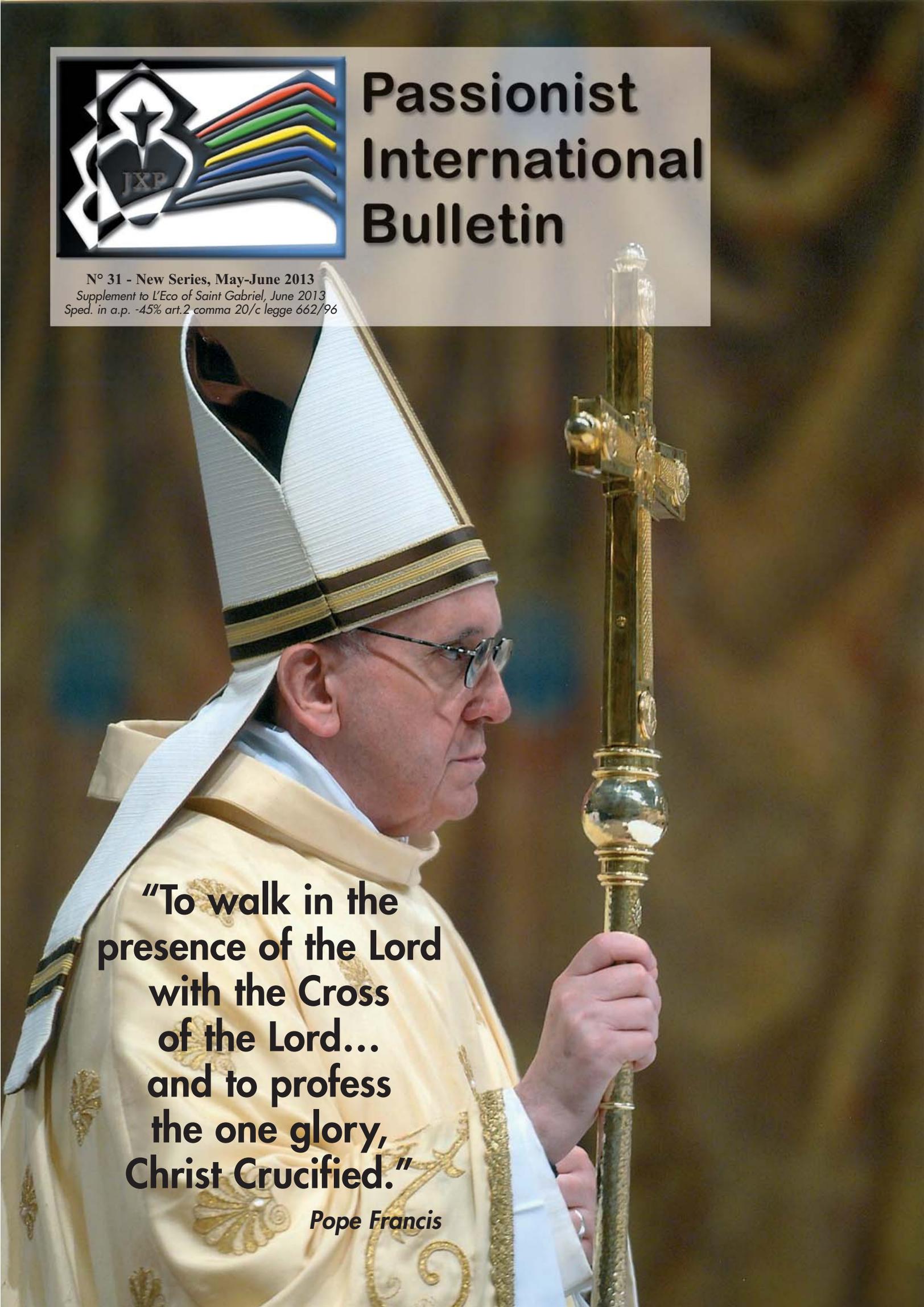




Passionist International Bulletin

N° 31 - New Series, May-June 2013
Supplement to L'Eco of Saint Gabriel, June 2013
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**"To walk in the
presence of the Lord
with the Cross
of the Lord...
and to profess
the one glory,
Christ Crucified."**

Pope Francis

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Il Superiore Generale

CIRCULAR LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

“Look, I am doing something new, now it emerges; can you not see it?” (Is. 43:19)

I find this inspired word of God tremendously hopeful and motivating. It shakes me from my lethargy and challenges me “to look”, “to see” – not just with the human eye and not just what is on the surface – but to “look and see” much deeper with the enlightened mind and heart, which necessarily calls for a *deep listening* to all of life – and the God of Life. I believe this *listening* and *seeing* to be the contemplative dimension which is an inherent part of every human person and, it goes without saying, a necessary dimension of our Passionist life and vocation.



“I believe this *listening* and *seeing* to be the contemplative dimension which is an inherent part of every human person and...a necessary dimension of our Passionist life and vocation.”

In the story of salvation, God was constantly leading and guiding the people to see their future with hope – especially when they lost their way, or found themselves in difficult situations. God was calling them (often through their leaders) to see deeper with renewed minds and hearts what God was doing, and consequently what change and renewal was asked of them in their relationship with God, with others and with the whole universe.

“Look, I am doing something new, now it emerges; can you not see it?” (Is. 43:19)

“Yes, I know what plans I have in mind for you...plans for peace, not for disaster; to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer. 29:11)

The Holy Spirit who is moving in our lives and our world is a renewing Spirit, constantly re-creating anew... *“Can you not see it?”* We need to *see* with renewed minds and hearts, to *look deeper* for the movement of the Spirit, and to *listen* and *respond* to the call for ongoing renewal.

Like it or not, newness and renewal means change, which is a normal part of life and growth and transformation for all created things. As difficult as we find and experience change, on the one hand there is nothing that we can do about it, because it is just part of how life is and how things are. Therefore, we must embrace change; it is inevitable. Cardinal Newman said: *“To grow is to change, and to have changed often is to have grown much.”*

On the other hand, our resistance to the change which is within our control, only serves to stunt our growth, keep our vision narrow, and perpetuate a future that is lifeless and hopeless. Someone put it this way: *“People need change. It awakens something deep inside allowing them to grow. Without change something sleeps inside and seldom awakes.”*

The 46th General Chapter - Passionist Life: Solidarity and Mission

The General Chapter held at the Retreat of SS John and Paul in Rome from 9th September to 7th ➔



October 2012 was a time of renewal. The Capitulars, representing all the areas of the Congregation, gathered to discern and to listen to the Spirit renewing and calling us to be more authentic Passionists in our life and mission in today's world.

Precisely because the Chapter was a time of renewal, *change* is an inevitable consequence. The 46th General Chapter instituted a new time in the history of the Congregation, principally through the decrees it promulgated and the decisions it took, which cannot, and must not, leave any of us going about life and carrying on as we have always done; as if nothing has changed. The typical attitude of fear and control is: *"this is how we have always done it!"* This kind of attitude will only lead to a deafness and blindness, a fearful resistance to the *"something new"* which God is doing, and which will be an obstacle to the hopeful plans of God's future and God's dream.

Listen again: *"Look, I am doing something new, now it emerges; can you not see it?"* (Is. 43:19)

Configurations: Solidarity for Passionist Life and Mission

The 46th General Chapter confirmed and institutionalised the six 'Configurations' which we have been developing. These consist of mutually supportive entities which have been building closer ties and relationships of collaboration over the past 4 years, focusing on Solidarity, particularly in the areas of formation, personnel and finance so as to give greater vitality to the Passionist life and mission. Each Configuration has chosen the best way to work together and to collaborate having developed solidarity structures suited for their respective Configuration. Four of the Configurations have chosen to work as an aggregation of several autonomous juridical entities (i.e. Provinces, Vice Provinces, Vicariates); while two of the Configurations have chosen the path of a single juridical entity with different internal structures (i.e. a Province with regions).

The Configurations – which is a new way of being Passionists in today's world and church – will continue to develop. In my homily at the closing of the Chapter, I stated: *"This remains a great challenge and calls for a radical response from us all. This radical response means a renewal of mind and attitudes; collaboration through dialogue; the removal of barriers and a letting-go of 'my patch' which has kept us safe and secure."* Without genuine conversion (metanoia, renewal) - both personal and communal - nothing will change. Therefore, I believe, we must consciously make efforts to engage in dialogue with one another; to grow in respect of the diversity of cul-



"Without genuine conversion (metanoia, renewal) - both personal and communal - nothing will change."

tures; to accept and not fear difference; to be aware of the subtleties in language which we use (e.g. 'ours' instead of 'mine'); to share personnel, formation and financial resources where most needed so that, not 'parts', but 'the whole' may benefit. I encourage you to proceed in this spirit.

In order to promote the work of solidarity and guard the efficacy of the Configurations, the Chapter decided that the Configuration leaders (Presidents/Coordinators) will be a consultative body meeting with the General Council at least once annually as the "Extended Council".

The six Configurations established by the General Chapter are:

- **Configuration of Blessed Eugene Bossilkov (CEB):** PRAES, DOL, PIET, CORM, LAT, CFXI (Italy), MICH (France), FAT (Portugal, including Angola, Bulgaria & Nigeria). *This Configuration has chosen the model of a single juridical entity by 2015.*
- **Configuration of Jesus Crucified (CJC):** PAUL, CRUC (USA), REG (Mexico), CALV, LAT-ISID, PRAES-DOMIN, SPE-LIBER, DOL-VICT (Brazil, including Mozambique), CONC (Argentina, Uruguay), PAC (Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico).
- **Configuration of the Sacred Heart (SCOR):** CORI, FAM, SANG (Spain, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama), FID (Colombia), CORI-RES (Peru). *This Configuration has chosen to be a single Province by July 2013.*
- **Configuration of Passionists of Asia and Pacific (PASPAC):** SPIR (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea), PASS (Philippines), MACOR



(Korea, including China), REPAC (Indonesia), MAIAP (Japan), THOM (India), LAVA (Vietnam).

- **Configuration of Saint Charles Houben (CCH):** ASSUM (Poland, Ukraine, Czech Republic), GABR (Belgium), IOS (England, Wales, Sweden), PATR (Ireland, Scotland, France), SPE (The Netherlands, North Germany), VULN (South Germany, Austria).
- **Configuration of the Passionists of Africa (CPA):** SALV (Congo), CORM-GEMM (Tanzania), PATR-MATAF (Botswana, Zambia, South Africa), CORM-CARLW (Kenya).
- **Change and Growth toward Maturity**

The General Chapter approved the elevation of several entities to a greater autonomous status thereby recognising their respective growth to maturity. These are:

The Vice Province of Holy Faith (FID Colombia) as a Province; The Vicariate of Our Lady of Peace (CORI-PAC The Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico) as a Vice Province; The Vicariate of St. Thomas the Apostle (CRUC-THOM India) as a Vice Province; The Brazilian Vicariates of Blessed Dominic Barberi (PRAES-DOMIN), Christ Liberator (SPE-LIBER) and Our Lady of Victory (DOL-VICT) as a Province in 2014.

In addition, the Chapter approved the request of the Provinces of Calvary (CALV Brazil), Immaculate Conception (CONC Argentina) and the Vicariate of Blessed Isidore de Loor (LAT-ISID Brazil) to form one new Province in 2016.

These are bold moves! But it is encouraging to see the growth and confidence by these entities towards greater autonomy on the one hand, while, on the other hand, recognising also the need for support and dependence. With the reality today of growing and declining areas of the Congregation, we need to find new and effective ways, not just to keep the name of the Passionist Congregation alive, but more importantly, “to keep alive the Memory of the Passion” – that for which we exist in the Church and for what is our mission in the world.

Plan for Prophetic Mission as Passionists Today

Over the past 12 years, the Congregation has made great efforts and strides in Restructuring for the sake of revitalising and giving greater authenticity to our Passionist life and mission. The 46th General Chapter highlighted six aspects of our life and mission as a prophetic vision for Passionists today. In the homily of the closing Mass of the Chapter, I stated my desire



“With the reality today of growing and declining areas of the Congregation, we need to find new and effective ways, not just to keep the name of the Passionist Congregation alive, but more importantly, “to keep alive the Memory of the Passion”.

that “*focusing on these areas of our life and mission in the local realities we hope will give an impetus to the whole Passionist Family to be affirmed in their identity, witness and reason for existence.*”

If change and growth is to be effective, then we cannot just keep on going as we always have. We must search for new ways for a new time! I strongly encourage each Configuration, entity and local community to give attention in your reflections and plans to the following aspects of our life and ministry as discerned by the Chapter:

Community Life – Identity – Charism

While it is true that the subject of ‘Community Life’ comes up at every Chapter (be it Provincial or General), I felt that the General Chapter expressed a great concern and deep desire for a renewal of our community life so as to be rooted in our Passionist identity and charism: “*To be witnesses to the power of the Lord, Crucified and Risen*”.

I wholeheartedly commend to you the following actions of the Chapter: Undertaking a ‘community life project’ with regular reviews; Discerning and reflecting on the constitutive elements of the Passionist Community and its effectiveness for our life and mission; The inter-connection between our community life and apostolate.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

As Passionists, we believe that the Passion of Christ continues in the suffering people and creation of all times – especially those we encounter in our



daily life and ministry who are treated unjustly, exploited, marginalised and are searching for meaning and hope. Our Passionist vocation equips us to find and experience this hope in Jesus Crucified and to communicate God's compassion and love through the saving Word of the Cross.

The Chapter challenges us: To a genuine solidarity with "the crucified" of the world as a response of our charism; To establish JPIC Commissions as effective structures to inform our formation, to reflect on our charism, and to promote solidarity; To be a voice for the voiceless and suffering humanity and creation through 'Passionists International'.

Evangelization and New Evangelization

As Passionists, we are to find new ways and expressions of proclaiming the Good News of the Word of the Cross which speak to the varied cultures and traditions in which we minister, to those who feel alienated in the Church, and to fostering dialogue within our ecumenical and inter-religious reality.

The Chapter encourages: Evangelization teams of religious and lay people; Formation in our preaching apostolate through study, prayer and renewal courses; Use of modern mass media and new forms of proclamation.

Formation in Passionist Spirituality

There has been a growing appreciation of the need for formation in our Passionist charism and spirituality so that the specific nature of our witness and mission may be emphasised.

The Chapter highlighted: The creation of an Office for Formation for the Congregation; The need for formation plans/programs for religious and laity of the Passionist Family; The need for greater research and resources on our charism, history and spirituality;

Facilitation and promotion of dialogue among and between formation personnel in the Congregation.

Passionist Laity

The Passionist charism is a gift of the Spirit for the life of the Church. We recognise as part of the Passionist Family all those lay men and women who share our charism and, in respect of this fact, the 46th General Chapter approved the inclusion in the General Regulations of the Congregation the following:

Rooted in Christ through baptism and sharing in the universal call to holiness, and following the spirit and teaching of Saint Paul of the Cross, we share with the lay faithful the mission entrusted to us by the Church to announce the Gospel of the Passion to the world through our lives and our apostolate (cf Const. #2).



"May we live our Passionist vocation joyfully and contemplatively, always listening and searching to 'see' the 'something new' which the Lord is doing in our lives and in our world."

Respecting the identity and the uniqueness of each vocation, we open ourselves to a fruitful exchange of gifts, in reciprocity, to promote together with the laity who share our charism the grateful memory of the Passion of Christ, in all men and women whom we meet on our way, especially the 'crucified' of the present day.

The Chapter proposed: Recognition in Chapters/Congresses of the vocation of lay men and women who share our charism; Welcome and hospitality to the lay members of the Passionist Family in our houses; Promotion of dialogue with lay members at the level of life, action, theological exchange and religious experience.

Passionists and Youth in Life and Mission

As Passionists, we have a strong concern for youth and the world in which they encounter life. There is a desire to accompany young people respectfully in their life and faith journey, offering them our Passionist spirituality and charism as a guide.



The Chapter encouraged: Vocational guidance of young people; Inviting young people to a missionary commitment with Passionists through voluntary work; Welcoming young people in vocational discernment to share and experience Passionist life in community; The celebration of the feast of St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows as International Day of Passionist Youth.

Conclusion

With this letter I did not intend to communicate all the decisions of the General Chapter which will soon be available to you when the printing is complete. However, I wanted to highlight the significant changes emanating from the process of restructuring, with the formal establishment of the Configurations and the call to work in solidarity, which has a bearing on our being Passionists today.

Additionally, I feel it is important that the aspects of Passionist life and mission discerned by the Chapter for focus over the next six years is shared with you, so that these priorities can be programmed into the plans for your individual entities and Configurations. I urge you in communities and assemblies, to consider these aspects of mission from your own unique perspectives and situations by discussing and sharing relevant possibilities for implementation.

It is clear that the Chapter members, bringing the hopes and dreams of their brothers from around the Congregation, were hoping that, in listening to the Spirit, we would hear the call and have the courage to respond to our future with fresh and renewed hearts. In this way the hope was for greater authenticity, relevance and renewal in our Passionist community life and mission. The Writing Team heard and expressed it in this way:

“A sharing of ‘Our Deepest Desires’ emphasised the hope for a renewal of the power and vitality of Passionist Community Life, of being more deeply faithful to our charism of the Memoria Passionis so that, strengthened in our religious vocation, we would be empowered to face the great challenges and opportunities for the proclamation of the Gospel in our modern complex world.”

The Chapter, I believe, made some bold choices and took some radical decisions in the hope that how we live and what we do will be in accordance with the values of God’s kingdom and will witness to God’s dream for the world. This necessarily implies our living a reflective and continual contemplation for enlightenment, listening to the signs of the times, and responding to the ongoing call of Jesus for reform, renewal and conversion.



“As Passionists, we are to find new ways and expressions of proclaiming the Good News of the Word of the Cross which speak to the varied cultures and traditions in which we minister...”

“Look, I am doing something new, now it emerges; can you not see it?” (Is. 43:19)

May we live our Passionist vocation joyfully and contemplatively, always listening and searching to “see” the “something new” which the Lord is doing in our lives and in our world. Let us not limit our efforts to ‘see deeper’ by closing ourselves from a meaningful search and from asking the right questions which can challenge us to a new change.

I close with this challenging and inspirational call to renewal by Pope John XXIII:

“We are not here on earth as caretakers of a museum but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life and to prepare for a glorious future.”

Feast of the Commemoration of the Passion
8 February 2013
Sts. John and Paul, Rome

**(Most Rev) Joachim Rego, C.P.
Superior General**



PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE GENERAL CURIA AND THE GENERALATE OF STS. JOHN AND PAUL

The General Council met in Rome from 28 January to 10 February 10 and then again from 4 -12 April, 2013.

Among the decisions made at the first Consulta of January-February was the allocation of Consultors of Reference to each of the Configurations. These are as follows:

- Configuration of Eugene Bossilkov (CEB): Fr. Giuseppe Adobati
- Configuration of the Sacred Heart (SCOR): Fr. Antonio Monduate
- Configuration of Jesus Crucified (CJC): Fr. Augusto Canali
- Configuration PASPAC: Fr. Sabinus Lohin
- Configuration of Passionists Africa (CPA): Fr. Michael Ogwen
- Configuration of Charles Houben (CCH): Fr. Denis Travers

Additional areas of responsibility of the General Consultors are as follows:

- Sts. John and Paul, Rome - Consultor of reference: Fr. Giuseppe Adobati
- St. Martha's, Bethany (Holy Land) - Consultor of reference: Fr. Michael Ogwen
- Vietnam Mission - Consultor of reference: Fr. Denis Travers
- St. Joseph's, Monte Argentario - Consultor of reference: Fr. Sabinus Lohin
- St. Joseph's, Highgate (England) - Consultor of reference: Fr. Denis Travers
- Communications- Consultor of reference: Fr. Denis Travers

GENERAL ECONOMO: Fr. Vincenzo Carletti (PIET)

In early April, after many years of faithful and very dedicated service, Fr. Battista Ramponi (CORM) completed his term as General Econome. Fr. Joachim, Superior General, and the General Curia together with the community of Sts. John and Paul wished him well in his new community and apostolate. Fr. General stated that the Congregation owes a great debt to Fr. Battista and we acknowledge and thank him for his wonderful work for the Congregation and the Generalate during the past ten years.

The new General Econome, Fr. Vincenzo Carletti (PIET), arrived at Sts. John and Paul from his recent assignment as a missionary and Provincial Econome in the REPAC Province of Indonesia.

Fr. Vincenzo Carletti was born in 1941 in the city of Mogliano (MC) in the Abruzzo region of Italy. He entered the Passionist Congregation at Morrovalle in 1957 and professed First Vows in 1958. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1966.

In 1967 he began studies for a Licentiate degree in theology at the Angelicum University in Rome and then pursued studies in Missiology at the Gregorian University. In 1969 he was assigned as missionary in Sekadau, Indonesia. In addition to serving as rector of various mission stations, he was also a Consultor for the Regional Vicar.

During this period he had various summer assignments in English speaking countries and consequently was able to perfect his English language skills.

In 1980 Fr. Paul Boyle, Superior General, assigned him to the position of Secretary General for the Missions, following Fr. Casper Caulfield (PAUL). Fr. Vincenzo held this position until 1988.

In 1990 he returned to Indonesia as a missionary in the REPAC Province where he served as Provincial Econome until 2011.



Fr. Vincenzo Carletti (PIET), General Econome.



PERSONAL SECRETARY TO THE SUPERIOR GENERAL: Fr. Alessandro Foppoli (CORM)

In early April Fr. Joachim and the community at Sts. John and Paul bid farewell to Fr. Marco Pasquali (PIET) who served Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio as personal secretary. In his comments to the community at the Generalate, Fr. Joachim noted Marco's great spirit of generosity in serving not only the Superior General and the General Curia, but also the entire community of Sts. John and Paul and the Congregation at large with his many skills in the area of internet communications as well as his talent at translation and interpreting for numerous General Synods and General Chapters of the Congregation. Fr. Marco returns to his province (PIET) after having been elected as Provincial Consultor.

Shortly after Easter this year Fr. Alessandro Foppoli arrived at the Generalate of Sts. John and Paul to serve as the personal secretary to Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General. Fr. Alessandro was born in the northern Italian city of Como on January 30, 1973. He entered the Passionist Congregation and made his novitiate at Moricone (Rome) in 1994-1995. He professed First Vows at the Shrine of St. Gabriel on September 14, 1995. He studied theology at the student residence of the CORM province in Sezano (Italy) and was ordained a priest at Como on June 12, 1999.

From 1999 to 2001 he served as provincial Secretary of the CORM Province in Basella. Then he spent two years doing pastoral service in the community of Caravate (VA). Subsequently he was assigned to the community of Cameri where, from 2003 to 2009, he held the position of vicar and econome.

He was then assigned to be Assistant Director of novices at the Italian national novitiate at San Zenone degli Ezzelini (TV) for two years, from 2009 to 2011 and afterward, at the request of the Superior General, he offered his service as parochial vicar at the Passionist parish at Highgate (London, UK) from September 2011 to October 2012, an experience that gave him the opportunity to learn English. In addition to English, he also has knowledge of German as a result of his theological studies.



Fr. Alessandro Foppoli (CORM), Personal Secretary to the Superior General.

Recently, before going to Rome, he was assigned to the community of Rocche di Molare (Alessandria) where he served as guide for English-speaking pilgrims who were visiting the places associated with St. Paul of the Cross in Ovada and Castellazzo Bormida.

During the second Consulta Meeting in April, the Superior General, with the consensus of his Council, also made the following assignments:

Rector of Basilica: Fr. Augusto Matrullo (DOL) is confirmed as the Rector and has been appointed for a new term.

The Retreat Centre at Sts. John and Paul: Fr. Vito Patera (LAT) is confirmed and has been appointed for a further term.

Secretary for Solidarity and the Missions: Fr. Jesús María Arístin (CORI) is confirmed and has been appointed for a new term.

Assistant to the Secretary for Solidarity and Mission: Fr. Aloyce Babene (GEMM) has been appointed to this position.

Following additional discernment within the Council and the necessary consultation with the community members of Sts. John and Paul, with individuals and with Provincials further appointments will be made.



Fr. Aloyce Babene (GEMM) and Fr. Jesús María Arístin (CORI), Secretary General for Solidarity and the Missions.



A TEACHER AND FRIEND: JOSEPH RATZINGER - POPE BENEDICT XVI

Fr. Martin Bialas, (VULN)

From the autumn of 1970 to the spring of 1977 I did my doctoral studies in theology with Professor Ratzinger, who was a professor of Dogmatics at the University of Regensburg. During this period I was part of the group of students called “The Colloquium of Doctoral Students”, from which is derived the current “Student Circle” of Professor Ratzinger. Normally we had our meetings in the seminary at Regensburg. Two or three times we met in our student residence called “Paulusheim” (Paul’s House), which belonged to our VULN Vice-province. This was a residence for about 46 students, all men, who attended the University of Regensburg.

As a professor his lessons were always clear, well prepared and focused. He had an extraordinary gift for expressing his thoughts in an unequivocal and comprehensible way. He was a master of the use of the German language – something that even those who didn’t agree with him acknowledged.

Theologically, the main subjects that he taught were the doctrine of God, ecclesiology and spirituality. What always impressed me was his ability to present individual issues within the broader context of theology and the history of human thought. The Fathers of the Greek and Latin Church were especially important for him. The main source of his theology was Sacred Scripture. He was aware of the most recent developments in the field of exegesis; however he was opposed to the exclusive use of historical-critical method. What most characterized the person of Joseph Ratzinger was the sense of continuity in his theology. There were no real “breaking points” in his theological thinking.

What immediately caught the attention of us students was his modesty, his simplicity and humility, combined with a pleasant sense of friendship. During exams he was firm and demanding, but always friendly. He experienced a certain sense of “disillusionment” in the year 1968 in Tübingen. He couldn’t understand students who disrupted lectures in order to engage in protests and that they even resorted to violence.

One of the special gifts of Joseph Ratzinger was his phenomenal memory. I was often amazed and sometimes even a bit intimidated because he remembered every single thing that happened during the month. He wrote out his homilies word for word in shorthand, but then he preached without referring to any written notes.



Fr. Martin Bialas (VULN) and Pope Benedict XVI, Castel Gandolfo.

When he assisted me during the preparation of my doctoral thesis, he came to know the person and spirituality of our Founder, St. Paul of the Cross. The topic of the doctoral thesis was: “The Passion of Christ in St. Paul of the Cross”. It was Professor Ratzinger who suggested this topic to me and he wrote the “evaluation” of my work when he was bishop of Munich.

I remember the visit that Cardinal Ratzinger made to the Generalate of Sts. John and Paul for the feast of the Founder. In his homily at the Mass our religious were amazed and delighted as the Cardinal began to speak about the Founder and quoted from his letters — without any written notes in front of him.

I still remember the Papal Conclave of 2005 when Ratzinger was elected Pope. For me it was a bitter-sweet moment because I knew clearly that as Pope he would no longer be able to visit our monastery in Germany. However this sadness was mitigated when, at his first general audience, he met with some of us German-speaking pilgrims. At that time he communicated to us that the “Student Circle” would be able to continue our annual meeting with him. However he told us: “Now the only difference is that we will have to meet at Castelgandolfo.” In fact we met with him at his summer residence for over eight years.

In conclusion, what I will always remember about Joseph Ratzinger is his intelligence, his profound faith and his humility. ●



THE FAITH OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Fr. Dario Di Giosia, (PIET)

[Editor's Note: As in the past World Youth Day celebrations in Australia in 2008 and in Spain in 2011, so too in July of this year, the Passionists will also take part in the WYD to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Fr. Dario Di Giosia (PIET) offers some background about the origin of WYD. He is the author of a work entitled: "La pastorale dei giovani: Uno studio sul magistero di Giovanni Paolo II" (Youth ministry: A study of the magisterium of John Paul II). For more information about Passionist participation in this year's event see the Passiochristi.org website.]

World Youth Day was one of the most beautiful insights of John Paul II – an inspiration that developed into a meeting with young people and to listen to their desire to be included. After almost thirty years we have become accustomed to large youth rallies, both international and diocesan. But at its origin, this was not a foregone conclusion. There were many fears and doubts about the seriousness of youth, concerns expressed in unrest and disagreement. Pope John Paul II knew how to give young people the confidence they needed. At every opportunity he reiterated his esteem for them, emphasizing the ability to get excited about issues that truly matter and to make sacrifices to achieve them. Thus World Youth Day was born!

Due to the faith of a Pope, who wasted no opportunity to seek young people and invite them to believe in Christ Jesus, and the generous response and enthusiastic support of the young people themselves a new way of being Church came into existence—a young Church for young people. This confidence, this positive vision of youth, is still needed today in order pave the way to faith for young people so that they can be participants in a Church that is alive and active, a young Church where young people feel able to make their contribution to the spiritual life of the world. They proclaim to their peers that living a faith-filled life is wonderful; that the Church is not an entity that is relegated to a church sacristy. Rather it is a living reality that has a mission in today's society.

In the message of Pope Benedict XVI for this twenty-eighth World Youth Day 2013 he stated:

"I invite you once more to take part in this important event. The celebrated statue of Christ the

Redeemer overlooking that beautiful Brazilian city will be an eloquent symbol for us. Christ's open arms are a sign of his willingness to embrace all those who come to him, and his heart represents his immense love for everyone and for each of you. Let yourselves be drawn to Christ! Experience this encounter along with all the other young people who will converge on Rio for the next World Youth Day! Accept Christ's love and you will be the witnesses so needed by our world.



The official logo for World Youth Day 2013.

I invite you to prepare for World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro by meditating even now on the theme of the meeting: "Go and make disciples of all nations!" (cf. Mt 28:19). This is the great missionary mandate that Christ gave the whole Church, and today, two thousand years later, it remains as urgent as ever. This mandate should resound powerfully in your hearts. The year of preparation for the gathering in Rio coincides with the Year of Faith, which began with the Synod of Bishops devoted to "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith". I am happy that you too, dear young people, are

involved in this missionary outreach on the part of the whole Church. To make Christ known is the most precious gift that you can give to others...

Dear young people, I would ask all of you to hear, in the depths of your heart, Jesus' call to proclaim his Gospel. As the great statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro shows, his heart is open with love for each and every person, and his arms are open wide to reach out to everyone. Be yourselves the heart and arms of Jesus! Go forth and bear witness to his love! Be a new generation of missionaries, impelled by love and openness to all!" ●



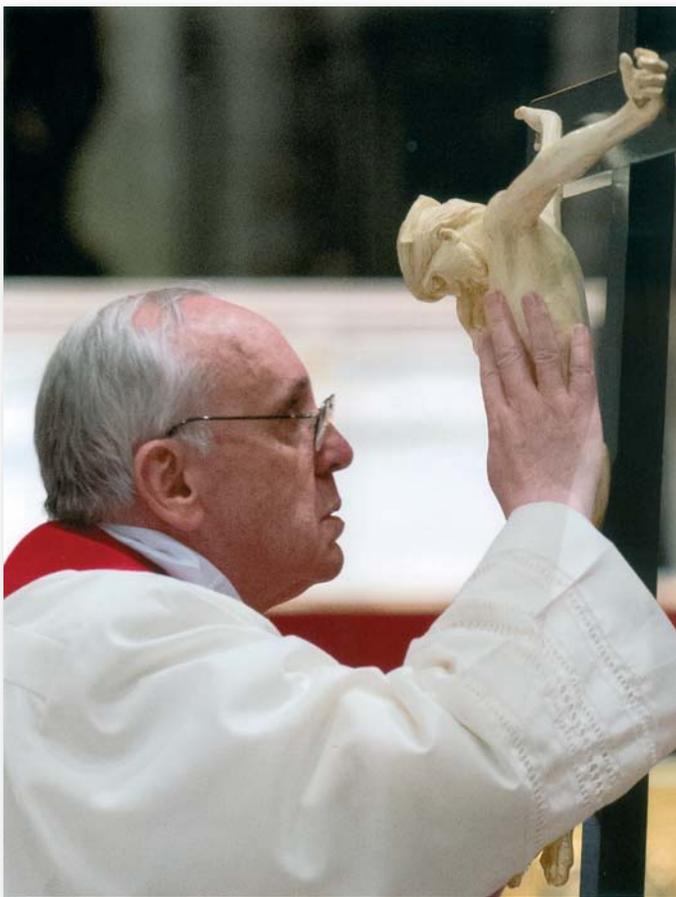
GETTING TO KNOW JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO: POPE FRANCIS

[Editor's Note: In this first issue of the PIB during the pontificate of Pope Francis, we offer two articles that we hope will offer some insight into this newly elected Pontiff. The first article is written by an Argentinean Passionist who knew Jorge Mario Bergoglio as a seminarian at the Jesuit theologate in Buenos Aires. The second article offers a reflection on an aspect of the Marian spirituality of Pope Francis and that of St. Paul of the Cross.]

Pope Francis:
A man of God
A man of today and for today
A man of good will
A grace for the Church
and for the entire world

Fr. Alberto Cabrera (PAUL)

[Fr. Alberto Cabrera was born in Argentina in 1934. He professed First Vows in the Passionist Congregation in 1957 and was ordained in 1965. Currently, he is parochial vicar in the parish of St. Paul of the Cross in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). It was during his time as a seminarian that he met Jorge Mario Bergoglio – the future Pope Francis. He shares some of his personal memories and thoughts about the newly elected Pope.]



"He continued with his pastoral plan which was characterized by a specific focus on renewal...a Church of the poor and for the poor. It is a very eloquent and engaging message that challenges us."

The year 1957 marked the end of my year of novitiate. The student residence was located in the city of Cordoba (Argentina) in the Retreat of the Most Holy Rosary. The superiors then decided to move all students to San Miguel, in the province of Buenos Aires, to study with the Jesuits. So in 1958, I and my fellow novices, four in total, began to study philosophy with the Jesuits. There were fourteen Passionist students in all. We finished philosophy in 1962 and then we began to study theology. It was at that time that Jorge Bergoglio began his philosophy studies. The total number of students was about two hundred. Many religious Congregations as well as the diocesan clergy studied together at the Jesuit school. There was little interaction between the philosophy students and the theology students; but, since we were from the 'outside', we able to mingle more freely.

My memory of Bergoglio is something special - unforgettable. The little contact I had with him remains engraved in my mind and he is one of the few Jesuits that I will always remember, even until today. He was a tall, slender young man, and very serious, who made a great impression me. Today, as



I reflect on that brief contact with him, it was a kind of premonition of things to come.

What I know about Jorge Bergoglio, the priest, is his pastoral ministry as bishop and especially as Cardinal Primate of Buenos Aires. He was a pastor who gave witness not only by what he said or commented, but by how he lived. His work, rather his presence in the “Villas de Emergencia” (emergency villages) or slums was something very natural for him. He visited these areas every week. He celebrated the Eucharist with those who lived there, shared their concerns and assisted them in their various needs. In fact, it can be said that he was “one of them”.

As a pastor he knew how to denounce the injustices or the serious problems that were plaguing the people of Argentina. He knew how to defend the rights of the poor and because of this he became an adversary of the government. However, this never made him bitter; just the opposite. He continued with his pastoral plan which was characterized by a specific focus on renewal. It is what distinguishes his teaching today as Universal Pastor: a Church of the poor and for the poor. It is a very eloquent and engaging message that challenges us.

As men consecrated to God in the priesthood and religious life we cannot reject this message; rather we are called to embrace and live this experience of building a new world marked by justice, holiness and truth. And I believe that the love of Christ Crucified and Risen moves us Passionists to rediscover this dimension of our mission and our charism.

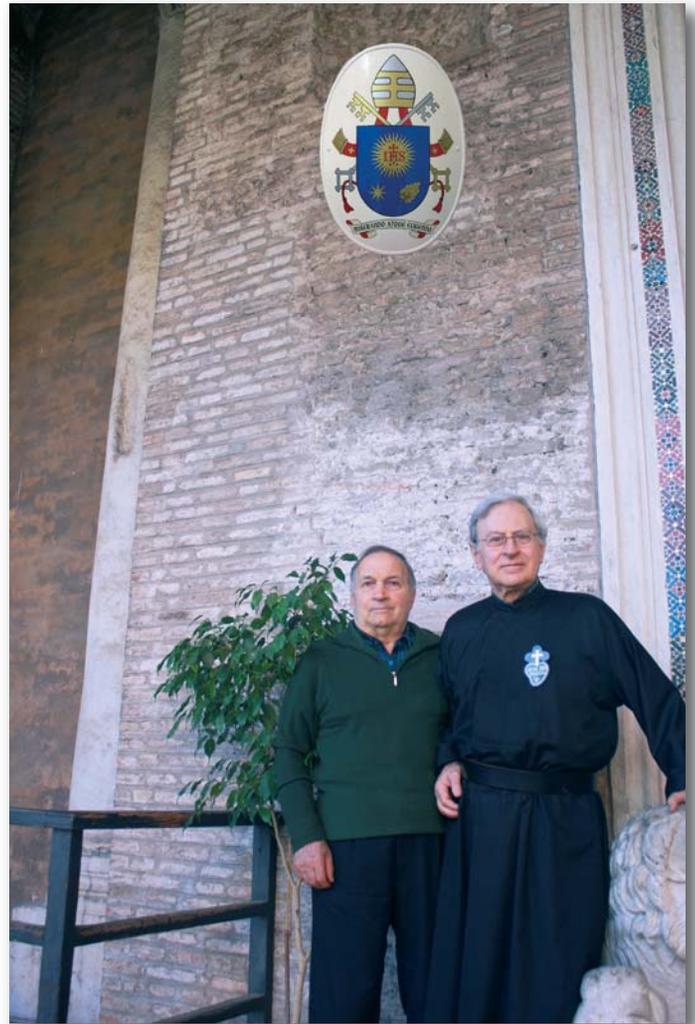
In conclusion, I believe that Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Pope Francis, is a man of God; a man of today and for today; a man of good will; a great grace for the Church and for the entire world.

* * *

The Congregation of the Passion and the Pontificate of Francis: in the hands of the “Salus Populi Romani”

Lawrence Rywalt (PAUL)

On March 14, the day following his election, Pope Francis went to pay homage to the “Salus Populi Romani”, the icon of the Virgin Mary and the Child



Vincenzo Valeri (sacristan) and Fr. Augusto Matrullo (Rector of the Basilica) at the door of the Basilica of Sts. John and Paul beneath the newly installed coat of arms of Pope Francis.

Jesus kept in the Roman Basilica of Saint Mary Major on Rome’s Esquiline hilltop. On Saturday afternoon, May 4th Pope Francis returned to the same basilica to pray the Rosary and place his pontificate under Mary’s protection.

The importance of the Virgin Mary in the spirituality of Pope Francis has its roots deep in the faith life of the Church in Latin America. In this context, the Basilica of Saint Mary Major is of fundamental importance for him not only as oldest place of worship in the Western Church dedicated to Mary, but also as a point of reference for many people who seek a place for prayer to our Lady.

The miraculous image, *Salus Populi Romani* (the Safety or the Protection of the Roman People) is perhaps the best loved and honored Marian icon in Rome, Italy. It is located in the Borghese Chapel of



Pope Francis prays before the image of Mary, “*Salus Populi Romani*”.

Saint Mary Major in Rome. Some authorities claim the *Salus Populi Romani* image can be traced to the post-iconoclastic period of the 8th century. Others indicate that the image, as we know it today is not found earlier than the 13th century. At least by the 15th century, it was honored as a miraculous image. Popes of the past and present expressed their devotion to Mary in front of the image.

This icon also has a particular place in the history of the Passionist Congregation and the life of St. Paul of the Cross. In his work, “As a Seal upon Your Heart”*, Fr. Paul Francis Spencer (PATR) describes the event in the history of the founding of the Congregation that took place in Rome during the summer of 1721. Paul had just tried to obtain an audience with Pope Innocent XIII at the Quirinal Palace in Rome in order to ask the Pope’s blessing on the Rule that he had composed for his new religious

institute; however, he was brusquely turned away by an official of the papal palace.

“His mission seemed to be a complete failure: thrown out of the palace, without a chance even to explain his business, much less present the Rule to the pope. Wandering down the hill, he saw the Basilica of St. Mary Major, only about ten minutes’ walk from the Quirinal, and decided to go there to entrust his mission to Mary.

“Coming from the direction of the papal palace, Paul would have entered the Basilica from the door at the back of the building, between the main altar and the chapel of the Madonna, known as the Borghese Chapel. The cool stillness of the chapel had a soothing effect on him, as did the painting above the altar: the icon of Mary known as “*Salus Populi Romani*”, said to have been painted by St. Luke. Kneeling there, allowing the turmoil to leave his heart, he prayed for understanding. Slowly he realised that it was not yet the time for presenting the Rule to the pope; that day would come. In the meantime, he must be faithful to the inspiration God had given him. When all doors seemed closed, the only way forward was to commit himself more fully to the work he had been given to do. Before the icon of Mary, he made a vow to promote the memory of the Passion of Jesus and to work to gather companions for this purpose.”

Years later, in August 1769, when he received word that the Pope, Clement XIV, had approved the new Rule, Paul returned to the Basilica and to the Borghese Chapel to thank our Lady for having been granted this “grace”. In fact, on August 15, 1769, the Feast of the Assumption, the day after he received this notice, Paul had hoped to receive the Bull of Approbation from the Pope, there in the Borghese Chapel, “*inter Missarum solemnias*”, where, fifty years previously, he had made the vow to promote devotion to the Passion and to found the Congregation of the Passion. In fact, the memory of that original day remained with him and so it was a source of great joy for him to successfully return to Borghese Chapel. But it would not be until November 16th of that same year that the official text would be definitively prepared and entrusted to Paul with the Bull “*Supremi Apostolatus*”+. ●

* Spencer, Paul Francis, “As a Seal Upon Your Heart”, St. Pauls (UK), 1994, p. 61.

+ Zoffoli, Enrico, “S. Paolo della Croce”, Vol. II, 1962, p. 1258.



FATHER GENEROSO FONTANAROSA: "VENERABLE"

An Apostle of Jesus Crucified and Our Mother of Sorrows

On Wednesday 27 March 2013, the Holy Father, Pope Francis received in audience Cardinal Angelo Amato S.D.B., prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. During the course of the audience the pontiff authorized the dicastery to promulgate the decrees concerning various causes. Among these was the recognition of the "Heroic Virtues" of the Servant of God, Generoso of the Crucified (Angelo Fontanarosa) and thus bestowing on him the title of "Venerable".

Fr. Generoso Fontanarosa was born on November 6, 1881 and was baptized Angelo. He was the third son of Luigi Fontanarosa and Margherita Neri. At the age of 15 he was admitted to the Passionist Novitiate at Monte Argentario and assumed the name of "Generoso del Santissimo Crocifisso" and on May 27, 1898 he made his first profession of Vows. On 24 September 1904 he was ordained to the priesthood in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome.

At an early age, Fr. Generoso was known for the great love and care that he showed for the religious in the communities where he was assigned. He was able to balance Passionist spirituality as a true son of St. Paul of the Cross, the contemplation of the face of Jesus Crucified and the suffering of the Sorrowful Virgin with zeal for evangelization through the preaching of retreats and popular missions. In fact, his superiors believed that he was the right person to start a foundation in Sicily where he arrived on December 31, 1915. On January 6, 1916, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, Fr. Generoso, together with several other religious of the Presentation Province (PRAES) of Italy took up residence in the first retreat of the Passionists in Sicily, in the town of Borgetto (Palermo). On July 25, 1920, together with other religious, he traveled to the Archdiocese of Catania to establish a small residence in the San Rocco neighbourhood of Mascalucia (Catania). Fr. Generoso lived in this community until his death.

In 1923, in Mascalucia, he began publication of the magazine "L'Addolorata" (The Sorrowful Virgin) that would become one of the greatest apostolic tools that he would use to promote devotion to our Lady. In Mascalucia he also met Lucia Mangano, with whom he developed a deep spiritual relationship that was steeped in the spirituality of St. Paul of the Cross. This relationship began in June 1931, a few years after Lucia had a spiritual experience in which she saw Fr. Generoso and heard Jesus say: "This will be the father who will take care of you". Generoso's spiritual care of Lucia would continue until her death in November 1946. In 1955, Lucia Mangano's cause for beatifica-



Venerable Fr. Generoso Fontanarosa, C.P.

tion was begun and Fr. Generoso would be one of the primary witnesses to testify to her holiness.

In this area at the foot of Mount Etna, Fr. Generoso worked tirelessly to build both the Shrine (September 24, 1954) and the Retreat House of the "Addolorata" (May 8, 1949) that would develop into a genuine center of spirituality and Christian life at the service of both the clergy and the laity.

On 9 January 1966, after blessing the Passionist community that was gathered at his bedside, he died peacefully in the Lord.

The participation of the faithful at his funeral was a clear and irrefutable proof of how much Fr. Generoso was esteemed for the authenticity of his life as a religious and for his love of God and his love of those who went to him for advice, for prayer or for spiritual direction. His body is buried in the chapel of our Lady of Sorrows, where he prayed and offered daily Mass for over fifteen years. Today it is a place of great devotion where many people come in prayer to ask Fr. Generoso to intercede for them before God. ●



FIRST CONGRESS OF NEW VICE-PROVINCE OF INDIA (THOM)

The new Vice-Province of India (THOM) celebrated its first Congress from 29 April to 3 May 2013 in the Passionist Jyotir Bhavan, Carmelaram, Bangalore. In addition to the Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, and the reference General Consultor for the PASPAC Configuration, Fr. Sabinus Lohin, the religious of the Vice-Province and religious of the CRUC Province were also present.

In the course of the Congress the following religious were elected to positions of leadership: Fr. Edwin Jenish (Third Consultor), Fr. Marsilin Sony (Fourth Consultor), Fr. Tomy Kanjirathinkal (Vice Provincial), Fr. Antony Tharayil (Second Consultor) and Fr. Roy Srampical (First Consultor).

In his congratulatory message on its elevation to a Vice-Province, Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, highlighted some of the history of the THOM Vice-Province:

“I remember with great interest the beginnings of the Indian Mission in 1980 when a small band of missionaries, following an invitation from the Bishop of Cochin, were sent by the Superior General, Fr Paul Mary Boyle CP to make a foundation, thus introducing the Passionist Charism to this culturally diverse and religiously rich nation. The Mission at this time was directly under the authority of the Superior General.

However, within a few years and after much discernment, the decision was made to accept young Indian men who, somehow touched by the charism, were indicating a desire to share the Passionist community life and mission. I feel privileged and count myself blessed to have been personally involved at this time by being part of the formation process of the first Indian group of novices and students. It was a time not just of giving, but also of receiving much richness from this fine group of men.

Soon the Mission under General Authority was



(L-R) Fr. Edwin Jenish (Third Consultor), Fr. Marsilin Sony (Fourth Consultor), Fr. Tomy Kanjirathinkal (Vice Provincial), Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, Fr. Antony Tharayil (Second Consultor) and Fr. Roy Srampical (First Consultor).

generously assumed by the Passionists of Holy Cross Province (CRUC) in USA and developed to the stage of a Regional Vicariate (THOM) with delegated authority by the Provincial of CRUC. This was the first stage of growth.

With fine leadership, encouragement, support and formation from the Passionists of CRUC Province, the young Indian Passionists of THOM Vicariate fast developed and grew in stature and grace, though not without the many trials and challenges which had to be faced in the intervening years. However, their faith, perseverance and discernment of the action of the Holy Spirit has led them to confidently and courageously take this next step in the journey of growth and maturity toward becoming a Vice Province.”

And he concluded: *“It is a proud moment to see the movement of the Passionists in India towards greater independence, yet knowing that they are not on their own, but part of a world-wide Passionist Family mutually giving and receiving in a spirit of solidarity for the sake of witnessing by our community life and proclaiming in our mission the Passion of Jesus as ‘the greatest and most overwhelming work of God’s love.’”*



PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH (IOS)

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Provincial Chapter of St. Joseph's Province (England, Wales and Sweden) began on Monday April 15th and concluded on Friday April 19th.

The Chapter was held in a happy and positive spirit in the Passionist Retreat House in Minsteracres.

Eighteen members of the Province and the Superior General made up the Chapter body and Frs. Mark-Robin Hoogland (Provincial SPE), Jeroen Hoogland (SPE; Minsteracres Community leader) and Fr Denis Travers (General Councilor for the Configuration of Charles Houben) were present as observers. In addition, invited guests were present for various sessions either for reports or to contribute to the conversations and discussions that took place in the chapter.

Among other issues, the Chapter noted the excellent work of Mr. Ged Murphy (Province Health Care Coordinator), who gave thoughtful and considered advice regarding the General Chapter recommendation about a Passionist presence in Sutton and reviewed the progress to date of the Highgate development project. Progress has been very slow due to the complications associated with the site. It may be worth noting that whilst St. Joseph's Retreat is now a General House, English law requires that the Trustees of registered charities (like ourselves) need to be resident in the UK. Thus the General and the Provincial Council have worked together these past years to find a common line and approach.

The Chapter heard reports from the newly established Trust for Minsteracres which has begun very well and is now operated by an independent charity and body. It has a lease for 30 years (but remains in Province ownership).



(L-R) Fr. Martin Newell (2nd Consultor), Fr. Joachim Rego (Superior General), Fr. John Kearns (Provincial) and Fr. Mark White (1st Consultor).

An important development for the Province is that of the "Vestibule Groups" and the "Non-vowed Passionists" who are developing in partnership with the Province to explore and promote the Passionist charism. The "Vestibule Groups", like the name suggests, are groups that aim to offer an 'entrance space' for individuals who wish to begin and deepen their exploration of the faith as well as for non-vowed lay Passionists who gather to explore our charism in their lives. Both initiatives are new outreaches of the Province in partnership with laity.

The Chapter also considered the creation of a new Web Page, reviewed the life of its communities and the ministry in Sweden and affirmed the possibility of a new community being opened in the Province.

The Chapter thanked Fr. John Sherrington for his kind service over these past years. Fr. John Kearns was elected Provincial with Frs. Mark White and Martin Newell elected as first and second Consultors respectively. ●



THE SALV VICE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

Fr. MICHAEL OGWENO, (General Consultor)

The 3rd Congress of the SALV Vice Province took place in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, between the 14th and the 19th March, 2013. It was celebrated during the season of Lent, a time of conversion, and so it rightly centred on the theme of reconciliation and renewal. The facilitator was Fr. Boudouin, who had facilitated some of their meetings before, especially the synod. He therefore, knew the group well and they knew him too.

The Presider at the Congress was the Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, who expressed his happiness and described it as a historic moment for him because it was the first time he was presiding over a Congress as Superior General and the first time he was visiting the African continent. It was therefore, a double celebration for him.

In his opening remarks, the General acknowledged and welcomed all to the Congress, expressing his confidence, hope and trust that the Congress would bring a spirit of renewal and mark a new beginning for all the members of the SALV Vice Province. He challenged every member of the Vice Province to pray and actively work towards this hope “to go forward with mind and heart renewed”. In a special way he acknowledged the presence of the facilitator, Fr. Boudouin, Fr. Michael Ogweno, General Consultor, who was his collaborator during the Congress and Fr. Paul Francis Spencer, for the special and extraordinary visitation he had carried out in the vice province prior to the Congress.

He further elaborated and outlined the concerns and challenges that were facing the vice province and which the Congress needed to pay particular attention to. During the group work and discussions that followed, the Congress agreed that these concerns were indeed real and needed to be addressed. They, members of the Congress, took the challenge and trust expressed in the General’s remarks seriously and actively participated in the deliberations and the discussions that followed and throughout the duration of the Congress.

Attempts were made to address some of these concerns during the Congress and to develop a common



(L-R) Fr. Michael Ogweno (General Consultor), Fr. Dieudonné Butshinayi (4th Consultor), Fr. Vital Otshudialokoka Onasaka (Vice Provincial), Dr. Joachim Rego (Superior General), Fr. Didier Kimumpipa (1st Consultor), Fr. Xavier Mvumbi (2nd Consultor) and Fr. Ferdinand Mbuta (3rd Consultor).

vision for the vice province. Each member of the vice province was challenged to seek and work towards a common vision and plan, to play an active role in the development of that vision, to be agents of change, unity and peace. Only then would they be Passionists together and be credible witnesses to the love of God as it is revealed to us in the Passion of Jesus Christ, in the vice province of SALV.

At the end, there was a clear desire from the Congress to move forward in unity together as a vice province and in the spirit of renewal and reconciliation. This willingness and openness to dialogue and to move forward was expressed most clearly in their unity in electing a leadership team, who will continue the process of addressing all the areas of concern that had been identified and discussed.

Fr. Vital Otshudialokoka was elected Vice Provincial and with him a team of four Consultors. Fr. Didier Kimupipa, Fr. Xavier Mvumbi, Fr. Ferdinand Mbuta and Fr. Dieudonne Butshinayi were elected first, second, third and fourth Consultors respectively.

It was to these men, that the task of facilitating dialogue and bringing about the much needed peace and unity among all the members of the vice province was entrusted. There was clearly a great joy, trust and hope bestowed on them that they would, with the support of every member, carry out their mandate as it was given by the Congress. ●

THE CONGRESS OF THE GEMM-CORM VICARIATE OF TANZANIA

The GEMM Vicariate in Tanzania is composed of twenty two religious with Perpetual Vows and nine with Temporary Vows. They reside in seven communities.

Similar to the CARLW Vicariate in Kenya, the GEMM Vicariate is also going through a period of transition: from being a CORM Provincial Vicariate to becoming a Vice-Province; from being led by Italian missionaries to having Tanzanian religious in positions of responsibility; and from being a dependent Vicariate to becoming an autonomous Vice-Province. Given their tribal origins

and their recent history marked by the leadership of Julius Nyerere who aimed to have a single language for everyone, community life is imbedded in their lives.

Most of the ministry is parochial or preaching missions. Parish work is extended to neighbouring villages, most of which have their own chapel. Each parish therefore includes from 10 to 25 chapels. This means the priests have to travel several times a week to attend to the pastoral needs of those villages. The parishes show great concern for the religious formation of young children and teenagers, as well as ministering to the sick and the poor. All our communities have their own developmental projects which teach people how to work. This is also a source of income which helps to sustain the community.

Three large projects contribute greatly to the financial stability of the Vicariate: the farm at Tanga (Zenneti); the Guest House at Dar es



(L-R) Fr. Gregory Raphael Olomi (First Consultor), Fr. Aloysius Nguma (Regional Vicar) and Fr. Cesare Pozzobon (Consultor for Finances and Econome).

Salaam; and the Technical School at Veyula. Another fine project which has been functioning the past eight years is the “Village of Joy” under the care of Fr. Fulgenzio Cortesi, C.P., which cares for some 150 orphan children. Education is also provided for an additional 700 children from surrounding areas.

The 10th Congress of the GEMM-CORM Vicariate was held at Veyula from 19 to 20 February, 2013. The principal decision that was made was to request to be declared a Vice-Province in 2015. During the ensuing years the Vicariate wishes to become a General Vicariate. During this time the Vicariate must try to become financially self-sustaining.

During the Congress the following religious were elected: Fr. Aloysius Nguma (Regional Vicar); Fr. Gregory Raphael Olomi (First Consultor for Formation); and Fr. Cesare Pozzobon (Consultor and Econome for the Vicariate). ●



CONGRESS OF THE CARLW-CORM VICARIATE, KENYA

The 12th Congress of the CARLW-CORM Vicariate was held at Karungu, Kenya from 6 to 8 February 2013.

The Kenya Vicariate at the moment has 43 religious (34 with Perpetual Vows and 9 with Temporary Vows.) Additionally there are 5 novices at the Sotik community, 15 postulants studying Philosophy at the Arusha house and 4 aspirants at Molo. Of the 34 religious with perpetual vows, 3 are Brothers, 29 are priests and 2 are Deacons. Only four Italian missionaries remain in Kenya; the others are Kenyan citizens. There is a marked youthful spirit of hopefulness in the Vicariate, and it is expected that the number of our religious will increase in coming years.

There are 10 communities in Kenya, of which five are parishes. There is one Retreat Centre at Ushirika (Nairobi), one Retreat Centre and Centre for Evangelization at Karungu and one Pastoral Centre at Sotik, together with the Novitiate. There is one Spirituality Centre for days of recollection at Molo, together with the Aspirants. The Student House at Kisima belongs to three Provinces: CORM, SALV and PATR.

Generally speaking the CARLW Vicariate is going through a period of transition: from being a Vicariate depending on the CORM Province to becoming a Vice Province; from being led by Italian missionaries to the Kenyans having to make their own decisions; and from being a dependent Vicariate to becoming an autonomous Vice Province.

Most of our houses are located in poor areas, a reminder of our Passionist charism. The main ministry so-far is parish work or preaching missions. The bishops have an particular need for this kind of ministry which we and other Religious Congregations provide. Nevertheless one notes a desire to qualify our presence as Passionists through the preaching of itinerant or popular missions. In addition to this



(L-R) Fr. Peter Ochieng, Fr. Tobias Otieno, Fr. Filippo Astori (1st Consultor), Fr. Raphael Mangiti (Regional Vicar) and Fr. Paul Mbugua.

work of evangelization there is a notable amount of social and charitable work carried out by the majority of our communities. There is a sense of closeness with the people and special attention is shown toward the poorest of the poor. Most of our houses are in a rural environment where poverty abounds.

During the Congress, the most important decision that was made was to request that Vicariate be declared a Vice-Province in 2015. The road leading to this becoming effective will span three years until the next General Synod in 2015. During these years the CARLW Vicariate wishes to become a General Vicariate, thus depending directly on the General government. This will not impede the mother Province, CORM, assisting the Vicariate, but final responsibility will now rest with the General Curia.

A new Vicarial Curia was elected as follows: The Regional Vicar: Fr. Raphael Mangiti; Consultor for the Apostolate: Fr. Paul Mbugua; Consultor for Community Life and Charism: Fr. Tobias Otieno; Consultor for Formation: Fr. Peter Ochieng; and Consultor for Economy and Vicariate Econome: Fr. Filippo Astori. Fr. Filippo Astori was subsequently elected as the First Consultor. ●



BISHOP NORBERT M. DORSEY, PASSIONIST (1929-2013)

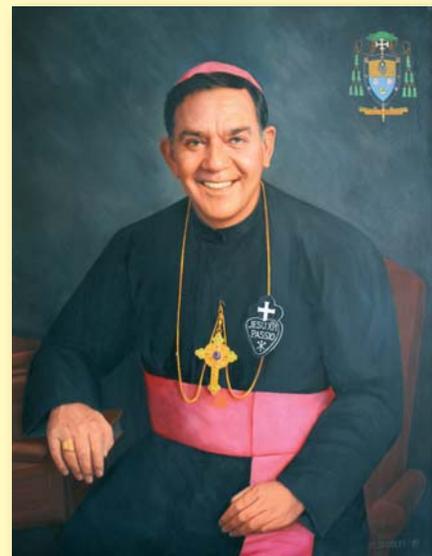
Bishop Norbert M. Dorsey died on February 21, 2013 in Orlando, Florida (USA) after a long battle with cancer. He was born on December 14, 1929 in Springfield, Massachusetts (USA). He attended Holy Cross Seminary in Dunkirk, New York, from 1946-1948 and professed vows as a Passionist with the religious name of Norbert on August 15, 1949. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Cuthbert O’Gara, C.P., on April 28, 1956, at St. Michael’s Monastery in Union City, New Jersey.

After his ordination, he studied Sacred Eloquence for a year in West Springfield, MA. before going on to study in Munich, London, and Rome. He held the degrees of “Maestro” from the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, and Doctor of Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University. He was a composer of music. Upon returning to the United States, Fr. Dorsey was assigned to the Passionist monastery in West Hartford, CT, as a theology professor and the Director of Formation. Five years later, in 1965, he was elected Rector of the Monastery and Theologate in West Springfield, MA. During his term there, he organized courses in the Theology of Vatican Council II for the laity. In 1968, he was elected to the first of two terms as Provincial Consultor for the Province of St. Paul of the Cross. During this time he was Director of Personnel for over 600 religious men, and also the Dean of Studies and Formation. Throughout those years, Norbert was a popular preacher of parish missions and retreats for the laity, religious, and clergy throughout the United States and Canada. In 1976, while serving as an American delegate to the General Chapter, Fr. Norbert was elected General Consultor. He was re-elected General Consultor in 1982.

Based in Rome, he shared the life and experience of the Church in five continents during his periodic “visitations” to most of the countries where the Passionists are established. On January 10, 1986, Pope John Paul II nominated Fr. Norbert Titular Bishop of Mactaris and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami, Florida



Pope John Paul II, Fr. Norbert Dorsey and Fr. Ottaviano D’Egidio.



**Bishop
Norbert Dorsey, C.P.**

(USA). In Miami, Bishop Dorsey served as Vicar General and Executive Director of the Ministry of Persons. Bishop Dorsey was installed as the third bishop of Orlando, Florida on May 25, 1990. Pope John Paul II accepted Bishop Dorsey’s letter of retirement on November 13, 2004.

While he was bishop he was interviewed for a newspaper article entitled, “Reflections of a Passionist Bishop” and he revealed that, “*Perhaps the one thing I have missed the most in being a bishop is not having the opportunity to wear our Passionist “habit”... and our “Sign”. Without words, that simple cassock and the black and white heart and cross “speak” to other hearts: “May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts!”*”

In a letter that Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, wrote to Fr. Robert Joerger, PAUL Provincial Superior, and the religious of the Province of St. Paul of the Cross, he stated: “*In 1949 when Norbert vowed to promote the memory of the Passion and Death of the Lord, he knew clearly that our Holy Rule of 1775 stated that there were numerous ways of promoting so great a work: ‘For the love of God is very ingenious, and is proved not so much by words, as by the deeds and examples of the lovers.’ (Chapt.XVI) His love of the Congregation of the Passion would accompany Norbert when he began his episcopal ministry to the Church. In a farewell homily that he preached to the local community here at Sts. John and Paul on the Solemn Commemoration of the Passion, February 7, 1986, he said: ‘Because I want to always remain a Passionist in spirit, I have chosen for my episcopal motto several simple words of St. Paul of the Cross that are found in our Rule: ‘God’s love is ingenious.’ Recalling the Passion in my new ministry, I will also be well aware of the deep meaning of these words of our Holy Founder.’*”

Together with you, I pray that this day Norbert is rejoicing with St. Paul of the Cross and all our Passionist saints in celebrating this creative love of God. May his prayers for the Province of St. Paul of the Cross and for our Congregation inspire others to follow in the footsteps of our Holy Founder so that the Passion, ‘the greatest and most overwhelming work of God’s love’ may continue to be witnessed and preached to all peoples.”



PROFESSION OF FINAL VOWS

Five religious professed Final Vows during the period January to May 2013. In the CORI RES Vicariate of Peru, Roger Tamay Ramirez professed Perpetual Vows on 20 April 2013. In the DOL Province of Italy, Daniele Curci professed Final Vows on 28 April 2013. In the LAT Province of Italy, Davide Spennato professed Final Vows on 01 May 2013. Also on 01 May, in the VULN Vice Province of Austria-Germany, Bro. Matthias Maria Leykamm made Perpetual Profession. And finally in 02 May 2013 Lai Xuelong professed Final Vows in the PASS Province of the Philippines.



Daniele Curci (DOL)



Davide Spennato (LAT)

PROFESSION OF FIRST VOWS

During the period of January to May 2013, eight Religious professed First Vows. On 01 January 2013 in the SANG Province of Spain, Oscar Armando Vera Vite professed First Vows. And in the DOL-VICT Vicariate of Brazil, Hélder Maioli Alvarenga professed First Vows on 13 January 2013. On 26 January in the DOMIN-PRAES Vicariate of Brazil, Vanildo De Jesus Nascimento professed First Vows. And on 02 May 2013, the following five religious professed First Vows in the PASS Province of the Philippines: Manuel Alfred Bayta, Nelson Galit, Celso Macas, Elmer Malaran, and Leonardo Sanchez.



Matthias Maria Leykamm (VULN)



Fr. Alcides Guerrero Segura (CORI-RES)

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

Four of our religious were ordained to the Priesthood during the period January to May 2013. On 19 March 2013, Fr. Alcides Guerrero Segura was ordained in the CORI RES Vicariate of Peru. In the SANG Province of Spain Fr. Marco Antonio Alanoca Choque was ordained to the priesthood on 14 April 2013. And finally, in the FID Province of Colombia, Fr. César Augusto Calderón Ramos was ordained to the priesthood on 20 April 2013 and José Gregorio Quintero Gaona on 01 May 2013.



Fr. José Gregorio Quintero Gaona (FID)



Deacon Filippo Pisciotta (CFIX)



Marco Antonio Arriaga Hernández, Joel Angel Flores Valdes, José Ramón Mejía Babadilla and Daniel Rodriguez Rodriguez (FAM, 19 Oct. 2012)

DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

During the same period of January to May 2013, two Religious were ordained deacons. In the CFIX Province of Sicily, Filippo Pisciotta was ordained a deacon on 12 January 2013. And in the SANG Province of Spain, Daniel Omar Panoluisa Herrera was ordained to the diaconate on 23 February 2013. ●

NEW PUBLICATIONS

AA.VV.
ANNIVERSARIO 150° MORTE DI SAN GABRIELE
A di 27 febbraio 1862... - Edizione: San Gabriele Edizioni, 2013

Anselmi, Massimiliano, C.P.
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DI MORTE MISTICA Originalità e attualità del pensiero spirituale
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SOBRE LAS APARICIONES DE EZKIOGA (1931-1937)
Edizione: Scriptorium Victoriense, 2012

DOCUMENTOS DE LA NUNCIATURA APOSTOLICA DE
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Artola Arbiza, Antonio María, C.P.
LA CORREDENCION MARIANA:
EL MISTERIO DE LA COLABORACION FEMENINA
A LA SALVACION DEL HOMBRE
Edizione: Facultad De Teologia Redemptoris Mater, 2012

PASIOLOGIA - Edizione: Roma, 2013

Buttini, Giuliana
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DER JKÜNGFRAU MARIA (1973-2003) - Edizione: Parvis, 2013

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LA "MORTE MISTICA" DI SAN PAOLO DELLA CROCE
E IL SUO INFLUSSO SUI PASSIONISTI NELL'OTTOCENTO
Edizione Dott.ssa Felicita Costi, 2013.

Cruz Arias, Gerardo Ariel, C.P.
LA CONCEPCION DE LA TRINIDAD EN WALTER KASPAR
Y MAXIMINO ARIAS REYERO
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EN LA EXHORTACION APOSTOLICA VITA CONSECRATA
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Edizione: Ediciones Populares (Monte Carmelo), 2013.

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DIO E LA CROCE NEL PENSIERO DI STANISLAS BRETON
Edizione: Edizione Simple, 2013.

Mirra, Pierluigi, C.P.
LI AMÒ SINO ALLA FINE! LA PASSIONE DEL SIGNORE
Edizione: Centro Missionario Passionista, 2013.

Otshudialokoka Onasaka, Vital, C.P.
LA RISTRUTTURAZIONE E IL DIRITTO CANONICO
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Edizione: Roma, 2005-2006

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DE APARECIDA - Edizione: Edicoes CNBB, 2012.

PASTORAL DA ESCUTA POR UMA PAROQUIA
EM PERMANENTE ESTADO DE MISSAO
Edizione: PAULUS, 2013

Plet, Philippe François, C.P.
15 DIAS DE ORACAO COM GEMA GALGANI
Edizione: Edicoes Passionistas, 2013.



NOTITIAE OBITUS



Usque ad diem 20 dicembre 2012 – 19 aprile 2013, acceptae

DIE	OBDORMIVIT IN DOMINO	PROVINCIA	NATUS	VOTA NUNCUPAVERAT
MONIALES ET SORORES DEFUNCTAE				
13/03/12	Sr. Serafina de Nossa Senhora Menina (Maria Guilhermina) Damm	Sorum Passionistarum (Signa) Prov. San Gabriele	10/10/1920	21/06/1938
26/03/12	Sr. Maria Paulina Calderon	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	15/12/1914	30/10/1938
29/03/12	Sr. Eileen Trainor	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	20/08/1924	01/09/1944
11/04/12	Sr. Maria Adele delle Cinque Piaghe (Cesarina) Colzani	Monasterio Passionistarum de Genova - Quarto (Italia)	12/05/1925	07/05/1950
20/12/12	Sr. Cyprian Connolly	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	19/01/1919	05/09/1939
07/01/13	Sr. Camilla Carr	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	23/03/1923	09/12/1945
20/01/13	Sr. Pauline Therese Leverage	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	28/12/1932	28/04/1954
24/01/13	Sr. Julia Buggy	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	04/03/1918	11/05/1938
24/01/13	Sr. Catarina Schofield	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	24/07/1929	14/05/1960
26/03/13	M. María Consolación de Jesús Crucificado (M ^a Consuelo), Ortiz de Guinea Alday	Monasterio Passionistarum de Bilbao (España)	23/10/1939	26/10/1964
01/04/13	Sr. Maria Elsa (Elsa Caterina) Tizian	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa)	30/04/1931	08/09/1977
15/04/13	Sr. Emanuela del Cuore di Maria (Anna) Ranchella	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) Prov. Vergine Addolorata	26/07/1927	16/10/1957
19/04/13	Sr. María Angelina de Jesús Crucificado Moctezuma Gutiérrez	Inst. Filiarum Passionis D.N.I.C. et Dolorum B.V.M. (México)	17/09/1936	24/12/1961



“With his Passion, Death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ brings us salvation, the grace and the joy of being God’s children and the possibility of calling him with the name of the Father. Mary is a mother, a mother who takes care above all of the health of her children and knows how to heal them with her great and tender love... She helps us in our growth, she helps us to face life, she teaches us to be free... O Mary, ‘Salus Populi Romani’: give us the grace that only you can give, so that we may always be signs and instruments of life.”

Basilica of St. Mary Major, 04 May 2013

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