



# *IN BETWEEN*

**Holy Cross Province**  
**September 2021**



## **Founding of the Passionist Congregation, Jubilee 300 Prayer**

*Lord, grant on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Congregation,  
as the Passionist Family undertakes the renewal of its mission,  
that through the intercession of our Mother of Sorrows  
and St. Paul of the Cross, we may move ...*

*From standing at the foot of the Cross,  
to exercising the ministry of the God of compassion...*

*From a grateful memory of the past  
to nurturing a Passionate love for our Congregation...*

*From gazing at Christ on the Cross, to seeing Christ in the crucified...*

*From mere optimism, to trusting in the God of the Covenant...*

*Lord, look upon us with love; look, upon us with your compassion.*

*Amen.*

*May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts.*

Dear Passionist Family:

We are coming to the end of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee celebration for the founding of the Passionist Congregation. At our next Province Assembly in Houston, TX, June 7-9, 2022, we are planning a special closing celebration of the Jubilee.

The pandemic has allowed us more time to reflect on the living memory of the Crucified One, Jesus Christ, and the crucified of today, who were always on his mind and heart. We still have some ways to go with the pandemic, so let us keep those who are still affected by it in our prayers.

In the last few months, I have visited six of our Passionist Communities, and, with the help of God, life is slowly moving forward. Our communities are doing well as their local ministries begin to come around.

### **Br. Kurt Wernert, C.P.'s 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee:**

We are blessed to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee on September 18, 2021 in Louisville, KY, of Br. Kurt Wernert, C.P., as a Passionist Brother. We are grateful for his many years of ministry in our Province, especially now as Director of Senior Care in Louisville.



The Province is very appreciative of his dedication and detailed attention to the care of our senior men at Sacred Heart Monastery. Kurt, I thank you personally for all you have done over the years, and I pray for your continued good health in the years to come as you live out your Passionist vocation.

**From Fr. Don Webber, C.P., Director of the Office of Mission Effectiveness:**

Greetings Passionist Family!

The attached PDF file is a new formation program for the Passionist Families of both St. Paul of the Cross and Holy Cross Provinces. Frs. Joe Moons, C.P., and Jim O’Shea, C.P., support this new series of presentations as a way to grow in our call to the Passionist charism. We will be relying on the exceptional resources of Catholic Theological Union, inviting teachers to offer presentations throughout the year. See the attachment for a further description of the particulars and where to register.



Hoping your summer is going well and you remain in good health.

**Laudato Si’: Passion of the Earth – Wisdom of the Cross:**

As a Passionist Family, we are part of the larger Congregational story that is being told and unfolding. Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P., General Superior, is launching a Passionist Congregational Initiative on Laudato Si’: *Passion of the Earth – Wisdom of the Cross*.



This initiative, begun by Pope Francis, is being shared with the entire Congregation and being incorporated into the Passionist story worldwide. It is our privilege to be a part of this larger developing story.

I have included Lesson #1 with this *In Between*. You and your communities and families are invited to gather and share around the issues and opportunities this lesson presents for us in creating a healthy planet for all our brothers and sisters, and especially for the future of the children.

**People in Transition:**

**Fr. Vimal Backiyaraj, C.P.** – Fr. Vimal will be leaving St. Mary’s and Holy Family Parishes in September and moving to Louisville, KY. He will be enrolling in a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program, widely used by ministers across the country to develop their pastoral skills, usually in a hospital setting. Let us keep Fr. Vimal in our prayers as he furthers his education.

**Fr. Bob Weiss, C.P.** – Fr. Bob will be moving to Holy Family in Birmingham, AL, during the month of September to support Fr. Phil Paxton, C.P., as pastor of both parishes. Fr. Bob will be a great addition to the community there. Our prayers go out to Fr. Bob as he shares his ministry gifts with the people of Birmingham.

**Upcoming Events:**

- September 27-30, 2021 Provincial Council Meeting, Dublin, TX.
- October 7-13 , 2021 Passionist Alumni Reunion, Louisville, KY.
- October 13-21, 2021 St. Vincent Strambi Community - Provincial Visitation, Chicago, IL.
- October 17, 2021 Phillip Donlan, C.P., Diaconate Ordination, Chicago, IL.
- October 25-27, 2021 CMSM Safeguard Workshop, Lutz, FL, or via Zoom.
- October 27-November 9 Provincial visit to Sts. John and Paul Monastery, Rome, Italy.
- November 8-9, 2021 Province Retreat Center Board meeting, Houston, TX.
- November 16-17, 2021 Provincial Council meeting, via Zoom.
- December 9-16, 2021 Provincial Council Meeting, Park Ridge, IL.

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- June 7-9, 2022 Province Assembly - Holy Name Retreat Center, Houston, TX.
- September 8-21, 2022 Passionist Congregation General Synod, Rome, Italy.
- September 22-24, 2022 Configuration of Jesus Crucified Meeting, Rome, Italy.

**Conclusion:**

Let us pray for the continued success and energy of our visioning process that we have developed these last few years, and let us pray for the projects that are moving forward. As we move into Fall, may the Lord prepare us for a new Spring always in the light of His love for each of us as a family of God.



God bless,

Joe Moons, C.P.  
Provincial Superior

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