

Configuration of Jesus Crucified

BULLETIN XIII



Pilgrimage of the Icon in Commemoration of the 300th Foundation of the Passionist Congregation

*Fr. Benito Arrieta, CP
Servant of God*



*Preseting Bulletin XIII
of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified*



*The Therapeutic Community
of St Paul of The Cross*





Presenting Bulletin XIII of the Configuration Jesus Crucified

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings; I hope that you have benefited from an earned rest in the summer of the Northern Zone. I am pleased to be able to present for your reading the XIII Bulletin of our Configuration of Jesus Crucified.

We have experienced the hand of God in many of our recent events, since the publication of the XII Bulletin. Among others: the 35th Provincial Chapter of Holy Cross Province (CRUC) in Sierra Madre, California; the Meeting of those in formation from the Southern Zone; the profession of vows by some of our younger Passionists; the Diaconal and Priestly Ordinations which fill us with joy and with hope; the end of the academic course 2018-2019 in the Northern Zone; the new undertakings of those young men who have satisfactorily concluded their Theology courses; the challenging work of our brothers in the Mozambique mission, in Africa; and the encouragement we receive from the example of our brothers, for example, the Servant of God, Fr. Benito Arrieta, C.P., who is still remembered in the Dominican Republic with faith and enthusiasm, and which makes us exclaim with St. Augustine, "If they could do it, why can't we?"

We have organized the Pilgrimage of the Icon and Reliquary of our Founder, St. Paul of the Cross, on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the founding of our dear Congregation. The Pilgrimage will pass throughout the Configuration of Jesus Crucified, with a special effort to have the Icon and Reliquary present for significant events in our Provinces; e.g., the Province Assemblies, and the 7th Provincial Chapter in Cristo Rey Province, Mexico, June 2020.

These are some of the notices that you will find in this Bulletin, which will continue to be an effective means of communion, participation and information.

Allow me to conclude with a brief poem, which could well be applied to our Charism, and which we reflected on at the REG Provincial Assembly last June:

*There is a flame in everyone which can become a bonfire;
we have to find what gives us an inner strength;
the kind of strength that can stand up to anything
without letting anything destroy us.
When a flame is fueled, it becomes a bonfire;
then the wind, far from extinguishing it, fuels it more and more.*

May the Passion of Christ be always in our hearts.



Francisco Valadez Ramírez C.P.
Configuration President



CJC

Configuration of Jesus Crucified

CONE SUL



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PROVINCE

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Província da Exaltação da Santa Cruz

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Province is present in the following Brazilian states: Acre, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Minas Gerais and Paraíba. Its mission develops from the administration of parishes, sanctuaries, social works and colleges.



Goiás

Goiânia: St Paul of the Cross Community

São Luís de Montes Belos: Christ Liberator Community (noviciate)

Iporá: St Maria Goretti Community

Luiziânia: Saint Carlos Houben Community

Bahia

Jequié: Jesus Crucified Community

Itabuna: St Paul of the Cross Community

Salvador: Saint Gabriel of the Virgin of Sorrows Community

Espírito Santo

Cariacica: St Maria Goretti Community (Postulancy)

Colatina: Immaculate Heart of Mary Community

Acre

Rio Branco: Missionary Community Jesus of the Steps

Paraíba

Solânea
Santa Fe Sanctuary

Minas Gerais

Belo Horizonte: Saint Gabriel of the Virgin of Sorrows Community (theology)

Belo Horizonte: Mother of Holy Hope - Provincial Community

Barbacena: St Paul of the Cross Community (Aspirant)



CJC

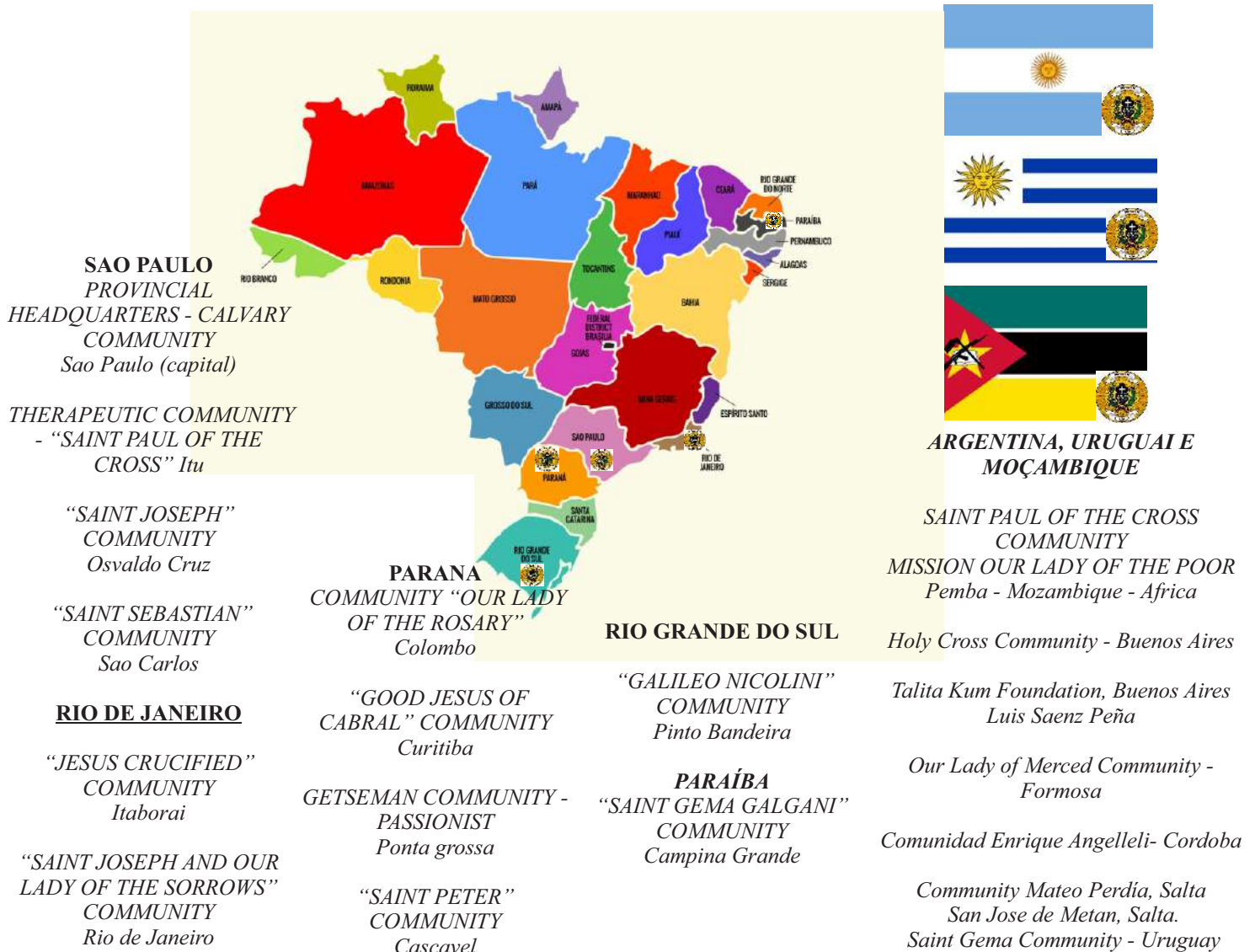
Configuration of Jesus Crucified

CONE SUL



Gethsemane Province

The Gethsemane Province is present in the following Brazilian states: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul and Paraíba; as well as in the countries: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Mozambique (mission area). Its mission develops from the administration of the Parishes, Sanctuary, Social and Therapeutic Works and Passionist Spirituality Center.



Servant of God

Fr. Benito Arrieta, CP

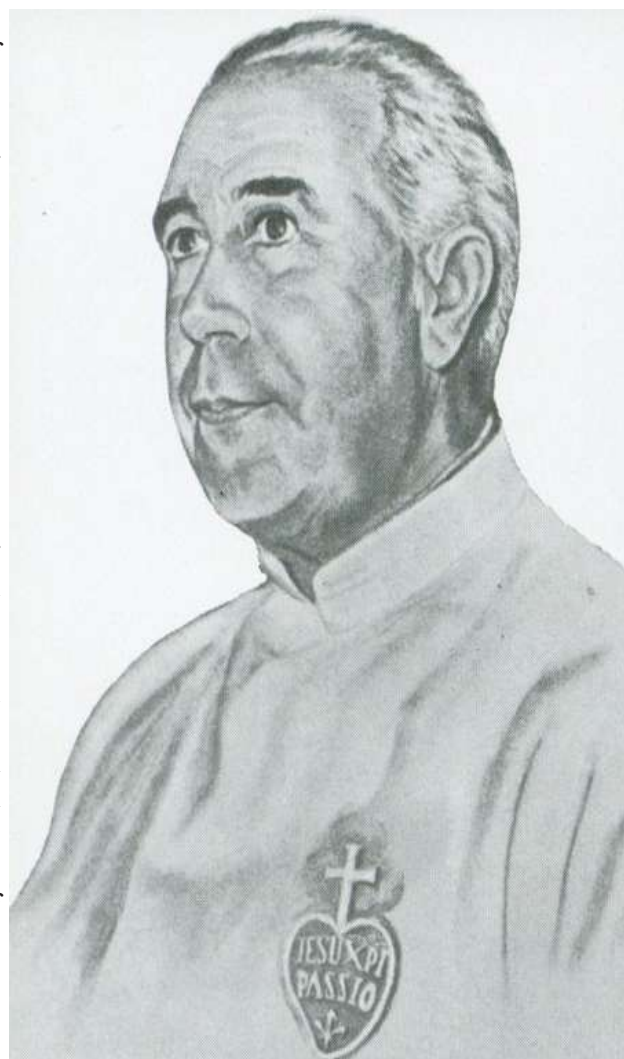
Fr. Benito Arrieta was born at Caserío Arantza-Azpikua, Basque territory, Spain, on November 8, 1907. He was baptized with the name “Severiano.” His parents were named Cristóbal and Francisca, both from the town of Zegama. They have six children: Matías, Severiano (Fr. Benito), Celestino, Marcelino, Pilar and María. At seven years of age, he began to study at the state school of his town. His family had the custom of praying the Angelus three times a day, and a daily rosary as well. Severiano was known to be a quiet youth, humble, dignified and honest.

At eleven years of age, he felt called by God to a priestly life. In the company of his mother, he went to the Passionist monastery which is located in the nearby town of Gabiria (Guipozcoa). His mother said that Severiano was immensely happy to stay there. Severiano entered the seminary (Colegio Apostólico de Gabiria) on January 15, 1920. On the 4th of October of 1923, Severiano Arrieta moved to the Passionist Novitiate at Angosto. He received the Passionist habit on October 21. When Severiano entered the Novitiate, his name was definitively changed to Benito of San Pablo de la Cruz. On October 22, 1924, the eve of the Feast of the Most Holy Redeemer, he made his religious profession. He was then assigned to philosophy studies at the Passionist house of Mellid (La Coruña). His ecclesiastical studies began there on October 25.

The student class to which Benito belonged started publishing a student magazine named “la Cruz” [*the Cross*] because there was a strong literary movement among the students. Benito wrote articles on the Passionist missions. Already, as a young student, he envisioned his future as an evangelizing missionary. The bishop of Lugo, Mons. Rafel Balanzá y Navarro, conferred the “tonsure” on him on March 14, 1930. The following day he received the minor orders of porter and lector. On Holy Saturday of the same year, on April 19, he received the minor orders of exorcist and acolyte.

On October 25, he was transferred to the Community of San Felicísimo, in Deusto. It is there that he received the Subdiaconate on February 28, 1931; and the Diaconate was conferred on him on May 31. On Saturday of the September Ember Days, the Archbishop of Pelusio, Mons. Rey Lemos, ordained him to priesthood in the chapel of the Colegio Apostólico de Gabiria; he chose for his motto: “...thus made to resemble the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.” (Heb 7: 3). On May 27, 1932, his superiors assigned him to the Colegio Apostólico de Gabiria where he would be working for the formation of their students. The maxim he made his own was: “Do not educate your students with your head; don't educate them with your heart; educate them with humility, because it is God who educates everyone.”

On September 8, 1933, he is assigned to France in order to avoid the expulsions brought about by the situation created in Spain by the Second Republic and its anti-religious policies. After his first two years in France, in the autumn of 1935, he was assigned to Bethany, to a house established by the French Province of Passionists. While in Bethany, he studied at the Ecole Biblique of Jerusalem. He experienced the dangers and threats of the Arab-Jewish war of the time. He also studied medicine at the Facultad Hebraica de Medicina in Jerusalem in order to be able to work at the dispensary of the Passionist House, where, due to the difficult times, there were large numbers of persons seeking medical help. He returned to Spain in 1947. The years in Jerusalem are the great mystery in the life of Fr. Arrieta, they were partly his cross, and his joy, his Mt. Calvary and his Mt. Tabor.



Pilgrimage of the Icon in Commemoration of the 300th Foundation of the Passionist Congregation

Configuration of Jesus Crucified



Greetings to all. I have some information for you, following on a consultation with the Major Superiors of our Configuration of Jesus Crucified, with regard to the itinerary for the Icon and its contained relics of Saint Paul of the Cross for the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the founding of our Congregation:

1. Saint Paul of the Cross Province (PAUL): from January 1 to 26, 2020. The Icon arrives from North Europe.
2. Holy Cross Province (CRUC): from January 28 to February 23.
3. Cristo Rey Province (REG): from February 25 to March 22.
4. Gethsemani Province (GETH): from March 24 to April 26.
5. Exaltation of the Holy Cross Province (EXALT): from April 28 to May 28.
6. Cristo Rey Province (REG): from May 30 to June 6 (during the Provincial Chapter).
7. Holy Cross Province (CRUC): from June 8 to 19 (during the Province Assembly).
8. St. Paul of the Cross Province (PAUL): from June 20 to 27 (during the Province Assembly).

The Major Superiors of the REG, CRUC and PAUL provinces expressed their wish to have the Icon and Relics of St. Paul of the Cross present for their respective Chapters and Assemblies. This would also respond to the presence of the laity at these meetings. The Icon and Relics will be forwarded by the Province of St. Paul of the Cross to Italy on June 28, 2020. It is the responsibility of each of the Major Superiors, with their respective Councils, to organize a pilgrimage with the Icon and Relics to the various Communities and Countries of the Province, and to transfer it to the next Province.

It would be opportune, that where there are Communities of Passionist Nuns or Sisters in a Province, that, following acceptance by the leadership, the Icon and Relics be present for one or several days with them.

Fraternally,
Francisco Valadez.



Passionist Mission

**THE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY
OF ST PAUL OF THE CROSS AT SUNLIGHT FARM
“RESTORING LIVES”**

The Therapeutic Community of St. Paul of the Cross at Sunlight Farm was established on January 27, 2013, by the Passionist religious of Gethsemani Province; it used space which had previously been a Gethsemani province retreat house. The farm is located in a rural area in the Itu municipality within the state of São Paulo. This Therapeutic Community (TC) of St. Paul of the Cross is a private, non-profit institution which provides care and treatment services for people with disorders resulting from the use, abuse or dependence on psychoactive substances (drugs and alcohol). The TC of St. Paul of the Cross is supported principally by the Gethsemani Province of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ (Passionists), and in partnership with St. Paul of the Cross Parish at Calvary Church in the Pinheiros district of São Paulo, SP.

In the treatment of chemical dependencies in the TC of St. Paul of the Cross, no drug or chemical elements for detoxification are used with the residents. Instead, there is reliance on the three fundamental pillars of recovery: living together; work; and spirituality. By living together, we hope to provide a community of life, which facilitates the relationships of individuals into the group; this happens through the elements of shared living space, working together in groups, taking meals together, group sharing and common prayer. Through work, or labor-therapy, we carry out activities which help to change attitudes and values; for example, gardening, growing vegetables, animal husbandry, the cleaning and maintenance of the TC facilities and playing sports, among others. The third pillar is spirituality; we count on moments for prayer, formation, reflections on the “Word of the day” (phrases from the Gospels), and the spirituality of the Passion to move the resident toward a purpose in life as he is freed from the chemical dependency.

The TC has the assistance of two monitors, a psychologist, a Passionist religious who is the Director of the TC. There are also many other volunteers who help at the TC. This staffing makes possible a capacity of 20 men, between the ages of 18 to 60, who wish to rid themselves of their chemical dependency and return to a more dignified life with their families and in society. The minimum time-period suggested by the TC São Paulo da Cruz for the treatment of chemical dependency is nine months; however, it may extend over a maximum of one year. Family visits to the residents of the TC are always on the second Sunday of the month. With respect to the family members of the residents, we advise them to find and be active in groups which can help them to learn how to cope with addictions and prepare them to help the addict in the recovery and re-socialization process which will continue when they finish the treatment proposed by the TC.

As a result of the treatment given for chemical dependency, we have verified that the number of residents who, on leaving the TC after the minimum period of nine months, remain free of drugs is considerable. We praise and thank God for the good results that our work, together with the efforts of these “crucified” has been so successful that they have been able to return to a life in their families and within their social sphere. May St. Paul of the Cross inspire us in our work together with our crucified brothers!

Fr. Fernando da Silva Oliveira, CP

Director of the Therapeutic Community of St. Paul of the Cross



Configuration of Jesus Crucified





Passionist Mission in Pemba, Mozambique, Africa

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We are aware that the Passion of Christ continues in this world until He comes in glory; therefore, we share in the joys and sorrows of our contemporaries as we journey through life toward our Father. 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. In this way, all may come to know Christ and the power of His resurrection, may share in His sufferings and, becoming like Him in His death, may be united with Him in glory. Each of us takes part in this apostolate according to his gifts, resources and ministries.” (Passionist Constitutions, #3)

Moved by the force of the Word of God, and by the directives of our Constitutions (cited above), we, Passionists of the former Calvary Province and now the Gethsemani Province, have since 2002 had a missionary presence at Our Lady of the Poor in the diocese of Pemba, Mozambique. As missionaries, we are serving the people whose lives are marked by suffering; we are at their side and assist them, with the light shed on their lives by the Word of the Cross, to courageously face their challenges, and to keep from falling under the weight of discouragement.

For various years, the Province has taken up a collection each Ash Wednesday at each of its locations in Brazil, and now, also, in Argentina and Uruguay, to help the Passionist mission in Pemba. I wish to thank all of those who cooperated with the collection because in that way each one shares in the work of the missionaries there in the mission. These donors also help in the operation of social service projects, and the formation program of our native Passionist seminarians. Grateful thanks to all of our donors. Further in the bulletin will be a report on the amount of this collection.

Ever since our arrival in Mozambique, we have experienced both the welcome and the interest of youth in the Passionist charism and way of life. Therefore, trusting in their vocational interest, we began a vocational ministry, including invitations for them to take part in vocational gatherings, and to enter into our communities to begin a formation program for Passionist religious life. Jesus “...summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him.” (Mk 3,13) Young people do and will accept an invitation to share in Passionist religious life, consecrating their lives in becoming Passionist religious. At present, Gethsemani province has the following Mozambican students: 3 with final vows, 2 in temporary vows, and 11 seminarians in different stages of formation.

On February 17, 2019, at Metoro, Mozambique, Antunes Mario Taibo made his perpetual profession. Sharing in the solemn celebration were Fr. Carlos, C.PL., Fr. Sidnei, C.P., Fr. Edilberto, C.P., as well as Mrs. Fátima, a laywoman from the community of St. Joseph and Our Lady of Sorrows in the city of Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. This bulletin contains the observations of the religious and the lay person in being present for the celebration.

For those who wish to know more about our Passionist mission in Mozambique, they may contact the Provincial Office, at the address which is at the end of the bulletin. May God, in his infinite mercy, and through the intercession of St. Paul of the Cross, bless all who take part in the mission. May God bless the missionary effort itself at Our Lady of the Poor in Pemba, may it be showered with graces so as to live faithfully its commitment to the Word of God and the Passionist charism.

Fr. Leudes Aparecido de Paula, CP
Provincial Superior

Passionist Family

Elizabeth Velarde

Director of Governance Policy
Meadowview, VA



I first became aware of the Passionists when I was driving home from spiritual direction session in 2004. I was on Sierra Madre Boulevard and noticed a slightly rusted sign which read “Passionist Fathers Retreat House” with an arrow pointing up Sunnyside Avenue. My husband Gus and I had completed our work as small business owners, and we were in the process of discerning direction for the next and no doubt last segment of our careers. I was praying for the opportunity to work in the church, so the old sign remained with me. Sometime later a parish friend forwarded a job posting he had received announcing the open position of Administrator at Mater Dolorosa. It sounded promising. I looked online, connected the posting with the old sign, so Gus and I drove up to discover the retreat center at the end of Sunnyside Avenue. As we drove in the gate, like so many others who come through those gates, we were smitten. The happy ending to this story is that both of us were hired, a year apart, and we spent the next 14 years as Administrator and Executive Chief at Mater Dolorosa.

What is clear to me is that God's hand was directly involved in how this all came about, and we felt from the day we arrived to the day we left that we were meant to be there. What drew me to Mater Dolorosa was its mission – “we welcome all” “preaching, hospitality and compassion” “relevance of the Passion in our lives” “spiritual growth and renewal” “peaceful environment of prayer and reflection.” I noticed that anyone could come regardless of whether the person could afford to pay. That's a tremendous covenant to make in today's world, and an extremely challenging one to maintain. I loved that Mater Dolorosa was a magnificent property secluded away from the hectic clamor of the world. All of it spoke to my heart.

I witnessed the transforming power of this mission in people's lives. For several years I made the appeal for support to the retreatants on the weekend retreats. It was in doing this that I heard most directly from the people the value the retreat experience had in their lives, especially when they were in a period of particular difficulty. Much can happen from Friday night to Sunday noon in silence, in a sacred place. The positive impact of the retreat reaches well beyond the individual retreatants who attend -- to their families, friends, co-workers, etc.

Gus and I were committed to this ministry and called to understand the Passionist Charism in a deeper way. That journey continues today in our retirement. In Jesus' Passion we witness that God is all powerful in our world and that his Son's death was God's greatest gift of love for all of us. If we pray always and contemplate on the meaning of the Passion, our lives will be graced with a greater ability to show our love to others. Seeing this manifested in the Passionists, vowed and lay, with whom I have worked over the years enriched my spirituality and my life. We used to say in many of our meetings that we “got” the Charism by the “rubbing of elbows” during the course of our work together. And for me most likely it was the daily lunch at Mater Dolorosa, attended by staff and the Passionist community, that slowly revealed much of the mystery of the Charism. A recent retreat at the Passionist Nuns Monastery in Whitesville, KY, opened another window for me on the contemplative nature of the Charism so I have that to look forward to exploring in coming days. And on we go...

Furthermore, we sense a lack of something that should identify us with the Passionist charism. We have some ideas to suggest:

Retreats;

Triduum for the feast of St. Paul of the Cross;

The arrival of the relics of St. Paul of the Cross to the parish of the Immaculate Conception;

Pastoral ministry of mercy;

Social work ministry, to visit the registered families that receive food assistance;

The Therapeutic Community of St. Paul of the Cross.

Although this is a difficult transition time, we know that we are experiencing a special historical moment, not only for the Congregation, but for the Church as a whole; we are encouraged by the guidance offered for the restructuring of the Passionist Family, and also by the words and example of Pope Francis.

We are sure that this is the right time for change and a deepening of our spirituality, so that together we will accomplish our Mission, which will help us to grow "in the conviction that life is a gift to share."

That first *community*, which is what it was called, was formed in the middle of 1994. It was through the efforts of the Passionists who lived here in Osasco, more precisely, in Quitaúna; then Father (now Bishop) Luiz Fernando Lisboa came to realize the particular benefit of some individuals from the community who were gifted with a unique approach to other people, marked by a perceptible care for the human person. They were and are today people with an enchanting presence in society; they are leaders and feel passionately for those living on the margins of society.

Some of the first projects that continue today are the outreach to the homeless. There was also assistance given to the street children over a long period of time; and continuing today is the collaboration with the Therapeutic Community at the farm in Itú.

A passion for the crucified, keeping memory of the Passion in every moment of our lives, this is what unites us with the Congregation; after all, we drink from the same spring of Passionist spirituality in following the footsteps of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of our Patron, Saint Paul of the Cross.

Today, we gather monthly to pray and meditate on the Passionist charism. We work with the farm at Itú on behalf of the chemically dependent. We propose celebrating each month on the 19th a Mass in honor of St. Paul of the Cross.

We breathe a Passion for Life.

Sandra Margareth Moreira da Cunha Cavalcanti

Colombo

The lay Passionist communities in Paraná started in 1996. Today, we have seven communities. The goal of the lay Passionist communities is to study, live, witness and promote the memory of the Passion of Christ. The communities meet monthly; through the study of Passionist writings, we try to keep alive the memory of St. Paul of the Cross. The charism is put into action through the activities of the laity who work in pastoral or social movements, always trying to respond to the needs of the times both in the missionary dimension and especially in the social dimension. We have formation and retreat experiences in the parishes to which we belong. Annually, we have a regional meeting with all of the members of the seven communities of Passionist laity. Every October, we take part in the activities that celebrate the feast of our Founder, St. Paul of the Cross. We also promote our Passionist identity by producing and using Passionist logos on t-shirts, rings, necklaces, decals, etc.



Passionist Family

Jim Wayne

**State Representative - Psychotherapist
St. Agnes Parishioner Louisville, Kentucky**



As a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives since 1990 and a psychotherapist of many years, I try to carry my Catholic faith into everyday efforts to relieve suffering. My wife Debbie and I have been supported in our growing appreciation of God in our lives by our Passionist Community and St. Agnes Parish in Louisville. I am happy to share my reflections from many years of working with and assisting others. Sometimes I am moved to tears by suffering. Driving to the state capitol in Frankfort, NPR reports more opioid overdoses by young adults.

I keep a picture of a 15-year-old on my desk in the House chamber. He was killed by a school mate in Western Kentucky in a school shooting. When I arrive home, TV news describes the Federal government's cruel separation of children from immigrant parents. At Sunday liturgy, my wife and I sit behind a beloved teacher recently diagnosed with serious cancer weeks after retirement. Her gaunt face speaks of uncertain days ahead. In that same pew I bring all of these sufferings and my own sufferings to prayer.

My faith community emphasizes the Passion of Jesus. His fears, his cruel torture, his disgusting, degrading, brutal death on a tree as an outcast stay in our hearts. The memory of His passion infuses me, fills me with faith and hope. But most importantly, it sends me forth with joy to be present to the suffering all around me. On the State House floor, the filter I use for every speech and every vote is, "How will this affect the most vulnerable, the weakest, the suffering in our midst?"

In my psychotherapy practice I listen to broken lives and use my gifts, guided by the Spirit, to heal depression, anxiety, discord. As a husband, brother, parent, grandparent, uncle and friend, I try to be present to others, especially those burdened by worry, sickness and confusion. The suffering all around me I also take to private prayer. In prayer, that quiet, alone time with God, I listen. And listen. I pay attention to what moves within me, not what shakes me from without. In me God speaks.

There I learn my limits and sort how God wants me to rub shoulder to shoulder with everyone he places in my life. It is in my deep self I feel God's constant presence. This God never promised to take away suffering; He did promise to never abandon us in our suffering. This is enough. This brings true peace. I wipe away the tears.

CLP

Osasco/SP

This has been a "desert experience" for us as CLP ever since the Passionists left Osasco; our path has run into many difficulties. We are feeling both uncertainty and discouragement. There is a lack of companionship as well as a lack of materials for our spiritual reflection. The model of Church which the diocesan clergy promote is different from the model of Church that was proposed by the Passionists.

We are trying to maintain a broad spectrum of activities in the life and collaboration of our communities: Catechesis; Liturgy; Baptism; Ministry to the sick; Teams on the street; Formation; Family Pastoral Ministry.

Configuration of Jesus Crucified





JPIC

The Colegio of St. Paul of the Cross and its role in promoting Environmental Awareness

As part of the real-world context in which we live now, as well as in recognition of the urgency called for by current events, we must acknowledge and take realistic positions regarding the safeguarding of our environment. Therefore, the *Colégio São Paulo da Cruz* [Academy of St. Paul of the Cross] is committed to providing its students with learning experiences that will help them to develop a mindset in defense of our shared space and the options for sustainable development.

By investing in both academic and experiential projects, we strive to cultivate this environmental sensitivity, which leads to understanding and action that produce results, both for the micro-environment (school, family), and the macro-environment (community, city). The environmental concern is integrated into the lives of our students, who will then disseminate their awareness into these various spheres of society.

The procedures that we use to advance these topics with our students are broadly diverse; they include classroom activities, projects and field trips. These combine to deepen their learning and convert what they learn into action. Of special importance are the lectures given in the school's theater, and the execution of socio-cultural events: the Life Project, and the Literature, Art and Culture Exhibition. In all of these activities, the students are at the center of environmental awareness and conservation.

Here follow some of the many projects developed by us, and which illustrate how this work is carried out:

Visit and Trail-hike in the Eco-Pedagogical Farm Quinta dos Cristais.

The visit of our high school students to the farm intends to awaken in the students a mindset favoring environmental conservation and sustainable development. There is also a discussion of the colonial era in Brazil; which means the gold cycle and the era of slavery.

Accompanied by their guide and teachers, the students take an ecological walk in the forest so that they can see close up the features of the locale, and hear about the local flora and fauna. As they enjoy the beautiful panoramas of the Rio das Velhas and the Serra do Curral basin, the students can also see before them the consequences of random land occupation with the negative consequences on the environment.





Vocational Animation Service

This is the invitation given us by St. Paul of the Cross: ***“I want to gather companions to make Christ crucified known and loved.”*** We are invited to have “the courage to risk with Him and for Him,” being nothing but the instrument of God's Presence/Action. We are called to be the explicit proclamation of the Gospel of the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to “proclaim it” means to create the conditions in which the Infinite Mercy is present for us time and time again.

St. Paul of the Cross was convinced that if people only knew how much God loves them, then the crucified of our time would not feel that they were alone in their suffering, and those who lay these crosses on others would find themselves converted. Paul was convinced that the Passion of Jesus “is the most extraordinary sign of the love of God” and “a remedy for everything evil.” That is why he wanted people who would be dedicated especially to remembering and proclaiming the Passion of Jesus. The Church wanted to confirm Paul's decision to gather companions who would live in community and proclaim the Gospel of the Passion with their life and apostolate, because the Church recognized in Saint Paul of the Cross the action of the Holy Spirit. Thus were born Passionist Religious: missionaries dedicated to “proclaiming the Crucified Christ”.

To awaken in the hearts of young people the attraction of the Passionist charism is the duty of all our religious. The Province of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross has joined a Campaign for Vocations that is active throughout Brazil and in other parts of the world. This Campaign is understood as an evangelizing work, grounded in the Gospel, in which the Lord boldly asked for our participation in a matter of such great importance: “Ask the master of the harvest to send laborers to his harvest” (Mt 9,38). We wish to strengthen the vocational culture in our Province, to awaken Passionist Religious vocations, and to foster a healthy sense of one's vocational choice for those who have already answered the call. Pope Francis offers us strong encouragement: “Jesus has told us that the first method to obtain vocations is prayer, but not everyone is convinced of it” (Address to the Vocational Apostolate of the Italian Episcopal Conference, January 5, 2017).

Vocations exist in every community because God does not abandon His people. What is often lacking is the tending of the seeds planted by the Lord. The awakening of a vocation often happens through an invitation. We must speak openly and enthusiastically about Passionist Religious Life.

Young people need a closer spiritual companionship. Each religious community, shrines, parishes and schools should create special opportunities for prayer, listening and discernment within a vocationally oriented atmosphere. Vocational activities include: promoting and organizing vocational weeks, moments for vocational prayer, meeting and group activities with youth, catechetical and acolyte formation. Especially useful are the social networks in out reach to youth.

We accept the appeal from the Latin American Bishops' *Aparecida Document*: “Prayer for vocations must be intensified in various ways, thereby also helping create greater sensitivity and receptivity to the Lord; thus different vocation initiatives must be promoted and coordinated. Vocations are God's gift, and hence in each diocese, there must be special prayers to the 'Lord of the harvest'” (Aparecida Document, 314).

May each community make a commitment to promote and nurture the Passionist Religious Life. For the young person, this fellowship is a valuable help for him or her to understand and embrace the will of God in his or her life.

Fr. Ribamar Divino, CP



Configuration of Jesus Crucified





NEWS

National Meeting of Passionist Students from Brazil (CJC)

The national meeting of Passionists in Formation was held from July 10 to 19 this year, in the city of São Luís de Montes Belos (Goiás). It brought together those in formation from the two Provinces, Gethsemani (GETH) and Exaltation of the Holy Cross (EXALT). It was a very important event, not only for each of those religious in formation, but as benefiting both the stages of formation, and the Provinces concerned.

From the 10th to the 14th of July, Passionist Missions were conducted with the students in formation going to the three Passionist parishes in Goiás: Santa Cruz Parish (São Luís de Montes Belos), São Sebastião Parish (Córrego do Ouro), and Nossa Senhora Auxiliadora Parish (Iporá). Each parish had prepared a Mission Program with the following activities: visits to the sick, the imprisoned and the elderly; family sessions, including children and teens; and Masses at which we gathered with the people of God to celebrate the joy of being a missionary Church *par excellence*. It was a rich experience which allowed us to “see the name of Jesus on the foreheads of the poor,” and thus understand and affirm that the genuine Passionist Mission is to welcome the crucified of today because the Crucified one first accepted us.

On July 15 and 16, the students in formation had a retreat. It was preached by Fr. Giovanni Cipriani, C.P., Provincial of the EXALT Province. During the retreat he, together with the students, reflected on the Passionist religious life as identified with being at the feet of the Crucified. He said that for us, as Passionists, the command of the Lord that we “carry our cross” (Lk 9:23) should resonate in us as “the pinnacle of our spiritual and human nature,” because it is in carrying our cross that we accept and participate in the life of Jesus, understanding that as his disciples, we must repeat the same commitment He made out of love. With St. Paul of the Cross, the great mystic and teacher of the Crucified, we should understand as well that the cross is the “cathedra” from which Jesus teaches us the great lesson: God is Love, and God is Father. It is at Calvary that God waits for us with abundant mercy.

On July 17 and 18 there was a formation workshop, also led by Fr. Giovanni. The following themes were considered: knowing oneself in order “take up the cross;” and growth in affective maturity as an element in one's vocation and for the sake of the community. On the first point, our Holy Founder helpfully tells us that self-knowledge is absolutely inseparable from the knowledge of God, and without it there is no knowledge of God. This double knowledge brings about humility, for “the nothingness of reality around us is immersed in the infinite totality of God's love” (Anselm Grun). On the second point, we understand that affective maturity is supported by a balanced personal life, that one should be capable of making a proportionate response in expressing one's feelings, without the dominance of one's emotional nature above the intellectual.

Finally, in a spirit of happiness as we have described here, we affirm that our vocation will bear fruit if we cultivate it at the foot of the Cross; we understand that our mission is to welcome the crucified today because the Crucified one first embraced us; therefore, the Passion of Jesus Christ is forever engraved in our hearts.

Bruno do Sacratíssimo Coração de Jesus, CP



Configuration of Jesus Crucified





NEWS

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PROVINCE

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Province celebrated its retreat and assembly from July 29 to August 2, in the city of *Aparecida do Norte*, which is in the interior of São Paulo state, Brazil. In this city is found the largest Marian Shrine in the world; it is dedicated to *Nossa Senhora da Conceição Aparecida* (Apparition of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception), who is venerated as the Mother and Queen of Brazil.

When we received the convocation letter from our Provincial Superior, Fr. Giovanni Cipriani, CP, informing us that we would be gathering in *Our Mother's House* for this most important moment in the life of our Province, it seemed like the love and concern of God was being showered on each one of us.

We were welcomed by the Sisters of St. Peter Canisius, who provided for our lodging and made possible our being together as brothers. We also received a special greeting from the Redemptorist Missionaries who serve in the National Shrine. Our hospitality was personalized by Fr. Carlos Artur Annuniação, who preached our retreat.

These were intense days for spirituality and to bask in the love of God as shared with us from the hands of Our Lady. The environment itself inspired us to an attentive listening to the Word of God, in the example of Mary; we Passionist Religious were invited, by the preacher, to be open to God's gaze and in the silence, to listen to God with our hearts.

It was impossible not to feel the caring and generous love of God and Mary for us and for our religious family. We were invited into spaces within the National Shrine that are unknown to many of Mary's devoted pilgrims. A special moment for us was to be taken into the Chapel of the Apostles, where we were as close as possible to the "throne" where the original statue of Our Lady Aparecida is venerated. The Rector of the Shrine, Fr. Eduardo, favored us with the grace of coming up close to the image of Our Lady Aparecida. It was a special moment for us to gather around as sons and greet our Mother with popular hymns which express our great love for God's Most Holy Mother, and ours.

Another highlight of our retreat was the celebration of the Eucharist in the National Shrine, where our Passionist Family and our Holy Founder could both be honored. Our retreat and the Assembly were guided by the light of the Holy Spirit, by the maternal love of God, and the strong presence of Mary who always invites us to be at the service of her Son, Jesus our Savior: "Go do whatever he tells you." (Jn 2:5).

I cannot omit one very important moment for our Province, we accepted a new missionary project. Following the example of Mary, who is the model of the Church on the move, since we read that she... "During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah." (Lk 1:39) We were also mindful of our Holy Founder who "...gathered companions to live together and to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all..." (Const. 1) Consequently, the Province Assembly accepted the invitation of Dom Aldemiro Sena dos Santos, diocesan bishop of Guarabira-PB (Paraíba), to establish a religious community that would take over the work of the Shrine which is dedicated to Fr. Jose Antonio Maria Ibiapina, a "patriarch" of the evangelization of Northeast Brazil.

We ended our Province Assembly with the Eucharist, which was presided by our newly ordained Fr. Sandoval Dias de Jesus. Each one welcomed him with a fraternal embrace and prayers were offered that he and all the Province continue in their enthusiasm for our mission to communicate the charism of the Passion of Christ.

Fr. Jackson Maioli Alvarenga, CP



Configuration of Jesus Crucified



NEWS



CRUC - 35th Provincial Chapter

The Passionist Family and invited guests of Holy Cross Province gathered at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, June 6-11, for the Province's 35th Provincial Chapter. Throughout the Province's Visioning Process, five key areas of Passionist life and ministry were identified: *Charism, Community, Collaboration, Outreach and Preaching*. A Working Group for each area was created and have been actively meeting for the last year. At Chapter, each Working Group presented the goals and results of their discussions, and recommended Calls to Action for the future of the Province.



Passionist Formation Alumni All Class Reunion

During the weekend of August 16-18, 2019, over 100 Passionist Formation Alumni of Holy Cross Province and invited guests gathered at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat and Conference Center in Detroit, Michigan. The weekend was filled with excitement, enthusiasm and energy when old friends reconnected and new friendships were formed. On Saturday morning, Fr. Bob Weiss, CP, gave a presentation on Passionist Spirituality and how it lives in each of us. Fr. John Schork, CP, gave an informative presentation on Holy Cross Province. He focused on the Visioning Process currently underway in the Province, vocation efforts and the growing collaboration with laity. The reunion culminated on Sunday morning with a celebration of the Eucharist by Fr. John Schork, CP, and concelebrated by Fr. Peter Berendt, CP; Fr. Bob Weiss, CP; Fr. Bob Knight; Fr. Richard Crager, SDB; and Fr. Phil Paxton, CP.



On July 6, the Memorial of St. Maria Goretti, the following novices made their first profession: Julio César Randón de San Pablo de la Cruz—Juan Arcos de San José—Miguel Ángel Zamora de Santa María de Guadalupe—José de Jesús Acosta Barrios de San Gabriel de la Dolorosa. The philosophy and theology professed students renewed their vows; and there was an extraordinarily numerous participation by family members, and both lay and religious friends.



On June 29, Fr. César Antonio Navarrete Ferrusquia received priestly ordination by the imposition of hands by Mons. Salvador Rangel, Bishop of Chilpancingo-Chilapa, in the parish church at Bravo, Querétaro. On the following day, he celebrated his "First Mass" in Puerta de San Rafael, Querétaro, which is where his parents and other relatives live.



On July 5, 2019, at the Passionist Novitiate in Pueblito, Querétaro, Mexico, the following began their novitiate experience: Iván Bonilla Trejo—Alexis Mendoza Herrera—Yobani Chávez Isidor—Milton Manuel Vázquez Lara—Samuel Joseph—Anyelo Alberto Santos del Pilar—Carlos Alberto Santigua Checo—José Andrés García Meza. These novices come from Haiti, Dominican Republic, and México. During the Rite, each received a notebook with the suggestion that it become their spiritual diary, a sign of their deepening relationship with God. On being presented with this symbol, the novices were reminded of the importance of St. Paul of the Cross' Spiritual Diary written at Castellazzo, and the *Diary of a Soul* which was written by Good Pope John XXIII when he began his life as a seminarian.

Provincia PAUL

Reconnect Brooklyn Annual Fundraiser - June 18

St. Ann Basilica Novena to St. Ann - July 17-26

PAUL Province Assembly @ ICM, Jamaica NY - June 25-27

St. Paul of the Cross Province Associates Charism Weekend in Pittsburgh, PA - June 28-30;

Next events

Diaconal Ordinances:

09 / 09- Sebastián Cruz Gomez, CP (Méx)

10/11 - Edson Terra, CP-EXALT

Priestly Ordinations:

07 / 09- Juan Manuel Rodríguez, CP (Méx)



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