



# Through the Cross—A Livestream Program

by Fr. Paul Fagan, C.P. <https://thesundaymass.org/en/live>



### March 28th at 3PM – The Passionists: Part 2

In this episode, we'll take a contemporary look at the Passionists – our people, our programs and ministries and our community of faith.

### April 16th at 3PM – The Sunday Mass: 50 Years and Growing

We'll look at the history and some factoids on the Sunday Mass – how it's produced, who's watching and where we want to go for the next 50 years.

### April 30th at 3PM – Becoming a Passionist: Vocations

We have a team working to bring on the next generation of Passionist Priests, Brothers and Sisters. Learn about them, their work, the vocations and what it takes to be one of the new generation of Passionists.

### May 14th at 3PM – Getting Away: Retreat Centers

Passionist Retreat Centers provide special places for people to meet and the Holy Spirit to move - for learning, for rest, for healing and for fellowship. Learn about these places of special hospitality and the lives they touch.

2	Michael Rowe
10	James Barry
13	Jerome McKenna Jerome Bracken
16	Salvatore Riccardi
21	David Monaco
22	Michael Stomber



7	Edwin Moran
25	Earl Keating Jerome McKenna Gregory Paul
28	Timothy Fitzgerald John McMillan Dominic Papa Carrol Thorne
30	Lucian Clark Joseph Jones



# Life, Death, and Memory: Art and Artifacts from the Passionist China Collection

by Fr Rob Carbonneau, C.P.,

This April marks the 90th anniversary of the deaths of three Passionist Catholic priests at the hands of bandits in China. The priests had come as missionaries to Hunan province, and their murders shocked American Catholics, U.S. diplomats, and the Holy See.

A new exhibit in the Heritage Room, titled **"Life, Death, and Memory: Art and Artifacts from the Passionist China Collection,"** honors the martyred men as well as the service of the many other Passionist priests and Sisters of Charity, Convent Station, NJ as well as the Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden, PA who worked in the region from 1921 to 1955, when the last missionary was expelled from Communist China. Together, all served through famine, flood, and war, and witnessed both incredible suffering and hope. Ultimately, they left a legacy that continues to the present day, inspiring a new generation of Chinese Passionist priests.

The exhibit will be on display until April 23, 2019 during normal library business hours. There will be a **reception and lecture, by Father Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D, and Passionist Historian, on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room.** The lecture will focus on remembering the witness of faith of the martyred priests, and the larger story of the Chinese Catholic witness of faith. The reception is free and open to the public. For further information, contact Special Collections Librarian Michael Knies at 570-941-6341. Kindly contact Fr. Rob in advance if you plan to attend the April 8, 2019 lecture. His email is [robcarb@cpprov.org](mailto:robcarb@cpprov.org). Cell: 443-986-3834

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON  
WEINBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY PRESENTS

## LIFE, DEATH, AND MEMORY: Art and Artifacts from the Passionist China Collection

EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY  
February 20 - April 24  
5th Floor Heritage Room



Reception & Program  
Monday, April 8, 6 PM

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE  
WEINBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND THE SCHEMEL FORUM





# Brother James Johnson's 60th Jubilee & Birthday

On March 5th at the Jamaica Monastery, Brother James Johnson, C.P. celebrated his 60th Jubilee of his profession which was also his birthday.





# Homily for Brother James' Jubilee

by Brother Gus Parlavechio, C.P.

We come together today in the presence of God and one another to celebrate Brother James' sixty years as a Passionist Religious – his diamond jubilee. Today is also his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday. So there is much to celebrate.

Frederick Buechner is a Presbyterian Minister and the author of a book titled 'Beyond Words.' In this book, Buechner gives a definition of vocation which I like very much. Buechner writes, 'Vocation comes from the Latin vocare 'to call' and means the work a person is called to by God. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.'

Anyone who knows Brother James finds a man who is 'glad' to be alive and who has a wonderful capacity to recognize a deep 'hunger' and who sets about meeting that 'hunger.'

In the case of Brother James there was a time when he set about meeting the literal hunger of the community. As a cook in some of our monasteries and retreat houses, he met the need for physical nourishment – sometimes flamboyantly but more often quietly. He loves books and loves to read, and so he obtained permission to study library science and became the librarian right here in Jamaica, when this house was a place of formation for men aspiring to be Passionist Religious. He still oversees our library.

Later in life, he ministered to men with AIDS – befriending them, meeting some of their physical needs and walking with them as they suffered from this terrible affliction where so many were ostracized from family, friends and in some cases even from the Church. Brother James also was a part of a team bringing education to the community about AIDS so that our priests & brothers could effectively minister to their spiritual and physical needs.

Brother James also worked with babies afflicted with AIDS and with their parents.

And for many years in Riverdale, he was the 'majordomo' – the official contact for people using our retreat center for meetings and spiritual programs. He excelled at this -- welcoming and seeing to the needs of the group.

And even now, with his declining health and difficulty in ambulation, Brother James sees to the needs of some of our community members and always has things in order in our community recreation.

Most recently, along with another of our religious, Brother James was our health care advocate here in our province health care facility. He was always ready to be of assistance whenever it was needed. And I know that I have often benefited from his observations and ministrations.

In all these varied ministries, Brother James brings a deep gladness, a firm dedication and a willingness to spend himself for the benefit of others.

Today's readings from the Book of Sirach in the Old Testament and the Gospel of Mark in the New Testament could really serve as a blueprint for religious life. Though they are meant to be guidelines for the followers of the God of the Hebrews and of Jesus Christ, God's Son, they truly embody the ideals of religious life.



And so, James, today we especially say 'thank you' for all that you are and all that you do. I, personally, have often learned from you and I especially value our friendship deeply. We may not say it very often, but you are a shining example of prayerful service and encouragement.

I would like to conclude with a little story about the Scottish writer, Robert Louis Stevenson. Robert lived with his family in a house on a hill overlooking the town below. Robert liked to look out the window at dusk and watch the lamplighter going through the town lighting the lamps for the night.

**Once, he apparently had an insight and called excitedly to his nanny, 'come and look .. there is a man who punches holes in the darkness.'**

Darkness can be brought about by many different circumstances. And sometimes the darkness can be overwhelming and sometimes it is just a passing cloud blocking the light.

**Brother James was well-versed in punching holes in the darkness.** Whether it was providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere as he served as guest master at our retreat house in Riverdale; or serving an appealing meal; or seeing to the orderliness of our library to being present to the sick and dying – in each ministry he was well-versed in punching holes in the darkness. And because of you, James, life was just a little bit better.

Your dedication to our life of prayer is evident to all of us in the community. And as we honor you and pray for you today, please pray for us. Our world needs lots of punches in the darkness. God bless you, James, and May The Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be always in your heart and in the hearts of us all.

God Bless!!



# **Jim King, a layperson from of St Paul of the Cross in Pittsburgh, “Vacations” in Haiti**

Twenty years ago on a cold March morning I boarded a plane in Pittsburgh for Haiti. It was to be a one time trip to do light construction work at the landmark Hospital Albert Schweitzer – in those days a four hour drive from Port-Au-Prince over rough and sometimes nearly impassable roads. After two weeks of work I was back in Pittsburgh, with no plan to return to Haiti. A year later, I was back – and back ever since. Eventually, work shifted to Port-Au-Prince, with Le Petites Soeurs de

L’Incarnation (a Charles de Foucauld inspired community of Haitian sisters), repairing abandoned buildings of an orphanage to serve as a school. At that time, a long time affiliation with Fonkoze began, Haiti’s largest micro-credit bank founded in 1994 by Fr. Joseph Phillippe to give financial opportunity to several hundred thousand poor women.

In 2011, I visited St. Damien Pediatric Hospital and St. Helene Orphanage to gather first-hand information in order to conduct Passionist Overseas Missions appeal in the US. But soon after, on January 12, 2010, Haiti was struck by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that killed 160,000 to 200,000 people. Attention turned to several fund raising efforts in Pittsburgh, gradually raising \$300,000. Eighteen months would pass before I had the finances to return to Haiti.

Work shifted again, this time to the warehouse at St. Damien, assisting in sorting through mounds of donated medicines and medical supplies, and reorganizing the pharmacy at the cholera field hospital. A year later I completed an assessment of the hospital’s 130 doors, many of them damaged by termites. My friend, Myrlande Vancoeur, died while at choir practice when Notre Dame Cathedral collapsed, burying her in the rubble. I was fortunate to make contact with her father to offer my condolences, only to have him – in that beautiful way Haitians have of expressing life in the toughest moments – console me for my loss. Later that day, an eight year old girl in the Delmas section of Port-Au-Prince came singing and dancing into my grief. Saola was abandoned by her mother at two months of age. The father comes and goes, providing little support. She lives with her grandmother along the edge of a crumbling road next to a ravine of goats and garbage. For most of her life she has suffered seizures. 60% of school age children complete less than five years of education. For the past seven years I have remained committed to seeing that Saola has the means to complete twelve years of schooling so that she can be self sufficient as an adult and work to improve conditions in Haiti.

Two years ago Saola and I embarked on an arts project with the kids in oncology at St. Damien. They use fabric paint pens to color rainbow and cloud tshirts. This summer we will conduct the activity with the special needs children at St. Helene. St. Damien is a 150-bed hospital and the only hospital in Haiti providing extensive treatment of childhood cancer. Haiti has 1 doctor per 15,000 people and as few as 4 health professionals per 10,000 people. St. Damien provides chemotherapy and surgical interventions. Patients requiring radiation are treated in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Collaborative partnerships with hospitals abroad are assiduously sustained to assure the highest quality of diagnostic care. Twenty years ago I traveled from Pittsburgh to Haiti. Leukemia, lymphoma, retinoblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, osteosarcoma, were not things I thought about. Now I do.

# Why do you return to Haiti?"

Journalists from Pittsburgh filming a story about Hospital Albert Schweitzer and founders Dr. Larimer Mellon and Gwen Grant Mellon ask Jim King this question

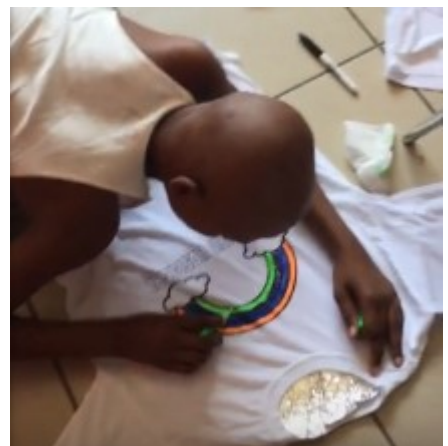
Because of mother and because of child,  
because of perfectly braided and beaded hair,  
because of clean ironed pink and blue school uniform,  
because of mother begging food for daughter,  
because her hand drawing circles of hunger over daughter's stomach  
because mother's nose is a red raw crater of cancer.  
Because Dr. Mellon and child,  
because child's nose and half-face eaten by cancer,  
because child's face is the face of death,  
because he carried her home to his house,  
because he made a place for her to rest,  
because he played flute for her as the sun set,  
because he tucked her into a hospital bed,  
because the bed was soft and clean,  
because he placed his hand on her head,  
because he whispered "au revoir, cheri,"  
because by morning she was dead.  
Because of the cause,  
because the cause is the causes of suffering,  
because sun in a child should dawn,  
because the bed of night should have moons.  
And because of the heart,  
and because of common ground,  
and because at the core of living and dying  
other is not other.



Jim & Keisha



Johana



[Video](#) of Children Coloring their Tee Shirts