



Priests adapt to Corona Virus Outbreak

Day	May Ordinations
2	DUNN, Stephen
	MCEACHERN, Bernard
3	BONEY, Vincent
4	RICCARDI, Salvatore
12	SEGOTTA, Vincent
	POWERS, John
	JOERGER, Robert
13	GREENE, Michael
	RUTTLE, Paul
	LANDRY, Francis
	WARD, Mark
	BURKE, Richard
14	AWARD, Richard
	DOUGLAS, John
16	TIEDEMANN, Neil
17	MONACO, David
	FRECHETTE, Richard
18	CARBONNEAU, Robert
	WIERICH, Paul
19	GRACE, Peter
	WOLANSKI, Edward
	KERBER, Justin
21	OMOLO, Gilbert
25	COONEY, Theophane
26	BONACCI, Thomas
	WARE, Donald
	CHENOT, Paul
	VEREB, Jerome
28	GILLETTE, James
	ESPARZA-PEREZ, Hugo
29	NALEPA, Richard
30	SEDELY, Joseph
	KRISTOF, Terence
	VITALI, Theodore
	SALVAGNA, Michael
	BARRY, James
31	VAETH, Paul
	FINNIGAN, Francis
	BRISLIN, Thomas
	BRACKEN, Jerome
	DOUGHERTY, Charles



Don Giuseppe Corbari, parson of the Church of Robbiano in Italy, holds Sunday mass as he looks towards selfie photographs sent in by his congregation members in Giussano on March 22, 2020.



Rev. William A. Mentz wears a mask and gloves while distributing pre-packaged communion to the faithful attending mass while sitting in their cars in a parking lot in Moosic, Pa. on March 22, 2020.

Day	May Birthdays
1	MAGUIRE, William
	RAMOS, Jonathan
2	LOPEZ GALARZA, Luis Alfredo
3	LANDRY, Francis
4	RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ, ANIBAL (ANDY)
5	SEDELY, Joseph
21	MORAN, Michael
23	OMOLO, Gilbert
24	NALEPA, Richard
25	RECANA, Brando
26	FITZGERALD, Timothy
27	SENA, Angelo

Pope's special Urbi et Orbi blessing: 'God turns everything to our good'



[Complete News Article](#)

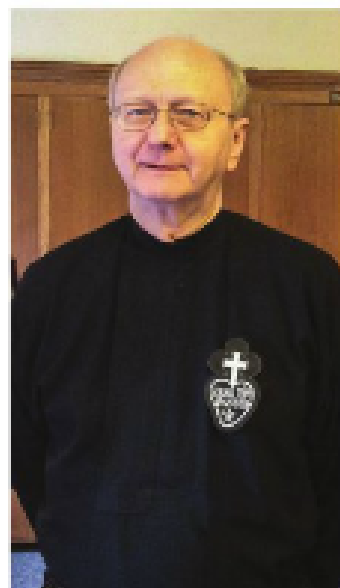
General Superior's Message on Palm Sunday from Rome



[Video](#)

Tenets of spirituality from Saint Paul of the Cross

Father Gerald Laba, C.P.



Father Gerald Laba, C.P.

The tenets of spirituality presented by Saint Paul of the Cross require an understanding of the time and culture in which he lived, believes Father Gerald Laba, C.P., retreat director for Saint Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center in Pittsburgh, Penn. How Saint Paul of the Cross understood God and our approach to God are reflected in three basic principles that are the foundation

of his spirituality.

"He lived in a difficult time when Italy was not a country and there were conflicts between various regions," Father Gerald says.

Many people were poor, and there were few opportunities for people to pursue education and improve their lives and the lives of their families. As Paul was growing up, members of his family experienced illness and most of his siblings died.

"He experienced suffering," shares Father Gerald. "His awareness of suffering is reflected in various dimensions of his spirituality."

Yet, despite the hardships and suffering of his time, Paul understood God in a very positive way and as approachable by everyone. He wanted to encourage people to immerse themselves in God to experience guidance and peace.

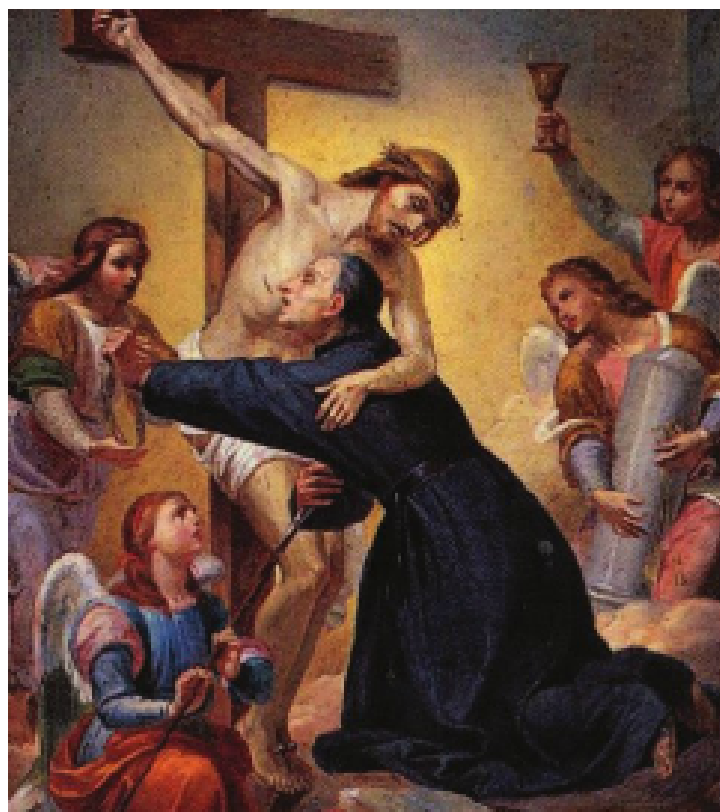
"Paul understood God as the source of everything that is good," Father Gerald explains. "He often referred to the 'immense sea of God's love.' This

image is very important to him. For Paul, God's love is infinite. From this understanding, I see three very strong principles that would be the foundation his spiritual life: *Deep Trust*, *Call to Interior Prayer* and *Reflection on the Passion of Jesus*."

Deep Trust

Paul invites people to trust God. Trust is key in a strong relationship with God.

"He would say to people, 'Allow yourself to fall in the arms of God,' even in adversity or when experiencing challenges," says Father Gerald. "Paul would advise that 'In a storm we look for shelter until the storm passes. Abandon yourself to God and trust in God because God is going to be with you.'"



Psalms 27 and Psalm 62 would have been important scriptural references for Paul with their invitation to put our trust in God.

Psalms 27:1-3 | NABRE

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?*

*The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should
I be afraid?*

*When evildoers come at me to devour my
flesh, these my enemies and foes themselves
stumble and fall.*

*Though an army encamp against me, my
heart does not fear;*

*Though war be waged against me, even then
do I trust.*

Psalms 62:2-5 | NABRE

*My soul rests in God alone, from whom
comes my salvation.*

*God alone is my rock and salvation, my for-
tress; I shall never fall.*

*How long will you set yourself against a man?
You shall all be destroyed, like a sagging wall or
a tumbled down fence!*

*Even highly placed people plot to overthrow
him. They delight in lies; they bless with their
mouths, but inwardly they curse.*

Call to Interior Prayer

Father Gerald believes the spirituality of Saint Paul of the Cross is to focus on the indwelling presence of God in our lives. Paul directed people to focus on the interior dimension of their lives.

"We are about many things. We have a personality

and works and a career, but the most important part of us is the interior dimension of whom we are," explains Father Gerald. "Paul invited people to experience interior quiet prayer. He referred to it as interior reflection."

During prayer and reflection, the focus is on the inner experience with God: to pay attention to God within us.

"His [Paul's] awareness of suffering is reflected in various dimensions of his spirituality." —Father Gerald Laba, C.P.

Reflection on the Passion of Jesus

Paul invited everyone to meditate on the Passion of Jesus. The Passion, Paul believed, was the ultimate expression of God's love for us. Meditation on the Passion of Jesus draws us into a deeper relationship with God.

"Paul saw the Passion of Jesus as the most profound expression of God's love for us," says Father Gerald. "We sometimes look toward the external dimensions of the way Christ suffered. Paul invited people to meditate and reflect on the internal dimensions of the Passion, which was much more than just physical suffering."

Jesus was falsely judged, experienced betrayal, felt completely alone, faced humiliation, encountered opposition, and felt abandoned and rejected. As humans we can relate to the internal sufferings of Jesus.

"We can go to Jesus in his Passion about our experiences and know he understands, and receive insight," shares Father Gerald.

Note: For a longer version of this article, please visit our website at passionist.org/spring2020.

The Passionists Good Friday Meditation on the Last Words

by Fr. Edward Beck, C.P.



We taped a Good Friday Meditation on The Seven Last Words with: Fr. Edward Beck, Karen Cavanagh, Roberto Chiotti, Fr. Enzo Del Brocco, Rabbi Matthew Gewirtz, Sunny Hostin, Liseli Lugo, Fr. Jim O'Shea, Michaela Pereira and Jimmy Smits.

Jimmy Smits reads the Passion Narrative and then our participants comment on how they experience these words in their own lives.

I hope it will help your own prayer, meditation, thoughts during this difficult time of pandemic and isolation.

Here is the YOUTUBE link to view our group's meditation:

[GOOD FRIDAY: THE SEVEN LAST WORDS](#)

Please feel free to share with your family, friends...and with anyone you think may benefit from these words.

In hope for the renewal and rebirth that await us,

Father Edward L. Beck, C.P.

Congregation History guides Passionists through the present and to the future

By Fr. Rob Carboneau, C.P.

Father Rob Carboneau, C.P., is an historian and directs the Passionist Historical Archives located in the Special Collections at the University of Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he is also an adjunct professor in the History Department. In studying the history of the Congregation, he sees how Passionists have carried on the work of Saint Paul of the Cross in every generation for the past 300 years. Even when the Passionist Congregation experiences turmoil, the men of the order persevere, as Paul did.

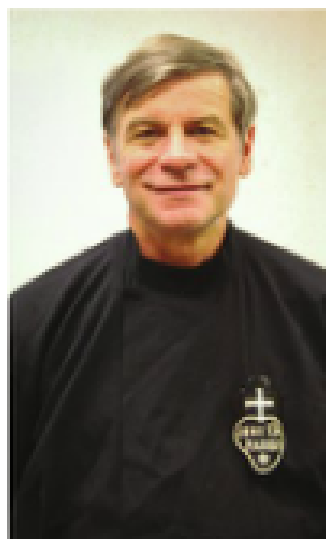
Passionist ministries have changed over the years in response to major historical events around the world. “The Passionist world completely shifted after World War II and again after September 11, 2001,” explains Father Rob. “The world became a bigger place.”

True to the goal of Saint Paul of the Cross, the Passionists must continue to help people grow in faith so that they would be prepared to live as Jesus showed us to live, and be ready to die when the time came. “As a religious congregation, we often respond to how people are carrying their cross,” Father Rob says. “Our individual crosses are sometimes all we have the energy to carry. Once the cross is named you are on your way to healing.”

This focus has guided the Passionists to places where change is necessary — like being part of the Civil Rights movement in the southern United States during the 1950s and 1960s.

We are suffering to understand each other,” shares Father Rob. “That unites people to understand the Passion in a much more complex way. We are citizens of the world. We are citizens of the Earth.”

It has always been important for Passionists to get out, preach and be in different situations to gain knowledge and understanding. As individuals must accept and carry their crosses, local communities, too, have to know and carry their crosses.



Father Rob Carboneau, C.P.

“We try to appreciate that we carry a cross that has many different splinters,” Father Rob says. “We know where they are smooth and we know where there are rough spots.”

The goal for the Passionist Congregation has been to contribute to a cultural narrative in profound ways. Father Rob uses the example of how the Passionist monastery

in the city of Pittsburgh was built during a time when Catholics were not respected. Father Rob comments that, “we sometimes forget, then we look in the mirror of the past and we can see these images.”

Connecting the past and the present is often a reminder for people to model behavior that is better than what our Catholic ancestors experienced. Father Rob is quick to point out that the Passionist focus goes beyond politics and focuses on what Christ expected of his followers.

“Our individual crosses are sometimes all we have the energy to carry. Once the cross is named you are on your way to healing.”

— Father Rob Carboneau, C.P.

The Congregation understands how suffering can transform itself, thanks to Paul’s teaching about always

holding the Passion in our hearts. The goal is to connect with many people and to connect many people and communities with the power of Christ's Passion.

"We need to listen so that we are not numb to one another," shares Father Rob.

Passionists ask respectful questions about the message of individuals to discern how separate stories are linked. "This helps us to name the cross for the culture," says Father Rob.

Another aspect of the Congregation that has changed over the last three centuries is living in community. Passionists were once together in monasteries serving people through prayer and devotions. It was Paul's intention to create a congregation of "apostolic" workers who followed the example of Jesus and the apostles when he would take them away for a respite from their missionary labors.

Three hundred years later, the number of monasteries is drastically reduced, but living in community is still a vital part of Passionist life. And with a Passionist presence in at least 61 countries around the world, the Passionist message of the Cross is international and continually evolving and growing.

"For Passionists, there was a uniformity in living in monasteries. Those monasteries are less and less but the community life is important," explains Father Rob. "How do we keep our community vibrant? How do we reach out to young people and laity? We are better off if we are living together. We can complement each other on what we are doing. We are all connected by individual crosses and connected by our international cross in healing."

Because the Passionist Community is spread out all over the world, Father Rob's hope is that there will be documentation about modern life and ministry available for future historians to understand the impact of the Passionist Congregation mission.

"I believe what is most inspirational is the way the history of the Congregation has always paid respect to the journey. We are trying to figure out so many ways to go forward, but we have to know what our journey has been," says Father Rob. "We want to give people a knowledge of our history and spirituality. If we don't save the documents and the materials, then shame on us. We have an obligation. Passionists have worked so hard, the fun and wisdom of our community is passing us by. Our minds and hearts have to share it with one another. It only makes us stronger."

Note: Watch Father Rob's video discussion of Passionist history at passionist.org/spring2020.



Father Rob Carboneau, C.P., right, with Father Paul Cherukodath, C.P., and Father Siby Padinjaredath, C.P., at the Weinberg Memorial Library at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. The exhibit, "Lift High the Cross," is on display until April 19, 2020, celebrates 300 years of Passionist history, 1720 to 2020.

A Bill of Rights for the Deceased (after-living)

by Fr. John Powers, C.P.



At this time, as so many are dying, grieving, or simply want something that may help them in their prayer I am offering the following Bill of Rights for the Deceased to anyone who would like to pray with it or to share it with anyone these choose, friends, family members, Pastors for Bulletins, Newsletters of Retreat Centers, emailing it all and any, Blogs, Websites, Diocesan Newspapers, and any other format they chose.

I ask only that retain my name as the author as a way to celebrate the Passionist Community, and Mission we vow to keep alive Christ Crucified in word and deed.

- 1. The right to be remembered.**
- 2. The right to be remembered as they truly were not as we wish they had been.**
- 3. The right to be prayed for and prayed through for they are where God is.**
- 4. The right to be judged by God alone for only God knows the hearts intent.**

By Fr. John Powers, C.P. jpowers@cpprov.org