



22 November 2020

Jubilaecum

1st January 2022

III Centenary of the Foundation of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ



The first Passionist
Holy Year/Jubilee



300
1720 | years | 2020

Jubilaevum

GRATITUDE | PROPHECY | HOPE

Renewing our Mission

1. The Jewish Jubilee



The starting point is Sacred Scripture: **Leviticus, cap. 25: 8-17**

You will count seven weeks of years, that is, seven times seven years; these seven weeks of years will make forty-nine years. On the tenth day of the seventh month, you will make the sound of the horn echo; on the day of atonement you will make the horn echo throughout the earth. ***You will declare the fiftieth year holy and proclaim liberation on earth for all its inhabitants. It will be a jubilee for you; each of you will return to his property and his family.*** The fiftieth year will be a jubilee for you; you will neither sow nor harvest what the fields will produce by themselves, nor will you harvest the unpruned vines. For it is a jubilee: ***it will be holy for you;*** you can however eat the product that the fields will give... None of you will oppress your neighbor; fear your God, for I am the Lord, your God.

I O B E L

A HOLY YEAR

is aimed at promoting holiness of life.

It is a typically ecclesiastical expression that generally refers to a papal act that grants an indulgence.

JUBILEE is a word of biblical and religious origin, also adopted by the secular world, which has become synonymous with some special anniversaries: marriage, priestly ... The word Jubilee has a particular connotation of solemnity and celebration.

it is the **Hebrew word for goat horn**, used as a trumpet, called “Shofar”, to summon the people and start the Jubilee. The English word Jubilee derives, through Latin, from Iobel.



In essence, the Jewish Jubilee is characterized by these initiatives:



The restitution of lands to the original owners:
"...The land is mine; with me you are aliens and tenants" (Lev. 25:23);

debt relief,

the release of slaves and prisoners,

allow the Earth, nature to rest.

All in the name and recognition of the lordship and holiness of God:
"Because I am the Lord, your God".



Socio-religious impact of the Jewish Jubilee

- 1. The Jewish Jubilee is fundamentally a general liberation, in the name of God, of people and goods:** a liberation from any situation contrary to the freedom and dignity of people, which also benefited the Earth, freed from intensive exploitation and left to rest for a year;
- 2. The radical renewal** of relationships towards one's neighbor and nature;
- 3. The restoration of justice and social equality and the consolidation of a sort of solidarity not only between people but also with nature;**
- 4. The offer to everyone, even to the Earth, of a new possibility, of the opportunity for a new beginning.**
- 5. The Jewish Jubilee renews and inaugurates new times.**

In summary, the Jewish Jubilee intended to generate a sort of collective renewal, a general washing, almost an attempt to reproduce the conditions of the Earthly Paradise and offer a new beginning in recognition and respect for the lordship of God over people and nature.

A truly ambitious, revolutionary program, so much so that many scholars doubt that it has ever been fully realized.

This does not mean that the Jewish Jubilee is a mere chimera, a dream. Instead, it is the indication of a goal, a project, a pole of tension that people must strive to achieve (social justice, solidarity with people and nature, etc ...) even if we know that we will never be able to fully realize it. We will never be perfect like the Father who is in heaven, as Jesus asks us (Mt 5:48), but we must every day take a step towards that goal. In this sense, the Jubilee must also be thought of, above all, in view of the future.



Jesus and the Jubilee

In the synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus alludes to the Jubilee and re-interprets it when he makes the words of Isaiah his own (Is 61,1-2), to describe his mission:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of grace of the Lord" (Lk 4, 18-19).

And He expounds: «*Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing*» (Lk 4:21).

The most beautiful and complete definition of the Christian Jubilee:
a joyful message, a year of grace from the Lord.



2. The Christian Jubilee



The announcement of the first Jubilee / Holy Year in Christianity history dates back to Pope Boniface VIII, with the bull *Antiquorum habet fida relatio*, published on 22 February 1300.

The announcement of the Jubilee responded to a vague popular aspiration, well known among Christians, of the **100-year Indulgence** for those who would visit St. Peter's Basilica in Rome at the beginning of the new century (1300).

It can be said that the Christian Jubilee was born from below, from an impulse, almost a need, albeit confused, of the people of God, which the Church hierarchy then assumed and regularized.



Pope Boniface VIII

The Jubilee of Boniface VIII was obviously rooted in the Jewish Jubilee, especially its spirit, and above all in the idea of **amnesty, of the liberation wrought by God**. In effect, this first Christian Jubilee was focused on the **plenary indulgence**, that is, on the amnesty, the **forgiveness of sins**, and therefore on the indulgence, that is the mercy of God, and on some penitential acts, including the pilgrimage to the basilica of Saint Peter (30 visits for the Romans and 15 for foreigners). However, it did not recover the aspect of solidarity with nature proper to the Jewish Jubilee.

Throughout history, the Jubilee has been enriched with some rituals, including the best known one, the opening of the **Holy Door**: the Jubilee as a **path to conversion**.



In effect, the Christian Jubilee is a solemn call, an extraordinary call to conversion and therefore to holiness.



The appeal for conversion and holiness is also highlighted by the conditions for living the Jubilee:

- the penitential journey (the pilgrimage),
- commitment to conversion,
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation and trusting in the mercy of God,
- participation in the Eucharistic banquet,
- new life as a child of God.

There is nothing magical or automatic about the Jubilee: it is an occasion, an incentive, an opportunity for a more committed Christian baptismal life.

3. The Passionist Jubilee

It is the first Holy Year / Jubilee in Passionist history



The historical motivation for this Jubilee is the 300 years of foundation of the Passionist Congregation. And therefore **it places at the centre the figure of the Founder: his life, his message, his charism and the testimony of his sons and daughters.**

It is an important anniversary also because it occurs during a time of hardship for religious life which is undergoing a serious decline, at least in the West.

The Jubilee is an opportunity that is offered to us:

- to deepen and re-appropriate the essence of the charism of St. Paul of the Cross
- to listen what the Christian people are asking today of a Passionist
- to announce and witness the *Memoria Passionis* in current, contemporary forms
- to assess and discern our testimony, mission, and our community life
- to question the reasons for the vocational crisis
- to give new vitality, fruitfulness, attractiveness to the Congregation

This program is summarized in some way by the slogan of the Jubilee **logo: *Renewing our mission. Gratitude, prophecy, hope***, which in turn partly reflects the proposal of Pope Francis in the Year of Consecrated Life (30 November 2014 - 2 February 2016): **Looking to the past with gratitude, living the present with passion, embracing the future with hope** (*Letter to consecrated persons*, 28.11.14).

Jubilee date:

22 November 2020 - 1 January 2022

The Passionist Congregation was born during the 40-day retreat of St. Paul of the Cross in the church of San Carlo in Castellazzo; the retreat was preceded by Paul's leaving his family and his clothing as a hermit.



The vestition ceremony was to take place on November 21, 1720, the feast of the Presentation of Mary in the temple, but due to the unavailability of Gian Francesco Arborio of Gattinara, the bishop of Alessandria and Paul's spiritual Director. The rite was postponed to the following day, Friday, November 22, 1720.

Returning to Castellazzo, where he lived, Paul, on 23 November, began his retreat in the cell of the church of San Carlo, in a storeroom where there was still a box with quicklime that had served for the restoration of the church. →

Here Paul remained, between experiences of high contemplation and consolation and others of desolation and aridity, for 40 days until 1 January 1721.

In this period, between 2 and 7 December 1720, Paul wrote the Rule for the "Poor of Jesus", the first name he thought he would give to the Congregation he intended to found and which later became the Congregation of the Passionists. In his Diary he wrote: ***"I was writing as if there was someone dictating to me."***

Paul ended his retreat on January 1, 1721. This is why the dates of the Jubilee Year are:
November 22, 2020 - January 1, 2022.



The Third Centennial or Jubilee Commission



On 15 February 2017, the Superior General appointed the Commission for the Third Centenary of the founding of the Congregation, made up of 6 members, one from each Configuration.

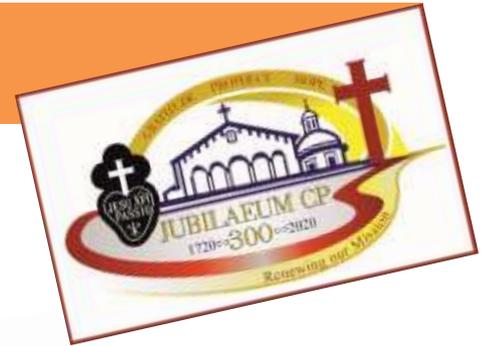
The mandate of the General Council: not commemorative projects consisting of constructions, statues, plaques, etc. ... **but initiatives to improve the spiritual, apostolic and cultural life of the religious and the whole Passionist family.** The Commission met for the first time from 8 to 22 September 2017.

Commission proposals

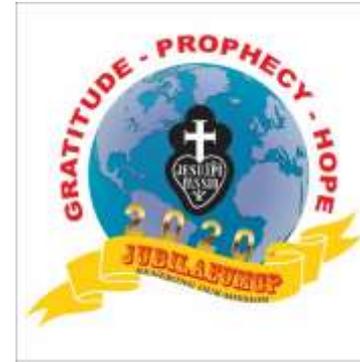
- 1 Transform the Third Centenary into a Holy or Jubilee Year;
- 2 Start immediately to involve the Congregation in the Jubilee idea by launching a competition for the design of the **Jubilee logo**;
- 3 Involve the musicians of the Passionist Family for the composition of the **hymn** or **hymns of the Jubilee**;
- 4 Prepare a **Jubilee Icon** that would be taken as a pilgrimage to all the communities of the Congregation before and during the Jubilee Year.

The logo of Jubilee

The response of the religious to design the Jubilee Logo was unexpected, rapid and extensive. The Commission received 30 logos and some truly remarkable ones.



The logo chosen was designed by a Spanish professional who studied in a Passionist school and remained very close to the Congregation. The jury that chose the logo was composed of the General Council, the Preparatory Commission of the General Chapter and the Tricentennial Commission.



The logo slogan: Renewing our Mission: gratitude, prophecy, hope was chosen by the General Council not only for the Jubilee, but also as the theme of the 47th General Chapter (October 2018) and of the next Synod of the Congregation (October 2021).

In this way the Jubilee acts as a **verification and catalyst** for the renewal of the Congregation.



About the logo theme "*Gratitude, Prophecy and Hope*"



The Superior General, **Joachim Rego**, explained it as follows:

- *“To humbly remember the past with thanksgiving to the God of love and compassion who blessed us (Gratitude)*
- *Read the signs of the times and find new ways to evangelize through the lens of the Passion of Christ (Prophecy)*
- *Discerning God's plans and promises of a meaningful future (Hope) ”.*

All the celebrations that are scheduled must point to:

- *Deepening our commitment to keeping alive the memory of the Passion of Jesus as the ultimate definitive expression of God's love for all people and creation;*
- *Finding new and contemporary ways of promoting this memory (Memoria Passionis);*
- *Renewing our mission to proclaim the Gospel of the Passion ”.*

(Jubilaem.cp, n.01, October 2018, page 3)

“Renewing our mission”



The Superior General thus wrote in his report to the 47th General Chapter:

"Our community life and our mission cannot be separated: they are two sides of the one coin ... Together they both shape us and give us one identity and authenticity as Passionists."

The "who we are" and "what we do" are interconnected and interrelated.

"Our involvement in the apostolate flows directly from our life in community" (Const. 67). Therefore I believe that when we speak of "renewing our mission" it is primarily about "renewing ourselves".



The "mission" is given and is clear. However, because our mission flows from “who we are” we must be constantly open to self-renewal which is our response and openness to what God is doing in us for the coming of God’s kingdom. It is the ongoing call to conversion and repentance in the mission of the kingdom of God. The renewal of the mission is a natural consequence of the renewal of the missionaries”.



Thus understood, it is clear that the jubilee dynamism, **that is renewal, liberation, new beginning, mercy, conversion**, coincides with the renewal program expressed by the slogan of the Passionist Jubilee: **Renewing our mission: gratitude, prophecy, hope.**

The Jubilee hymn

17 hymns were received by the Commission, some with texts in three languages, others with videos. All are very valuable and deserving of our appreciation. You can find them on the following links:

jubilaeumcp.org/passionita.html

<http://www.passiochristi.org/300-anni-della-congregazione/?lang=it>

From these we chose the hymn: **Pasionista 300 años**, composed by Fr. Francisco das Chagas of the Gethsemane Province (text in Portuguese).



The Icon

The work was entrusted to a Greek iconographer, Loukas Seroglou, who works in Germany,.

The 5 saints represented on the icon were indicated by the General Council. They are: Saint Paul of the Cross, Saint Gabriel of our Lady of Sorrows, Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Blessed Isidore de Loor, Saint Gemma Galgani.

The icon was enthroned and blessed by the Superior General during the first vespers of the feast of St. Paul of the Cross (18 October 2018) in the presence of all the capitulars of the 47th General Chapter.

The Icon began its pilgrimage in the Congregation from Monte Argentario, on 21 November 2018, the feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple, on the occasion of the vestition of 5 Passionist novices.





Film about St. Paul of the Cross

The EWTN (Eternal World Television Network), the global Catholic television network (founded by an American cloistered nun, Mother Angelica), asked the Superior General to collaborate with them in the production of this film (to be broadcast every year on the day of the feast of St. Paul of the Cross).

The General Council accepted considering: •the potential audience of the network (over 400 million viewers); •the modest financial contribution; •examination of the previous works of the director Elisabetta Valgiusti; •the favorable opinion of the Tricentennial Commission.



The film, a docufiction (part documentary, part scripted with actors) had its "premiere" on the afternoon of 19 October 2018, the feast of St. Paul of the Cross, in the basilica of Saints John and Paul. It was well received by the guests and members of the General Chapter.

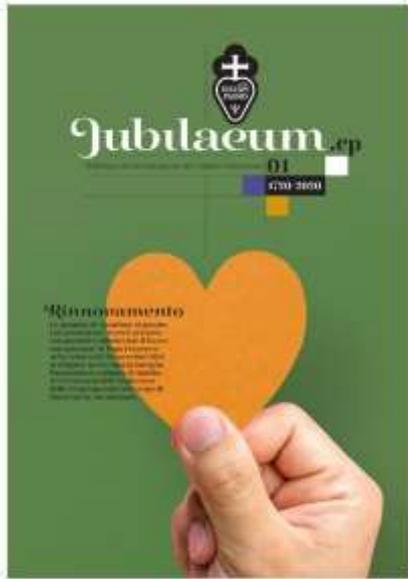
The film is in English. Passionists are free to use dubbing or subtitles.

The Italian version was presented to the MAPRAES capitulars in March 2019.

Above and right two images from the film «St. Paul of the Cross». The two brothers, Paul and John Baptist were ordained priests by pope Benedict XIII on the 7th June 1727. Saint Paul's role was played by two actors: JASON DAVIS (young Paul) and ELMO ANTONELLI (old Paul).



The Jubilaeum.cp Bulletin



The first issue was released on the occasion of the 47th General Chapter.

The Jubilee Commission Bulletin began at the suggestion of the General Council to involve the Congregation more in understanding and in the plans of the Jubilee. Initially it was intended only as a digital magazine, but then it was decided to adapt it to the PIB format which uses both paper and digital versions. Three issues per year are expected, 12 pages in all. There are two pages on the life of the Founder, two pages of commentary on the Jubilee theme (gratitude, prophecy, hope) with comments from our religious, news on the itinerary of the Icon and Jubilee information.

It is an international magazine not only because it is published in three languages, but also because of its workmanship-- it is edited in Rome, with articles written by the religious of the various Configurations, graphic design in Spain, translated into the three official languages of the Congregation and printed in Italy.

The indulgence



The Jubilee is a special "year of grace", an extraordinary occasion and challenge to renew one's life, deepen one's friendship with God, live one's vocation with enthusiasm, announce and testify in a current and credible way the *Memoria Passionis*.

The stimulus and sign of this commitment to conversion is the extraordinary outpouring of the Mercy of God, called the plenary indulgence, granted to those who, **fully reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, and perform the jubilee act (the pilgrimage and a prayer for Pope's intentions).**

Indulgence — Where? How? When?

EVERY DAY

- during the Jubilee year (22 November 2020 – 1 January 2021) in all Passionist retreats/monasteries and convents.
- during Chapters, Assemblies, Congresses of the Congregation, Passionist Educational meetings, retreats preached in our retreat centers or preached by Passionists, as well as at meetings of spiritual, theological, or pastoral formation.

The elderly and the sick and those who for serious reasons cannot leave their house can receive the indulgence if they spiritually participate in the Jubilee celebrations, offering to the merciful Lord their prayers and sufferings, in union with Jesus Crucified, our Mother of Sorrows, Saint Paul of the Cross and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions of the Jubilee (Confession, Communion and prayers for the Pope).



- **N.B.** The Plenary indulgence was requested before the Covid 19 pandemic began and at that time one of the elements for profiting from the indulgence was a pilgrimage, as is tradition in the Church. Thus there were two means by which the indulgence can be received in connection with geographical sites: 1) **Every day** in five locations associated with the presence of St. Paul of the Cross: **Ovada** (AL), the Founder's birthplace; the **monastery of the Presentation of the B.M.V**, on Monte Argentario; the monastery of Sant'Angelo of Vetralla (VT); and the **monastery/basilica of Sts. John and Paul, Rome**. 2) Additionally, **one day** on 4 occasions of choice during the Jubilee year in all Passionist monasteries and convents.
- Covid 19 has led to lockdown restrictions on mobility and therefore the impossibility of pilgrimages. Consequently, there were requests from several parts of the Congregation to be able to celebrate the Jubilee with the indulgence in every Passionist retreat/monastery. At the formal request of the Superior General, of 8 December 2020, the Apostolic Penitentiary replied on 10 December with this message: ***"This Apostolic Penitentiary has received the request submitted (Prot.n. 2020.110) and informs you that what is kindly requested is granted and therefore the Indulgence can be publicly announced. As soon as possible, the regular consignment of the decree will follow"***.



“Do not be robbed of the joy of evangelization”

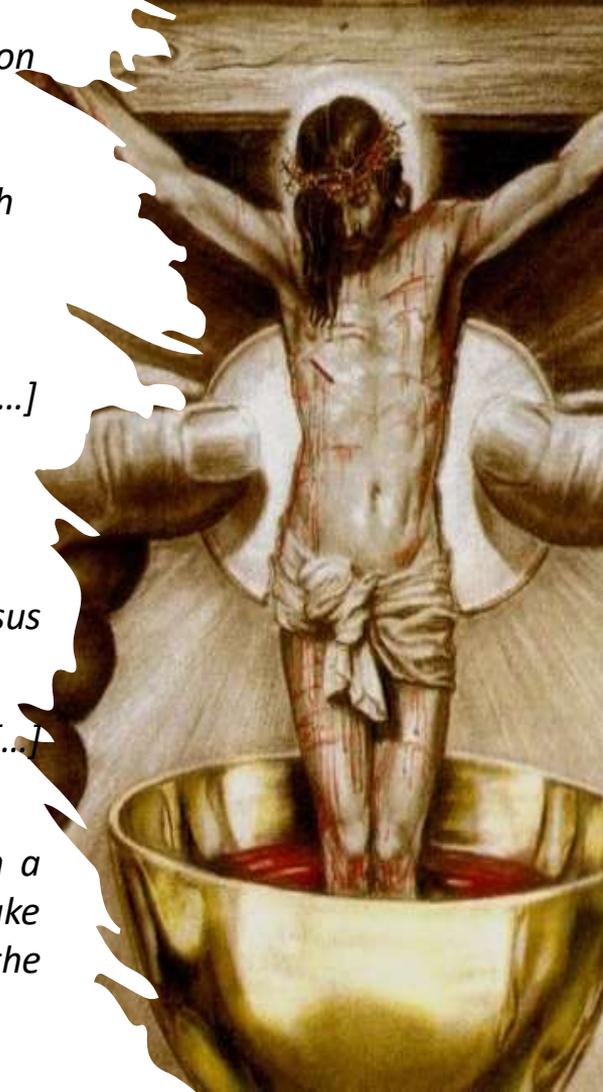
Jubilee Message of Pope Francis

Following are some passages of Pope Francis' message to the Passionists on the occasion of the third Centenary of their foundation and the Passionist Jubilee (15 October 2020)

- *“Contact with the Word of God in prayer and reading the signs of the times in daily events will enable you to perceive the creative presence of the Spirit whose outpouring over time, points out the answers to humanity's expectations. No one can deny the fact that today we live in a world where nothing is the same as before.*
- *You too are asked to identify new lifestyles and new forms of language in order to proclaim the love of the Crucified One, thus giving witness to the heart of your identity.*
- ***Gratitude** is the experience of remembering the past within the context of the Magnificat and walking toward the future with a Eucharistic attitude. Your gratitude is the result of the memoria passionis.*

*Those who are immersed in contemplation and engaged in the proclamation of the love that was given to us from the cross, perpetuate this historical reality, and life is fulfilled and happy. **Prophecy** is thinking and speaking in the Spirit. This is possible for those who experience prayer as the life breath of their soul and can grasp the movements of the Spirit [...] May the memoria passionis make you prophets of the love of the Crucified One in a world that is losing its sense of love. Hope is the ability to see in the seed that dies the sprout of wheat, which yields thirty, sixty, one hundred fold. [...] **Hope** means rejoicing in what exists, instead of complaining about what is missing. In any case, do not allow yourselves to "be robbed of the joy of evangelization" (Ap. Exhort. Evangelii gaudium, 83).*

- It is very important to remember that "Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people." (Ap. Exhort. Evangelii gaudium, 268).*
- Do not tire of accentuating your commitment to the needs of humanity [...] above all towards the crucified of our age.*
- In fact, it is not possible to convince others of God's love only through a verbal and informative proclamation. Concrete gestures are needed to make us experience this love in our own love that is offered by sharing the situations of the crucified."*



International events of the Jubilee

November 22, 2020: OPENING OF THE JUBILEE

September 21 – 24, 2021: INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS "*THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS IN A PLURAL WORLD*" (Lateran University)

August 16 – 25, 2022: MEETING OF YOUNG PASSIONISTS

September 21-25, 2022: MEETING OF THE PASSIONIST BISHOPS

MEETING OF PASSIONIST FORMATORS
DIGITAL MEETINGS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC AREAS

January 1, 2022: CLOSURE OF THE JUBILEE

The Jubilee and the Covid-19 Pandemic

- The Passionist Jubilee coincided with the outbreak of the Covid 19 virus, which disrupted the lives of all people, nations, and the Church. It has also "tainted" in part the Passionist Jubilee program. In fact, the pandemic has prevented large public gatherings: the meetings of young Passionists (postponed until 16-25 August 2022), the meeting of Formators (transformed into digital meetings divided into linguistic and geographical areas), and the meeting of Passionist bishops (postponed to September 2022).
- Yes, restrictions and various lockdowns have prevented pilgrimages, but they have offered the possibility of acquiring the indulgence every day in every Passionist convent and retreat/monastery. They have also helped to make the Jubilee above all an internalized event – smaller gatherings, less folklore, but more interiority. It does not make the Jubilee an exclusive event, but a propitious occasion to renew ourselves inwardly and then to exuberantly share this joy through our personal witness and apostolates.
- The Jubilee is liberation, renewal, and commitment to a system that is respectful of human dignity. With Pope Francis, we pray that the Covid 19 pandemic will lead humanity toward political, social, and commercial systems that are characterized by greater justice and solidarity.

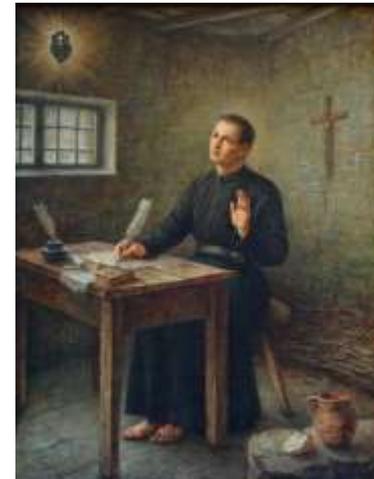


The Jubilee and Commemorative Postage Stamps



Saint Paul of the Cross wrote many letters. In the General Archives of Sts. John and Paul more than two thousand of his letters are preserved. However, some scholars calculate that he wrote many more. Enrico Zoffoli, C.P. suggests the figure of about thirty thousand letters. Imagine how many stamps he would have used if he had been born in the 21st century! The Post Office might have given him an award! Postage stamps were also a highly coveted advertising vehicle, but with the advent of electronics the traditional post office and stamps have lost importance.

However, the Post Offices of some countries have not forgotten that St. Paul of the Cross was a significant postal client. One of the largest and most populous countries, Brazil, issued a postage stamp to celebrate the Passionist Jubilee. Instead, the smallest country in the world, the Vatican, instead has focused directly on the Founder and in September 2021 it will issue a stamp with an image of the Founder. It reproduces the painting that is located in the cell of Castellazzo, where Saint Paul wrote the primitive Rule. The painting portrays him with his pen in his hand, gazing upward, almost waiting for inspirations from heaven. In fact, in his diary Paul wrote: *"I wrote so quick as if there had been someone else in the room, dictating to me"*.



This painting of St. Paul that is located in the small cell of the church of San Carlo in Castellazzo is by the painter Guido Francisi (1886-1945), a great friend of Fr. Germano Ruoppolo.



The Passionist Jubilee is:

A *special year of grace, of mercy, of renewal;*

A *year to express our gratitude to God for the charism inspired by Saint Paul of the Cross, to deepen our appreciation of who we are and to reinterpret in a contemporary way the “Memoria Passionis”;*

A *year to give new fruitfulness to the Passionist charism, to seek new ways of witnessing and announcing to today's world that the Passion of Jesus Christ is the greatest and most wonderful work of divine love;*



A year to listen to the cry of the poor, to grow in closeness and solidarity with the “Crucified” of today;

A year to mature in respect and care for creation;



In short: a year of renewal, new beginnings, searching for new opportunities for life and relationships with God, neighbor and nature.

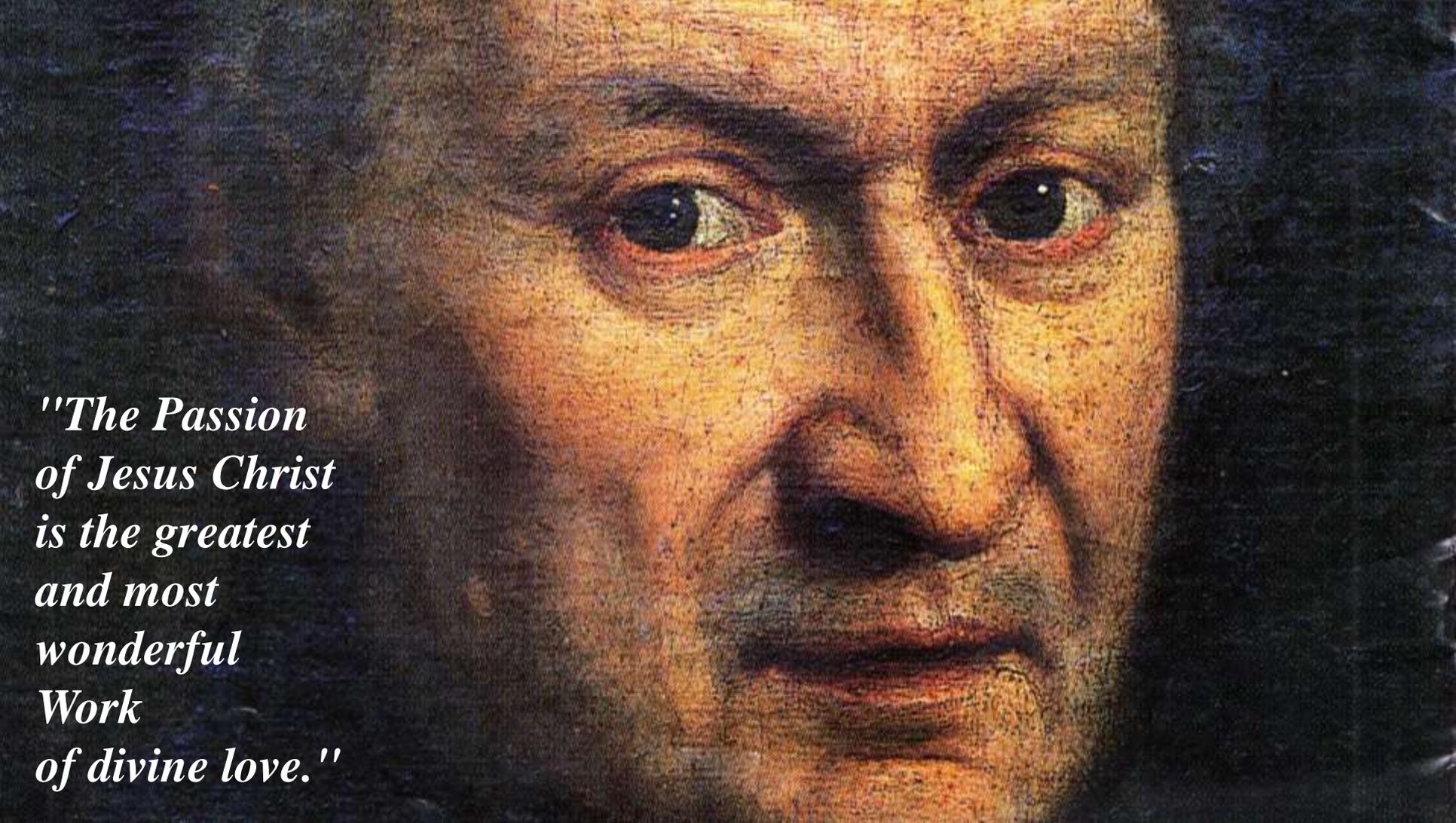
Questions:

What do I intend to do personally to give meaning and value to the Passionist Jubilee?

How can I live the Jubilee in community?

How can I involve the Passionist Family and share the grace of the Jubilee with the laity?



A close-up, high-resolution portrait of Jesus Christ, focusing on his eyes and facial features. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of his skin and the intensity of his gaze. The background is dark and indistinct.

*"The Passion
of Jesus Christ
is the greatest
and most
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Work
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