new retreat season. The retreat center and our other ministries face the challenges the pandemic presents us and requires us to adapt to a whole new way of ministry.

## Let us remember in prayer:

Please keep in your prayers Ronan Newbold, C.P.; Clemente Barron, C.P.; and Alan Phillip, C.P., for health issues they are dealing with.

I also ask prayers for myself, though my health issue is nothing life threatening. I am doing well, have undergone two surgeries and have the possibility of two more surgeries to go. A nurse asked me questions about whether the surgery was work related, due from coal dust or asbestos. I finally answered her, "It is from getting older." I guess 71 is my year.

I thank the Lord that I have the ability and the insurance coverage to pay for my doctor visits, surgeries and medications, and that I have the time to heal with the support and prayers of my community and family. I am blessed, as I realize that many people in our country do not have that ability.

Let us continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic, those who are sick and those who are caretakers. Let us also pray for those who have lost loved ones and homes due to the fires and floods and those on the front line - the firefighters and the first responders.

## Upcoming Events:

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|---------------------------|---|
| • October 7, 2020         | Province Retreat Center Board Meeting, via Zoom                           |
| • <b>October 20, 2020</b> | <b>Feast of St. Paul of the Cross</b>                                     |
| • October 21-23, 2020     | Provincial Council Meeting, via Zoom                                      |
| • October 26-29, 2020     | 2020 CMSM Safeguarding Workshop, via Zoom                                 |
| • December 3, 2020        | <i>Leadership Day of Reflection</i> , via Zoom                            |
| • December 10, 2020       | <i>Leadership Day Update on the Vision Fulfillment Process</i> , via Zoom |
| • December 16-18, 2020    | Provincial Council Meeting, via Zoom                                      |
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- October 4-6, 2021 Inter-Council Meeting of North American Passionists, North Palm Beach, FL
- October 9-10, 2021 Configuration of Jesus Crucified Meeting, Rome, Italy
- October 11-23, 2021 Passionist Congregation General Synod, Rome, Italy



### **Conclusion:**

I wish to thank all of you who offered your prayers for the loss of my brother, Tom, who passed away in August. I appreciate it very much.

I pray that you may have a blessed Feast of St. Paul of the Cross. As his true sons and daughters, let us continue sharing the Passionist charism with all those in need.

Let us keep each other in prayer.

God bless,

Joe Moons, C.P.  
Provincial Superior

***“May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts”***