

IN BETWEEN

Holy Cross Province

December 2020



Dear Passionist Family:



**"Once we emerge from this pandemic,
we will not be able to keep doing what we were doing,
and as we were doing it.
No, everything will be different..."**
--Pope Francis

As we look beyond 2020 and look ahead to 2021, *"...everything will be different."* Heading into the New Year, we must continue creating new wine skins for the new wine that will be harvested. The old wine skins will not be available to us anymore.

These times in which we live call for inspiration and grace as we continue to secure the future mission of Holy Cross Province. We must recognize that how we minister will have to be different from before for us to be successful and grace-filled. We need to be visionaries as we create our Passionist mission in these new times. The old wine skins must be laid aside.

We are called to pour the new wine of suffering, isolation, loss and insecurity all around us with a deep devotion to the Eucharist and a commitment to the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in need. When poured, we look to our Passionist retreat centers, our Passionist communities and our Passionist parishes to reach out to our neighbors and friends in need.

Invite someone to participate in one of our retreat centers, visit one of our communities or bring someone to our parish church. With the grace of God, we need to actively reach out and evangelize the bond that forms us as a fellowship of the crucified of today. We have been wounded and isolated in 2020, but we have been entrusted to reach out to someone new in the name of Jesus Christ and walk together again to build up our fellowship in Christ.



*Then the two from Emmaus told their story of
how Jesus had appeared to them
as they were walking along the road,
and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.*
--Luke 24:35 New Living Translation

Vision Fulfillment:

The Vision Fulfillment Process continues with the help of God. We have scheduled an Advent Retreat: *Living into Transformative Times*. We have also scheduled a Visionary Day for Resource Groups working on Project Proposals. The Provincial Council, like others around the Province, has taken up Project Proposals that have been assigned to them and we

are reviewing them and working on how to implement them. Let us keep our Vision Fulfillment Process in our prayers.

Deacon Nicholas Divine, C.P.'s Ordination to the Presbyterate:

Nicholas Divine, C.P., will be ordained to the Presbyterate by Bishop Neil Tiedemann, C.P., Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, NY, on Sunday, March 7, at 1:30 pm, CST, at our Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center in Houston, TX. We intend to make this available virtually. We are grateful to Nicholas for his dedication and his desire to serve as a Passionist Priest. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for this grace-filled ministry for the Church. We thank Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center for hosting this special event.

Holy Cross Province Five Year Accreditation by Praesidium:

Praesidium is a leading abuse risk management consulting group. Their accreditation process helps us take seriously our commitment to the protection of children and young people.



The following is an excerpt from the agreed-upon Statement of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), promulgated at its 2002 Assembly:

We believe that in most instances over this last decade, as we have learned more about the tragic consequences of sexual abuse, we have acted responsibly in dealing with allegations. But, we have also heard the clear call to more accountability and transparency in how we, as leaders of men religious, deal with the protection of children from sexual abuse of members of our Institute and how we handle allegations of sexual abuse and follow-up outreach to victims and supervision of our members charged with sexual abuse.

In fulfillment of this statement, CMSM established a system of accountability and transparency which utilizes an accreditation model and contracted with Praesidium, Inc. to become the accrediting body for the Men's Religious Orders and congregations. The process requires that a team of specialists from Praesidium independently verify that the 2020 Edition of the Praesidium Standards for Accreditation have been met. Praesidium specialists have thoroughly reviewed our policies, conducted site visits, interviewed members of the Province, including those in formation, our vocation and formation directors, members of the Provincial Council and members of our Province Review Board.

We are pleased to be informed that the accreditation process has now concluded successfully and that The Passionists of Holy Cross Province has once again been certified as Praesidium Accredited™, the highest honor in abuse prevention practices.

Provincial Visitation with the communities through Zoom:

In the last few months, I have met with all seven communities via Zoom to update the membership on events, issues and to reach out to them during this time of isolation. As you are aware, I have been unable to visit the communities in person during the pandemic.

I have tested positive for COVID-19:

I am unsure when I contracted the virus, but on November 24, I tested positive. I thank the Lord that I had very few symptoms, with a mild fever and a persistent cough. The cough, I am told, could be with me for another three weeks to three months. I have started walking my four miles a day again and am now doing fine. Thank you for all the prayers I received wishing me a speedy recovery.

The community is getting tested and the staff at the retreat center is staying quarantined and working from home until December 7.

Upcoming Events:

- December 10, 2020 *Visionary Day*, via Zoom
 - December 16-18, 2020 Provincial Council Meeting, via Zoom
 - December 17, 2020 *Advent Retreat Day*, via Zoom
 - January 7, 2021 *Advent Retreat Day*, via Zoom
 - January 20-22, 2021 Provincial Council Meeting, via Zoom
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- October 4-6, 2021 Inter-Council Meeting of North American Passionists, North Palm Beach, FL
 - October 9-10, 2021 Configuration of Jesus Crucified Meeting, Rome, Italy
 - October 11-23, 2021 Passionist Congregation General Synod, Rome, Italy




Conclusion:

*“Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am creating something new;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
--Isaiah 43:18-19--English Standard Version*

I will remember all of you and your families at our Community Eucharist on Christmas Day, especially during these uncertain times. I hope and pray that you have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Let us keep each other in prayer.

God bless,


Joe Moons, C.P.
Provincial Superior

“May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts”