

September 2021

Volume 6

Number 9

Passionist News Notes

St Paul of the Cross Province



Date	Birthday
2	HAVEY, Lee POWERS, John
4	MOCCIA, Bonaventure
5	CUSACK, Paul
8	TURNER, Daniel
15	CASEY, Kevin MCEACHERN, Bernard
19	CINQUEGRANI, David
22	JONES, Joseph
23	BECK, Edward
26	MCCANN, Thomas
28	DUNN, Stephen

Date	Professed
5	SKORKA, Terence
8	TURNER, Daniel

Date	Ordained
10	RYWALT, Lawrence




**THE PASSIONISTS
OF ST PAUL OF THE CROSS PROVINCE**
 Cordially invites you to the

**FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS AS
PASSIONIST OF**

Jonathan of the Lamb of God (Ramos Torres), CP

AUGUST 13, 2021
4:00 PM

My name is Jonathan Ramos-Torres. I was born in Moca, Puerto Rico on May 1, 1996. I grew up in San Sebastián, a small town in the northwest side of the island. As a child, I liked to study, to be in contact of nature and play sports. I have felt God's call to serve him since I was very young. During my teenage years I had the privilege to serve my local church as altar server, catechist and youth ministry leader. I also had the opportunity to be part in mission trips to El Salvador and Colombia.

I knew the Passionists since I was a kid from my hometown parish and later on I started to discern about religious life. I initiated a Passionist aspirancy program for two years in August 2014 where I studied Philosophy. I completed my bachelor's degree in June 2017 and worked as a high school religious education teacher. In August 2018 I started a Passionist postulancy program in St. Paul of the Cross province. I lived for a year in Oscar Romero formation house in Wilkes-Barre, PA where I studied English. For my second year of postulancy, I was sent to a ministry experience at Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, NY. I got accepted to officially enter the Congregation starting my novitiate in July 3, 2020 in Querétaro, Mexico. After finished my novitiate, I professed my first vows in the Passionist Congregation in August 13, 2021. I am currently assigned to continue my formation as a theology student in Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.



Confrater Jonathan pronounces his vows as a Passionist. Our Provincial Fr. Jim then places the Passionist Sign on his chest and gives him his Cross and Rule as a Passionist. Cristian Martinez, CP is holding the book.



Fr. Jim Price, CP
Provincial Council liaison for formation

Jonathan Ramos-Torres., CP

FR. Jim O'Shea CP,
Provincial



Our Passionists at the Profession

Standing in the top row: Patrick Geinzer, Victor Hoagland, Curtis Kiddy, William Murphy, Evans Fwamba, James Barry, Michael Greene, Samuel Joseph, Lionel Pacheco, James Price

Standing in middle row: Paul Wierichs, Michael Stomber, Paul Vaeth, Kenan Peters, Thomas Brislin, Albert Cabrera, John Fidelis McMillian, Xavier Montalvo Aviles, Jerome Bracken, John Powers, Luis Quiles, Jim O'Shea

Seated in row 1: Joseph Jones, Luis Daniel Guivas, Cristian Martinez, Jonathan Ramos, Theophane Cooney

The Passionists

of Holy Cross Province
and St. Paul of the Cross Province

Office of Mission Effectiveness



ANNOUNCEMENT

Holy Cross Province and St. Paul of the Cross Province are delighted to announce the launch of a new series of educational and formational opportunities throughout the year. Prayer, reflection and study are the central and constant tasks of our formation as Christians. Albert Einstein said, "Intellectual growth should commence at birth and only cease at death." The apostle Peter wrote, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity" 2 Peter 3:18. Growth in our spiritual lives is a biblical imperative. The expectation of Scripture isn't that we grow old together, but that we grow in our faith together.

St. Paul of the Cross often referred to his whole-hearted commitment to on-going learning. To Fr. Paul Cerruti, his former spiritual director, St. Paul of the Cross, at age 47, wrote in 1741: "God, who chooses the weak and ignorant of this world, has deigned to give me some ability for learning... I have been engaged in studies to which I have made an effort to continue as much as possible."

The goal of this complimentary *Passionist Family Formation e-Learning* (PFFeL) is to help deepen our understanding and appreciation of our Christian faith as a Passionist Family who keep our focus on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Presentations will be offered by Passionists and other faculty at Catholic Theological Union. Having the experience and imagination of scholars and experts from Catholic Theological Union will help us deepen our faith and offers us a further opportunity to integrate the Passionist charism in our daily lives.

Passionist Family Formation e-Learning will be a cohesive course of six 90-minute sessions each year, offering a full perspective on scripture, spirituality and Catholic theology. Participants will be asked to commit to the entire set of six sessions. This program will supplement, not replace, any Passionist charism formation activities on the local level.

The sessions will be live, online (Zoom) and open to all lay and vowed Passionists of both American provinces. At the outset, the program foresees multi-year cycles, each cycle consisting of six 90-minute sessions per year (Fall through Spring). Each session will contain both presentation and Q&A periods. The sessions will be held on the second Thursday of the month as listed on the following page and will begin at 6:30 PM, Chicago time. There will be a Passionist host who will oversee the entire program, helping participants prepare for each session. The host will assist participants to integrate the specific topic with our Passionist spirituality.

Use this link to register: <https://form.jotform.com/212095360138148>. If you have any questions, contact Fr. Don Webber, CP, at pffel2120@passionist.org. Looking forward to serving you with this special resource that will support and strengthen us in our mission as a Passionist Family.



This program draws on Provinces' collaboration with Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago. Passionist seminarians have attended CTU since its beginning in 1968 and many Passionists have enjoyed sabbaticals there. Holy Cross Province has sponsored laity for a week at CTU for its Summer Institute in June and sponsored individuals who desire to pursue a CTU pastoral degree (Master of Arts in Ministry) for ministry in the Province. We look forward to these programs continuing, complemented by our new series of educational and formational opportunities.



Session 1 - People of Faith
Robin Ryan, CP

September 9, 2021

The opening session of the course will focus on topics that lie at the foundation of our lives as Catholic Christians. We will explore the meaning of revelation and the ways in which people experience God's self-revelation. We will also discuss the dynamics of faith – faith as confession, commitment and confidence. And since in this course we will not only be studying theology but also doing theology, we will reflect on what it means to engage in the work of “theologizing”.

Session 2 - Creation and Covenant
Dianne Bergant, CSA

October 14, 2021

This session will begin with an overview of the Old Testament, focusing on two key components of the Pentateuch or “Torah”: the account of creation that begins the Pentateuch, and the notion of the Covenant that crowns the story of the Exodus. The account of creation in the opening chapters of Genesis reflects the Bible's view of the origin and destiny of humanity. The account of the forging of the Covenant at Sinai reveals God's relationship to the people Israel and the basis for their responsibility to God. Both notions are important for the theology of creation that is becoming more and more crucial today.

Session 3 - The Call to Prophecy
Kate Oxsen, PhD

November 11, 2021

The emergence of the prophetic movement in Israel is also a key component of the Old Testament and will be the focus of this session. Major prophets such as Elijah, Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, and Isaiah speak as the “conscience” of Israel, challenging the infidelities of the monarchy and calling the people back to their bond of love with God. We are aware that such a role continues in the church and our world—in those people of integrity who speak the truth in times of need.

Session 4 - The Gospels as the Heart of the New Testament
Don Senior, CP

February 10, 2022

The Four Gospels are the primary source for the Christian encounter with Jesus Christ. This session will trace the Catholic perspective on the emergence and purpose of the Gospels; their rich diversity; and their unique way of proclaiming the mission, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As Pope Francis has reminded us, the heart of the Christian life is an encounter with the Jesus of the Gospels.

Session 5 - Paul, Apostle for the Twenty-First Century
Don Senior, CP

March 10, 2022

The Letters of Paul form a major part of the New Testament and continue to serve as a challenge to the ongoing renewal of the Church. This session will recall the inaugural experience of Paul and some of the key convictions of his theology, particularly his emphasis on the dying and rising of Christ as the pattern for Christian life. Some of the most powerful images for the life of the church are found in Paul's writings.

Session 6 - Gazing on the Face of Christ
Robin Ryan, CP

April 14, 2022

Every Christian has an image of Jesus Christ that informs their faith. This image is like a mosaic that is comprised of pieces drawn from many different sources and experiences. It is important for believers to allow that image to interact with key sources in the Christian tradition: the New Testament portraits of Jesus; the official teachings formulated in the councils of the early church; the work of classical theologians and spiritual writers; and contemporary reflection on Jesus articulated from a variety of perspectives. In this session participants will be invited to reflect on their own portrait of Jesus and allow it to be enriched and refined through interaction with these sources.

Mass at Jamaica with Bishop Neil Tiedemann, CP



Left to right: Lionel Pacheco, Francis Finnegan, Jerry Bracken, Paul Vaeth, Bishop Neil Tiedemann, Edwin Moran, Br. Michael Stomber, Thomas Brislin, the Rector.

Fr. Rick's response to the 2021 Earthquake in Haiti



We cannot be more grateful for the support, prayers, and love felt for the Haitian people during this time, as we recover from the latest earthquake and find our way on the other side of another hurricane.

We want to be sure we're keeping you updated on exactly what we're doing, and how we're supporting these efforts.

To learn more, visit:

- our real time [2021 earthquake response page](#),
- follow us on [facebook](#), [twitter](#), or [instagram](#)!

Update from Fr. Rick—One week Later

Dear friends,

Our strategy is well underway, in collaboration with local authorities (State or Church or both), and is fourfold:

1. Our medical team is working daily with the people at the various tragic sites, with their base at Port Salut,
2. St Luc Hospital (among other hospitals) is receiving medically evaluated patients,
3. We are sending loads of supplies daily to our emergency medical team, to other St Luc clinics in the affected areas as they restart their function, and to hospitals and clinics in Jeremie and Les Cayes as we receive requests,
4. We are starting to put a solid roof over people's heads.

This is all in progress.

We have some roofing activity starting in Rendel, Morne Blanche (Nippes) and Aquin, but on a larger scale the St Luke leaders have practical plans for roofing for all affected St Luke staff, and families of school children, in the hard hit areas along the fault line. This may call for as many as 600 roofs. We are trying to avoid tarps and tents, and provide roof shelter that might be a first step to a new "house".

My own team and I just returned from our third trip to the south, delivering these loads of requested goods, and then going by motorcycle and by foot through muddy rivers, to visit communities and see where our teams are working and what more is needed.

On this trip we went to Jeremie, Maniche, Ranbo, Port Salut and Aquin.

We had a surprise on arriving to Jeremie late last night with a loaded truck: the suspension bridge into Jeremie, with 16 cables on each side that suspend it, had 3 broken cables on the west side.

Also, since there are many places to buy scrap metal by the pound for export and recycling, someone with a huge wrench removed several the huge iron bolts where the cables originate.

Talk about being "penny wise and pound foolish." Weakening a feeble lifeline to the city for a few dollars.

Traffic had been crossing the bridge for all these days since the earthquake, but a heavy truck passing on the side of the three broken cables yesterday buckled the bridge, and put it in danger of collapse.

So the only crossing allowed, as we got there at 10pm, was by motorcycle and foot.

In any other country the bridge would be condemned. But to condemn that bridge totally right now would be to condemn Jeremie city and beyond. It's the only practical way in.

A new temporary dirt road will soon be cut further to the east, where traffic can drive through the river shallows, until a bridge can be built

The scene at the bridge was phenomenal.

Food roasting on open fires, glowing on the dark street, rum flowing everywhere, overloaded motorcycles bobbing and weaving, bringing goods to the other side, clobbering foot passengers with their enormous cargo (including enough carbonated beverages to fill a lake, and tons of the ever present "cheese twists" or Cheetos.)

There were men rolling 50 gallon drums of fuel over the bridge by hand, and thieves were not taking. They are so good at their craft that they could steal the eyes out of your head.

I felt like I was in a scene from a movie about old time pirates at a Caribbean port town.

If, in your mind, you peel the thieves out of the scene, the human ingenuity and persistence is astounding and well worth imitating.

Instead of cheetos, we were crossing with high level intravenous antibiotics and ER/ICU medicines, syringes, IV fluids, oral medicines of all stripes, bandages and casting material, lidocaine and sutures.

Not sure how we would get our 400 boxes across the bridge, where Nebez already had a truck waiting for us on the other side, we settled on using three wheelbarrows and two motorcycles, instead of a "combit" by hand.

I had to surrender any hope of the boxes arriving to St Antoine Hospital right side up, uncrushed and unopened, as we had meticulously packed them.

We succeeded after 10 crossings, largely because in order to pack as many boxes as possible on a motorcycle, and not having large bags or sacks on hand for this unforeseen complication, we used body bags as sacks.

It is amazing how people ceded the way to us, owing to their doubt about the contents.

We got everything to St Antoine Hospital, Jeremie Ville, late last night.

It is more and more evident the earthquake is an off road/off radar emergency. It is not, like the last time, primarily a collapse of populated mega-centers. It means, as is evident if you visit, that there was more damage done by landslides and rolling boulders, to people who live and farm on high mountainsides, than to the cities.

Many of these landslides left scars on the sides of mountains, and became the burial ground for those taken under by the avalanche.

On the mountain pass at a place called "Fam pa dra" (a strange name meaning "women are not sheets"), we stopped to see what we once knew to be a high peak, look now like a crater.

The farmers of the area came to us as we looked on, and we had a quiet prayer. They told us us how many in the community were dead under the rubble, and about the 6 they were able to save.

These very poor people are community heroes. It only a minute they were horrified, stunned, and yet began a vigorous search and rescue for their neighbors.

Because the damage is not central in a city, help is characterized by long distance search and rescue, or in biblical language, by the work of the Good Shepherd seeking the lost sheep.

For believers, prayers for the dead recognize the passage of the soul from a life of flesh and blood to a life of light and grace, as the souls are made holy, by God's Holy Spirit.

We should all, each in our customary way, add to the prayers for the rite of passage of the souls of these people who died so tragically.

Sometimes there are messages from those who have crossed, to us on this side of the grave.

We just received a donation with many levels of meaning.

The father of Molly, a young vibrant woman who died when our former hospital collapsed in the 2010 earthquake, just sent what was left in Molly's personal account with this message: "Molly would want this to be of help to the Haitian people." When I read this, I was totally speechless.

For us and for countless others, this earthquake has reopened many painful memories of sadness and loss.

And yet, in such a tremendously motivating way, from across a decade and across the Great Divide, the will of Molly is made known and becomes of practical and inspiring help, compassion from victim to victim.

Only the great Heart of God makes this possible.

Please pray for those who are struggling and suffering, as well as for those who have died.

We so appreciate the strength of your prayer, and your sacrifices to help at this urgent moment.

Fr Rick Frechette CP,DO

August 21, 2021