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**PASSIONISTS  
— “PROPHETS OF HOPE.”**

*Fr. Joachim Rego  
(Circular Letter)*

# CONTENTS

MESSAGE TO THE PASSIONIST FAMILY ON THE FEAST OF ST PAUL OF THE CROSS	3
MEETING OF THE EXTENDED GENERAL COUNCIL 25-27 SEPTEMBER 2017 <i>Fr. Giuseppe Adobati Carrara</i>	5
THE PASSIONISTS IN VIETNAM <i>Fr. Denis Travers (with Frs. Tom McDonough and P.Jefferies Foale)</i>	8
THE DIOCESAN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES OF SAINTS (PART 1) <i>Fr. Cristiano Massimo Parisi</i>	10
NEW RESEARCH TO DISCOVER “LOVE THAT LOVES WITHOUT MEASURE” <i>Sr. M. Antonella Medoro, CP</i>	11
THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE TRICENTENNIAL OF THE CONGREGATION <i>Fr. Ciro Bendettini</i>	13
SECOND CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF THE SACRED HEART (SCOR) <i>Fr. Augusto Canali (with Fr. Ademir Guedes Azevedo)</i>	14
FIRST PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF THE GETHSEMANI PROVINCE (GETH) <i>Fr. Augusto Canali (with Fr. Ademir Guedes Azevedo)</i>	17
CONGRESS OF THE PAC VICE PROVINCE <i>Fr. Arthur Carillo</i>	20
THE SEMINAR “THE STRANGER IN OUR MIDST— ENCOUNTERS IN THE LIGHT OF THE PASSION OF JESUS” <i>Fr. Gary Perritt</i>	21
FIRST CONGRESS OF THE NEW VICE PROVINCE OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF AFRICA (MATAF) <i>Fr. Michael Ogwen</i>	22
THE DIGNITY OF LABOUR <i>Bro. Jerson Marcel Cusber</i>	25
ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS AND THE PASSIONIST SISTERS— AFTER 200 YEARS THEIR HISTORY CONTINUES <i>Sr. M. Antonella Medoro, CP (Sisters of St. Paul of the Cross)</i>	26
NEW PASSIONIST NUNS’ MONASTERY AT MINSTERACRES (UK) <i>Mother Monica Curran, CP</i>	27
PROFESSIONS AND ORDINATIONS	28
NEW PUBLICATIONS	30
NOTITIAE OBITUS	31

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N. 43 - New Series -3- 2017  
Supplement to L'Eco of Saint Gabriel

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Bro. Vincent Luong (SPIR) comforts a man with dementia.

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The mother of Bro. Paul Vuong (SPIR) presents the Crown of Thorns at his Final Profession.

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# MESSAGE TO THE PASSIONIST FAMILY ON THE FEAST OF ST PAUL OF THE CROSS

Rome - 19 October 2017

**M**y dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in the Passionist Family,  
Greetings of joy and peace from Rome in the Passion of Jesus – our HOPE!

As we commemorate the feast of St Paul of the Cross in this year which marks the 150th anniversary of his canonization, we are encouraged by the living spirit of this Saint who keeps challenging us to follow the call to holiness which he found in the memory of the Passion of Jesus – *“the shortest way to perfection”*. We acknowledge and celebrate the holiness of Paul Danei who discovered the secret to true life and the way to God’s compassionate and merciful heart – *“the pearl of great price”* – in the Passion of Jesus: *“the greatest and most overwhelming work of God’s love.”*

In my Circular Letter to the Passionist Family to mark this anniversary which occurred on 29 June, I expressed my hope that this event would be an enriching time for us, individually and communally, *“to focus on the mind and heart of our Founder and delve into his vision of the Congregation and its mission in light of our present times.”* *“Our present times”* have been dark and dismal indeed! The world continues to experience so much suffering: wars, hatred, and discrimination, denial of human rights and freedom, terrorism, indiscriminate killings, natural disasters. Very much to the fore in our memories at this present time are: the senseless Las Vegas shootings; the unimaginable destruction caused by hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes and landslides; the persecution of the Rohingya people in Myanmar and other refugees and displaced peoples; the struggle for self-determination in Catalonia and Kurdistan; the racial discrimination and promotion of hatred by white supremacists in the USA...

I ask myself: What would be the mind and heart of the Founder in these present times? In fact, it seems that our present times are not too much different from the times of the Founder. He also experienced in his time of history: wars and domination by foreign powers, lawlessness and fear, disease and climate change, the tyranny of existential distance and the marginalisation of peoples, the unequal gap between the rich and the poor. Yet, Paul of the Cross was convinced then, and would be equally convinced now, that



Bro. Paul Kien (SPIR) feeding a handicapped child

it is in the Passion of Jesus that we can find meaning and see possibilities for a renewed future. It is there, in the Passion of Jesus, that we find HOPE for visioning and seeing life differently! Keenly aware of the evils that afflicted the people of his time, St Paul of the Cross never tired of insisting that the most effective remedy is the Passion of Jesus, *“the greatest and most overwhelming work of God’s love.”* – (Const.#1)

So, what is our vision and mission as Passionists in response to these present times? As Passionists today, our vision is *“to remember and keep alive the memory of the Passion of Jesus”*; and our mission is clear: *“We wish to share in the distress of all, especially those who are poor and neglected; we seek to offer them comfort and to relieve the burden of their sorrow. The power of the Cross, which is the wisdom of God, gives us strength to discern and remove the causes of human suffering. For this reason, our mission aims at evangelizing others by means of the Word of the Cross.”* – (Const.#3)

As preachers and communicators: What is the message that we can offer?...to those who have lost everything (loved ones and property) and must start life over again from nothing; to those who live imprisoned by fear; to those who will forever bear physical and psychological scars and wounds; to those whose dignity is impoverished; to those who have lost faith and hope and can see no light at the end of the tunnel? Our message must be one that is rooted in the charism of the *‘memoria passionis’* - that impelling



Bro. Vuong (SPIR) teaching catechism in a mountain village

force, dynamic energy and awesome gift of the Spirit, founded on Jesus, Crucified and Risen - our Hope! We believe that Christ's life - his Passion, Death and Resurrection - gives our lives meaning. Our faith in Jesus gives us confidence to face the future, no matter how bleak some days or some problems seem. Because, in the end, our belief and hope is that Jesus has already won our salvation and the happiness that comes with it.

In his encyclical "*Spe Salvi*" (Saved by Hope), Pope Benedict XVI made the claim that "*a distinguishing mark of Christians (the followers of Jesus Christ) is the fact that they have a future.*" They do not know the details of that future, but they know that "*their life will not end in emptiness.*" Pope Benedict reminds us that the virtue of hope enables us to face the burdens of daily life, no matter how heavy. Hope is the virtue that keeps us from discouragement in the face of life's anxieties and challenges. Hope re-directs our tired, troubled hearts towards God, opening our heart in expectation of eternal happiness with God.

Let us live our charism as prophets of hope, sincerely believing what we preach because God is at the very heart and centre of our lives. As Passionists in these present times, our mission must reflect a hopeful spirituality - one of surrender and trust into the hands of the One who calls us to proclaim the Gospel of the Passion of Jesus as a manifestation of the unlimited and boundless love of God. In the words of St Paul of the Cross: "*The Passion is the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love.*" This is the Good News of hope and life that opens to us the possibility of healing, courage and renewed vision. This is how we will "evangelize others by means of the Word of the Cross. In speaking of the call to be missionaries

of hope recently, Pope Francis said-- "*may we rejoice in God's saving power (revealed on the cross), never lose heart, and help others to look to the future with confidence.*"

May Mary, Mother of Holy Hope accompany us in the joyful living of our vocation; and through the intercession of St Paul of the Cross, I pray for a continual and faithful remembrance of his desire that "*the Passion of Jesus be always in our hearts.*"

Fraternally,

Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P.

Superior General

### Conference at Sts. John and Paul for the 150th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Paul of the Cross

In his Circular Letter of 25 March 2017, regarding the 150th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Paul of the Cross the Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, wrote- "*I urge you, my brothers and sisters, not to allow this event of the 150th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Paul of the Cross to pass by unrecognized. Rather, I encourage every Province/Vice Province and the local communities, in collaboration with the members of the wider Passionist Family, to plan and celebrate cultural, educational and liturgical activities which will facilitate within the local church an introduction to, and/or a deeper rediscovery of the extraordinary person of St. Paul of the Cross and his spirituality of the depths of God's love emanating from the Passion of Jesus.*" In keeping with this appeal, Fr. Matteo Nonini, the Rector of Sts. John and Paul, Fr. Massimo Parisi (Postulator General) and the local community, organized a three-day conference entitled, "The 150th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Paul of the Cross-- The historical event and the current reality."

More than one hundred people attended the Conference at the Generalate from 13 to 15 October 2017. Nine conferences were given by men and women Passionist religious. The event was moderated by Fr. Gabriele Cingolani (MAPRAES). In the near future, the conferences will be published in Italian. For more information about the availability of this publication, please contact the community at Sts. John and Paul at [teoguz@yahoo.it](mailto:teoguz@yahoo.it). Presently, an abstract (in Italian) of each of the conferences can be found at the Congregation's website, [www.passiochristi.org](http://www.passiochristi.org) by clicking on the category "Documents".



## MEETING OF THE EXTENDED GENERAL COUNCIL 25-27 SEPTEMBER 2017

*Fr. Giuseppe Adobati (General Consultor)*



Fr. Giuseppe Adobati (General Consultor)

- the Chapter must evaluate the process of Restructuring that has taken place during the past 6 years in the Configurations;
- it is important that the Chapter study the Congregation honestly, with its richness and weaknesses;
- it should foster an awareness of our being inserted, as Passionists, in the life of the Church and in its current history, with its challenges and hopes;
- the Chapter should pay attention to some of the problems of the Congregation: steadily declining numbers, weakness of fraternal life in community, risk of apostolic dispersion, particular work of initial and ongoing formation, concern about the number of religious who depart;
- the Chapter must be an opportunity to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying through the religious that are present; it is important that the capitulars feel free and creative;
- we need to find a way to engage the multifaceted experience of lay Passionists in the Chapter, with some form of presence or testimony;
- the General Chapter should coincide with the opening of the celebrations for the Third Centenary of the Congregation, aware that this time is propitious for the revitalization of our charismatic identity.

All these ideas, along with others, were submitted to the Preparatory Commission, which has to study how to proceed. Then the Expanded Council continued its meeting with reports from the individual Configurations.

The reports began with that of the Passionists of Asia and the Pacific (PASPAC) presented by Brother Laurence Finn. He pointed out that the Configuration is constantly growing in numbers (there are now 400 religious) with a strong presence of young religious, although there are also local communities in difficulty, due to scarcity of vocations and aging. The Configuration is characterized by strong cultural diversification, which requires attentive care of initial and ongoing formation that includes an awareness of a common charismatic experience that is accepted and translated into different languages and cultures. There is strong apostolic vitality in the Configura-

**D**uring the last week of September the Extended General Council met at Sts. John and Paul, Rome. In addition to Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, and his Council (Frs. Augusto Canali, Denis Travers, Antonio Munduate, Sabinus Lohin, Michael Ogwen and Giuseppe Adobati) the Presidents of the various Configurations also participated -- Fr. Mark-Robin Hoogland (SPE-CHC), Fr. Francisco Murray (GETH-CJC), Fr. Vital Otshudialokoka (SALV-CPA), Fr. Luigi Vaninetti (MAPRAES), Fr. José María Saez (SCOR), and Brother Laurence Finn (CRUC-PASPAC).

The first day, the gathering was characterized by the presence of the members of the Preparatory Commission for the next General Chapter — Frs. Mark-Robin Hoogland (SPE-CCH), Alex Steinmiller (CRUC-CJC), Anthony Sikhalele Mdhuli (MATAF-CPA), Dario Di Giosia (MAPRAES), Valentinus Saeng (REPAC-PASPAC) and Germán Méndez Cortés (SCOR).

Many proposals emerged from the initial discussion concerning the next General Chapter. Following is a list of some of these (in no particular order of priority):

- It is necessary that the General Chapter involve all the members of the Congregation via specific preparation and effective communication;



Fr. Joachim Rego (Superior General)

religious is doing in the rural areas of his nation, announcing the love of Christ Crucified. While in certain areas of Asia there is no possibility of religious and apostolic life, some religious offer a Passionist presence among the people.

Fr. Vital Otshudialokoka (SALV) gave a report on the progress of the CPA Configuration of the Passionists in Africa, highlighting the innovations that have taken place there in recent months with the creation of three new Vice Provinces (CARLW, GEMM and MATAF). Now the Configuration is composed of four entities that gradually are moving towards autonomy. Yet they are not completely independent on all levels, especially in finances and administrative matters. However, there are a good number of vocations and there is hope that soon they will be able to consolidate the apostolic strength of each entity. For this reason, one of the common challenges is initial formation, with the presence of formation communities that are a point of reference for all the Vice Provinces and also for young religious from other African missions. Additionally, we should remember that there are several African Passionists who are currently ministering outside their Vice-Province. These religious work in sev-

tion, evidenced by the opening of several new presences. However, these require time to stabilize and mature. An example of this dynamism is the apostolic activity that one of our young Asian

eral missions and do ministry in Europe and America, promoting a cultural exchange and an exchange of personnel.

The next report was from the Configuration of Charles Houben (CHC), with the presentation of the President, Fr. Mark Robin Hoogland (SPE). He pointed out that despite the fact that the Configuration is the oldest of the Congregation, marked by notable cultural and apostolic diversity, there are signs of hope and vitality. Currently they are studying ways to better understand and coordinate the pastoral care of the shrines of the Configuration, i.e. those of St. Charles Houben, Blessed Dominic Barberi and Blessed Isidore De Loor, as well as those dedicated to the Passion and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Configuration is trying to undertake some additional activities and shared projects. Last year there was a Workshop for formation personnel and a Theological Seminar that was open to all our religious and the members of the Passionist Family. Despite the difficulties of language and culture, Solidarity is a strong reality in the Configuration, both in sharing personnel, as well as offering financial assistance to the Provinces in greatest need.

Fr. Luigi Vaninetti presented his report on the MAPRAES Province [Italy, France and Portugal] referring in particular to the Provincial Assembly that took place last June. It was an opportunity to study the reality of the Configuration/Province since its creation two years ago. The Province (currently composed 420 religious) was founded on the objectives of unity and solidarity. For this reasons, decisions were



“The first day, the gathering was characterized by the presence of the members of the Preparatory Commission for the next General Chapter.”



Frs. Dario Di Giosia (MAPRAES), Anthony Sikhalele Mdhului (MATAF-CPA) and Sabinus Lohin (General Consultor).

to South America, with great differences in history, culture, language, seasons, age of the religious and vitality of vocations. Despite this, there is a clear desire to find common areas for collaboration, especially with solidarity projects within geographical and cultural contexts for formation, the apostolate and collaboration with lay Passionists. Recently a new Province, Gethsemane (GETH) was created, the fruit of the union between the former Provinces of CALV (Bra-

zil) and CONC (Argentina). This innovation also contributed to the sense of communion and solidarity that they would like to develop further with the addition of a new mission at the Configuration level.

Then the extended Council was given additional time for dialogue in order to address several specific issues proposed by the Superior General, seeking their suggestions and recommendations. Among the topics were the following: the problem of the Provinces that are declining in apostolic activity and numerically; legislation for the election of delegates to the General Chapter; the reform of the Passionist liturgical calendar; the management of the retreat at Bethany (Holy Land) with its prospects and difficulties; and our formation in the face of sexual abuse cases precipitated by our religious.

The Extended Council will meet again next spring in order to be updated about the work of the Preparatory Commission for the General Chapter and to discuss the progress made as this important event in the life of our Congregation draws near.

made to focus on initial and continuing formation as tools for growth in mutual understanding and sharing a new common mindset. New projects have been initiated whose goal is strategic presences with the Province (houses of formation, shrines, rural parishes, some specific local projects and infirmaries) including the downsizing of other less significant houses. They are looking for some new forms of apostolate and a renewed commitment to the sharing of our charism with lay people, not to mention ministry in the foreign mission sites of Bulgaria, Angola and Nigeria.

The SCOR Province [Spain and Latin America] had its Provincial Chapter last summer. At that time, they reviewed the state of the Province following the first four years of its existence. The Provincial Superior, Fr. José María Saez stated that the most positive element during this period has been the increase among the religious of a sense of belonging to the new reality in the context of sharing and mutual acceptance. Among the areas that need improvement are fraternal life in community, the inclusion of new religious in the various apostolates, formation and the use of media for evangelization. The Provincial Chapter also reintroduced projects of life and mission that are geared toward community life, the pastoral ministry of vocation promotion and formation, the development of the Passionist Family and options for the poor via JPIC projects.

Finally, Fr. Francisco Murray (GETH) reported on the status of the Jesus Crucified Configuration (CJC), composed of entities extending from North



## THE PASSIONISTS IN VIETNAM

*Fr. Denis Travers (General Consultor)*

*with the assistance of Frs. Tom McDonough and Jefferies Foale (SPIR)*

Our former Superior General, Fr. Ottaviano D'Egidio founded the Mission of Our Lady of Lavang in Vietnam when he commissioned our first missionaries to the country – Jefferies Foale, Thomas Anamattathil and Francisco Murray in a meaningful and prayerful ceremony in the Church of St Paul of the Cross, Glen Osmond, South Australia on 21 September 2005. Fr. Ottaviano sent them out and they worked under his leadership.

Perhaps it was ever so fitting that these new missionaries were commissioned in a church dedicated to the name of our Founder – since the desire that we should be men willing and ready to go out and spread the Word of the Cross was so close to St. Paul of the Cross' own heart.

The first missionaries – Jefferies and Thomas (soon to be joined by Francisco) came to Vietnam on the 12 October 2005. This land and its Catholic population had suffered greatly over the course of its history and had stood beneath the shadow of the Cross for many years. The Passion of Christ was truly a part of the daily struggle of the people of Vietnam and as Fr. Ottaviano reminded the missionaries in the commissioning service, in many ways Vietnam was “awaiting them” and our Charism since it was already a part of the lives of the people. Truly Vietnam was a land of the Passion.

Vietnam is part of Southeast Asia, and is one united political state comprising of three main parts simply referred to as the North, the Centre and the South. Each is an ecclesiastical province with an Archbishop, located in the major cities of Hanoi, Hue and Saigon.

China lies to the north and Laos and Cambodia are to the west. Vietnam's history reaches back thousands of years and has close cultural and historical links to China, having been under Chinese rule for over a thousand years. From the mid nineteenth century France occupied Vietnam for eighty years, along with Cambodia and Laos, calling them collectively Our Indochina. Then in 1954 when the Vietnamese communists drove the French out of the north, Vietnam was bitterly divided into two states - North Vietnam and South Vietnam. Conflict between 'north' and 'south' began a year later and it was not until what we know in the western world as “the Vietnam War” finally ended in 1975 that Vietnam was once again a reunified nation.

From our simple beginnings the Passionist community has grown tremendously over this past decade and God has blessed us with vocations and a steady stream of aspirants and men discerning our way of life. Today the community of Vietnamese Passionists numbers 5 priests and one deacon, 8 theology students, 3 novices, 14 philosophy students and 8 Pre-Philosophy Students; plus a number of aspirants who are finishing college, university or trade qualifications. There are currently three missionaries working in Vietnam – Fr. Jefferies (SPIR), Fr. Thomas (THOM) and Fr. Jasmin (REPAC).



Easter Sunday, 2014. Center: Fr. Jefferies Foale (SPIR) and Fr. Thomas Anamattathil (THOM)



Passionist  
Sign  
with inscription  
in Vietnamese

The Mission owes a great debt to the foreign Passionists who have served for limited periods in Vietnam. Fr. Francisco Murray (Argentina) served for six years, Fr. Augustine Jun-Su Kim (Korea) served for three years, and Fr. Orven Gonzaga (Philippines) served for five and a half years. Thanks are due to the superiors and communities of all missionaries and of others who have for very brief periods assisted the mission, especially in formation, for generously making their men available.

On 25 March 2015 the Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, handed the care of the growing Mission of Our Lady of Lavang to Holy Spirit Province, under the leadership of Fr. Tom McDonough, Provincial.

Fr. Jefferies wrote recently about some aspects of life in Vietnam. “Many ask us how can missionaries survive in a Communist society? We remember that Jesus lived in a dangerous political environment where he encouraged all to render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s. So we preach the gospel without hesitation, make friends with everyone, stay away from politics. You would be surprised what good we find in unexpected places, just as Jesus did”. It is true that tensions between the church and state impact the daily life of our brethren in Vietnam, sometimes severely so, but nevertheless through all these challenges the Congregation has survived and thrived.

The Congregation is establishing itself not only in numbers and vocations, but in foundations also. We have constructed one house and are currently patiently bearing with obstacles to progress in building another house for up to forty religious, which will also be a future administration and formation centre for the Passionists in Vietnam.

The development of the Congregation in Vietnam is currently under the care of Holy Spirit Province and our Vietnamese religious belong to this entity. We do however have great hopes for our future in Vietnam. We are indeed at an early stage, and our development into the future already involves us in negotiations with Local Dioceses in order to initially place our men in pastoral settings and ultimately to establish our own parish and wider ministry settings. As Fr. Jefferies recently noted, regarding our mission,

that it was one of “uplifting the poor by the power of God’s love revealed in Jesus’ journey to the Cross. We need to reach the people in greatest need of the Gospel, and that means training and ordaining local missionaries, leading them in service to the poor”. Fr. Jeff noted that very early in the life of the Mission he sought out an opportunity to serve the poor himself in person, teaching English to young blind persons. He said this was not just because he was impelled by the Gospel to do so, but because of his desire to lead the young men in a similar direction. He now marvels at how far many of our students have exceeded his simple efforts by their extraordinary dedication to serving the poor, especially at various shelters for every kind of disability. Truly the Passionists are striving to give an example within the Vietnamese church of a presence and ministry that stands for close involvement with the poor.

At the ordination ceremony of our first Passionists ordained for Vietnam – Frs. Thanh and Truc, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen (a fellow Vietnamese) spoke to the candidates in tones echoing our own Charism: “Thanh (Thomas) & Truc (Peter), you are being ordained to proclaim and embody a radical vision. Your ordination today brings joy, hope and even renewal to us. The Church and your Passionist Province are rejuvenated by your youthfulness, reinvigorated by your commitment and enriched by your gifts. Even though we do not know when the better future for the Church might be, we are comforted and strengthened by your companionship. The journey might be uncertain but it will be less daunting when walked together knowing that Christ’s love for us is never ending. We pray that Christ’s self-sacrificial love which you will celebrate daily at the altar, will nourish and strengthen you on the journey that you have just begun. We pray that the inestimable treasure kept in the earthen vessel that is you may reveal to all the God whose power is in weakness, whose wisdom is in foolishness, whose victory is in the cross and whose love is in self-sacrifice”.

Let us pray that our Charism flourishes in the beautiful land of Vietnam in both our own Congregation and in that of our sister institute: The Sisters of the Cross and Passion who are also establishing themselves in Vietnam.

May St. Paul of the Cross accompany all our brothers and sisters in their journeys.



## THE DIOCESAN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES OF SAINTS (PART 1)

Fr. Cristiano Massimo Parisi (Postulator General)



Fr. Cristiano Massimo Parisi  
(Postulator General)

**A** cause for beatification and canonization has two phases: the Diocesan and the Roman. In the first phase, the investigation may proceed based on the heroic virtues or the martyrdom of the servant of God (this article will not address the matter of the investigation of the miracle). The investigation into the causes of the Saints is an authentic canonical process, although characterized by its own particular

rules of procedure. Its objective is the collection of all evidence pro and con, in order to achieve moral certainty about the heroic virtue or martyrdom of a Servant of God. Since, as we said, the investigation is a canonical process, some essentials are required by law in order to begin the process and to insure its juridical validity. These are:

**Establishing the petitioner of the cause**, i.e. one who promotes the cause. Although any baptized person has the right to be the petitioner, it is always preferable that the cause be initiated by a juridical person. Experience shows that when the petitioner is a private individual, the cause is stymied. The petitioner of a cause involving a religious (and priest) is the Congregation to which the individual belonged, in the person of the Superior General.

**The appointment of a Postulator.** This is the legitimate legal representative of the petitioner. A religious Institute may use a Postulator (in this case, he/she is called the Postulator General) for all causes that belong to it. The appointment of the Postulator General must be approved by the competent ecclesiastical authority, that is, by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. He has a dual role in the causes of

Saints: to defend the interests of the petitioner and to collaborate with the ecclesiastical authority in the pursuit of truth, which, ultimately, is always the most important and primordial factor. If he needs assistance, the Postulator may appoint, via an official mandate, one or more Vice Postulators. Regarding the role of the Postulator, the norms require certain qualities for this task: an honest man, of good reputation, with sufficient legal preparation and a good knowledge of theology, history and the praxis of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

**The *fumus boni iuris*** is the fame of holiness and signs, or the reputation for martyrdom enjoyed by the Servant of God among the people of God and demonstrated by the Postulator to a competent bishop.

**The *Suppliant Libello***, i.e. the written application with which one formally requests that the cause be initiated. Along with this document, the Postulator must present the outcome of his investigations that will help the bishop to establish the *fumus boni iuris* and the importance of the cause for the Church. The petition cannot be filed until five years after the death of the Servant of God. The *Libello* also includes (1) a written historical-critical biography concerning the life and activity of the Servant of God; (2) all published writings; and (3) a list of texts.

**The recognition by the bishop** of the status of canonical preparedness in order to begin the cause is the acceptance of the *Suppliant Libello*. The competent bishop who initiates the investigations is the one in whose territory the Servant of God died.

**The appointment of the officials of the inquiry and their oaths:** (1) **the Episcopal delegate** is always a priest and has all the rights and obligations that the law grants the competent bishop. (2) **The promoter of Justice**, also a priest, has the responsibility to promote the truth about the heroic virtues or the martyrdom of the servant of God. (3) **The notary** (a layman or a priest), is the guarantor of everything that occurs during the sessions of the inquiry. Additional participants in the Inquiry are the Translators of the Acts, the Transcriber and the Courier.



## NEW RESEARCH TO DISCOVER “LOVE THAT LOVES WITHOUT MEASURE”

*Sr. M. Antonella Medoro, CP - (Sisters of St. Paul of the Cross)*



“The father, the educator, the master, the guide, the founder.”

**T**he celebration of the Jubilee marking two hundred years since the foundation of the Sisters of St. Paul of the Cross (1815-2015) and that of two hundred years of its aggregation to the Passionist Congregation (1817-2017), have awakened a desire to rediscover the figure and the experience of our Holy Father, Paul of the Cross. In a certain sense, we want to read between the lines of his life and discover a little known aspect of his personality-- his being an educator.

This is something that deserves to be highlighted, because his educational activity extended throughout his life and is still in progress. The title of this study was entitled “Educational aspects in St. Paul of the Cross”. It refers to the object of the study—viewing St. Paul in an educational context. The work has a certain originality, because of the use of the method of the philosophy of education\* that has allowed us

to know better and deeper the life of St. Paul of the Cross. This includes the education and training he received, without separating them from his mystical experiences, in order to highlight these elements in his writings and in the testimonies of the Processions. Additionally, this study examines his educational methods, the formation sessions that he directed and how he worked with that bundle of energy that every person possesses, to lead him along the path of perfection. It goes to the heart of his spirituality and it highlights the novelty that Paul of the Cross offered to the Church through his charisma. He wanted to rekindle in human hearts the memory of the Passion of Christ, i.e. to bring back love and mercy in the hearts of all people. The “Memoria Passionis” means accepting and imprinting in one’s heart the love that Christ manifested in his Passion. The Memoria Passionis is the life-changing encounter with the Crucified. It is the spark that ignites the love of Christ. It is the acceptance of love that creates new life; it is conformity to Christ. It is this originality that St. Paul of the Cross added to the historical context of his time, and through him to the Congregation that he founded and in the Church of the future. This spirituality, characterized by love of God and neighbor, becomes transformed into an authentic inspiration to be lived in relationship with Christ. It becomes a unique source of energy that animates the style of formation, Christian witness and particular apostolic activity, first for Paul of the Cross as a founder and then for his followers and those whom they guide spiritually. The entire life of Paul of the Cross is characterized by the greatest of the virtues, that is charity, love. On the basis of Augustinian thought and biblical foundation, one can reflect on the love of God and the *power of human love*. This highlights what Paul of the Cross experienced in himself and what he taught to others about the essence of love and how to grow in love. Through an analysis of the letters that he wrote to parents, transcending the educational style of the eighteenth century and its respective language, Paul emerges as an educator, a leader whose principles are more timely than ever. When Paul was faced with requests for advice on parenting, he wrote of the risks to be avoided in the educational field, a sense of bal-



ance in organizing the various activities of children and the need for freedom of conscience, i.e.

he allowed the children to have a due amount of freedom in the choice of their state in life.

The full potential of human beings from the moment of our conception is called upon to fulfill, concretely in daily human experience, the greatest of the Commandments that are revealed in Sacred Scripture: that of love. This commandment guided the activity of Saint Paul. This study examined three basic categories—Love, Relationship and the Word. These are interwoven into Paul of the Cross' doctrine and philosophy of education. Throughout the writings of Paul of the Cross, the three basic categories in the field of education-- Love, Relationship and the Word, enable us to discover principles, teachings and elements that are in common with various philosophical thought of the ancient world and our own educational time period.

Relationship for Paul is the implementation and development of the principle of dialogue between "I" and "thou", the Absolute of his life (Martin Buber), and can be found in many expressions of Paul of the Cross and in his style of dialogue and his teaching. The Word, the Logos is the expression of the entire divine reality in itself. It is illuminated, pronounced and emanates from the immense and infinite Love that it is. Paul of the Cross begins to concretize the essence of human love at the moment of conception following the course of nature. It is from this love that the realization of the Word and of Relationship emerge. However, the vehicle, the instrument for expressing love and putting it in Relationship with the entire human reality is the Word (F. Ebner, *Word and love*). This study, through the aforementioned fundamental categories within the educational setting, sheds some additional light on the experience of St Paul of the Cross. It can serve to inspire further studies for continuing to see a figure of this man, as the father, the educator, the master, the guide, the founder [...] in order to love him more and to re-present him as alive and relevant to people of today.

Paul of the Cross, re-thinking his personal journey, on 3 October 1736 writes a letter addressed to Agnes Grazi. In this letter, one can identify and delineate fundamental elements of a possible human-spiritual



Plaque marking the house of the Agnes Grazi family in Orbetello (Monte Argentario) \*\*

formation and delineate the components that underlie Passionist spirituality. Paul uses the image of "[...] a holy and steep ladder, on which generous and great souls climb step by step to the summit [...] If they are faithful in not seeking happiness from creation, then from its pure suffering they come to the purest love of God [...]." We can see in the *step-by-step* process, opportunities for teaching, formation, asceticism and mysticism, that, accompanied by divine grace, are teachings that guide the spiritual advancement of every Passionist and every person attracted to such a spirituality. They assist the climb to the top of the *ladder*. I believe that, through careful study of the relevant writings and doctrine of Paul of the Cross, it is possible to make specific insights come to light for living on each rung of that ladder leading to full assimilation with God.

To highlight the image of Saint Paul of the Cross as an educator is a contribution that enriches the knowledge we have of his multifaceted personality. However, I think that the highest honor that can be given to a father in such a sublime spirit is to follow his example in the *summa* of his teaching, i.e. to want to be *Love that loves without measure*.

\*A discipline founded by Edda Ducci. For a deeper appreciation of the origin, the evolution, and the affirmation of her thought see the text of FRANCESCO MATTEI, COSIMO COSTA, EDDA DUCCI, *The Word that educates*, Roma, Anicia, 2017

\*\* Text of the plaque:

"In this building of the noble Grazi Family,  
St. Paul of the Cross found the first house of benefactors  
of his Congregation  
and the first disciple noted for the holiness of her life.  
AGNES GRAZI  
28.01.1703 - 07.06.1744  
The Passionists of Italy and the world [erect this plaque]  
As a sign of perpetual gratitude."



# THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE TRICENTENNIAL OF THE CONGREGATION

*Fr. Ciro Benedettini (MAPRAES)*

The Tricentennial Planning Commission met for the first time from 18 to 22 September 2017 at Saints John and Paul, Rome. The six members, one from each of the 6 Configurations, were mostly unknown to each other and, despite not having a common working language, were able to work with enthusiasm and efficiency. At their first session the Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego greeted them, and encouraged them to be bold and creative in their deliberations.

The appointment letter of the Superior General stated that the general objective of the tricentennial is to help the members of the Passionist Family to “Look to the past with gratitude, live the present with passion and embrace the future with hope” (Letter of Pope Francis to Religious, 28 Nov. 2014). The particular objectives of this celebration are to make this event an occasion to deepen our appreciation of the charism of Saint Paul of the Cross, revitalize Passionist life and apostolate, enhance our sense of belonging and make the face of the Congregation attractive to young people.

The first part of the work was to examine the list of proposals made by the members of the Synod of 2015, reviewed and organized in a systematic way by the Ad Hoc Committee for the tercentenary that had submitted its work to the General Council on 6 July 2016. This work occupied the first two days. Then they began to draw up some kind of operational program with precise indications about the possible beginning date, the preparation period, the proposed initiatives, etc.

In order to be take immediate action, the Commission prepared a list of nine questions that were presented to the General Council on the afternoon of 21 September. The Council responded to some of these that evening. In particular, the following proposals were accepted:

- “Launch” the Jubilee during the General Chapter of 6-27 October 2018.
- Use the time between November 2018-2020 as a period of preparation for the tricentennial celebration: November 2020 – November 2021;
- The Tricentennial Commission will meet with the Preparatory Commission for the General Chapter in 2018 to coordinate activities and joint programmes;
- A request will be made to the Pope for the proclamation of a special year, a Jubilee, on the occasion of the third centenary;
- Organize a professional media facility in Rome, at the service of the whole Congregation;



(L-R) Fr. Anton Lässer, Fr. Vital Otshudialokoka, Fr. Gary Perritt, Fr. Ciro Benedettini, Fr. Francisco das Chagas da Silva Marques and Fr. Juan Ignacio Villar.

- Appoint a Jubilee coordinator at Sts. John and Paul, possibly full-time during the Jubilee at the service of the pilgrims;
- Commission an icon (Jesus Crucified, the Virgin Mary and Saint Paul of the Cross) to be used during the period of preparation in the various monasteries of the Congregation;
- As soon as the theme of the Jubilee is chosen by the General Council, the Commission will invite the whole Passionist Family to submit designs for the logo of the Jubilee. The Commission will choose three of these to propose to the General Council, which will make the final choice.
- Involve the whole Passionist Family (men and women religious and lay people) in the preparation and celebration of the tricentennial.

Fr. Augusto Canali was named the reference person of the Commission with the General Council. The substitute is Fr. Giuseppe Adobati.

The Commission will be available to cooperate with local commissions for the tricentennial, which will have to be appointed in each Configuration/Province/Vice-Province.

The members of the Commission for the preparation of the Jubilee of the Tercentenary are Fr. Ciro Benedettini, President (MAPRAES); Fr. Francisco das Chagas da Silva Marques (GETH-CJC); Fr. Vital Otshudialokoka (SALV-CPA); Fr. Gary Perritt (SPIR-PASPAC); Fr. Anton Lässer (VULN-CCH); and Fr. Juan Ignacio Villar (SCOR).



## SECOND CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF THE SACRED HEART (SCOR)

Fr. Antonio Munduate - (Procurator General and General Consultor)

The Second Chapter of the Province of the Sacred Heart (SCOR) took place from 20 to 30 June at the Mount Alverna Retreat House in Panama City, Panama.

### Background

Passionist presence in Arraijan (Panama), 22 km from Panama City, began on September 14, 1965, when the Passionists of the then SANG Province of Spain took over the administration of the parish of San Nicolas de Bari. More than fifty years later, the Passionists, today of the SCOR Province, continue to work in the local Church: a community with nine religious from Panama, Colombia, and Spain that serves a huge parish that has 27 chapels and over 200,000 inhabitants.

For three days (16, 17 and 18 June) prior to the beginning of the Pre-Chapter and the Provincial Chapter, the Passionists of the Province conducted a mission. Twenty-three religious were present in the various communities of the parish visiting the sick, conducting programs in schools, conducting catechetical events for families, as well as other activities. There were three important moments during which the members of the different mission chapels and sectors gathered together -- on Friday there was a prayer vigil around the official Cross and the Icon of Mary, the Mother of God (*“Salus Populi Romani”*) of the World Youth Day (WYD will be in January of 2019, in Panama). Then on Saturday, there was a concert of the group *“Getsemani”*, together with other parish groups. Finally, on Sunday, there was the closing Mass in the Chapel of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin. It was a very colorful and exuberant experience of faith and popular religiosity in which all the various communities of the Parish of San Nicolas participated.

The Passionist presence was enhanced by the participation of the Passionist Sisters of St. Paul of the Cross. In 1990, they made their first foundation in this city. Currently they administer the SCOR Province’s St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin School.

The SCOR Province is the result of the union of the three Spanish Provinces (CORI, SANG and FAM) and the FID Province of Colombia. It was ca-

nonically erected at the 46th General Chapter (October 2012) and was constituted as such with the celebration of its First Provincial Chapter (Lima, Peru, July 2013). It is composed of 380 religious living and ministering in 57 communities of Latin America (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela) and Spain.



Logo of the SCOR Provincial Chapter

### The Second Provincial Chapter

For the past four years, this Province has taken its first steps in this great new venture, this dream of union and Passionist life and ministry that began in Lima. *“One heart, one spirit; in creating fraternal life we give witness to the Reign of God”* (EG/34) was the theme of the first Chapter that helped us to leave the harbor and to sail out into the open sea, launching this great project, a pioneering adventure in our Congregation.

In this second Chapter, a new theme and logo helped us to reflect on what we have experienced and accomplished and to begin again, with even greater determination, to undertake our options for Passionist life. The theme, *“Jesus Christ – The Passion of Love”*, was inspired by our Father and Founder-- *“In such a sweet repose, you will come to swim in the immense sea of his love, from which flowed the work of our redemption. You will fish in this sea of the holy Passion for the pearls of the holy virtues... stripped of all clothing; otherwise, you are impeded.”* (St. Paul of the Cross, 9 June 1761).

The logo proposes the centrality of the Passion (shield), within a cross (blue), which unites the heart (highlighted in gray) without borders in a single *“ocean of fire and love”* – the entity into which St. Paul of the Cross wanted to dive. The same geographic reality of Panama, with the waters of the Canal, between the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, became a sign of union for everyone in the common project of the Province.



(L-R) Fr. Jesús M<sup>a</sup> Ahechu Laquidáin, Fr. José María Arzalluz Zabala (First Consultor), Fr. José María Sáez Martín (Provincial), Fr. José Geani Arias Ríos and Fr. Alberto Requénez Rodríguez.

- Personal problems and situations that consume time and energy at work.

### Legislation:

A certain amount of time was spent making some small adjustments and ascertaining whether the Regulation respond appropriately to spirit, charism and life. Most noteworthy was requiring that the Provincial Consultors be exclusively dedicated (area delegates) to their task of guiding the development and the life of the religious in their respective areas. Additionally, legislation was prepared concerning the formation of the Economes and establishing new rules for the election of delegates to the Provincial Chapter, ensuring that there is at least one delegate from each of the Nations.

This Province will send 14 delegates to the General Chapter of 2018. It was decided that in addition to the Brother delegate, the remaining 13 be chosen according to each of the 13 Nations of the Province, thus reorganizing structures and mathematical proportions. All the countries that have three or four religious (Guatemala, Cuba) or have more than 150 (Spain) shall have one delegate. This is a courageous and exemplary decision.

Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, presided at the Chapter. Fifty religious, some as members, other guests took part in the Chapter. Others took part in the Chapter work as collaborators in different tasks. Consequently all the entities of the Province were represented. Among the guests were Fr. Luigi Vaninetti (MAPRAES Provincial) and Fr. Francisco Murray (President of the CJC Configuration).

### Reviewing the Life of the Province

Several days of the Pre-Chapter were dedicated to this work. Various reports were presented and studied: Provincial Superior, delegates from each of the four zones, Provincial Econome, presences in each of the 13 Nations, ONG ADECO, missions, infirmaries and other areas of provincial life. The words of the Superior General at the beginning of the chapter, which summarized the result of the canonical visitations to the communities, are included in this section.

The goal was to better understand our reality, its achievements, failures and limitations. Among these are:

#### Achievements:

- Strengthening of the sense of province.
- Improvement of the structures of the old provinces.
- Organization of formation and the provincial infirmaries.
- Decisions about the future of some presences and property.

#### Deficiencies:

- The community project was not effective.
- Need for personal conversion.
- Problems in the organization of the Zones. Lack of promptness and attentiveness of Provincial Curia in relating with the religious.

### Planning

The Provincial program is based on the assertion that “**our mission is to BE COMMUNITY**”. Beginning from this starting point, a general objective is to “bear witness to our being Passionist by forming significant communities”.

They listed four areas, with their corresponding ways and means, which must be concretized in the assemblies of the areas and communities:

- Loving passion for fraternal life, community life.
- Loving passion for vocation ministry, initial and on-going formation.
- Loving passion for the Passionist Family.
- Loving passion for JPIC.

Additionally, the new Provincial team should bear in mind the need to adapt the reality of the communities and presences according to the number of religious and their specific situations.

### Elections

The Provincial and his Curia were elected quickly and efficiently: Fr. José María Sáez (Provincial Superior, re-elected), Fr. José María Arzalluz (Spain, First



Consultor), Fr. Alberto Requénez (Bolivia, Chile and Peru), Fr. José Geani Arias (Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela) and Fr. Jesús María Ahechu (Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico).

### Conclusion

Prior to the popular mission that preceded the Chapter one of the religious recalled the words of Pope Francis during the Year of the Consecrated Life: *“Don’t be closed in on yourselves, don’t be stifled by petty squabbles, don’t remain a hostage to your own problems. These will be resolved if you go forth and help others to resolve their own problems, and proclaim the Good News. You will find life by giving life, hope by giving hope, and love by giving love.”* (Apostolic Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to All Consecrated People on the Occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, No.4)

*[Following are some excerpts from the Superior General’s Opening Address to the SCOR Chapter.]*

“My brothers, you have chosen a theme for this Chapter that is substantial and rich with potential for reflection: **Jesus Christ – The Passion of Love**. My hope is that your reflections on this theme will be a support base which will lead you to an experience of **renewal** – *delving into the experience of being Passionist and hearing again the call to follow and respond with the ‘first love’*. May you be excited by the grace of this Chapter experience and decisions to recommit yourselves to be joyful and enthusiastic Passionist Apostles, witnessing by your life and proclaiming in mission a message of hope that reflects the love of God – and the God of Love – as you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Crucified. Like Mary, we must stand at the foot of the Cross in contemplation of Christ Cruci-

fied where we will experience the love of God and come to know the path we must follow...

From the reports of the canonical visitation conducted by Frs Antonio Munduate, Giuseppe Adobati and Francisco Murray – whom I thank sincerely – the membership expressed both positive constructive views for, and strong negative criticism against, the restructuring process. It would be important to know whether this negative reaction is because of the resistance to change and the fear of disturbing one’s comfort and security (that which is ‘known’ and ‘certain’), or whether it is reflection based on concrete experience which reveals the shortfall of not measuring up to the goal of restructuring: to strengthen our witness of community life and give greater vitality to our mission...

As you begin a new term with this Chapter, it is an opportunity for all in the Province to not just continue – happily or unhappily – with the status quo, but to renew your commitment and vocation by examining and evaluating the sincerity and truth of your Passionist identity, your living and your mission...

In order to guide this diverse Province in addressing these challenges, effective leadership at all levels (Provincial, zonal, local community) is key. In these times, Leadership and Authority in the service of the brethren in religious and community life, in general, is in crisis...

As we now begin our work of this Chapter, I encourage you all to participate in active and constructive dialogue, promoting greater unity, respect, reconciliation and dialogue, having always at heart what is for the common good of the Province and its mission in the Configuration and other parts of the Congregation.”



Participants at the SCOR Chapter



# FIRST PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF THE GETHSEMANI PROVINCE (GETH) (BRAZIL-ARGENTINA-URUGUAY)

Fr. Augusto Canali - (General Consultor) – with Fr. Ademir Guedes Azevedo (GETH)

The official opening of the First Provincial Chapter of the unified Provinces of CALV (Argentina) and CONC (Argentina-Uruguay) took place on 31 July 2017 in Ponta Grossa (Brazil). Fr. Edilberto Lins de Menezes, CALV Provincial Superior, welcomed the Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego and the other members of the Chapter. Fr. Carlos Saracini, CONC Provincial Superior greeted the members of the CJC (Jesus Crucified) Configuration—Fr. Joseph Moons (CRUC-USA), Fr. Giovanni Cipriani (EXALT-Brazil) and Fr. Francisco Valadez (REG-Mexico) and other guests. Fr. Augusto Canali (General Consultor) was the Moderator.

Fr. Augusto Canali read the decree issued by the General Government of the Congregation, erecting the new Province with the name “Gethsemani”. The Chapter approved the name of the new Province and established the site of the Provincialate in São Paulo (Brazil). The new Province regulations and the form of provincial government, which will be effective in the three regions, were discussed and approved. Additionally, regulations were approved for both initial and on-going formation.

In his opening address, Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, recalled that the Chapter should promote the common good, fraternity and mutual listening, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the Chapter and always trying to follow the ideal of our Holy Father and Founder, St. Paul of the Cross. He said, “By your decision to merge into one new juridical entity, we are celebrating here ‘a new way of being Passionists’.

You have arrived at this decision after some years of discernment and dialogue, and tested by a journey of Restructuring for a specific purpose, i.e. so that our life and mission may be given greater vitality. This decision is a courageous and radical one – not a decision made simply by using the gifts of your intellect and skills and instruments of organizational planning, but hopefully by a personal and communal listening to the movement of the Spirit and the “signs of the times... From the report of the canonical visitation conducted ahead of this Chapter, it is clear that not everyone is optimistic in regard to the decision to merge the two Provinces.

There will never be complete unanimity concerning such a major change and decision. It is expected that there will be hopes and fears, strengths and limitations with this chosen direction – responses both of the flesh and of the spirit respectively. However, I encourage you to remain positive and accepting and to keep in mind the goal which must always be shaped by our charism and



(L-R) Fr. Francisco Rodrigues, Fr. Edilberto Lins de Menezes, Fr. Leudes Aparecido de Paula (Provincial), Fr. Alan Hildeu Felicio and Fr. Francisco das Chagas da Silva Marques.

mission and realized together.”

During the course of the Chapter, the following religious were elected to lead the new Province— Fr. Leudes Aparecido de Paula (Provincial Superior) and Consultors—Fr. Edilberto Lins de Menezes (First Consultor), Fr. Francisco Rodrigues, Fr. Francisco das Chagas da Silva Marques and Fr. Alan Hildeu Felicio.

The Chapter the approved various projects for the new Province—1. Spirituality and life-style; 2. Sharing of our charism and Mission with the laity; 3. Passionist parishes; 4. Justice, peace and the integrity of



Fr. Pedro Richards (1911-2004)

creation (JPIC); 5. Passionist youth; 6. New ministries including the establishment of a treatment center for the rehabilitation of drug addicts and the Young as an apostolic focus; 7. Formation; 8. Various mission projects—the Mission in Mozambique and establishing a presence in João Pessoa (under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Council); 9. A Retreat House and center for meetings and formation; and 10. Finances and administration.

During the final part of the Chapter, Fr. Augusto Canali (Moderator) invited the new Provincial Curia to address the Chapter. Fr. Leudes Aparecido de Paula shared his thoughts about the process of unification of the two Provinces. He quoted the Superior General who said that the Chapter is an event of faith where we gather as men of faith and hope. It is God who guides us. We must learn from St. Paul of the Cross to recognize God's presence in our daily life. Fr. Leudes said that the religious must realize that the new GETH Province is newly born. It still needs to take its first steps, learning to walk calmly and prudently. There needs to be dialogue, reaching out to every religious, thus creating common and fraternal bonds.

**A Brief History of the former CONC Province of Argentina and Uruguay**

The CONC Province was founded in 1901, although the first Passionists arrived in Argentina in 1874 from Ireland, ostensibly to care for Irish immi-

grants in this country. The first permanent community was the parish of Santa Cruz in Buenos Aires in 1882. Construction of the church and monastery began in 1890, funded primarily by the Irish immigrants in the country.

Until 1901, the missions in this area were under the jurisdiction of the PAUL Province of the USA. The first Provincial Superior of the CONC Province was Fr. Eugene Ryan (PAUL). Soon after its foundation, the Province began to organize its internal life, establishing preparatory schools (minor seminaries) in order to receive young men considering a vocation to Passionist religious life. Missionary activity that was begun in 1884, increased in other provinces of Argentina and in the Malvinas Islands. Missions were also established beyond Argentina in Uruguay, especially in Montevideo.

Nine Provincial Chapters took place between 1901 and 1934 in which the religious addressed the difficulties of maintaining a balance between contemplative life and missionary-apostolic life. The extensive geographic distances between the communities, difficulties in maintaining communication, especially in mission areas, were some of the other challenges during the early history of the Province.

Two bishops were chosen from the Province: Fr. Carlos Hanlon, bishop of Catamarca, in 1935 and Fr. Albert Deane, Bishop of Villa Maria, in 1957. Toward the end of the 1940's, Fr. Pedro Richards (1911-2004) founded the "*Movimiento Familiar Cristiano*" (Christian Family Movement) directed by teams of married couples. Several years later, he established



Fr. Eugene Ryan (1853 - 1906)



other groups of the M.F.C. in Montevideo, Uruguay, and from here, the organization spread throughout Latin America. A development of this movement was the construction of the “Nazaret” (Nazareth) retreat house for married couples in Montevideo.

**A Brief History  
of the former CALV  
Province of Brazil**

Fr. Alcides David Bassani (GETH)



Early missionaries of the CALV Province: (seated, L-R) Fr. Damaso Pascolieri, Fr. Faustino Mascagna, Fr. Alfred Cagney (General Consultor), Fr. Candido Guiandoni; (standing, L-R) Fr. Eduardo Boldrini, (?) Fr. Camillo Borgna and Fr. Dionisio Panfili.

In 2011, the Passionists commemorated 100 years of their presence in Brazil. Responding to the invitation of the ecclesiastical authorities of the state of Curitiba and with the permission of the General Council, the Passionists planted the first seeds of their charism in Brazil. On 6 September 1911, Fr. Modesto of Saint Stanislaus (Francesco Paolo Meschino) arrived in Santos, São Paulo, Brazil, near the city of Curitiba. He was the pioneer of the Passionist foundation in the “land of the Holy Cross” (before the country was called “Brazil”, the Portuguese who colonized this territory in the 16th century, named it “the land of the Holy Cross.”)

In December of the same year, two more Italian Passionists arrived-- Fr. Candido Ghiandoni and Bro. Antonio Leopardi. Until that time, they were assisting Italian immigrants from Argentina. The purpose of their presence was to evangelize the communities on the coast of the Paraná River, where clergy and religious were scarce. In the beginning, they faced many difficulties in trying to assist the needy communities of Antonina, Guaraqueçaba and Guaratuba in the southern state of Paraná.

The following year, on 24 January 1912, three additional Italian Passionists arrived -- Fr. Geraldo Cortese, Fr. Camilo Borgna and Bro. Lucas Ramirez Garcia (a Mexican residing in Italy). They settled in the capital city of São Paulo to assist the newly arrived Italian immigrants.

From 1911 to 1913, the Passionists of both the state of Paraná and the state of São Paulo were dependent on the Superior General. However, on 4

March 1913 the XXX General Chapter decreed that they should remain under the jurisdiction of each their Provinces of origin namely-- the Passionists of Paraná under the former PIET Province and the Passionists of São Paulo under the former PRAES Province of Italy. Fr. Damaso Trani, of the former DOL Province, felt isolated and at the request of his Provincial Superior, he made a new Foundation in Pinto Bandeira, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

On 17 March 1919, the Passionists of Paraná made a request to the Superior General that the three foundations be part of a single jurisdiction. In response, one of the General Consultors was sent to investigate and to propose possible solutions. Despite differences among the three foundations, on 22 July 1922 the General Council decreed that a mission Commissariat [a mission entity that is directly under the jurisdiction of the Superior General] be established, based in São Paulo.

In 1923, the first Brazilian vocations were vested with the Passionist Habit. On 25 January 1925, the CALV (Calvary) Province was erected. Fr. Faustino Costanzo, the former superior of the Commissariat, was chosen as the first Provincial.



## CONGRESS OF THE PAC VICE PROVINCE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Fr. Arthur Carillo (CRUC)

From September 5 to September 8, the Vice-province of Our Lady of Peace (Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic) conducted its second Congress. Having been established as a Vice-province just four years ago, this was the second time that the members of the Vice-province gathered to review their progress, elect their leadership, and plan for the next four years of community life and ministry.

As is becoming the custom, in recognition of the new Configuration structures in the Congregation, an invitation was given to other Major Superiors of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified (to which the Vice-province belongs) to be present for the Congress. Fr. Francisco Valadez (Mexico-REG) who was also the Moderator of the Congress, Fr. Robert Joeger (USA-PAUL), Fr. Alex Steinmiller (USA-CRUC, substituting for Fr. Joe Moons), Fr. Francisco Murray (both Configuration President, and representing the new Gethsemane Province (GETH)--Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil-GETH) and Fr. Ribamar Divino Vieira de Souza (Brazil-EXALT) were all present to support the Vice-province in its deliberations and decisions.

The Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, was the Congress President, and convoked the Congress at the morning Mass of September 5. In his opening address, the Superior General spoke of some of the challenges facing the new Vice-Province—*“Chief among these challenges... are the past hurts and resentments with which some of you have been living and nurturing for many years. It seems that divisions and conflicting tendencies that emerged years ago continue to affect the life of the Vice Province in a negative way... Ultimately, it is about forgiveness and conversion...”*

*The second major issue concerns the viability of the composition of the two nations that make up the Vice Province: Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic. In the extraordinary and canonical visitations conducted, it has*



Participants at the PAC Congress

*been clearly expressed that the Puerto Rican religious are not so willing to live and work in the Dominican Republic; also mentioned was the difficulty the Dominican Republican religious experience in obtaining a North American Visa for travel and residency in Puerto Rico... These issues call into question the effective functioning of the Vice Province in its present structure.”*

Fr. Joachim concluded his remarks with these words—*“My brothers, no matter what eventual structure is adopted for the two nations of Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic, my encouragement, challenge and hope is that you, the Passionist religious, will work with conviction and commitment at developing a sense of unity (not ‘uniformity’) around our Passionist vocation: i.e. to keep alive the memory of the Passion of Jesus and to promote that memory in our world by our life and mission. Our unity consists of being one in mind and heart amidst our diversity and difference which we must treasure and respect.”*

Elections are always a peak moment at Chapters and Congresses; but in the case of this Vice-provincial Congress, the scheduled elections of leadership were postponed because the Vice-province wished to consult with the Superior General and his Council regarding a change in the juridical relationship between the Passionists of Puerto Rico and of the Dominican Republic. Consequently, Fr. Joachim extended the terms of the present Vice-provincial and his Council for not more than six months.



# THE SEMINAR “THE STRANGER IN OUR MIDST— ENCOUNTERS IN THE LIGHT OF THE PASSION OF JESUS”

Fr. Gary Perritt (SPIR)



Conference speakers at the seminar - Fr. Patrick Rogers (PATR),  
Fr. Nicholas Postlethwaite (IOS), Fr. Mark-Robin Hoogland (SPE)

**F**ifty eight Passionists (from Northern Europe, USA and Australia), together with members of the General Council, gathered at the St. Joseph’s Province Minsteracres Retreat Centre (UK) from 11 September until 15 September 2017 for a seminar exploring current social realities in the light of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The presentations each day drew on the wisdom of the Passionist Tradition.

The participants were welcomed at the beginning of the seminar by Fr. Denis Travers, C.P. (Passionist General Consultor for Northern Europe) and Fr. Jeroen Hoogland, C.P., Director of the Retreat Centre. The North European Configuration of Saint Charles sponsored the week together with financial assistance from the Sisters of the Cross and Passion.

## 11 September 2017

The theme for Day One was “Welcoming the Stranger”. Presentations were made by Fr. Patrick Rogers, C.P. (A Scriptural Perspective of Welcoming the Stranger) and Fr. Mark-Robin Hoogland, C.P. (A Theological Perspective on Welcoming the Stranger)

## 12 September 2017

The theme for Day Two was “Passionist Response to the Stranger”. Presentations were made by Fr. Gregor Lenzen C.P. (What did ‘stanger’ mean to St. Paul of the Cross) and Fr. Paul Francis Spencer, C.P. (Looking at Charles of Mount Argus and Dominic Barberi – Strangers in a Strange Land) and Srs. Dominic Savio Hamer, C.P., and Christine Alderson, C.P. (Elizabeth Prout’s Response to the Stranger).

## 13 September 2017

The theme for day Three was “And Who Is My Neighbour?” Presentations were made by Fr. Mirek Lesiecki, C.P., Passionist Representative at the United Nations (A United Nations Perspective), Steve Anne and Emma Atherton (A Justice and Peace Fieldworker’s Perspective) and Lya Vollering (Befriending the Earth)

## 14th September 2017

The theme for day Four: “The Stranger Within: Reflecting on our Inner World”. Presentations were made by Fr. David Williams C.P. (Called out of Hiding – the Emergence of the True Self) and Sr. Marie McNiece, C.P., (The Stranger Within: A Psycho-synthesis Approach) and Fr. Patrick Duffy, C.P. (Focusing: A Way to Befriend the Stranger Within).

## 15 September 2017

The theme of day Five: “The Stranger”

On the final day of the seminar, Father Martin Coffey, C.P., (PATR) gave a presentation entitled “The Stranger – Drawing it all Together and Leaving with a Challenge.”

In his homily of 13 September, Fr. John Kearns, Provincial Superior of the St. Joseph’s Province (IOS), quoted a homily of St. John Chrysostom-- “Do you wish to honour the body of Christ? Do not ignore him when he is naked. Do not pay homage in the temple clad in silk, only to neglect him outside where he is cold and ill clad. He who said ‘This is my body’ is the same who said ‘You saw me hungry and gave me food’ and ‘whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters you did to me...’ What good is it if the Eucharistic table is overloaded with gold chalices when your brother and sister is dying of hunger? Start satisfying that hunger and then with what is left you may adorn the altar as well.”

The texts of the presentations from the 2017 Seminar on ‘Welcoming the Stranger - encounters in the light to the Passion of Jesus’ are still being collated and formatted. They will be available soon at the [passiochristi.org](http://passiochristi.org) website. In the meantime, the papers from the 2015 Seminar - ‘The Passion of Jesus - hope for the world’ appear at the following link [http://www.biblical.ie/cp\\_seminar/default.php](http://www.biblical.ie/cp_seminar/default.php)



# FIRST CONGRESS OF THE NEW VICE PROVINCE OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF AFRICA (MATAF) OF BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

Fr. Michael Ogweno (General Consultor)

The First Congress of the Vice Province of Our Lady Mother of Africa (MATAF) was held at Forest Hill, in Gaborone, Botswana from 13 to 17 June 2017. It was presided over by Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General. Present at the Congress, as a member of the Vicariate, was Fr. Michael Ogweno, General Consultor, and Fr. James Sweeney, Provincial Superior of the PATR Province.

Of all the Passionist entities in Africa, MATAF occupies a unique position-- it is the only entity whose jurisdiction extends beyond a single African country. In fact, it is composed of the three southern African nations of Botswana, the Republic of South Africa and Zambia; and while MATAF covers the largest geographical area in Africa, it is composed of the smallest number of religious. However, its uniqueness lies not only in its geographical and the numerical accounting, but also in the diversity of its members. The religious come from countries as varied as Botswana, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Republic of South Africa and Zambia and yet, all of them are united in the sole objective of preaching Christ Crucified.

On the occasion of the elevation of the Vicariate to the status of a Vice Province, all the members of the Vice Province were present except one. The presence of the Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, as the president of the Congress was truly a highlight for many members. His participation in the Congress and his fraternal visits to the communities prior to the Congress were sources of encouragement that were greatly appreciated by the religious.

One other presence of particular note was that of Fr. James Sweeney, the Provincial Superior of the St. Patrick Province. MATAF as an entity would not exist and its story could not be told, without the Province of St. Patrick. Fr. James' presence and contributions during the discussions, was like going back to where it all started and re-kindling the original spirit, which was a source of hope for the new Vice Province.



Participants at the MATAF Congress

In his opening address to the Congress, Fr. Joachim highlighted some of the issues and challenges noted in the canonical visitation report:

*“Vision - the absence of a clear vision for the Vice Province deprives us from creating and engaging in ministries that emphasise our specific apostolates and charism. While parishes are a viable and stable form of ministry and a support to the local church, we must guard against simply becoming ‘diocesan priests’. Preaching retreats/missions, spiritual direction, schools of prayer and meditation on the Passion, chaplaincies and ministries to the suffering, and ministries compatible with JPIC are to be sought.*

*Effective leadership - forming and encouraging leadership at all levels which will listen, seek to consult, look for advice, and communicate (through meetings, news, visits). Leadership and authority in the service of the brothers in religious and community life, in general, is in crisis. In some instances the religious tend ‘to do their own thing’ without any reference to the authority, and the leader often feels powerless to know how to act, thus turning a blind eye to many situations. This can lead to imitation for some and confusion for others, thus causing a loss of credibility of the leader and creating tensions and conflicts in community...*

*Financial base - the need to find strategies for income generation, both from ministries and from investment projects.*



Frs. Anthony Mdhuli (First Consultor), Emmanuel Kabinga (Vice Provincial), Fr. Joachim Rego (Superior General) and Fr. Ernest Banda (Second Consultor).

The Congress assiduously reviewed the properties of the Vice Province and how those properties could be managed and developed in order to generate income for the Vice Province.

Development of what is strictly a Passionist identity was one of the major discussions. In a very extensive geographical region where the main pastoral activities are parish work, how could the Vice Province enhance Passionist spirituality and identity among its members, so as not to appear like any other order or worse, diocesan priests. In connection with this, the issues of Vocation promotion and Formation programmes and policies were discussed.

### Some of the Decisions Made

**Financial management** – *there is need for basic training in matters of finance and openness to good advice from professionals where possible. Secure and sound management of the finances and goods of the Vice Province is a ministry of the community for the common good of our life and mission. I want to stress that in the interest of transparency and accountability, all the members have a right to know the actual financial situation of the community and the Province.*

**Maintenance and planning** – *it seems that organisation, planning and coordination in the Vice Province needs attention. While there is the generosity of spirit to do what has been requested, coordination is lacking.”*

It was unanimously agreed that the office of the Vice Province would be established in Forest Hill and that the Vice Provincial would ordinarily reside in Forest Hill as the administrative center of the Vice Province.

The establishment of communication channels were discussed through which all the members of the Vice Province would be made aware of what is taking place within the Vice Province and beyond. A number of possibilities were proposed: Regular meetings of the communities and of the Vice Province, the establishment of a newsletter and the creation of a website. This was deemed crucial as a way of creating unity and advancing issues that would strengthen Passionist identity and mission, not only within the Vice Province but also in the Configuration and in the entire Congregation.

A specific time was determined in which the Regulations of the Vice Province would be revised, finalized and sent to Rome for the approval of the Superior General and his Council.

The development of any property which involves a third party was to be properly documented and legal advice be sought before signing any agreement. The Vice Province as an entity must have legal representation in those countries where the Vice Province ministers in order to offer advice on legal matters.

During the Congress, the following religious were elected members of the Vice-provincial Curia-- Frs. Anthony Mdhuli (First Consultor), Emmanuel Kabinga (Vice Provincial), and Ernest Banda (Consultor).

### Major Issues Discussed

As would be expected of any new reality, the major issues that were discussed in this first Congress of the MATAF Vice Province dealt with the transition from a Vicariate to a Vice Province and finding ways to strengthen the organization of the new reality. This has to deal with setting up the office and headquarters of the new Vice Provincial and the administration of the Vice Province with properly appointed administrators and administrative channels established. Of particular interest in the administration of the Vice Province is the appointment of the Vice Provincial Secretary, the Econome and local superiors and their economies. Their roles and functions need to be properly defined and established in the Vice Province's Regulations. This will serve to enhance the maintenance and updating of important records of the Vice Province and accountability at all levels of the administration.



**A Brief History of the  
MATAF Vice-Province**

Botswana is an African country that is located between Zambia in the north and South Africa to the south. Botswana is as large as France with a population of just under 2 million. The country is mostly desert, the Kalahari Desert, with hundreds of little villages with exotic names like Mahalapye, Selibe Pikhwe, Gaborone, Molepolole, Serowe.

The actual date of establishment of the Catholic Church in Botswana was on January 25, 1928. Two German Oblate priests arrived to take up residence at the Kgale farm, the first Mission Station in the then Protectorate of Bechuanaland.

In 1951, the monthly bulletin of the PATR Province (*The Cross*, 42) announced that *“the Irish province of our Congregation has been invited by the Holy See to undertake Mission work in Bechuanaland and the first group of missionaries will leave shortly for the new Mission field.”* This in fact was the overture to a new phase in the history of the Catholic Botswana Mission. With little or no resources and no experience in foreign mission endeavors except for the Superior, Fr. Theodore Matthews (1904-1967), four priests and four Sisters of the Cross and Passion arrived in February 1952 at the first mission station of Kgale. They studied the native language for three months in Mafikeng and were then considered to be sufficiently prepared to take over the whole mission. The Sisters and three priests remained in the south, while Fr. Urban Murphy went to Francistown. In 1953, Fr. Urban’s first fellow Passionist arrived, Fr. Killian Matthews. The first native catechist at the Station, attests to the presence and ministry of the missionaries—*“The two priests are doing tremendous work... Within a short time, they have made the presence of the Passionist spirit felt in Bechuanaland. We Africans are proud of the Irish Passionists. Please pray for us.”* (*The Cross*, 45)

A few years later, in 1956, the Passionists were invited to work in the Diocese of Johannesburg, especially among the migrant mine workers in Carletonville and Westonaria. There was also a thriving parish in Bryanston in the suburbs of Johannesburg city. After 14 years, the Holy See recognized the work of the Passionists and their achievement in establishing the Church in Botswana with the erection of the Diocese of Gaborone. On the feast of St. Paul of the Cross, (28 April 1959), Vatican Radio announced that on 24 April, Pope John XXIII raised the mis-

sionary territory of Bechuanaland Protectorate to the status of an Apostolic Prefecture. On the same day, he appointed Passionist Fr. Urban Murphy (1919-1981), to be its first Apostolic Prefect. Passionist communities were also established in Zambia in 2007 (Lusaka-Chibombo) and in 2011 (Lusaka-Chilanga).



Bishop Urban Murphy, CP (1919-1981)

Fr. Martin Coffey (Executive Secretary for Formation) a former missionary in the MATAF Vice-Province recalls – *“The Passionists were made welcome in Botswana and South Africa because they preached the Good News of Christ crucified. Their message spread into Zambia and please God will continue to spread into other countries in the southern part of Africa. The people saw the hard work and dedicated service of the Passionist missionaries in their midst and responded positively. Besides preaching and baptising, catechising and administering the other sacraments, and providing suitable places for worship, additionally they built schools, clinics, dispensaries so that the whole life of the people benefited from their presence. They embodied the Good News in their words and works. In their schools, they educated the future generations of political leaders and laid the foundations for the new independent African State. St. Joseph’s High School in Kgale was known and respected throughout the country for its standards of excellence. Among its headmasters were Frs. Ambrose Fay (1921-2014), Leonard Davitt (1926-1988), John Corrigan and Arthur McCann. Their contribution alone to the life of Botswana is inestimable.”*

Fr. Martin concludes – *“The mission to spread Good News in a world that seems to specialize in bad news, disasters, and tragedies goes on. In recent years, we have been blessed with many good vocations. These young African Passionists together with some missionaries continue to share the Good News that tells the story of the triumph of good over evil, of forgiveness and compassion in the face of hatred and cruelty. It is the story of hope overcoming despair.”*



# THE DIGNITY OF LABOUR

*Bro. Jerson Marcel Cusher (THOM)*



Bro. Jerson and some of the women that he assists

The last option for a woman in India is to force herself to go to the houses of others to do the same work that she would normally do in her own house. However, here she does it to get some monetary return so that she can take care of her family, including alcohol dependent spouses and numerous malnourished children. Hundreds of thousands of women and girls in India are employed as domestic workers in private households. They clean, cook, care for children, look after elderly family members and perform other tasks for their employers so that they have enough time to do their dignified jobs. In India, domestic work is not a dignified job; hence, it comes just above the category of slaves because the workers are paid for their work. In India, domestic workers come under the unorganized sector of labour law. Therefore, there are many NGO's working on their behalf to bring them into the organized labour sector. As a Passionist, I have been working for more than ten years with one of these NGO's that tries to offer a sense of justice to the work that domestic workers do in order to survive in society.

I find this ministry a challenging one and akin to our Founder's vision to serve the marginalized. Yes, most of the domestic workers are from the marginalized sections of society and I see them as the crucified of today. They are nailed in place by poverty, harassment from husbands as well as employers, crowned with the mental stress of thinking about how to care

for their children. Moreover, they are often pierced by the taunts of society who perceive that they are doing a degrading job.

For almost ten years, I have been working to reduce their pain by negotiating with the government of India to give dignity to these domestic workers and bring this type of job into the organized labor sector. I have been trying to obtain decent salaries for them and ensure that society does not consider them to be inferior workers. On the contrary, I strive to make them understand that domestic workers are the pillars on which society is built. In this regard, I have been working with people from different NGO's who are trying to bring about changes for the better and I can already see the outcome of our struggles. Despite these efforts, this difficulty

continues and therefore many more people are needed to work for the rights of these domestic workers and their children.

In India, there are Passionists who have addressed this challenge and are open to collaborate with NGO's and others who believe in this cause of improving the lives of Domestic Workers and their children. Collaboration is the key. Thus, this is a great opportunity for the Passionists in India to embrace the theme of the Karnataka Regional Conference of Religious (KRCR) -- "Collaboration: A vision received, a mission shared."



"I find this ministry a challenging one and akin to our Founder's vision to serve the marginalized."



## ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS AND THE PASSIONIST SISTERS— AFTER 200 YEARS THEIR HISTORY CONTINUES

*Sr. M. Antonella Medoro, CP (Sisters of St. Paul of the Cross)*

On 14 October 2017, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul of the Cross celebrated the Jubilee of 200 years of their aggregation to the Passionist Congregation. In 1817 the Passionist Superior General, Fr. Tommaso Albessano, granted affiliation to the first community of the Handmaids of the Passion (Ancelle della Passione). These are the words that Fr. Tommaso wrote to the Foundress, Mary Magdalene Frescobaldi Capponi to highlight the solemnity of the event and the fullness of communion that from the beginning was established between the two institutions. *“You implored us, (as far as we are concerned) to add our work to such a pious work for the glory of the Lord and the salvation of souls. Wherefore we assent very willingly to your request by the authority that we exercise in the Lord. Sustained by His mercy and the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ Crucified and the patronage of the most Sorrowful Virgin and the prayers of all the saints of the Cross, we admit and receive as spiritual daughters, You and these women, both present and those that will be added to your number in the future. By means of this document, we declare that you are accepted and that you will receive equally the spiritual benefits of all sacrifices, prayers, penances and suffrages that are accomplished in our universal Congregation by means of divine worship, day and night for the eternal salvation of souls, through sacred missions and for all other ministries, according to the norms of our Institute...”*

The power of the Holy Spirit has sealed this bond that has lasted 200 years and will continue to do so in the future because God’s faithfulness in his Works is timeless. Today, for us Passionist Sisters, after two centuries of history, the words of Fr. Tommaso Albessano addressed to Mary Magdalene continue to signify profound communion and privileged membership to a specific Family, among the first to receive all the spiritual benefits of the Passionist Congregation. These words also reveal the firm intention of the foundress to leave behind a “spiritual heritage” that



The Sisters and the relics of St. Paul of the Cross

would enrich, support and enliven our lives and our apostolic activity, that of St. Paul of the Cross.

Each entity of the Congregation and every community celebrated the Jubilee where they are present with various initiatives. In Italy, we solemnized the occasion by welcoming the urn containing the body of St. Paul of the Cross from 18 to 25 September 2017. The first station of this pilgrimage was at the Mother House in the city of Signa (Florence), 18-21 September, precisely 50 years to the day from its first arrival in that place. Then from 21 to 23 September the relics were received in the city of Ciampino (Rome) and from 23 to 25 September the pilgrimage concluded in Mater Amabilis community, Rome, before returning to Sts. John and Paul. During the trip the urn was accompanied by the Mother General, Sr. Daniela Merlo, the Superiors of all entities of the Congregation and those Sisters celebrating 60, 50 and 25 years of religious profession. These celebrations concluded with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Ciro Benedettini (MAPRAES) on 21 September.

This bicentennial marks an important milestone for us. However, the mission that St. Paul of the Cross began among us paves the way toward the future through a greater awareness of our origins. It renews old ties and urges us to continue the mission of proclaiming to people of all times that *“the Passion of Jesus is the greatest and most overwhelming work of God’s love”*.

## NEW PASSIONIST NUNS' MONASTERY AT MINSTERACRES (UK)

*Mother Monica Curran, CP*

On 9 July 2017, the Feast of Our Lady of Holy Hope, the new Passionist Nuns' Monastery of Our Lady of Holy Hope, was solemnly blessed by Bishop Seamus Cunningham, at the Minsteracres Retreat Centre in the beautiful countryside of Northumberland (UK). After two and a half years of construction, the dream of completing the Passionist family of priests, nuns and Sisters, united in the spirit of St. Paul of the Cross at Minsteracres, became a reality.

The Passionist Contemplative Nuns were invited from the American monastery of Erlanger (Kentucky) to England in the year of Blessed Dominic Barberi's beatification (1964) to complete the Passionist family in the United Kingdom. The nuns initially settled in Daventry, Northamptonshire and remained there until 2005. Due to lack of vocations and consequently, requiring smaller accommodations, they moved to a new property close to Belmont Abbey in Hereford, England.

In November 2014 being so far from their Passionist family, they contacted the IOS Passionist Provincial, Fr. John Kearns, to inquire if there were any suitable accommodation close to the Passionists at Minsteracres that would enable them to continue their monastic contemplative life and so enrich their vocation by sharing closely in the Passionist spirit and liturgy.

They visited Minsteracres in November 2014 to start discussions with Fr. Jeroen Hoogland (SPE) the Rector, and from then the journey to the new monastery began. It became clear from the beginning that there was no suitable accommodation available; however, there was an old workshop close to the retreat centre, which had to be demolished. With the approval of the Passionist provincial council and the Minsteracres board of trustees the nuns hired a local architect and the long process began.



The new Passionist nuns' monastery of Our Lady of Holy Hope

From the beginning it was clear that in order to receive planning permission from Northumberland County Council the new monastery would have to meet many and varied requirements. The building itself would have to be built in materials approved by the planning department and many other departments would have the authority to approve or reject the plans.

The long wait ended on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, 14 September 2015, when Planning permission was finally granted. Mother Monica Curran and Mother Regina Cappelletti then sold the Hereford property and moved to Northumberland, enabling them to oversee the construction and deal with the many details regarding its construction.

The new monastery, inspired by faith and built on hope, establishes a setting at Minsteracres where anyone aspiring to Passionist life can find examples of the various ways of living its charism.



## PROFESSION OF FIRST VOWS

During the period of June to November 2017, sixteen Religious professed First Vows.

▶ GEMM Vice Province of Tanzania, 6 July: Octavian Hinju and Yohana Mberwa.

▶ SPIR Province of Australia and PNG, 8 July: Melchior Yowei, Dalset Tapi and Luke Bulley.

▶ REG Province of Mexico, 8 July: Pablo de la Cruz and Jovanni Cadena.

▶ PASS Province of the Philippines, 15 July: Vincent Roy Del Sol.

▶ MAPRAES Province of Italy, Portugal and France, 9 September: André Martinho Azevedo, Davide Costalunga, Davide Volontè, Francesco De Bellis, Gabriele Leo, Humberto Silva and Nicola Sbalchiero.

▶ PATR Province of Ireland and Scotland, 10 September: Conor Quinn.



MAPRAES Province: André Martinho Azevedo, Davide Costalunga, Davide Volontè, Francesco De Bellis, Gabriele Leo, Humberto Silva and Nicola Sbalchiero.

## PROFESSION OF PERPETUAL VOWS

During the period of June to November 2017, five of our religious professed Final Vows.

▶ EXALT Province of Brazil, 28 May: Daniel Rodrigues Barros.

▶ PASS Province of the Philippines, 15 July: Nelson Galit, Celso Macas, Manuel Alfred Bayta, and Elmer Malaran.



Daniel Rodrigues Barros (EXALT)



PASS Province: Vincent Roy Del Sol, Nelson Galit, Celso Macas, Manuel Alfred Bayta, Elmer Malaran



SPIR Province: Melchior Yowei, Dalset Tapi and Luke Bulley



## DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

During the period of period June to November 2017, two Religious were ordained deacons.

▶ SCOR Province of Spain and Latin America, 7 September: Joel Angel Flores Valdes.

▶ GETH Province of Brazil and Argentina, 19 October: Marcel A. Alexandre De Sousa.



Deacon Joel Angel Flores Valdes (SCOR)

## PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

During the period of period June to November 2017, six Religious were ordained to the priesthood.

▶ GEMM Vice Province of Tanzania, 7 July: Fr. Erasto Venant Kamugisha.

▶ SCOR Province of Spain and Latin America, 8 July: Fr. Ruben Darío Manzano.

▶ EXALT Province of Brazil, 23 July: Fr. Thiago Thales Mendes de Oliveira, 26 August: Fr. Vanildo de Jesus Nascimento.

▶ REG Province of Mexico, 21 October: Fr. César Antonio Navarrete Ferrusquia.

▶ MAPRAES Province of Italy, Portugal and France, 21 October: Fr. Michele Messi.



Deacon Marcel A. Alexandre De Sousa



Fr. Ruben Darío Manzano (SCOR)



Fr. César Antonio Navarrete Ferrusquia (REG)



Fr. Thiago Thales Mendes de Oliveira (EXALT)



Fr. Erasto Venant Kamugisha (GEMM)

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# Notitiae Obitus

## 1 Iunius 2017 - 1 November 2017

DIE	OBDORMIVIT IN DOMINO	PROVINCIA	NATUS	VOTA NUNCUPAVERAT
06/07/17	Sac. Andreas Engselmus	REPAC	10/11/65	09/07/89
02/08/17	Sac. Leonard Kosatka	CRUC	11/11/65	09/07/52
05/08/17	Sac. Matteo Colucci	GETH	12/11/65	08/10/56
07/08/17	Sac. Emmanuel Gardon	PAUL	13/11/65	15/08/43
13/08/17	Sac. Basilio Howlin	GETH	14/11/65	19/01/46
18/08/17	Sac. Michele Di Simone	MAPRAES	15/11/65	15/09/47
23/08/17	Sac. Peter O'Rourke	PAUL	16/11/65	01/08/57
27/08/17	Sac. Kevin Casey	PAUL	17/11/65	15/08/49
03/09/17	Sac. Emmet Linden	CRUC	18/11/65	09/07/44
11/09/17	Sac. Piotr Sobol	ASSUM	19/11/65	15/09/91
13/09/17	Sac. Silvester Saka	REPAC	20/11/65	09/07/93
08/10/17	Sac. Julian Black	MATAF	21/11/65	22/08/57
15/10/17	Sac. Salvian Maguire	PATR	22/11/65	15/09/46
18/10/17	Sac. Juan María Avendaño	GETH	23/11/65	23/12/52
31/10/17	Sac. Gaudencio Delgado García	SCOR	24/11/65	21/09/45

## Moniales et Sorores Defunctae

DIE	OBDORMIVIT IN DOMINO	PROVINCIA	NATUS	VOTA N.
07/07/17	Sr. Fernanda de S. Pedro Apóstolo (Corina) Ferrarini	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. Cuore Imm. di Maria, Brasile	10/07/1918	22/01/41
11/07/17	Sr. M. Sabatina dell'Immacolata (Carmelina) De Siena	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. Sacro Cuore di Gesù	08/11/1940	12/09/59
01/08/17	Sr. Terezinha del Cuore di Gesù Boff	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. Cuore Imm. di Maria, Brasile	13/06/1933	20/03/54
13/08/17	Sr. Maria Giovanna (Emma) Dani	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. della Verg. Addolorata	10/12/1935	16/07/63
01/09/17	Sr. Baptista Baugh	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (Lytham, England)	11/09/1939	18/04/59
23/09/17	Sr. Onorata di San Gabriele (Luigia) Rossoni	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. della Verg. Addolorata	02/11/1928	05/11/50
08/10/17	Sr. Teresa Maguire	Inst. Sororum SS. Crucis et Passionis D.N.I.C. (England)	08/03/1923	11/12/45
03/11/17	Sr. María Leonor de S. Pablo de la Cruz (M <sup>a</sup> del Carmen) Sánchez Mejía	Inst. Filiarum Passionis D.N.I.C. et Dolorum B.V.M. (México)	16/07/1921	15/08/51
05/11/17	Sr. Silvana Maria da Imaculada (Almira) Venturini	Inst. Sororum Passionistarum a S. Paulo a Cruce (Signa) - Prov. della Verg. Addolorata	15/06/1948	28/02/69



Let us live our charism as prophets of hope,  
sincerely believing what we preach  
because God is at the very heart and centre of our lives.  
As Passionists in these present times,  
our mission must reflect a hopeful spirituality –  
one of surrender and trust into the hands of the One  
who calls us to proclaim the Gospel of the Passion of Jesus  
as a manifestation of the unlimited and boundless love of God.

Fr. Joachim Rego, *Circular Letter*

**19 October 2017**

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