



### Passionists throughout the World



### Fr. Jim O’Shea C.P. in a video podcast of “Ask a CEO”



[Video](#)

Greg Dermetriou, CEO of Lorraine Gregory, produced a Podcast called “Ask a CEO” and interviewed Fr. Jim O’Shea, C.P. about his “CEO” leadership with Brooklyn and as Provincial of St Paul Providence. Greg asked some very astute questions about how the Reconnect got started as a business and Fr. Jim’s leadership style. This is a very informative give and take interview..



Day	Passionists
2	DOUGLAS, John
9	CLEARY, Christopher
10	GEINZER, Patrick
27	AVILES MERCADO, Javier Montalvo

# Provincial Update



Dear Brothers & Friends,

The Buddhist tradition employs a *koan* as a spiritual tool – a proposed enigma that, when pondered by the seeker, exhausts the rational mind so that the soul might be open to a deeper experience of the **transcendent**. The feast of Christmas is, without question, a great *koan*!

We ponder the Divine taking human flesh through the consent of a perpetual virgin. We ponder the Divine born as an outcast - rejected by the powerful but welcomed by the poor. We ponder the Divine seeking to love, but ultimately being crucified for love's sake. We ponder it all and our rational minds are soon exhausted and we are forced to surrender to the Divine's ingenious love!

In this mystical time of Holy Nativity, we, as a province, take special note of the following:

**Timothy Fitzgerald**, who just celebrated his 70 years as a Passionist, has arrived to the Jamaica house. The community welcomed Tim with joy and is assisting in his transition after his stellar life and ministry in Pittsburgh. Tim is a scholar, a spiritual teacher and director as well as being just a very graced human being. Tim will bring much to the New York Community and we all look forward to him continuing his Passionist and ministerial life in this new phase of his journey. Welcome Tim!

**Daniel Guivas** has completed four months in Haiti and is now spending one month in New York processing his experience in Haiti and studying the encyclical *Laudato Si* and the works of **Thomas Berry**. In February he will join the mission of the Passionist Sisters at the Mexico-US border working with migrants. We welcome Daniel to New York for rest, reflection and study.

**John Gonzalez** completed a three-month experience at the Jamaica house. John was warmly welcomed into the community's life as well as working on the new retreat house project, assisting in the parish on Sundays and studying English under the generous tutelage of **Victor Hoagland** and **Jerry Bracken**. After having received an initial positive evaluation by house members, he is returning to Puerto Rico and has been invited to make a full application to enter our formation process. Please remember John in your prayers.

Our **Novices** in Mexico are all doing well, despite having all contracted the COVID-19 virus. We continue to remember them as they journey through this year of discernment. Please remember the mother of **Jonathan Ramos** who is quite ill.

**Enzo Del Brocco**, along with his vocation team, and **Anibal Rodriguez** have been working with several young men who have strong interest in our life. Please pray for them!

**Moises Rios**, after a period of discernment, has requested, and received permission, to seek incardination in the Diocese of Mayaguez, PR. We all wish Moises well as he begins this new period of his life and ministry.

**Virtual Province Assembly** - please continue 'Saving the Date' for our Assembly on *Wednesday February 10, 2021*. This will be a new type of experience, but we look forward with expectation. **Jim Price** is orchestrating the event and is working with the same tech company which the Holy Cross Province used for their assembly which was very successful. Communities will receive some materials for reflection and discussion prior to the event.

**Virtual Province Leadership** - the previous day, *Tuesday February 9, 2021*, we will have the virtual leadership meeting. Invitations will be sent out to leaders and a request for your input as we create the agenda. Jim Price will be in contact with you.

**Province Visitations** will begin in January 2021. The majority of the visitations will be done 'virtually' to maintain the safety of all involved. Individual Consultors will be in touch with local communities to schedule the 'visits'.

*As we come to the end of this year*, I imagine we feel a bit 'drained' by all that has happened, and continues to happen. Many of our men have suffered the isolation, anxiety and sickness of the Virus. We have all shared an 'altered' life and the persistent sacrifice of 'distance'. We have lost our brothers, **Jack Connor, Neil Davin** and **Ted Walsh** to death, and many of us have said farewell to close members of our natural families. Our ministries have struggled and we are more aware than ever of the fragility of so much we took for granted. It has, without doubt, been a *long* year.

And yet, from where I sit, the emerging and ingenious Passionist charism continues to surprise – from San Juan to Toronto, from Montauk to Pittsburgh and everywhere in between. There are courageous conversations and bold actions taking place. Our community is grappling with what 'renewal' looks like. Our province is grappling with what 'witness' we will offer to the young, who are now coming into the province in larger numbers than for decades. Yes, we are participating in **Nativity**. Like all 'birthing', it is both exhilarating and excruciating. It demands of us - 'letting go' and 'taking up'. It demands of us- trust, patience and a fair bit of mysticism.

**Dorothy Day** wrote that, "*we have all known the long loneliness, and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes from community*". It is truly a *koan* that our very Passionist community presents us. We have come from so many places, yet we have become 'brothers'. There is no natural bond – only a bond that comes from a shared **dream**.

We celebrate and suffer for this **dream**. We inspire and disappoint one another for this **dream**. We push the world beyond its comfort to embrace this **dream**. But this is the 'only answer' – we are a **dreaming** community – it is our privilege and our burden to gratefully encounter anew the Eternal God of Nativity.

Can we imagine anything better to celebrate this Christmas? – a *koan*, for sure.

A blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year to each and all!

In JXP,



Fr. Jim O'Shea, CP  
Provincial  
December 24, 2020

# A Christmas message all the way from "The End".

by Fr. Robert Joerger, C.P.



[Video](#)



## SUPERIOR GENERAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2020

### **My dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in the Passionist Family,**

It's been quite a year, hasn't it? And I am not referring to the great preparations we all made and the wonderful opening celebrations of our Congregation's Jubilee Year. No! Rather, what I am referring to is probably nothing like anything most of us have experienced in our lifetime: something so terribly significant and frightfully impacting on our lives that it will surely be recorded in the textbooks of history for future ages. We have become used to speaking about "The Pandemic": a Corona virus named "COVID-19" that brought the world to a standstill, wreaking havoc in the physical, mental, social and economic lives of people, causing immense trauma and claiming some millions of lives in death.

The Covid-19 has gripped and paralyzed our lives for most of this year, causing us to live as best as possible in a prevention-survival mode, with hope

for that vaccine which we believed would be our savior. Then, in the days before Christmas 2020, almost as a Christmas gift, vaccines have been approved and rolled out, and as though in another Advent mode, everyone is waiting in hope to be saved from COVID-19. Yes, we surely are grateful and thank God and the scientists and researchers for this gift! But is this the 'savior' we have been waiting for?

For the past weeks in the liturgical season of Advent, we have been preparing ourselves by doing some personal 'house cleaning' in order to create some extra space for welcoming into our lives JESUS CHRIST – our true HOPE! He is the true SAVIOR of the world. He is the true GIFT, the PROMISE of LIFE ETERNAL – through God, with God and in God. The spiritual experience of our **“waiting in hope”** during the time of Advent, and our eager expectation for the presence of someone special, is now celebrated with joy and relief as we commemorate the birth of Jesus on this Christmas day: the coming of *Immanuel – God-with-us (Mt. 1:23)*. We remember that He, too, has lived this pandemic and accompanied us during this crisis.



Let us find comfort and joy, strength and peace, promise and hope in the message announced by the angels in Bethlehem and renewed once again in us: *“Today...a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” (Lk. 2:11)*. This Savior lives the human experience and walks the human journey with us, showing us by example a pathway to follow – not a pathway proposed

by the values of this world which is dominated by power, competition and oppression; but a pathway in accordance with the values of God's kingdom found in self-emptying, solidarity and vulnerable love.

May the commemoration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of our Passionist Congregation which we are celebrating as a Jubilee Year with the theme: *Renewing our Mission – Gratitude, Prophecy, Hope* empower us to recommit ourselves to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and, by imitating his example, bring him to birth into a world seeking to be saved.

Perhaps the following can be our prayer and commitment to be renewed. It was composed by a Malaysian priest, paraphrased from the popular Prayer of St. Francis...

**LORD,**

**make me a channel to share Jesus this Christmas**

If I have taken others for granted, let me express appreciation.

If I have unforgiveness towards another, let me reconcile.

If I have been harsh in my words and actions, let me show kindness.

**Make me a channel to share Jesus this Christmas**

If I have judged others, let me show compassion and understanding.

If I have gossiped, let me now encourage

If I have not cared about others, let me make space.

**O JESUS**

**grant that I may never forget**

That you came to live amongst us so that I may see

That you came to love us so that I may feel

That you came to hold us so that I may be loved.

Respecting the measures imposed by the health and government authorities for the common good, and with a spirit of sacrifice and care for others:

***Have a blessed Christmas***  
***with your community, family and friends.***

***Be attentive to those who may need some assistance,***  
***and best wishes for a hope-filled New Year.***

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

# Christmas Greetings from Haiti

From Fr. Rick Frechette , C.P.



[Video](#)