



IN BETWEEN

Holy Cross Province
November 2021



*Wondrous and splendid is your creation, O Mighty Father.
May your Kingdom reign forever in Heaven and on Earth.
We are called at this moment in time in a special way
to be witnesses for your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Our mission is to boldly assert by our actions
within the Passionist Family and beyond that one's station in life
is not characterized by race or ethnicity
since we were uniquely anointed with a lovely soul and your precious divinity.
Father, you did not create a greater, or lesser, woman or man.
Nor did your Son endure his sorrowful passion
for inequality between his brothers and sisters.
So, Lord, help us find a way to transform each other
into deserving and rightful heirs to your Kingdom
less we perish in the abyss of our own doing.
We humbly ask that you forgive us for our thoughts, words, and deeds
and for what we have not done to bring about the peace that you gave us.
Ever-present Holy Spirit;
you are our source of comfort in turbulent times.
Guide and grant us the grace and courage to do what Jesus would do.
We ask you through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Tomie Magee
Member of the Board of Directors, Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center

“I don't know what I don't know.”

Dear Passionist Family,

In this issue of my *In Between*, I wish to share with you some of my personal thoughts on God's call to us through our baptism. What does it mean to be a member of the Passionist Family and God's family? What would help us be able to see each other as a brother and sister in Jesus, with God as Our Father?

When I reflect on the phrase *“I don't know what I don't know”* and the prayer above, I realize how true those words are in my life. I am reminded of the passage from Mathew's Gospel, Chapter 25:

Jesus will say to a group of some of us, who did not know they had helped Jesus:

‘For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“And the Lord will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

Then again, Jesus will say to a group of some others among us, who did not know they did not help Jesus:

‘For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’”

“And he (Jesus) will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’”

I realize that in many ways I found myself in both groups. Sometimes it came down to the fact that *I didn’t know what I didn’t know*. My years as pastor at Holy Family Parish in Birmingham, AL, and my nine years in India helped me to learn much of what I did not know before, but it also made me realize how much more I still may not know. Which one of us can say *“I know what I don’t know?”*



Paul Wadell’s opening statement and Elizabeth Velarde’s video in the September 15, 2021, issue of Holy Cross Province’s *Vision Fulfillment Newsletter* introduced the need for a dialogue among the Passionist Family on *Cultural and Racial Diversity*.

As we read the signs of the times, we may come to realize that *we don’t know what we don’t know*. This realization can lead us to a more just and enriching experience in who we are as sons and daughters of God, the Father. Thus, may we become aware that each of us are created in the Father’s loving image. It is He who has entrusted us to each other as brothers and sisters in the name of Jesus.

As a Passionist Family, I invite us all to walk together so that we may learn what we do not know and help teach each other about what we do know. In this way, may we be enriched by our cultural and racial diversity together as God’s family. It is a graced opportunity for us to journey this sacred path together.

The Passion of the Earth – Wisdom of the Cross: Laudato Si' Action Platform:

At the invitation of the Conference of Major Superior of Men in the USA (CMSM) and the Leadership Council of Women Religious in the USA (LCWR), the Provincial Council has committed Holy Cross Province to engage in the *Laudato Si' Action Platform* that is attached to this email. Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P., has already made a public commitment of our Congregation to participate in the *Laudato Si' Action Platform*.

This commitment marks our willingness:

- To take up the “urgent appeal” of Laudato Si’ to listen and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor by making it a community priority.
- To further our ongoing ecological conversion by bringing our members into a greater understanding of their socio-ecological vocation within the spirit of our charism.
- To integrate each of the seven Laudato Si' goals into our life and apostolates by developing a systematic process to transition to an integral ecology.
- To take bold concrete actions in the spirit of Laudato Si' to address the multiple crises afflicting our common home – the planet and its people.
- To make this commitment in faith, hope and love, knowing that we are participating in God’s work of transformation, “for we know that things can change” (LS 13).



Save the date - Laudato Si' Action Platform launch for U.S. Passionist Provinces:

Please join the Passionist Families of St. Paul of the Cross and Holy Cross Provinces December 2, 2021, from 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm, EST (12:00 pm, CST| 10:00 am, PST) via Zoom, as we seek to develop our personal and community commitment to the goals of Laudato Si’ in our journey with the Universal Church.

Be inspired by Passionist stories of how we are already making Laudato Si' a reality. This program will offer you an opportunity to connect to the resources for the Action Platform Goals and the Congregational program, *Passion of the Earth - Wisdom of the Cross*.

The program is being conducted by the Holy Cross Province Laudato Si' Vision Fulfillment Team. You may pre-register here: <https://bit.ly/3jN1WLY>.

Phillip Donlan, C.P., – Priestly Ordination:

We are arranging to have our transitional deacon, Phillip Donlan, C.P., be ordained as a Passionist Priest on Saturday, May 14, 2022. His ordination will take place in St. Agnes Catholic Church, Louisville, KY, at 10:00 am, EDT. Bishop Neil Tiedemann, C.P., Episcopal Vicar of Brooklyn, NY, will ordain Phillip. Following the ordination, lunch will be provided in the new St. Agnes Parish Hall. Accommodation arrangements are being finalized at a local hotel for those who wish to attend. More information regarding these arrangements will be provided at a future date.

We had a wonderful celebration for the diaconate ordination of Phillip on October 17, 2021, at Our Lady of Africa Catholic Church in Chicago, IL. The ordination was followed by a reception back at St. Vincent Strambi Community. Phillip’s parents, Jerry and Sue Donlan, were able to join us for the celebration and stay for a few days. We are grateful for their part in

fostering Phillip’s vocation. Let us keep Phillip in our prayers as he now prepares to continue God’s call as a Passionist.

Dr. Michael Cunningham appointed Co-Director of Passionist Weekend Retreats:

As another important step in the Province’s cultivation of lay leadership for our retreat center ministry, I have appointed Dr. Michael Cunningham as Co-Director of Passionist Weekend Retreats at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center. This appointment was effective as the new season of retreats began in September of this year. Michael, who is beginning his fourth year as Retreat Center Director at Mater Dolorosa, has welcomed this additional responsibility, and will be working with Michael Higgins, C.P., as Co-Director of Passionist Weekend Retreats. We are grateful for Michael accepting this new appointment and assure him of our prayers.

Upcoming Events:

- November 16-17, 2021 Provincial Council meeting, via Zoom.
- December 2, 2021 Sharing on Laudato Si’, via Zoom.
- December 14-16, 2021 Provincial Council meeting, Park Ridge, IL.
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- January 20-27, 2022 Holy Name Community Provincial Visitation, Houston, TX.
- January 27-February 2, 2022 Holy Family Community Provincial Visitation, Birmingham, AL.
- **May 9-12, 2022 Meeting of Vowed members, Detroit, MI.**
- May 14, 2022 Ordination of Phillip Donlan, C.P., St. Agnes Parish, Louisville, KY.
- **June 6-9, 2022 Province Assembly, Holy Name Passionist 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:

This is my favorite time of year where we celebrate the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. They are a trinity that blesses us all. May these seasons be a true grace-filled time for you and your family. 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”