



Passionist International Bulletin

N° 38 - New Series, 3-2015

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XV SYNODUS GENERALIS



Passionist Life

**THE CALL TO HOLINESS
IN COMMUNITY
FOR EVANGELISATION**

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Special Edition 2015

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A SYNOD ON HOLINESS

Fr. Paul Francis Spencer (PATR)
Secretary of the Synod

When I attended a preparatory meeting with the General Council several months before the 2015 General Synod, I was quite surprised to hear the theme which had been chosen for the Synod: “Passionist Life: The Call to Holiness in Community for Evangelisation”. “The Call to Holiness” seemed at first sight an unusual subject for a meeting of leaders and administrators but, on reflection, I realised that the theme encapsulated the three ways in which we live out our Passionist charism: spirituality, fraternity and mission. What was more surprising than the choice of theme was the central role which the theme played in the Synod itself. Often a theme is chosen for our large gatherings but in practice the theme has very little impact on the direction or the quality of the meeting. In the case of the 2015 General Synod, the call to holiness was a thread linking the various elements of the work of the Synod.

From the opening discourse of Father Joachim, the Superior General, to the homily at the closing Mass, in his opening words, Father Joachim reminded all that the Synod was “not just a business event, but an event of faith, an event of the kingdom of God.” He further set the tone of the Synod in his reflection on the Call to Holiness (published in the Passionist International Bulletin, no. 37, December 2015), in which he quoted these words of St Paul of the Cross: “He who desires to be a great saint must take care that nothing live in him which is not purely God; and this he will know to be the case if all his actions are done for the love of God and united with those of Jesus Christ, who is our way, truth, and life.”

This Synod was not a retreat or a course of spiritual exercises. It contained all of the elements we would expect to find in an international meeting of leaders: accounts of progress and problems in the different countries and continents in which our Congregation is present; reports on



**Fr. Paul Francis Spencer (PATR),
Secretary of the Synod.**

topics such as solidarity, formation and finance; proposals and recommendations to be refined and then voted. However, these were treated in a way which was consistent with the Synod’s theme. The Synod members were particularly touched by the suffering of migrants and refugees and sent a message to the whole Passionist Family on our response to this crisis. The presence in the Synod of a number of new major superiors and of delegates for the two large provinces of MAPRAES and SCOR gave a younger profile to the assembly which was reflected in the composition of the CCC (Central Coordinating Committee). This perhaps resulted in some fresh ways of looking at various questions. The role adopted by the facilitator, Fr William Chang OFM Cap., was pastoral rather than merely organisational, often recalling Synod members to interior reflection and conversion.

For me, there were six important moments in the Synod where the force of its theme was felt. The first of these was the Superior General’s report in which Fr Joachim said:

“I feel that we all need to hear again and again the call of Jesus to conversion: ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel.’ (Mk. 1:15) This is a great challenge: to fight against our self-centred human tendencies and turn-around our



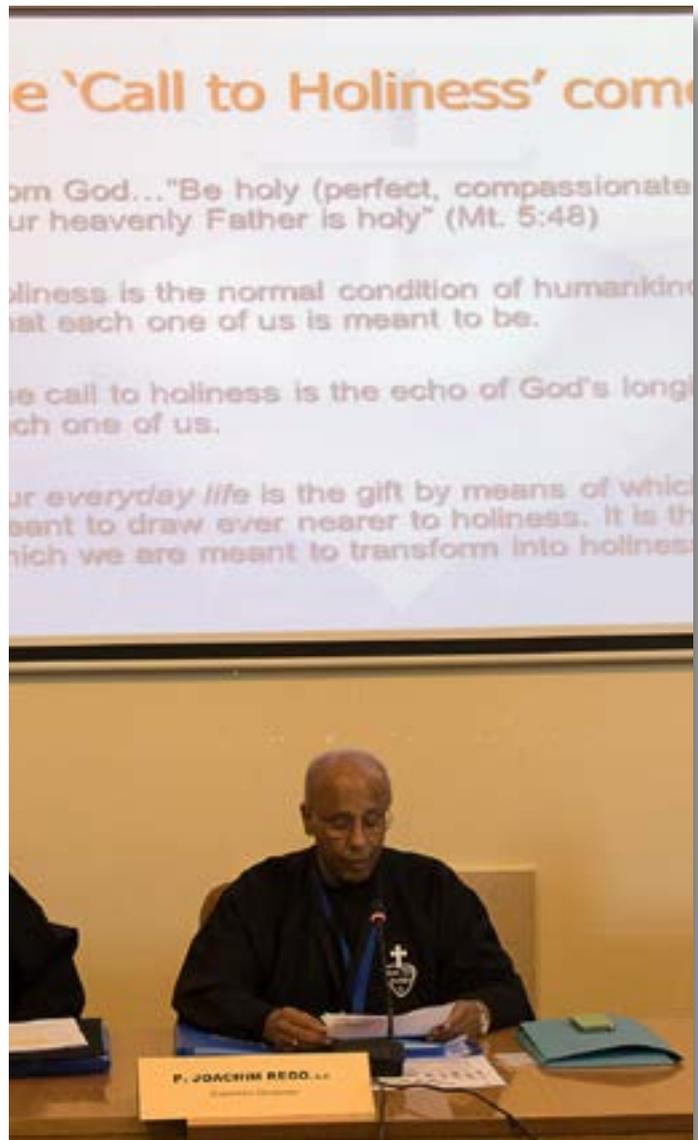
Synod logo and banner

minds, hearts and attitudes to align itself with the dream and purpose of God for all of creation. No doubt, in our humility, God blesses, strengthens and forgives our efforts and struggles – and leads us to holiness of life.”

The second was Fr General’s reflection on holiness, to which I have already referred above. The celebration of the feast of St Paul of the Cross during the Synod gave a special opportunity for prayer and pondering on the legacy of our founder and was, for me, the third of these moments when the Synod experienced the Call to Holiness. In addition to these three moments, there were three significant times of shared spiritual reflection during the Synod. The first of these was the evaluation of the quality of our community life asked for by the last General Chapter and based on number two of the General Chapter’s Aspects of International Mission: “The Charismatic Testimony of the Passionist Community”. The second was the shared reflection on the theme of the Synod, preceded by thirty minutes of personal reflection in silence, which took place after the General’s reflection on holiness. The third was the reflective evaluation of the Synod, on the

evening before the closing Mass. This was based on two questions: “What touched you during the Synod? What do you want to bring with you from here?” The reflection on these questions was a rich testimony to the spirit of fraternity and the vitality which had marked the gathering.

The final part of the Synod which I would highlight was the discussion on how the Congregation should mark its third centenary in 2020. There was a great variety of suggestions for ourselves, our Passionist laity and those to whom we minister. What was clear from all these suggestions was that we know who we are, where we come from and where we want to go and, for me, this underlined the lived reality of our Synod theme, that Passionist Life is a Call to Holiness in Community for Evangelisation.✠



Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, addresses the General Synod members.



SUPERIOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE XV GENERAL SYNOD

(abbreviated version)

INTRODUCTION

When I began writing this report, it was the feast day commemorating the Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome (August 5). Of course, I am conscious that this Basilica holds a special memory and place in the hearts and lives of Passionists. Facing so many difficulties, and even rejection from church authorities, in the process of obtaining approvals for the founding of the Congregation, St Paul of the Cross happened to enter this Basilica in September 1721 (by chance, or by God's design?) where, before the Icon of Our Lady (Salus Populi Romani), he made a vow to keep alive and promote the memory of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

Regularly I, too, on my walks, enter the Basilica of St. Mary Major and spend some moments of contemplation before the image of the same Icon of Our Lady, remembering our Holy Founder who was utterly convinced that the Passion of Jesus was the “*miracle of miracles*” and “*the door to salvation*”, indeed “*the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love*”. More importantly, however, in those few moments of contemplation, I am challenged by calling to mind the same First Vow I have professed as a Passionist and seek enlightenment in order that I may convincingly live and promote the memory of the Passion of Jesus.

Herein is contained the essence of our Charism: the Memoria Passionis – this gift of the Spirit to the Church through St Paul of the Cross which we, Passionists, have been entrusted with to both nurture and promote its life-force.

Is the charism something we do? Or is it something that shapes us into who we are? Obviously, it is both! However, what we DO comes about as a consequence of who we ARE. If we are to be and act from our true self, then the BEING and DOING cannot be disconnected. If they are, then we need to perhaps have a check-up to ascertain that we are not suffering from some form of ‘spiritual schizophrenia’.



Pope Francis prays before the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “Salus Populi Romani” in the Basilica of St. Mary Major, Rome.

It is my hope that more and more we – the whole Passionist Family – can be shaped by the charism and assume our specific identity as PASSIONISTS in community and mission, thereby living our call to holiness. For this we need to: (i) keep our attention fixed on and stay close to Jesus and Him Crucified; (ii) provide spaces for ourselves and the members of our Passionist Family in the ‘depthing’ of our spirituality at the various levels and in life-long formation; (iii) cultivate hearts in prayer and contemplation which will reflect the compassion and love of our Crucified God; and (iv) witness lives of holiness which become ‘pointers’ for people to find meaning in Jesus Crucified and Risen who is our hope...

CONFIGURATIONS

Overall, in consideration of numbers, the Congregation of the Passion is in decline! There are parts where there is growth – generally areas





where the Congregation is historically recent and young; and there are parts (historically older and traditionally richer) where there is little or no growth. This is the reality of our times and of course, no one knows the future with certainty.

Spread around 62 countries, cultures and contexts in the world, we believe that every place/situation where we are present is meaningful in terms of our call to witness our charism and do our mission. However, in the real situation we are facing today, we must develop some strategic plans: we can only be and do according to what we have! We need to make informed decisions as to how we can sustain our presences effectively and we must make wise choices as to where we channel our limited energies and resources, including in discerning new missionary outreach.

Most important, however, is the new awareness

of ‘Configurations’ is not yet been fully accepted or embraced, sometimes due to not having a clear understanding and in some cases due to resistance because of the fear of change...

While it is understandable that the Configuration model has been slow and hesitant, and while we face fears around issues concerning loss of identity, history and culture, yet having a respectful awareness of these values, we must move forward with courage and trust to focus on the witness of our fraternal community life and our specific mission of evangelisation through the Word of the Cross as priorities. Once again, there is no doubt that formation for this new way of being Passionists and doing mission is crucial and must be considered...

COMMUNITY LIFE AND FORMATION

It seems to me that these two areas of our life remain critical and the genuine concern of many. Whilst there is a strong desire for strengthening our community life, and some genuine efforts are made in this direction, fundamentally there is need for a deepening in our understanding of the nature and purpose of the community dimension of religious life, its relationship to the evangelical counsels, and the challenge of witnessing to Christian community life in the reality of today’s world.

There is no doubt that ‘community’ and ‘relationships’ are much sought after in our society today, but on ‘my’ terms and for ‘my’ support – what I can get for myself, rather than what I can give. This attitude promotes ‘individualism’ that fosters control, independence, self-sustenance, and a lack of cooperation unless it is for my own benefit.

On the human level, there is the difficulty we face of living with individuals who are different



(L-R) Fr. Antonio Munduate, Fr. Denis Travers (General Consultants) and Fr. Joachim Rego (Superior General).

we must adopt, that the Congregation is bigger than my little Province/Vice-Province/Vicariate. It is imperative that I develop a vision and heart for the whole Congregation in its internationality, so that its mission wherever we are, is revitalised. This was the goal of the restructuring process and is in the spirit of being ‘missionary’. We cannot go it alone! Solidarity for life and mission is the way forward!...

I feel that the principal motive for the creation



to me and with whom I did not choose to live. This includes and is compounded today by the challenge of diversity and the fear of difference resulting from ‘internationality’: multi-ethnic and multicultural living.

Conflicts often create barriers that lead to criticising, speaking ill of others, gossiping, and making unfair judgements against one another. These barriers only serve to promote a distancing and exclusion, rather than acceptance and inclusion. We begin to find ways to avoid and ignore one another, instead of taking interest in and showing genuine care for one another. What results is a situation of living in the same dwelling, but with no *communion of persons*.

Added to this are, often, past unreconciled hurts which exists between brothers/authority and which significantly influences life in the community and in the Province/Vice-Province/Vicariate. Consequently, rather than being a witness of Christian community, it exemplifies a contrary witness, creating an environment and atmosphere which is painful, joyless and hypocritical – so much so that it leads to some members either becoming sarcastic and negative, or opting out altogether (leaving and/or requesting exclaustation).

What needs to be done? Who is to initiate action? Dialogue, conflict resolution, spiritual conversion and reconciliation are the way forward for resolving differences and building harmony. It is important that Superiors (Major and Local) are attentive and provide professional and spiritual assistance, regular forums for community meetings, and ongoing formation (both personal and communal) so that these conflictive issues in community and ministry can be addressed.

It is true that, often, the conflicts in community living arise as a result of differing expectations and are related to deficiencies/needs in our human, emotional and psychological life – even before the spiritual life. Better attention needs to be given to these aspects in a person’s make-up before their acceptance to our life as a candidate for religious formation and, indeed, throughout the initial formation process.

It goes without saying that, as a matter of priority, formators need to be well chosen and given the appropriate preparation and training necessary – taking in the spiritual and theological disciplines, but also the human and psychological sciences. Should the right persons not be available, then we must collaborate within the solidarity



Fr. Joachim explains a symbol used during the closing liturgy of the Synod.

structures of the Configuration and share the best formation resources available. This area is too important to be treated lightly!

LAITY WHO SHARE OUR CHARISM

In my movements around the parts of the Congregation, I have found the lay people who share our charism to be most inspiring. There is no doubt that, usually, these lay people feel drawn by the Spirit to desire a deeper knowledge and experience of our charism and spirituality, either because of their connection to a Passionist community/ministry, or their relationship with Passionist religious. It is fulfilling to see the grace and blessing of our First Vow lived: *“to recall to mind with greater love the Passion of our Lord and to promote its memory by word and deed...”*

While the 46th General Chapter recognised the growing phenomenon of the “Lay Passionists” (even to making an inclusion in our General Regulations), and while there are already in existence a variety of fraternities, groups and movements, yet in some entities this trend has not yet been embraced, but even resisted or not encouraged. In other entities it is wonderful and ➔



enriching to experience the growth, development and collaboration of the “Passionist Family” in the life and mission of the Congregation. However, respecting the different states of life (religious, ordained and lay) and the witness and promotion of the charism according to each vocation, we need to find ways to mutually listen, share, support and build the community of the “Passionist Family”...

REQUESTS FOR EXCLAUSTRATION

One of my concerns, and that of the General Council, is the number of religious (many of whom are young) requesting ‘exclausturation’ or permission to live outside the religious house. As you know, the Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council, and further, the Superior General with the consent of his Council can grant permission for valid reasons according to our Regulations #99.

However, it seems that sometimes these permissions are granted too quickly and too easily. In addition, there are situations where the necessity for personal, psychological and medical assistance, pastoral care, supervision and regular contact for a religious living outside are not made clear or followed up. This leads to the religious feeling abandoned by the Congregation and ultimately choosing either not to return, to be incardinated into a diocese, or to leave.

I realise that some cases are very sensitive for both the religious requesting leave of absence and for the community. Perhaps sometimes, for valid reasons, concerning the good of the community and the particular religious, it may be deemed necessary that a religious live outside the religious house. However, I ask that all Superiors give attention to assisting the respective religious with making good discernment and engaging in a fraternal dialogue leading to decisions and the granting of permissions that will be both helpful and regular.

It is the duty of the Major Superior to challenge and regularise the situation of religious who, over many years, have chosen to live their lives in an independent manner outside the community and

for no valid reasons. I ask that proper and valid steps be undertaken to confront and regularise these situations...

CONCLUSION

Since the beginning of my term as Superior General three years ago, I have been trying to articulate for myself a Vision for the Congregation. Obviously, I am aware that our Congregation’s vision is clearly stated in our Constitutions. However, what are the aspects that we are called to give attention to in these times? Again, the



“I would like to believe that the gift you will take back to your brothers and sisters in community and mission after this Synod will be one of renewed hope and positive energy.” (Homily, closing liturgy)

last General Chapter outlined for us six aspects of International Mission as a programme for this period of history. My vision, however, is an encouragement and challenge to something more basic.

I feel that we all need to hear again and again the call of Jesus to conversion: *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel.”* (Mk. 1:15) This is a great challenge: to fight against our self-centred human tendencies and turn-around our minds, hearts and attitudes to align itself with the dream and purpose of God for all of creation. No doubt, in our humility, God blesses, strengthens and forgives our efforts and struggles – and leads us to holiness of life.



However, it disturbs and pains me considerably when I so often receive complaints and come across situations of domination, lack of respect and mistreatment of one another, principally because of the desire to assert power over others, or to push my own agenda in community and ministry, without consultation or listening for what will serve the common good. This has been the cause of so much hurt, mistrust, suspicion, manipulation, division and sadness, and certainly does not promote the kingdom of God!

We all need to check this attitude and tendency in ourselves and remember who we are; otherwise we risk being no different to the corrupt tyrants, dictators, politicians and corporation executives whom we so easily and glibly condemn. Our call, rather, is to authority in service of the Gospel values: to build community, to foster fraternal relationships, and to be good shepherds.

So, my desire is that we focus on *deepening our BEING authentic disciples of Jesus, formed by the spirit of the Passion of Jesus, as witnesses of hope and compassion, in the service of our mission to announce joyfully the love and mercy of God, especially in the areas and situation where this message needs to be seen and heard.* This demands of us that we “leave familiar shores and launch out into the deep” – listening, taking risks, living with courage, moving out of our ‘comfort zones’ – always with confidence and trust in the God who calls us to cooperate in the building of His Reign of Justice, Love, Truth and Peace.

More and more I feel that we need to respond from a contemplative stance: listening, seeing and perceiving what God is doing and where the Spirit is blowing and drawing us to witness the life force of our charism. For this, there needs to be constant reviews and renewal of our life and mission. We can become somewhat ‘tired’, and even irrelevant, if we just continue with how we have always been and what we have always done.

While our ministries are wide and varied, we must nevertheless always be conscious of our call and mission *to preach the Gospel of the Passion by our life and apostolate in apostolic communities* (Const. #2). This is our specific reason for being. We also need to face the challenges of

making some deliberate and informed choices, both for expansion and contraction, regarding our presences and ministries according to the needs, situations and signs of the times.

I believe that every local community has a responsibility to engage in community discern-



“I conclude with an encouragement that we be and live as Passionists...”

ment and dialogue, examining our presence in a particular place, and in that light clearly choosing the kind of witness we want to give and the ministries we want to assume as a Passionist community – always attentive to the proper and particular law. Here, both the Major Superior, and especially the Local Superior have an important role as animator.

I conclude with an encouragement that we be and live as Passionists: that our monasteries, retreat houses and parishes be welcoming centres/shrines of prayer and spirituality where the healing love of God is experienced; that we celebrate our Passionist feasts and promote our spiritual resources and symbols with conviction and meaning; and that we minister to all, especially the suffering, with compassion, understanding, welcome, hospitality and inclusion. ✠

Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P.
Superior General



Report of the Secretary General for Solidarity and the Missions

(abbreviated version)

Fr. Jesús María Aristín



**Fr. Jesús María Aristín,
Secretary General for JPIC and the Missions.**

During these last three years, since my last report at the XLVI General Chapter, the Secretariat for Solidarity and Mission has pursued two priorities:

Undertaking and completing development and advancement projects.

Working to sensitize the Congregation to issues of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC).

1. EVANGELIZATION, ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

We have worked to aid our missions in the achievement of projects for evangelization, advancement and development. We have done this by encouraging them, and helping them to bring their projects to the attention of International organizations and agencies. In this period, we have received requests from 79 different projects, and we have been able to gain assistance for 49 of them (see appendix).

Africa is the region that has most frequently asked for our assistance, undoubtedly because it has the greatest level of needs. We were present for the Vicariate Congresses of CARLW and GEMM, held in February of 2013. At a second visit, we took part in the Assembly for Superiors, Economes and Formation Personnel of Africa; it was held in Nairobi, in February of 2014.

Our efforts were directed at helping them onto the road of self-sufficiency, so that they would not have to continue being dependent on external help. There is still a long way to go. The Mission Fund will continue to support this goal.

We also visited the communities of our Bulgaria Mission in November of 2013.

2. THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT NGO (ONLUS) PASSIONIST SOLIDARITY (SOLIDARIETÀ PASSIONISTA).

The ONLUS was established on April 19, 2010. Because of our small size, the ONLUS has aided 8 projects, with a subsidy of 39,830 Euros. Since March of this year, we have also taken on the responsibility for “adoption at a distance” which had been operated by our brothers in the former CORM province in the north of Italy, operating through the ONLUS of the same name, Solidarietà Passionista. This should result in an increase of help being sent to our missions in Kenya and Tanzania.

3. RAISING THE AWARENESS OF THE CONGREGATION.

This priority has led to the following actions:

- The creation of liturgical materials so that our communities might join in and celebrate special “days” throughout the year: 1 and 31 of January: Day of Peace, Day for Non-violence; 22 April: World Day for Water; 16 October: World Day for Nutrition; and 10 December: World Human Rights Day.

- The publication of a book with DVD which gathered formation materials to be used by our religious and communities. It was distributed throughout the Congregation.

- The development of our web page: www.jp-pic-passionist.org.

- Other publications: the BIP/PIB, the Bulletin of Passionist Missions, articles appearing in various magazines.



4. CONGREGATIONAL JPIC NETWORK

In the task of raising the consciousness of the Congregation, we consider it essential that there be a network for Solidarity and Justice in the Congregation. It is composed of JPIC promoters in each of the Provinces and nations where the Congregation is present. In order to advance this network, we organized an international meeting in Rome. We still have a way to go before it is all reality. I ask all of the Major Superiors to help us with this arduous task.

This network should engage with networks of other congregations or other entities. Passionists International is engaged in this networking; we, in Rome, share in the meetings of the JPIC Promoters under the auspices of the USG-UISG, which brings together these representatives of other congregations.

To this end of extending solidarity across a global reality, we are co-founders of the

international campaigns on behalf of Human Rights; Ecology; and Food and Nutritional Security.

5. SEMINAR-WORKSHOP ON JPIC

Under the priority for consciousness-raising and formation, the most likely event of greatest significance in this period has been the seminar-workshop for JPIC that took place this year in Rome, from April 13 to 19. Eighty religious men, women, and laity took part, from twenty-four countries. Our Secretariat has published a book and DVD that reports all that was lived and accomplished during this seminar-workshop. Additional materials presented include resources for formation of our religious and their communities. These materials were distributed to all of the houses of our Congregation.

The theme “Passio Christi: a passion for life and for the earth” has been re-emphasized with



Small group discussion of Spanish speaking members of the Synod.

International Congregations of Religious (ICR). This is a network which connects approximately twenty religious congregations, and which has a permanent representative at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), who is at this time Kenneth Thesing (former Superior General of the Maryknoll Missionaries). Through this agency, we have had a part in high-level conferences of FAO, and have taken part in various

the publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* which also echoes the emphasis on a spirituality which nourishes a passion for care of the world*. This passion for care of the world coincides with what we call “a passion for the earth”. This spirituality that Pope Francis offers to all Christians is a very Passionist spirituality, very much ours. We should excel in it and be teachers for others of this “passion for the care of the world.”

**“Here, I would like to offer Christians a few suggestions for an ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith, since the teachings of the Gospel have direct consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living. More than in ideas or concepts as such, I am interested in how such a spirituality can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world.” (Laudato si’, 216) ✠*



REPORT OF PASPAC CONFIGURATION TO THE XV GENERAL SYNOD

*Bro. Laurence M. Finn
PASPAC President*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Approximately 396 professed religious: 263 Priests; 37 Brothers; 1 Deacon; 95 Clerics and Brothers in Temporary Vows.

- Located in ten Countries (Australia, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Korea, India, China, and Vietnam)
- Nine major languages and multiple dialects in the Configuration.
- Number of Houses in Configuration: 26 Retreats; 26 Residences; 3 Affiliated Houses; 22 Mission Stations

1. THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONFIGURATION IN THE YEARS 2012-2015

- Establishment of the International House of Formation: Language Studies - 2009 until the present. (Philippines 2009 – 2013; Australia 2014 until the present). There have been 31 graduates of this program to date with another seven or eight scheduled to begin the program in 2015.

- Establishment of the International House of Formation: Novitiate – 2009 until the present in Australia. There have been 16 professions thus far, with 10 currently in the Novitiate.

- Significant contributions in individual entities of the Configuration in JPIC issues (i.e. Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, India and Papua New Guinea)

2. THE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AT THE PRESENT TIME

- Maintaining solidarity with one another, most especially in terms of personnel for mission for other parts of the Configuration and wider Congregation. (i.e. India's commitment to Papua New Guinea, Australia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Jamaica, W.I. and New Zealand; Philippine's commitment to Vietnam, Japan, Canada and Sweden; Korea's commitment to China and Japan; Indonesia's commitment to Papua New Guinea, General Curia and Peru; Holy Spirit Province's commitment to Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, General Curia and New Zealand plus many other short-term and long-term commitments across entity boundaries)

- Making the two major projects for the International House of Formation currently underway financially feasible without assistance from outside the Configuration.



**Bro. Laurence M. Finn (CRUC),
President of the PASPAC Configuration.**

- Creating a Commission for JPIC issues on a Configuration-wide basis.

- Maintaining and strengthening the financial solidarity with each entity in the Configuration and the General Council

3. THE CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE CONFIGURATION

- See one and two above

4. GOALS FOR THE COMING YEARS 2015-2018

- Initiate formation policies for China and Vietnam

- Evaluate the need for the International House of Formation Novitiate Program

- Reinforce the three principal Commissions of the Configuration (Personnel, Formation and Finance)

- Establish an effective Commission for JPIC issues.

- Evaluate and intensify the sharing of personnel within the Configuration and in the greater Congregation.

- Evaluate and intensify the sharing of financial resources within the Configuration and in the greater Congregation.

- Evaluate and intensify the sharing of formation personnel and the establishment of an entity-sensitive formation policy in each of the entities in the Configuration. 🇸🇮



REPORT OF THE MAPRAES PROVINCE TO THE XV GENERAL SYNOD

(abbreviated version)

Fr. Luigi Vaninetti
MAPRAES Provincial Superior



Fr. Luigi Vaninetti,

MAPRAES Provincial Superior.

After a vote during its first Chapter held in Rome from 16 to 26 November 2015, the new Province chose to call itself “*Maria ad templum praesentata*” (Mary Presented in the Temple), which was then designated by the acronym MAPRAES.

Currently there are 439 members in the Configuration with a median age of 64.19 years. These are subdivided into-- Priests: 381; Permanent deacons: 6; Brothers with Perpetual Vows: 34; Brothers with Temporary Vows: 1; Clerics with Perpetual Vows: 3; and Clerics with Temporary Vows: 14.

The MAPRAES Province is subdivided administratively into eight Regions that include three countries: France: MICH Region; Portugal: FAT Region; and Italy: CORM, PRAES, PIET, DOL, LAT, CFIIXI Regions. Consequently, the languages spoken in the Province are French, Portuguese and Italian.

There are sixty house in the MAPRAES territory divided between *Domus erectae* and residences. Additionally, there are also various missions in the Province in Angola, Nigeria and Bulgaria.

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONFIGURATION DURING THE YEARS 2012-2015

FROM A CONFIGURATION TO A UNIFIED PROVINCE

Subsequent to the Provincial Chapter that was held in Rome (16-26 November 2015) the CEB Configuration became a single Province. The Provincial chapter confirmed the decision to merge the eight provinces that comprised the “Eugene Bossilkov” Configuration (CEB) as decided by Decree of the General Chapter of 2012. Therefore, there is now a single Province sub-divided into eight regions (the former provinces). We recognize this decision as an event of grace and an opportunity to continue the mission entrusted to us by the Church to proclaim to the word the Gospel of the Passion with renewed enthusiasm. The name chosen for this new province was “Mary Presented in the Temple” (MAPRAES).

UNITY AND TERRITORY

In our European geographic and cultural reality, we are in a period of numeric re-dimensioning and of fragmentation in the fields of formation, governance and the convergence of shared projects. We are making a great effort to reduce the number of our houses and activities in order to provide a more balanced proportion between persons, activities and structures as well as improved quality of life and apostolate. In particular, the willingness to consider new choices and to promote evangelization in the modern world, led us to create an entity that has a vision, a strategy and action steps that seek to avoid dispersion and overcome mistrust and discouragement. However, we are aware that the entity is the result of a



blending of regional realities that have a history, a developmental past and an identity. Therefore, we strive to respect and value territoriality, and therefore hope to promote real cooperation in solidarity with each other and according to the process of Restructuring in formation, personnel and finances. We are also aware that the road to full integration of people and facilities in order to achieve true unity needs to be achieved gradually. Furthermore, we believe that this decision is an

THE EXTENDED COUNCIL.

To help the Provincial Superior and as a tool for communication and liaison between and with the provincial government, the regions and the missionary zones, we introduced the juridical entity of the extended Council. It will normally meet twice a year and it is primarily consultative in nature.

THE CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE CONFIGURATION



“The key resource for bringing about community renewal is the figure of the local superior.”

a) The first challenge is that of trying to carry out the mandate of the Chapter to establish an effective unity of the Provinces of France, Italy and Portugal being attentive to each locality, without penalizing or marginalizing the outlying parts of the Province itself.

b) Initial and on-going formation-- The first concrete step is precisely in this area, through the reorganization and unification of the progressive phases of vocation ministry and formation, as well as the composition of

interregional formation communities.

c) Following the directives of the General Chapter, a great deal of attention has been given to the care of the young religious. In particular, through institutional initiatives like workshops and meetings, it was decided to first meet with the young religious and to listen not only to their problems and their desire to talk about them, but also to take note of their expectations and their energy in order to involve them in provincial programming.

d) The ministry of shrines as centers of Passionist spirituality, hospitality for pilgrims and opportunities for evangelization-- In the Province, there are important shrines of international fame and others that are significant for the Congregation and the Italian church such as St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, St. Maria Goretti

important stage in the Restructuring process.

GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

For these reasons, the Provincial Chapter tried to find a structure for government that could guarantee the unity of the province and on the other hand, ensure proper governance and guidance of the territory. As an expression of the implementation of unity, the Province opted for a model of leadership that consists of a central government, composed of the Provincial Superior and his Council, assisted by Regional Superiors with their two Consultors. A large majority further decided that the Superior of each region should have delegated rather than vicarial authority. This choice was intended to safeguard the unity of the government of the province and at the same time be attentive to the local realities.



in Nettuno, St. Gemma Galgani in Lucca, the Scala Santa in Rome, St. Pancrazio in Turin, La Madonna Addolorata in Mascalucia, Sicily, etc. We are also studying and planning ways of developing our retreat house as spiritual centers both for the Region and for the laity and the territory. Almost every region has one of these entities...

**GOALS FOR THE COMING YEARS
2015-2018**

THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The basic goal is the revitalization of our community and missionary life; the Province, as well as the Congregation itself, exists – and is situated– in individual communities. The *Constitutions* state (No.119) that “the local community is the basic cell of the Congregation”. The provincial Chapter reaffirmed the centrality of the local community for the life and mission of the province and each religious. It placed particular emphasis on the importance of the “community plan” that is referenced in several places in the Regulations...

The key resource for bringing about community renewal is the figure of the local superior. On theological and spiritual levels, all Congregations are studying ways of strengthening and restoring the role of this important figure. For our part,

we have done a lot of work in this area, but we will have to provide adequate support for these religious as well as the opportunity to grow in an understanding of their role and exercising this ministry.

In order to strengthen the life and mission of the community, the community itself must meet sustainability criteria that make possible its apostolic development for today’s world. This requires a reduction of presences, a very difficult and painful process, especially in the historical and traditional regions of the Congregation. However, this must be accompanied by significant new initiatives that are capable of channeling the energies of all the religious...

THE REALITY OF THE LAY PASSIONIST MOVEMENT (MLP)

During the Chapter, specific attention was given to the reality of the laity, along with an on-going willingness to encourage dialogue and the involvement of the laity in the shared mission of the proclamation of the Passion of the Lord. The presence and participation of the laity in the new Province is very diverse, including particular histories and different forms of development in different cultural contexts. There is an urgent need for increased awareness and study of the different realities... 🇮🇹



Configuration Presidents address the Synod assembly.



REPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE SACRED HEART (SCOR) TO THE XV GENERAL SYNOD

(abbreviated version)

*Fr. José María Sáez Martín
SCOR Provincial Superior*



Fr. José María Sáez Martín, SCOR Provincial Superior.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Number of religious in the Province: 381
- Number of countries and languages of the Province: thirteen countries, one single language (Spanish)
- Number of houses in the province: 56 (in four zones)

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONFIGURATION IN THE YEARS 2012-2015

- To have taken the step to be, to understand, to grow, to create and to live as a single province.
- To have developed a sense of belonging.
- A sense of life was revitalized. There is a sense of hope in the future.
- Recreate and strengthen mission.
- Organizing communities beyond the structures of the old provinces: Thirty-five religious were assigned to a community that was not in his former province.

- Organization of the Phases of Formation:
 - Aspirancy by country.
 - Postulancy by Zones: México D.F., Conocoto (Ecuador), Lima (Peru), Havana (Cuba)
 - Novitiate in Daimiel (Spain)
 - Theology studies in Cajicá (Colombia) and San Salvador (El Salvador)
- Organization of unified financial system.
- Assign a religious by country for promotion and development of JPIC programs. Significant participation in the workshop that was held in Rome in April 2015.
- Prepare material each month for on-going formation.
- Creation of a Logo to define / identify communities, countries, zones, areas of responsibilities.
- Preparation of a catalog of religious, including fotos, as well as a general birthday calendar for all the religious of the Province.



SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AT THE PRESENT TIME.

- Further develop the Passionist formation of the young religious.
- Revitalize the local communities and the leadership skills of the Superiors.
- Integrate the religious in special personal situations.
- Accept and guide those religious are still “resistant” to the process of Restructuring.
- Strengthen the presence and involvement of the Regional Directors with the communities and the religious.
- Evaluate our presence in an area according to the mission and the number of religious (prioritize communities).
- Establish basic criteria so that young people are not limited to merely sustaining the old structures.
- Elaborate Evangelization Plans in each of the Zones.



“Revitalize the local communities and the leadership skills of the Superiors.”

THE CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE CONFIGURATION.

- Those assigned by the Provincial Chapter: Revitalization of our presence in Chile; strengthening the mission in Yurimaguas (Peru); and the consolidation of our presence in El Alto (Bolivia).
- Elaboration and publication of: the bulletin, PASIONISTAS.COM; Chronicles of the communities; and the creation of a Province Web page.
- Consolidation of the Provincial Infirmaries: Bilbao and Zaragoza (Spain)

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEARS 2015-2018

- Establish a presence for migrants on the Mexican Border.
- Initiate a project for social action with migrants in Valencia (Spain).
- Establish infirmaries in the Zones of America where needed.
- Appoint a religious to coordinate the educational centers of the Province.
- Structure a team and definitive plan for Ongoing Formation. 🙏



“A sense of life was revitalized. There is a sense of hope in the future.”



Report of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified (CJC) to the XV General Synod

(abbreviated version)

*Fr. Moisés Ríos Ruiz (PAC)
CJC President*



**(center) Fr. Moisés Ríos Ruíz (PAC),
President of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified (CJC).**

The CJC Configuration is composed of six Provinces (PAUL, CRUC, REG, EXALT, CONC and CALV) and one Vice-Province (PAC). Three hundred and seventy four Religious comprise the Configuration:

PAC: 12 priests, 1 Brother, 5 Religious with Temporary Vows, and 1 Religious with Perpetual Vows. Total- 19.

PAUL: 97 priests and 15 Brothers. Total- 112

CRUC:34 priests, 8 Brothers, 3 Religious with Temporary Vows, and 1 Permanent Deacon. Total- 59

REG: 34 priests, 1 Brother, 6 Religious with Temporary Vows, and 3 Religious with Perpetual Vows. Total- 44

EXALT: 58 priests, 5 Religious with Temporary Vows, and 2 Religious with Perpetual Vows. Total- 65

CONC: 13 priests and 1 Religious with Temporary Vows. Total- 14

CALV: 52 priests, 2 Brothers, 3 Religious with Temporary Vows and 2 Religious with Perpetual Vows. Total- 59

NUMBER OF HOUSES (DOMUS ERECTAE), HOUSES OF FORMATION AND MINISTRY SITES

PAC: Five houses, six parishes, five schools and two houses of formation.

PAUL: Three houses and five retreat houses.

CRUC: Eight houses, four parishes and three retreat houses.

REG: Eight houses, four parishes, one school, four houses of formation and one retreat house.

EXALT: 14 houses, 13 parishes, 2 schools, 2 shrine and 4 houses of formation.

CONC: Five houses, three parishes, one school, one house of formation and three retreat houses.

CALV: 17 houses, 16 parishes, 4 houses of formation and one retreat house.

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, LANGUAGES IN CONFIGURATION

- Nine countries (Canada, USA, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Haiti, Mexico, Brazil, Mozambique).



- Three languages (Spanish, English and Portuguese)

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONFIGURATION IN THE YEARS 2012-2015

- Solidarity in formation- Initial Formation has been organized.
- Communication among Superiors, presence at Chapters and Assemblies.
- Exchange of religious.
- Awareness of solidarity.



A significant challenge at the present time:
“Continue to cultivate a sense of solidarity.”

THE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AT THE PRESENT TIME

- Continue to cultivate a sense of solidarity.
- Be attentive to the challenges of each reality.
- Review areas of presence in each entity.
- Distance and language.
- Travel Visas
- Coordination of academic calendars.
- Discern the mission of the Configuration beyond formation.
- Participation in the Configuration in order to know one another better.
- Continue to discover and enhance the relationship between religious and laity... as we continue to discern our common call to discipleship in Jesus.

THE CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE CONFIGURATION

- Collaboration in formation: novices and theology students.

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEARS 2015-2018

- Study further the possibility of a single novitiate in the Configuration and make a decision about the same by 2016.
- Meeting in 2016 of those religious who professed Perpetual Vows within the last ten years.
- The JPIC Commission in being organized.
- Election of the President and Secretary.



(L-R) Fr. Joachim Rego (Superior General), Fr. Augusto Canali (First General Consultor), Fr. Carlos Saracini (CONC) and Fr. Amilton Manoel Da Silva (CALV).



Report of the Configuration Charles Houben (CCH) to the XV General Synod

(abbreviated version)

*Fr. Mark-Robin Hoogland (SPE)
CCH President*



**Fr. Mark-Robin Hoogland (SPE),
President CCH Configuration**

THE CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE CONFIGURATION

There are no projects of the Configuration. At the time of the North European Conference, we had several weeks of discussion, i.e. gatherings in which we shared on different levels. This year a seminar on the “Theology of the Passion” has been scheduled for the first time.

There is and has been solidarity in personnel, but on a small scale.

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEARS 2015-2018

- We do not have one particular policy in CCH due to the variety of languages and cultures.
- The two English-speaking provinces will work together more closely in vocations ministry.
- There is a growing desire for more collaboration in initial formation.
- We share on issues and know where and how to locate one another when an opportunity arises.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Number of Religious in the Configuration: 199
- Number of countries and languages spoken in the Configuration: nine countries (including Sweden, the Czech Republic and Ukraine), six provinces, eight languages
- Number of houses in the Configuration: 26

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONFIGURATION IN THE YEARS 2012-2015

- Greater trust and connectedness amongst the brethren of the different regions
- Greater collaboration in initial formation (student gatherings)
- The significant challenges at the present time
- The governability of the provinces
- Aging members
- There is a serious vocations crisis in North Europe
- Remaining faithful to the Passionist charism in the choices of our ministries and way of life.



Small group discussion of English speaking members of the Synod.



Report of the Configuration of the Passionists in Africa (CPA) to the XV General Synod

(abbreviated version)

Fr. Raphael Mangiti
CPA President



Fr. Raphael Mangiti (CARLW),
President of the CPA Configuration

and 4 religious with Temporary Vows.
Total: 20

COUNTRIES LOCATED AND LANGUAGES SPOKEN

The Configuration is present in six countries. Mainly two languages are spoken- French (Congo) and English, as well as Swahili and local dialects.

NUMBER OF HOUSES AND MINISTRY SITES IN THE CONFIGURATION

SALV: Fourteen communities and seven parishes.

CARLW: Four communities, eight parishes and one chaplaincy.

GEMM: Four communities and four parishes.

MATAF: Four communities and three parishes.

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONFIGURATION IN THE YEARS 2012-2015

The number of religious and young people in formation continues to grow. There are profes-

GENERAL INFORMATION

The CPA Configuration consists of one Vice-Province (SALV-Congo) and three General Vicariates that are currently dependent on the Superior General (CARLW-Kenya, GEMM-Tanzania and MATAF-Botswana/So.Africa/Zambia).

CPA / AFRICA - Number of religious in the Configuration: 150

SALV: 42 priests, 1 Brother, 1 religious with Perpetual Vows and 1 religious with Temporary Vows. Total: 45

CARLW: 28 priests, three deacons, 2 Brothers with Perpetual Vows, 4 Brothers with Temporary Vows, 2 clerics with Perpetual Vows, and 14 religious with Temporary Vows. Total: 50

GEMM: 24 priests, 1 Brother with Perpetual Vows, 3 Brothers with Temporary Vows, 27 religious with Perpetual Vows and 7 religious with Temporary Vows. Total: 35

MATAF: 14 priests, 2 Brothers, 20 religious with Perpetual Vows



(L-R) Fr. Raphael Mangiti (CARLW), Fr. Michael Ogweno Yogo (General Consultor) and Fr. Emmanuel Kabinga (MATAF).



“The message of the Cross is very relevant to this cultural reality.”

sions and ordinations almost every year.

The three former Vicariates that depended on a “mother province” were established as three General Vicariates directly dependent on the Superior General.

Tri-lateral Commissions were created to help each of these General Vicariates achieve independent status: the Commission for Formation; the Commission for the Apostolate and the Commission for Finances.

THE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AT THE PRESENT TIME AND CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE CONFIGURATION

There is a sense that the process by which the three General Vicariates were established was not positive. It is perceived that this decision was not collaborative and the implications of the same were not completely understood.

When the former Vicariates were part of the mother Province there was a clear and supportive point of reference. In this new reality, there is a sense of being adrift and in some ways abandoned.

The leadership of this Configuration is generally young and inexperienced. The fact that there are many young religious is positive, but also problematic. Consequently, help is needed in forming religious for future leadership roles.

There is a need to study more profoundly the African experience of the Passionist charism and to share this with the whole Congregation.

There is great poverty and suffering in Africa, together with significant growth and development. The message of the Cross is very relevant to this cultural reality.

For a long time, and for different reasons, many

African Passionists felt that they were not as truly “Passionist” as were the European missionaries among them. However, currently there is a greater sense that the native African religious need to live the Passionist charism in an African context and in an African manner.

- There is a need to find apostolic work that will offer a source of income to help especially help with the cost of formation. A small number of priests are engaged in retreat work; most of the religious are engaged in parish ministry.
- There are a large numbers of applicants, as well as postulants, novices and junior professed. These young people need to be given a sound Passionist formation that will prepare them for life and mission in an ever-changing Africa.
- There is a need to train more personnel for formation.
- New sources of funding for formation programs, including room and board, clothing, educational materials, tuition, etc.

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEARS 2015-2018

Set up a Development office at the level of CPA for fundraising.

Promote development projects in the areas of formation, the apostolate and finances.

Collaborate with other Passionist provinces



“There is a need to study more profoundly the African experience of the Passionist charism and to share this with the whole Congregation.”

with missions in Africa.

Strengthen structures and develop sound policies that will ensure better management of new projects within each CPA entity. ✠



XV GENERAL SYNOD APPROVED PROPOSALS

1. COURSE FOR FORMATORS PROPOSED BY THE FORMATION COMMISSION

The General Synod commends the proposal of the International Formation Commission regarding a course for formators and recommends to the Superior General and Council the adoption of Model B in the proposal.

MODEL B: We propose a gathering of formators from each of the Configurations in the second half of 2016. It can take place either in the Configuration or in Rome. It will be an opportunity for formators to share experiences and participate in a program that is relevant to their needs. We will also help to equip them for their challenging ministry of accompanying young people today. This will be a time for inputs on areas and issues relating to our history, the theology and spirituality of the Passion, the challenges of society today, the charism and culture, working with the poor and other relevant topics.

The course will include significant time for prayer and reflection. If it takes place in Rome it will include a pilgrimage to places associated with St. Paul of the Cross.

The Major Superiors are also invited to participate. We propose a gathering 25-30 persons and last for 21 days.

The program will be organised by the International Formation Commission in collaboration with the Historical Commission and the office of JPIC.

2. THE FUTURE OF THE THREE GENERAL VICARIATES IN AFRICA

The General Synod recommends a continuance of the process begun by the Trilateral Commission until the Superior General, with consent of his Council, judges it opportune to elevate each Vicariate to the status of Vice Province.



“The General Synod commends the proposal of the International Formation Commission regarding a course for formators... We propose a gathering of formators from each of the Configurations in the second half of 2016.”

3. MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SYNOD ON REFUGEES

The General Synod adopts the Message “Jesus suffering in the Refugee and Migrant” and agrees to send it to the whole Passionist Family.

4. THE STUDY OF THE PASSION

The General Synod recommends that the Superior General and Council create a commission to examine the proposal of Fr. Antonio Maria Artola (SCOR) regarding the creating of an Institute of Passiology, at the same time looking at the various initiatives which exist in the Congregation to promote the Theology of the Passion, Passionist Spirituality and related subjects.

5. NORMS FOR THE SOLIDARITY FUND

The General Synod approved norms for the Solidarity Fund (see full text in the Synod Report)

Norms

1. Constitutive act: The fund is constituted the FUND FOR SOLIDARITY. It is the result of a union of the Formation Fund and the



Solidarity Fund.

2. Objectives: The objectives of the Fund are as follows:
 - a. to assist all areas of the Congregation where there is a particular need (this includes formation and other objectives);
 - b. to finance projects.
3. Permanent Capital: The Fund will have a permanent capital amount established each year by the Superior General with consent of his Council.



7. Grants:
 - a. Each year the Superior General will establish criteria for the maximum amount to be distributed in that year;
 - b. Grants for formation in the Congregation are the priority for use of the Fund;
 - c. An entity may not receive more than 25% of the disbursement of a particular year.

Normally the principal of the fund will not be used. If some extraordinary situation arises that makes it advisable to use the permanent capital, the Superior General must obtain the consent of his Council. This disbursement may not exceed 1/5 of the permanent capital. In case more needs to be spent, the consent of the General Chapter or General Synod is needed.

8. Requests: The requests for grants from the Solidarity Fund should be first approved by the Major Superior of the entity requesting assistance. The requests should be received by April 15th and September 30th.

How the requests are to be presented:

- a. Each request is to be accompanied by a full description of the project and its budget.
 - b. It should also be accompanied by information about the economic circumstances of the entity which is presenting the request.
 - c. All requests should be sent to the Secretary for Solidarity and Mission who will present the requests with his evaluation to the Superior General with his Council for a decision.
 - d. Decisions concerning grants will be made at the first General Council meeting occurring after the 15th April and the 30th September each year.
9. The sending of Grants. The General Secretary will inform the General Econome and the Secretary for Solidarity and Mission of the decisions taken by the Superior General and his Council, so that the General Econome may proceed with the sending of grants approved by the General and his Council.
 10. After a grant has been given, regular re-

“The General Synod adopts the Message “Jesus suffering in the Refugee and Migrant” and agrees to send it to the whole Passionist Family.”

Each year the Superior General and his Council will determine the amounts to be disbursed or to be re-invested to build up the capital amount.

4. Expert Assistance: An advisory board of financial experts assists the General Econome and Financial Commission in managing and monitoring the investment of the Fund in accordance with an ethical and low-risk policy.
5. Investments: The permanent capital of the Fund is to be ethically invested in accounts, which are appropriately secure.
6. Increase: The Fund will increase through the contribution of the Solidarity Tax of 2% on the income of each juridical entity and its local communities, through the 7% tax on the sale of land and properties and through voluntary contributions, which are received for this purpose.



“The General Synod recommends a continuance of the process begun by the Trilateral Commission [studying the future of the three General Vicariates in Africa] until the Superior General, with consent of his Council, judges it opportune to elevate each Vicariate to the status of Vice Province.”

ports on the progress of the project and a detailed account of the use of the money for that project must be sent to the General Secretary for Solidarity and Mission.

6. NORMS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL SYNOD

The Synod confirms the present norms for participation in the General Synod. Furthermore, it remands them to the next General Chapter, 2018, for definitive approval, taking into account the observations made during this General Synod regarding equitable representation.

7. NORMS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL CHAPTER

Of the models presented by the study commission for the norms for membership in the General Chapter, the Synod chooses Model 1.

EX OFFICIO & DELEGATES BY CONFIGURATIONS

EX OFFICIO

Curia: 13; Major Superiors: 24 (includes 3CPA); and Presidents of the Configurations: 2 (i.e. if 2 are not Major Superiors)

TOTAL EX OFFICIO: 39

REPRESENTATION BY DELEGATES

- Suggestion: That delegates be 25% more than Ex Officio. Therefore Delegates = 50
- To obtain Delegates on a PROPORTIONAL BASIS & on a CONFIGURATION BASIS.

- There are 1,900 members of the Congregation. Delegates will be at a ratio of 1:25 members
- **MAPRAES** $440 = 440 \div 25 = 17$; - 1 Major Superior.
- **TOTAL REP:** 1 Ex Officio + 16 delegates (1 must a be Brother)
- **SCOR** $395 = 395 \div 25 = 15$ - 1 Major Superior
- **TOTAL REP:** 1 Ex Officio + 14 delegates (1 must a be Brother)
- **PASPAC** $390 = 390 \div 25 = 15$ - 6 Major Superiors + 1 President
- **TOTAL REP:** 7 Ex Officio + 8 delegates (1 must a be Brother)
- **CJC** $386 = 386 \div 25 = 15$ - 6 Major Superiors + 1 President
- **TOTAL REP:** 7 Ex Officio + 8 delegates (1 must a be Brother)
- **CCH** $212 = 212 \div 25 = 8$ - 6 Major Superiors
- **TOTAL REP:** 6 Ex Officio + 2 delegates (1 must a be Brother)
- **CPA** $160 = 160 \div 25 = 6$ - 4 Major Superiors
- **TOTAL REP:** 4 Ex Officio + 2 delegates (1 must a be Brother)
- **TOTALS: EX OFFICIO:** CURIA= 13; Major Superiors (+Presidents)= 26
- **TOTAL Ex Officio= 39**
- **DELEGATES:** MAPRAES=16; SCOR=14; PASPAC=8; CJC=8; CCH=2; CPA=2.

TOTAL Delegates: 50.



APPOINTMENT OF A NEW GENERAL ARCHIVIST



**Dr. Eunice dos Santos,
General Archivist**

On 19 October 2015, Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, with the consensus of the General Council, named Ms. Eunice dos Santos to be the General Archivist of our Congregation.

The responsibilities of the General Archivist are described in No. 93 of our General Regulations: *“The General Archivist receives the documents and records coming from the General Curia, as well as the books and manuscripts of the religious of the Congregation; these he carefully preserves in the historical Archives.”*

In his report to the 2015 General Synod, Fr. Joachim stated that, *“following much consultation, the General Council have put resources into the organisation, modernisation, and updating of the Congregation’s Archives and have employed a professional person: Ms. Eunice dos Santos to work there. Having a better appreciation for the preciousness of original and historical documents in our possession, and having identified the need for improved conditions for management of the*

Archives, the General Council have committed some resources at the service of the conservation of our Historical Memory.

A program called “Shades Ecclesia” for managing a dynamic database has been installed. This allows all the elements of the archive to be described according to international standards; it records the structure of the archive; it holds the catalogue of documents and allows searches for information and data; and it prints out catalogues and inventories as well as the results of searches. Many data-types can be inserted in the database (e.g. folders, files, documents, photographs, relics, parchments, designs, sculptures etc.) Also, the archives and libraries of Sts. John and Paul (e.g. Stauros Passion Library, Historical Commission Library, and Museum etc.) can be connected with simultaneous insertion of data while having access to sections or documents of the Archives controlled.”

THE GENERAL ARCHIVIST

Eunice dos Santos, a native of Brazil, is a consecrated laywoman and a devotee of Passionist spirituality. She has a doctorate in spirituality from the Teresianum University in Rome; her thesis was entitled, *“Love and Death – Mystical death in St. Paul of the Cross”*. She is a member of the Association of Ecclesiastical Archivists of Rome, and has collaborated on various projects in this field with the Holy See, as well as various religious institutes. Since 2000, she has worked with the Provincial Curia of the former PRAES Italian Province, to oversee the Provincial Archives and the library at the monastery of the Scala Santa, Rome. She is currently a member of the Commission to administer the patrimony of the new PRAES region of the MAPRAES Configuration. She considers this nomination to be more than a job; rather she understands it as a true “mission” for the Passionist Congregation. In her words, *“In your archives and libraries, in direct contact with original sources, I have learned and come to know and admire the culture and spirituality of the Congregation of the*



Passion. You have a rich heritage and a school for Saints that have left a profound imprint on the history of the Church.” Recently, Eunice was asked about the challenges facing the General Archives and about future projects.

THE CHALLENGES

The Congregation of the Passion has a spiritual and historical patrimony of inestimable value that needs to be preserved and transmitted to future generations. I believe that some of the major challenges before us are—1) guaranteeing the security of patrimonial documents; 2) reorganization of the physical space dedicated to the Archives; 3) preparation of an inventory of the various sections and collections; and 4) in the near future, offer the possibility of accessing material of the Archives via internet.

PROJECTS

PLAN FOR UPDATING OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

The first project is the modernization and updating of the archives of the Congregation, already approved by the Curia. This concerns the Historical Archives (life of the Founder and beginnings of the Congregation, canonical processes and letters of Founder, early documents of the Congregation, first religious, foundations of retreats and missions). The project calls for the reorganization of the material and providing adequate storage space for the same. Additionally an inventory needs to be prepared and the material needs to be digitalized using the software program “Shades Ecclesia” (see report of the Superior General). This software has a capacity of over four billion records. Therefore, it would be possible to also include in the project all the archives and libraries of the Congregation. This work is scheduled to be completed by the General Chapter of 2018. By that time, the major part of the material should be available on the website of the Congregation.

- Provincial Archivists and local Chroniclers

Without historical memory, it is not possible to speak of Passionist spirituality. In fact, historical records reveal spirituality that is embodied in the great historical figures of the Institute. Today, unfortunately, many communities no longer keep the Platea and other community records. This is a topic that needs to be addressed at the local level,

involving Provincials and local superiors. The General Archivist may be of assistance in providing guidelines in this area.

Additionally, in the event that local houses or provincial archives are closed or re-located, the General Archivist can be contacted for help in



**Fr. Alessandro Ciciliani (MAPRAES),
President of the Historical Commission,
presents his report to the Synod.**

identifying valuable historical material so that it is not lost or inadvertently discarded.

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE GENERAL ARCHIVES

The Superior General and the General Curia have approved regulations for the General Archives. They will be available for consultation in the near future on the Congregation’s web site www.passiochristi.org. This is the first time that guidelines have been established. However, as anyone knows who has worked in an academic environment, archives and libraries, etc. need to be regulated so that documents are maintained in good order and do not become misplaced.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, the General Archivist can be contacted via email at archiviocp@passiochristi.org or by phone at [011.39] 06.77271.253 (Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to 12 noon). Those wishing to do research can do so by appointment.



Javier Marín, Diego Reina, Francisco Candanedo, Marcos Céspedes, Paolo Ratti, Orlando Hungria, Carlos Batlle, Manuel Carrizales, Jeisson Cerón, Rogelio Linares, Gilmer Coronel, Enrique Sánchez (SCOR)



Christian Américo Chicas Aguillón (SCOR)



Ruben Manzano, Pedro Lara, Yoel Flores and José Ramón(SCOR)



Deivid Porfiro Lorenzutti and Edson Terra da Silva a Colatina (EXALT)



Deacon Radosław Mucha (ASSUM)

PROFESSION OF PERPETUAL VOWS

Six religious of the SCOR Province of Spain and Latin America professed Perpetual Vows during the period November 2015 to January 2016: Ruben Manzano, Pedro Lara, Yoel Flores, José Ramón, on 19 December 2015, and Ronal Mego Hurtado and Carlos Mego Hurtado on 10 January 2016.

PROFESSION OF FIRST VOWS

During the period of period November 2015 to January 2016, fifteen Religious professed First Vows. On 09 December 2015, Pius (Sebastian) Görres of the VULN Vice-Province of Germany-Austria professed First Vows. In the EXALT Province of Brazil, Deivid Porfiro Lorenzutti e Edson Terra da Silva a Colatina professed First Vows on 01 January 2016. On 15 January 2016, twelve novices of the SCOR Province made Temporary Profession at the Province novitiate in Daimiel, Spain: Javier Marín Martínez, Diego Fernando Reina Ortega, Francisco Javier Candanedo García de Paredes, Marcos Jorge



Fr. Salvatore Viola (MAPRAES)

Céspedes Colón, Paolo Alfredo Ratti Scudellari, Félix Orlando Hungría Murillo, Carles María Batlle Prats, Manuel José Carrizalez Carpio, Jeisson Alejandro Cerón Parra, Rogelio Linares Acuña, Gilmer Coronel Herrera, and Enrique Sanchez Luna.

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

During the period of period November 2015 to January 2016, Fr. Salvatore Viola, of the MAPRAES Province of Italy-France-Portugal, was ordained to the priesthood on 23 January 2016.

DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

During the period of period November 2015 to January 2016, two Religious of the SCOR Province were ordained deacons on 21 November 2015: Christian Américo Chicas Aguillón and Ílber Alexander Salcedo Velázquez. On this date, in the ASSUM Province of Poland, Radosław Mucha was ordained to the diaconate. Finally, on this same date, in the SPIR Province of Australia, Peter Chinh Truc Hoang, Thomas Nhu Thanh Nguyen and Erick Niyiragira were ordained deacons. ✠



Ronal Mego Hurtado and Carlos Mego Hurtado (SCOR)



FR. CIRO BENEDETTINI

CONCLUSION OF SERVICE AT THE VATICAN PRESS OFFICE



(L-R) Fr. Joachim Rego (Superior General), Fr. Cirio Benedettini and Fr. Federico Lombardi, SJ (Director of Vatican Press Office)

For the past twenty-one years, Fr. Cirio Benedettini (MAPRAES) has worked as the Vice-Director of the Vatican Press Office. On January 31, 2016, he ended his assignment in the course of which he served three Pontiffs (John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis) during a time of revolutionary changes in the Church and in the communications field. During these years, he has been a member of the Passionist community of Sts. John and Paul in Rome.

Fr. Cirio was born in the Republic of San Marino, one of the two countries (the other being the Vatican City State) within the geographic boundaries of Italy. In 1962, he entered the Congregation in the former PIET Province and professed First Vows in 1963. He was ordained to the priesthood on 16 September 1972. After various theological studies in Rome, he subsequently studied journalism in Milan and, later in New York City. In 1979, he was assigned as Director of the publication, "L'Eco di San Gabriele" at the Shrine of St. Gabriel in the Abruzzo region of Italy.

In December 1994, he was named to the Press Office of the Holy See at the Vatican as Assistant to the then Director, Joaquín Navarro-Valls. The following year he was appointed Vice Director, a position he held until January 31, 2016, under the Jesuit, Fr. Federico Lombardi.

On Sunday, January 31, 2016, numerous friends from the Vatican, including Fr. Federico Lombardi, Director of the Vatican Press Office as well as colleagues and fellow-journalists, gathered with Fr. Cirio and the local Passionist community at Sts. John and Paul to celebrate a Mass in Thanksgiving in the

Basilica for his years of service at the Vatican.

In the presence of the local Passionist community, Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, thanked Fr. Cirio for his dedication to this ministry in communications and referred to him as a "good ambassador and the face of the Passionist Congregation in the Vatican and the Church". During the Mass, Fr. Cirio spoke of his feelings of "joy and gratitude to God" for over twenty years of ministry in the Vatican and for the privilege of assisting three pontiffs, as well as working with numerous fellow journalists and colleagues in the Vatican Press Office.

In addition to his work at the Vatican, Fr. Cirio has done various ministries as preacher and lecturer. In recognition of his work in the field of

journalism, he received the following awards: The National "Histonium" Prize for Journalism, VI edition in Vasto (CH) (1991); the International Casentino Prize for Journalism (2006); and the International Bonifacio VIII for Journalism (2008).

During an interview for Vatican Radio, he was asked about his feelings as he completes this ministry of service to the Holy See. Fr. Cirio responded: *"I have mixed feelings, part joy, part sadness, but overall, joy. Joy predominates because I am grateful to the Lord who gave me the opportunity to work for the Church, serving three Popes—and great Popes at that! One of these is a Saint. Not everyone can say that he not only was near a saint and had seen one, but also spoke with one, had dinner with him, and served him for many years-- John Paul II."*

In December 2015, Pietro Cardinal Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, wrote to Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, concerning Fr. Cirio: *"As he nears the conclusion of his service... I want to express my feelings of sincere gratitude for the generosity of your Congregation in allowing Fr. Cirio to offer his valuable assistance in this sensitive field-- that of social communications. Fr. Cirio has worked for over twenty years in the service of the Apostolic See, with great competency and faithful dedication, earning him the trust and esteem of his Superiors... I am certain that with his human, priestly and religious talents... and with the experience he gained during his years of meritorious service to the Holy See, he will enjoy many more years of fruitful ministry for the good of the Church and for the salvation of souls."*

NOTITIAE OBITUS

Usque ad diem 3 November 2015 - 21 Februarius 2016

DIE	OB DORMIVIT IN DOMINO	PROVINCIA	NATUS	VOTA NUNCUPAVERAT
11/3/2015	Sac. Luis Catalán Barceló	SCOR	16/08/24	21/09/45
11/24/2015	Sac. Lucas De Lama Martín	SCOR	09/05/36	23/12/52
12/6/2015	Sac. Marco Antonio Alanoca Choque	SCOR	17/01/82	05/01/08
12/9/2015	Sac. Luciano Barreda Caballero	SCOR	08/01/20	29/09/36
12/22/2015	Sac. Alberto Pierangioli	MAPRAES	26/08/29	15/09/47
1/15/2016	Sac. Mariano Cuesta Rodríguez	SCOR	19/08/65	14/09/84
1/22/2016	Sac. Justo Pinuaga Markaida	SCOR	13/07/28	07/05/45
1/23/2016	Sac. Giuseppe Finazzo	MAPRAES	25/05/33	04/09/49
1/23/2016	Sac. Wojciech Kowalczyk	ASSUM	05/02/76	15/09/07
1/24/2016	Sac. Fausto Caffelli	MAPRAES	23/09/16	20/10/34
1/26/2016	Sac. Franco D'Anastasio	MAPRAES	16/10/29	15/09/48
1/30/2016	Sac. Czesław Buszta	ASSUM	10/04/30	04/09/51
2/5/2016	Sac. Thomas Griffiths	PAUL	27/02/26	15/08/50
2/16/2016	Sac. Anselm Keleghan	PATR	13/01/21	29/10/41
2/19/2016	Sac. Owen Lally	PAUL	17/02/29	21/11/54
2/21/2016	Fra. William Drotar	PAUL	11/02/29	15/09/54

Moniales et Sorores Defuntae

DIE	OB DORMIVIT IN DOMINO	MONASTERO	NATA	VOTA NUNCUPAVERAT
2/5/2015	Sr. Maria Tecla di San Giuseppe (M ^a Giuseppa) Colucci	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa)	08/10/1937	9/12/1959
6/4/2015	Sr. Ana Cleusa de Jesus Crucificado Campos	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa)	20/05/1950	4/28/1973
8/22/2015	Sr. Matilde de S. Paulo da cruz (Elza) Teixeira	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa)	14/04/1917	10/21/1934
8/24/2015	Sr. Dolores de Jesús Agonizante (María Dorinda) Romero Curros	Monasterio Passionistarum de Torrente (España)	26/07/1925	4/5/1964
9/11/2015	Sr. Maria Cecília de S. Pedro Apóstolo (Ignez) Ferreira	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa)	07/11/1922	8/16/1942
9/19/2015	Sr. Marie Alphonsus Dunne	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (Ireland)	09/09/1918	5/7/1945
9/29/2015	Sr. Arcangela dell'Addolorata (Giovanna) Rapizza	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa)	30/05/1926	11/2/1947
10/8/2015	Sr. Cesarina dell'Addolorata (Angelica) Cimmino	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa)	01/03/1934	3/24/1956
10/19/2015	Sr. Filipina di S. Gabriele Arcangelo (Catarina) Pavin	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. Cuore Imm. di Maria, Brasile	20/11/1914	4/4/1932
11/8/2015	Sr. Andreana del SS.mo Sacramento (Angela) Riccio	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. Sacro Cuore di Gesù	29/10/1923	3/25/1956
11/9/2015	Sr. M. Annunziata del Verbo Incarnato (Rosa) Caristia	Monasterio Passionistarum de Tarquinia (Italia)	05/10/1922	1/15/1953
11/12/2015	Sr. Katherine Dunleavy	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	29/01/1920	9/4/1943
11/15/2015	Sr. Gabriella di S. Antonio (Teresa) Mastrangelo	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. Sacro Cuore di Gesù	16/02/1914	4/30/1941
11/16/2015	Sr. An-Marie van Jezus (Anna) De Loor	Monasterio Passionistarum de Tielt (België)	19/11/1926	9/18/1977
11/20/2015	Sr. María Paula de San Pedro de Alcántar (Aquilina) Carro Izquierdo	Monasterio Passionistarum de Madrid (España)	21/07/1925	9/14/1952
12/4/2015	Sr. Gema de San Gabriel de la Dolorosa (María Vicenta) del Potro	Monasterio Passionistarum de Merlo (Argentina)	05/08/1923	3/3/1956
1/2/2016	Sr. Clementina (Niccolina) D'Andrea	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. Vergine Addolorata	11/12/1936	9/16/1958
2/1/2016	Sr. Leonor di San Giuseppe (Adelaide) Dissenha	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. Cuore Imm. di Maria, Brasile	08/12/1918	1/7/1942



*I would like to believe that the gift you will take back to your brothers and sisters in community and mission after this Synod will be one of renewed hope and positive energy. It is true that there are, at times, so many disappointing, de-energising and negative situations with which we are faced...and so often, we cannot find satisfactory solutions. But, “Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”
Surprise, fresh starts and new beginnings are always possible!*

Fr. Joachim Rego

Superior General

(Closing Mass of the General Synod: homily)

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

WWW.PASSIOCHRISTI.ORG

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