



Holy Cross Province News

June 2021

June Birthdays

- 9 Phillip Donlan
- 10 Justin Nelson Alphonse
- 12 John Rockenbach
Cedric Pisegna
- 21 David Colhour

Ordinations

- 2 John Auram
- 3 Joe Moons
Tu-Jin Paul Kim
- 4 John Schork
Jack Conley
- 13 Clemente Barrón
Alex Steinmiller
Richard Parks
Jim Strommer
Joe Mitchell
- 29 Cedric Pisegna

Updates...

- The Provincial Council meets June 29-30 via Zoom videoconferencing.
- Holy Cross Province will hold its Province Assembly June 8-9 via Zoom. Please [click here](#) if you have not registered yet.
- Holy Cross Province will hold its Summer Institute via Zoom, June 21-25. There are 14 people from across the Province who will participate. Don Senior, CP; Jack Conley, CP; and David Colhour, CP, will lead the sessions. Don Webber, CP; David Colhour, CP; and John Schork, CP, will facilitate the week.
- Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center in Citrus Heights, California, is holding its annual Family Fiesta on Sunday, June 6. The event is in-person on the retreat center grounds. Current COVID-19 protocols and guidance will be followed. For more information, visit Christ the King's [website](#).

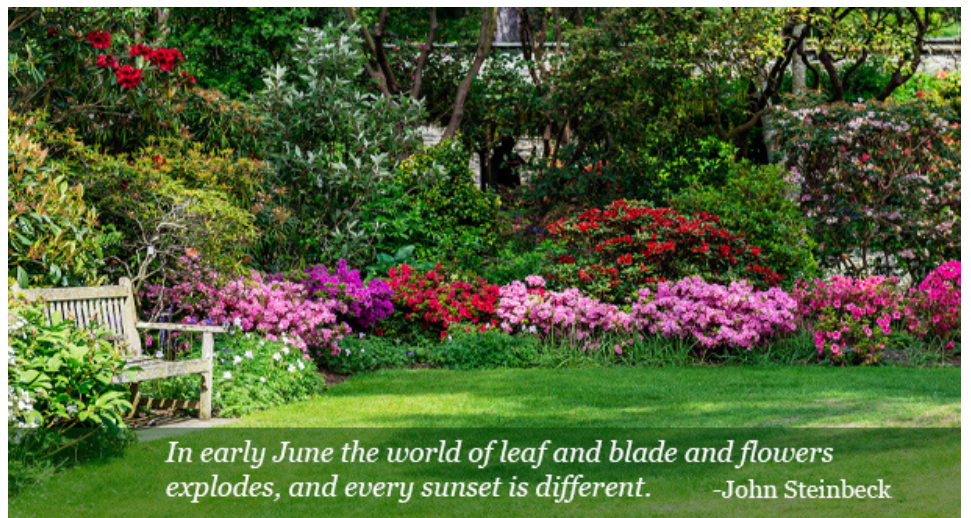
LOOKING FORWARD...

June 11
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 12
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Blessed Lorenzo Maria Salvi, CP

June 20
Father's Day (USA)

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*In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers
explodes, and every sunset is different. -John Steinbeck*

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center...

As Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center begins to open up, there is enthusiasm and energy to begin anew. Clemente Barrón, CP, recently met with a select number of leaders to plan for the next Retiro de Mujeres en Español (Women's Retreat in Spanish). The retreat is held annually during the first weekend of August.

Like everything else, this retreat was cancelled last year, and the team is working extra hard to get back to where they were two years ago. The theme is *María, Madre de Jesús, de la Iglesia y de toda la Humanidad* (Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mother of the Church and of Humanity).

Since 2015, this retreat has welcomed 189 women, many of them annual retreatants, coming from as far away as Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, California. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.



Celebrations and Summer Ministries Abound...

On Wednesday, May 20, the Passionists of St. Vincent Strambi Community gathered for a celebration dinner for several members of the community. May 20 is Irish Passionist Conor Quinn, CP's birthday, the school year at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) ended, and John Auram, CP, from Papua New Guinea and the Australian Province, graduated from CTU.

Summer ministries are already underway: Phillip Donlan, CP, is at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat and Conference Center in Detroit, Michigan, doing pastoral work and various other ministries. Conor is in Louisville, Kentucky, for his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program and Cristian Martinez, CP, is at Thomas Berry Place in Jamaica, New York, working on pastoral ministry. They all return to Chicago in August for the Fall term at CTU.



A little social time before dinner.



Everyone got their own candle to blow out.

60 Years of Passionist Priesthood...

Congratulations to Francis Keenan, CP, who celebrated his 60th Jubilee of Ordination on May 27. Frank celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass at St. Benedict Home where he is a resident. Several of his Passionist brothers were there to help Frank celebrate. Refreshments followed Mass.



Staff at St. Ben's printed a sign recognizing Frank's Jubilee.



Frank offered prayers of Thanksgiving for his years as a priest.



Frank is seated.

Standing (l-r): David Colhour, CP; Pat Brennan, CP; Frank's niece, Joan Boudreau; Don Webber, CP; Frank's nephew, Jim Boudreau; and John Schork, CP.

Pentecost Sunday...

After delivering Conor Quinn, CP, to Louisville, Kentucky, for his CPE summer program, David Colhour, CP, and John Auram, CP, continued on to visit our Holy Family Community in Birmingham, Alabama. David and John celebrated Mass with Vimal Backiyaraj, CP, at St. Mary's Parish in Fairfield, Alabama.

Pictured (l-r): Phil Paxton, CP; John Auram, CP; Vimal Backiyaraj, CP; and David Colhour, CP.



Class of 2021...

Birmingham, Alabama

Congratulations to the Pre-K Graduation Class of 2021 at Holy Family Catholic Academy in Birmingham, Alabama!



Congratulations to Decarieah Holyfield, Valedictorian, and Lindsey Torres, Salutatorian, of the 2021 graduating class at Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School!

Holy Family Cristo Rey's graduation was held on Saturday, May 29. Congratulations to all the graduates. Best wishes and prayers as you begin the next chapter of your lives!



Chicago, Illinois

Congratulations to John Auram, CP, who graduated from Catholic Theological Union (CTU). John is from Papua New Guinea and has been studying at CTU since 2017.

After earning a certificate from the Institute of Religious Formation and an MA in Pastoral Studies, John was supposed to return to Papua New Guinea, last year. Due to the pandemic travel restrictions, he had to stay in Chicago. John continued to pursue studies at CTU, graduating this year, with an additional MA in Spiritual Ministries and a certificate in Spiritual Direction from Claret Center.

Congratulations John!



Celebrating 25 years in Nashville...

On Sunday, May 16, the Feast of St. Gemma Galgani, the Community of Passionist Partners (CPP) in Nashville, Tennessee, gathered at the Cathedral of the Incarnation to celebrate 25 years since the group was established. Provincial Superior Joe Moons, CP, and Bob Weiss, CP, were there to celebrate the Mass.

Ken Schmitt, founder and leader of the Nashville CPPs accepted an award from Joe Moons, CP, on behalf of the group. The inscription reads:

*The Passionists of Holy Cross Province
Recognize 25 years of Passionist Partnership
in Nashville, Tennessee.*

*The "Charism"
lives through your ministry.*

May 16, 2021

May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts!



The award presented to the Nashville CPPs.



Joe Moons, CP, congratulates Ken Schmitt after presenting the award.



The Cathedral was filled for the special Mass.



Ken Schmitt and Bob Weiss, CP.

Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross

The Worldwide Passionist Family • Engaging Laudato Si'



"Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the Earth itself." – Pope Francis, Laudato Si' (66)

On May 24, 2021, at a special international Zoom session for all Provincials and Vice-Provincials of the Passionist Congregation, the Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, CP, launched the Passionist initiative to engage Laudato Si'. In his message, Fr. Joachim said: "I not only invite, but I call upon all members of the Passionist family to commit to engage with Laudato Si' by your participation in the program *Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross*." (To view a video of the gathering [click here](#).)

The program, *Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross*, is part of the worldwide Passionist Congregation's response to Pope Francis' "urgent appeal" that all Catholic entities build a Laudato Si' Action Platform over the next 7 years. [Click here](#) to view the message of Pope Francis.

The Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development debuted the highly anticipated Laudato Si' Action Platform at a press conference May 25, 2021. [Click here](#) to read more about it.

Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross has as its goal ecological and evangelical conversion inspired by our shared contemplative engagement with Laudato Si' in the light of our Passionist charism. In the words of our Superior General, "We desire to listen and hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, and find concrete ways to act in favor of justice, solidarity and peace."

Toward that end, Passionists worldwide are embarking on a seven year journey toward implementing a Laudato Si' integral ecology action plan, called for by Pope Francis of all religious congregations and measured by the seven goals in the graphic to the right. ([Click here](#) to learn more.)

We, in Holy Cross Province, have already begun this journey in many ways as we live out the call of St. Paul of the Cross "to make our lives and our apostolate an authentic and credible witness on behalf of justice and human dignity." We see the principles of Laudato Si' throughout our Passionist Family, particularly in our Vision Fulfillment Process and the creation of a Laudato Si' Vision Fulfillment Team, borne from the same Provincial Chapter which nurtured the Congregational Laudato Si' initiative.



Stay tuned for more information on *Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross*, a six-session program of formation and action for the Passionist Family to engage Laudato Si'. This will launch the Congregation-wide effort in every Passionist entity across the world.

The movement of the Spirit is among us. May our hearts be open to the many ways it is inviting us to keep alive the memory of the Passion in today's world.