



# NEWS FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

June 30 – July 3, 2020 & September 14-18, 2020

## THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The Council took some time to reflect on the experience of the COVID 19 pandemic which deserves deep reflection from everyone. We all like to have things under control and we find ourselves in difficulty when we have to face something we cannot control. This experience of COVID-19 has taken control of our lives and out of our hands in many ways. All the plans we made have been upset. But we have also learned that we have to let God take action.

We feel close to all the communities that have had a quarantine experience during this time and we

commend to the Lord our brothers who have died because of COVID-19.

Some Chapters and conferences had to be postponed again: SPE (Netherlands) to February 2021; PATR (Ireland and Scotland) and VULN (Germany and Austria) to July 2021. We hope that the dates of all other scheduled events can be respected.

Life goes on and so do the meetings. We have learned to use digital media successfully. This is something new for us. Life from now on will be different.

## JUBILEE

Once again, some members of the Jubilee Committee had to attend the meeting online.

Catechesis and information bulletins for the jubilee will continue to be sent out. An exhibition will be held in the Basilica to present who the Passionists are, where they are and what they do. In addition, it has been planned to prepare a small

collection of guides for the different Passionist places of the jubilee: Ovada, Castellazzo, Vetralla, Argentario and Rome which will be available in different languages on the jubilee website (<http://jubilaeumcp.org>). It has also been decided to make this web page more agile and to make it better known: many resources can be found on it.

For the moment the **jubilee calendar** is as follows:

22 November 2020 (h. 10.30 am):

9-18 August 2021:

21-24 September 2021:

Opening of the Holy Door followed by the Eucharistic Celebration of the Inauguration of the Jubilee. (Streaming).

Meeting of the Young Passionists.

International Congress: "The Wisdom of the Cross in a Plural World" (Lateran University).

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18-22 October 2021:

Meeting of all the Passionist Bishops for the Jubilee of the Congregation. We will celebrate the Founder's Feast together.

From 1 to 22 November 2021:

Workshop of the Passionist Formators.

1 January 2022:

Closing of the Jubilee.

With the contribution of the Italian State, the restoration of the door of the Basilica of Saints John and Paul and the gate in front of it will be carried out. Work has already begun and it is hoped that it will be ready for the opening of the jubilee.

The Postulator General, Fr. Massimo Parisi, is organising the manufacture of the

jubilee medal. Other gadgets will also be available to commemorate the event.

The company "*La Machi, comunicación para buenas causas*", which has already assisted us in drawing up a Communication Plan, is supporting us in the creation of an institutional video and the presentation of the jubilee to the media.

## COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Little by little the web page [passiochristi.org](http://www.passiochristi.org)<sup>1</sup> is being renewed as a platform with which to communicate our charism and spirituality. We wish that those who visit this web page can always find something inspiring.

The Congregation is also emerging in social networks: [Facebook](#)<sup>2</sup> and [Youtube](#)<sup>3</sup>. We expect to be present in other social networks soon.

We would like to thank Fr. Lawrence Rywalt for the valuable work he has done over many years. At this time, Fr. Javier Solís has taken over the coordination of the Communications Office.

A small survey in view of a renewal of the Passionist International Bulletin has been prepared: [We want to know your opinion!](#)<sup>4</sup>

The Communication Office is grateful for all the photographic or video material on Passionist activities and presences that will be sent to be shared and published in the different social networks and to create a digital archive. In this way, it will be possible to make known what is done in the different places where the Congregation is present and working, implementing the Passionist charism. You can send the material to [commcuria@passiochristi.org](mailto:commcuria@passiochristi.org).

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.passiochristi.org>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/PassioChristi.Int/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8GmPj-hRmHSITNrcGXPmBQ/videos>

<sup>4</sup> <https://forms.gle/JoEVaY6EXu3foVT18>

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## HISTORICAL COMMISSION - LIBRARY OF ST. JOHN AND PAUL

The General Council was able to meet online with the members of the Historical Commission: Frs. Andrés San Martín (SCOR), Pablo Gonzalo (SCOR), Robert Carbonneau (PAUL), Łukasz Andrzejewski (ASSUM) and Giovanni Benenati (MAPRAES).

The Commission must now collect the legacy left by Fr. Fernando Piélagos and reformulate the materials of the past historians.

One of the difficulties they have to face is the diversity and variety of the tasks that the members of the Commission themselves have taken on in other contexts.

It is the Commission's wish that even the youngest Provinces of the Congregation may begin to have their own voice on history (from Africa, America or Asia and Oceania) and that young Passionists should be encouraged to study history.

For historical work it is important to preserve the archives so that they can be available to scholars. It is also important to cultivate the relationship between Passionist historians and historians of other Congregations and with scholars of world history.

The Jubilee context can be a good time to offer those who work in formation the

Congregation's history manuals, publishing green booklets, promoting the care and translation of the sources, etc.

The General Council has decided that Fr. Gwen Barde will be the Consultor of Reference for the Historical Commission. In the September Consultation, moreover, Fr. Pablo Gonzalo was elected by his companions as President of the Commission and Fr. Giovanni Benenati has been asked to oversee the organization of the meetings of the Commission. The budget of the Commission for the year 2021 was also approved.

Fr. Mario Collu was able to achieve a great deal in the past three years as Librarian for the *"Ancient Historical Library of the General House of the Passionists of Saints John and Paul in Rome"*. Thanks to the renovation that has taken place, it has also been possible to obtain various project funding from the Italian Episcopal Conference.

The General Council reconfirmed Fr. Mario Collu as Librarian of Sts. John and Paul for another three years. The budget for next year was approved and specialized personnel for the cataloguing of the library books is foreseen.

## COMMISSION "RENEWING OUR MISSION"

In the previous General Council's meetings, the way forward had been outlined and, for this reason, a Commission composed of one religious from each Configuration was appointed: Frs. Denis Travers (PASPAC-SPR, Australia), Wojciech Adamczewski (CCH-ASSUM, Poland), José Luis García (CJC-REG, México), Elie Muakasa Ngumba (ÁFRICA-

SALV, Congo) and Giuseppe Adobati (MAPRAES, Italy). The Consultor of Reference will be Fr. Juan Ignacio Villar (SCOR, Spain).

The task of this Commission is the study and synthesis of the responses to the document *"Call to Action. Reflections and orientations of the 47th General Chapter"* from the Communities, Provinces and Vice-Provinces of the

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Congregation. These responses are to be collected in a single document by the respective Provincials, Vice-Provincials and Configuration Presidents and sent to the General Secretary before the end of October 2020.

The Commission will draw up a document/plan to "renew the mission" and present proposals to define how to be new evangelizers today. The Strategic Plan of Evangeli-

zation will be presented to the General Synod in October 2021.

The document that will come out of this Commission must not only indicate how evangelization is to be achieved, but above all, it must be strongly rooted in our spirituality and charism. It will be a document that serves for study and reflection in the Congregation.

### VISIT TO SCOR

The SCOR Province embraces thirteen nations. The celebration of the III Provincial Chapter is scheduled for 2021. In order to cover this vast area for the canonical visitation, the following is planned: Father General will visit Bolivia, Venezuela, Cuba and

Guatemala; Fr. Rafael Vivanco will make the visit to the area of Spain; the remaining countries of America will be visited by Fr. Mirek (Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Ecuador and Panama) and Fr. Juan Ignacio (Colombia, Peru and Chile).

### MISSION OF MYANMAR

There are currently two Passionists in Myanmar: one from India (Fr. Marsilin Sony Kannaikal - THOM) and another from Japan (Fr. Paul Motoyuki Hata - MAIAP). They have obtained a visa with multiple entries, so they can stay longer in the country. This allows them more freedom to enter the territory and culture of the country and to develop ministries.

So far, the main task has been to teach English to students in the minor seminary; they have also been able to preach various retreats to seminarians and priests.

It is their desire to begin to welcome and train candidates for Passionist life. For this it is

necessary to strengthen the Passionist community presence with a larger community and a larger residence. There is a close link between the community, the mission and the promotion of vocations. The Mission needs to define itself more and more so that, starting with community life and the mission carried out, candidates can better discover an interest in the Passionist life. The two missionaries are in contact with the Superiors of the PAS-PAC Configuration so that they can dialogue and make decisions about the future of the Mission, analysing the different possibilities for development.

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### CAP ACTIVATION (EX-CLAP)

The C.A.P. (American Passionist Conference) will revive the ancient C.L.A.P. (Latin American Passionist Conference) by opening up to the English-speaking areas of the American continent. It is intended to reactivate this Passionist organisation which previously embraced only the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Passionists, but now integrating the English-speaking part of the continent. CLAP was quite productive in the field of exchange in theological reflection and formation. From this structure ERPAL and FORPAL were born and the material for the "Castellazzo experience" was developed.

A first meeting had already been scheduled last May, but it was forced to be postponed because of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coordinators: Frs. Rafael Vivanco and Juan Ignacio Villar have now called a new meeting which will hopefully take place from 20 to 24 February 2021 in Medellín, Colombia.

The meeting is expected to be attended by the Superiors and Major Superiors of America: the Provincial Superiors of the CJC Configuration, Provincial SCOR, the Superior General of the Daughters of the Passion and the Provincial Superiors of the other Passionist Religious Congregations of women present on the American continent.

### NEXT EXTENDED COUNCIL

Following the opening of the Jubilee, the Extended Council is expected to meet on 26, 27 and 28 November. Due to the upsurge of COVID-19, it is likely that some of the members may not be able to attend the meeting physically, and so will have to connect online.

A first draft of the Agenda for this meeting has already been prepared with various topics:

the restructuring, the Preparatory Commission and the structure of the next Synod, the Jubilee, the experience of COVID 19, the Evangelization Plan, the relations, the groups of the lay movement, the General Plan of Formation, the Communication Plan, the economic procedures manual, etc...

### PROPOSED PLAN ON LAUDATO SI'

Fr. Joseph Mitchell (CRUC), together with the working group of "Passionist Solidarity Network", presented to the General Council a proposal to engage all the religious and members of the Passionist Family on the Encyclical Laudato Si' of Pope Francis. It is a whole programme of formation involving various aspects of care for creation, community life,

formation and other aspects which the Church invites us to keep in mind and of which we must be aware both personally and as a community. We are studying the means of preparing material with catechetical themes for work in communities, with the laity and in formation... to be used for a whole year or during a specific liturgical period.

## SOLIDARITY PROJECTS

The work on the Bethany House, now entrusted to the PASS Province of the Philippines, has been practically completed and the money provided by the Solidarity Fund of the Congregation for this purpose has been sent to its destination, as well as to the Mission in China, for the construction of the new house for our religious and formation.

The following project requests were received and approved: aid for the formation houses in

Kisima (Kenya), Morogoro and Arusha (Tanzania) and for the project of the Retreat House in Sadowie (Poland).

All these projects are supported by the 2% contribution of the various Entities of the Congregation. Some entities are lagging behind in their contribution to the Solidarity Fund. The General reiterated the duty of each Province and Vice-Province to assure their annual contribution for the common good.