



Into the Immense Sea of God's Love and Passion...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Greetings!...

On 22 November 2020, the Passionist Congregation will kick-off the third centenary celebrations of the foundation of the Congregation. I think it is a precious occasion to reflect on the centrality of our Charism – the *Memoria Passionis*...

As we mark this important milestone in our Congregation's life, all of us, in one way or another, are grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic. Some will be struggling to cope with the loss of their loved ones to Covid-19, many will be agonizing over their dear ones who are battling with the effects of corona virus in hospitals, in quarantine centers or at home. Many will be reeling under economic hardships caused by the loss of job, business, etc. and will be struggling to make both ends meet. Many will be careworn with a sense of hopelessness for the future.

What does the Charism of the Passion say to us in this situation?

The genius of St. Paul of the Cross lay in recognizing that all the sufferings of humanity, past, present, and future, are implicitly contained in the *immense ocean of Christ's Passion*. The Passion of Christ for him was also an *ocean of God's love*. The challenges of 18th century Italy caused by the devastating wars, sickness and poverty affected Paul of the Cross deeply. In his mission to the people of his time struggling with those challenges, and in order not to sound hollow, he had to withdraw into solitude to be "where the heart dwells". Because he realized that every "true beginning never starts with an addition but with a subtraction, with a retreat", (Fr. Stanislaus Breton CP). To make sense of what was going on around him he had to spend time swimming, as it were, in the ocean of God's love and Christ's Passion — to contemplate the Crucified love. It was only then that he was able to go out and tell the people of the Tuscan Maremma, reeling under poverty, sickness, and hopelessness not to lose hope. He was able to help people to identify with the crucified Jesus who cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He was able to help people find energy and meaning to sustain themselves in their difficult times, for in the measure in which our sufferings are contained in the Passion of Christ, they take on a super-eminent value, which in turn, associate us to the redemptive function.



In the midst of the pandemic we need to pull back to re-evaluate our priorities, decisions and overall way of life, because it cannot be "just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing" (Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti*).

Consequently, *memoriapassionis* and *memoriaresurrectionis* cannot be separated. There is hope and hope will not fail us. We will come out of these trying times, albeit painfully but more hopefully, strengthened and renewed. Then, we will be able to begin anew with changed perspectives and priorities of life. Our mission as Christians will continue to proclaim the love of God in the Passion of Jesus Christ. It is my hope that the celebration of our third centenary will help us to delve more deeply into that immense ocean of God's love and Christ's Passion, so that we can be renewed in our life and mission as Passionists.

Despite the pandemic situation, all of us celebrated the feast of our founder in a fitting manner. May his life and example continue to inspire and guide us.

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

Fr. Paul Cherukoduth, C.P.
Vice Provincial

UPDATES

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

Tomy -03

Moncy -14

Ordination

Jenish -20

Profession

Jackson -10

Jithin -10

Feast days

Bl. Pio Campedeli 03

Bl. Eugene Bosilkov 13

Bl. Grimaldo Santa Maria 18

Presentation of BVM 21

Feast of St. Paul of the Cross celebrated at Kochi Community. Fr. Paul Presided over the Eucharist joined by members of the Passionist Lay Movement.



Communities around Kochi gathered at Pallipport to celebrate the feast of St. Paul of the Cross. Fr. Thomas presided over the Eucharist. (Below)





Fr. Antony C presided over the Eucharist at Jeevadhama to celebrate the feast of our Founder. Philosophy students and Jyothir Bhavan Community joined in Bangalore. (Above)



Fr. Einstein presided over the feast celebration at Bophal community & Philosophy students attend online classes. (Above)



Nilambur Community joined for feast at Shrine of St. Theresa of Avila at Mahe where Dn. Antony is ministering. (Above)

Randham Community celebrated the feast of St. Paul of the Cross & St. Gabriel's Youth put up a drama on St. Paul of the Cross. (Below)



Church Construction at Randham reached the ground level. Villagers generously render their free labour. (Below)





Rosary month celebration concluded at Jeevadhama Community with neighbouring families and CTC Sisters



JPIC's Covid-19 Relief: Palliport community distributed vegetables seedling to the parish faithful. (Above)



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