



Holy Cross Province News

October 2020

October

Birthdays

- 13 Alex Steinmiller
- 20 Hugo Esparza-Pérez
- 30 Kenneth O'Malley
- 31 Pat Brennan

Professions

- 15 Jack Conley

Ordination

- 6 Antonio Curto



LOOKING FORWARD...

October 6
Blessed Isidore De Loor, CP

October 9
St. Inocencio Canoura Arnau, CP

October 20 (USA)
Feast of St. Paul of the Cross,
Founder of the Passionists

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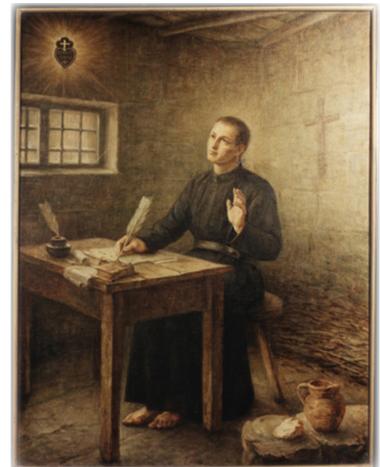
Updates...

- The Provincial Council meets October 21-23 via Zoom.
- A reminder from the Province Health and Aging Advisory Board (PHAAB): during this flu season, please remember to wash your hands frequently to minimize the spread of germs. October 15 is *Global Handwashing Day*. For more information, visit the [website](#) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Joe Moons, CP; Mirek Lesiecki, CP; David Colhour, CP; Alex Steinmiller, CP; Dr. Michael Bland and Keith Zekind will attend the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) Virtual Safeguarding Workshop: *Care, Custody, or Control*, October 26-29.
- John Schork, CP, will attend the 2020 National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) [Virtual Convocation](#), October 28-31.
- Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center is holding its Fall Harvest Gala: *Gathering God's Blessings*, a non-event fundraiser on Friday, October 30. For more information on how you can participate, visit Christ the King's [website](#).
- E. John Hilgert, CP, and the Marriage Encounter Leadership team have been asked to extend their leadership duties into the first quarter of 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

October 20, (USA), Feast of St. Paul of the Cross

May all creation
bring you to love God.

~St. Paul of the Cross



Prayers, please...

Please keep the following members of our Passionist Family in your prayers:

Peter Berendt, CP, who died on September 9, 2020, in Louisville.

Mario Salgado, who died on September 10, 2020. He is the father of Marta Salgado-Niño, who is the Director of Finance and Administration at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center in Sierra Madre, California.

Blaise Czaja, CP's sister, Kathleen Castille, who died on October 5, 2020.

Marcia Sansotta, who is battling serious health issues. Marcia is the Events Planning, Marketing Supervisor & Front Office Manager at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat and Conference Center in Detroit, Michigan.

Passionist Alumnus, Ray Alonzo, who is recovering at home after a recent hospital stay.



25 Years of Passionist Life...

Congratulations to Kurt Wernert, CP, who celebrated his 25th Jubilee of Profession on September 10, 2020.



Congratulations...

On Saturday, September 26, 2020, Nicholas Divine, CP, along with four Franciscan Brothers, were ordained to the diaconate by Auxiliary Bishop Mark Bartosic of Chicago, Illinois. The ordination ceremony was held at St. Clare of Montefalco Chapel of St. Rita of Cascia Parish in Chicago. Visit our [website](#) to see more pictures of the celebration.



Nicholas Divine, CP, makes the diaconate promises to Bishop Bartosic.



(l-r): Alfredo Ocampo, CP, Director of Students, and Nicholas Divine, CP.

Living the Passionist Charism in a Pandemic...

From Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center: “The Mater Dolorosa Food Ministry program would not be possible without the support of our retreatants, friends and corporate sponsors. We are so grateful to each of you. Until the COVID-19 pandemic ends, and even for a time afterwards, seniors, homeless, and families will still be adjusting to unemployment and lack of food services. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of those who desperately need our help.

We invite you to hear from representatives of two of the organizations or communities that are being served by our retreat center food ministry. [Click here](#) to watch the video.



Dr. Michael Cunningham,
Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center
Director, CEO.

A Peaceful Place to Reflect, Renew, Refresh...

St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat and Conference Center has completed the renovation of its courtyard. Final touches to the landscaping were completed in September, just in time to welcome retreatants.



The redesigned area surrounding Mary's statue.

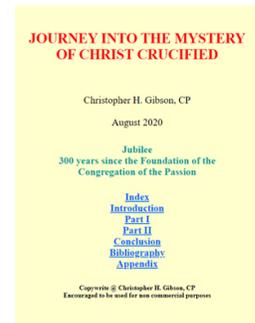


The "new" courtyard provides for more open space.

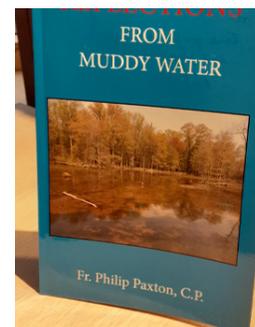
Author! Author!...

Congratulations to Chris Gibson, CP; Phil Paxton, CP; and Robin Ryan, CP, who have recently published books.

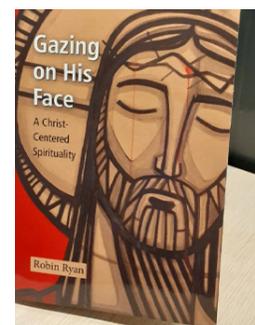
Chris' book, *Journey into the Mystery of Christ Crucified*, is available **online**. "Being a member of a religious congregation called the Congregation of the Passion, commonly known as the Passionists, has helped to shape my spiritual life over many years to what I have become today." Printed copies of Chris' book will be available soon.



Phil's book, *Reflections from Muddy Water*, is a collection of his personal reflections on Scripture passages centered around the themes of "little things mean a lot," "going beyond," and "for us or against us." To order your copy, please contact Phil at ppaxton@passionist.org.



Robin's book, *Gazing on His Face: A Christ-Centered Spirituality*, is a "Reflection on traditional Christological titles, seeing them as windows on which to gaze on the mystery of the crucified and risen Jesus." Published by Paulist Press, 2020. Available through **Amazon**.



Statue and Stained Glass...

On September 15, 2020, at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center, Bishop George Sheltz blessed the new statue dedicated to the *Memorial of Life, Our Lady of Sorrows*. The statue represents “Our Mother, Mary, with arms outstretched to receive your unborn child, your pain, or perhaps her dead son. The statue encourages a personal encounter between your grief and a Mother that shares in that with you.”

Many thanks to Mike Kaney for creating the statue with such stunning craftsmanship. Mike is the same artist who sculpted the statue of Saint Paul of the Cross installed on the grounds last year. Thanks, too, to Catarino Martinez, Jr., the groundskeeper at Holy Name for creating a peaceful space for the statue, and to retreatant Ken Andrews who designed and helped fund the surrounding exquisite gardens.

Deacon James Anderson, administrator, and Mike Kaney were on local Catholic Radio in Houston explaining the meaning of the statue and inviting all to come to the outside dedication ceremony. Members of ‘Forgiven and Set Free,’ a post-abortion grief support group attended the dedication, as well as members of the Archdiocesan Pro-Life office.



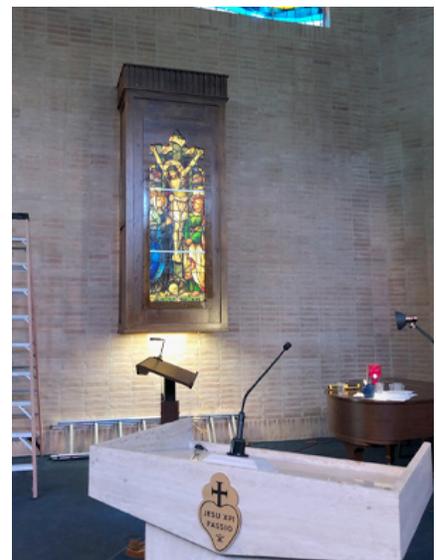
(l-r): Mike Kaney, sculptor;
Ken Andrews, garden designer; and
Bishop George Sheltz.



Front view of the statue.

A new addition to the decor of Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center’s chapel is the stained glass window which used to be a window in the former Co-Cathedral in downtown Houston.

In 2008, the Archdiocese replaced the former Co-Cathedral with a new and much larger structure. The term, Co-Cathedral is used because the original seat of the Diocese and its cathedral was in the city of Galveston. Since 1959, the seat of the diocese was moved to Houston and the Sacred Heart parish church was named the Co-Cathedral.



Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center...

Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center continues to offer all programs online. The Men's Recovery Retreat and Bereavement Retreat, held in September, were presented for the first time on Zoom. The Fall Series of The Institute for the Study of the Passion will begin in October with a focus on St. Paul of the Cross. A few small groups that are able to meet outdoors, following social distancing protocols, have been hosted at the retreat center, including a Men's Rosary Group (photo below) that meets weekly. The Thursday Community Mass continues to be held outdoors and is well attended. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the retreat center continues to adjust and be flexible with the changing times.



St. Vincent Strambi Community...

St. Vincent Strambi Community, in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, is getting its building ready for winter by repairing and weatherproofing the exterior balconies on its three floors. Built in 1903, the building has been the Passionist Residence at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) since 2006.

Passionists in the community continue their ministries, and with the help of modern technology, pursue new ways to minister.



David Colhour, CP (left);
and John Schork, CP (sitting),
prepare to tape a gratitude video
to benefactors who support our students.



Crews scrape the loose paint
from the ceiling of the porch
to prepare for its weatherproofing.