



IN BETWEEN

Holy Cross Province
February 2022



Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus
(We stand before You, Holy Spirit)

Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for a Church
Synod of Synodality
of all Catholics, bishops, and laity alike,
about governance and discernment
proclaimed by Pope Francis

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.*



(About this prayer: In the mid 1960's every session of the **Second Vatican Council** began with the prayer *Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods, and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville [died 636].)

Dear Passionist Family,

The **Synod on Synodality** is a two-year process of listening and dialogue, starting in late 2021 and concluding with an international gathering of the Pope, some bishops and laity in late 2023 in Rome. In preparation for this, Pope Francis has invited the entire Church to reflect on the theme: *For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission*. He has asked us to journey together and reflect together as one Church.



From the *Preparatory Document*: “This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church’s ‘renewal’ proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission. Our ‘journeying together’ is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.”

Click [here](#) for the *Preparatory Document*.

Let us pray for the success of the Synod, realizing, that as a Passionist Family, we are called by the Visioning Process of Holy Cross Province to “journey together” in securing our mission to minister to the people of God today.

Holy Cross Province Animator - Patty Gillis:

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

The Provincial Council has committed Holy Cross Province (HCP) to engage in the *Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP)*. Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P., our Superior General, has already made a public commitment of our Congregation to participate in the *LSAP* and has developed a seven-year program.



The Animator will help local Passionist leaders and volunteers to bring Catholic teaching on climate change and integral ecology into their local Passionist communities.

Coming from the Charism of the Passionists, the *Laudato Si'* Animator will collaborate with the Provincial Superior and Council and the *Laudato Si'* Vision Fulfillment team (LSVFT) to promote the core of *Laudato Si'* and integral ecology to help turn it into action in HCP and its local communities and ministry sites, whether that be at the Provincial level, Passionist communities, parishes, schools or retreat centers.

We are grateful to Patty Gillis in her willingness to be the Animator in helping us value and protect the gift of God’s creation for the future of all God’s children.

Meeting of the Vowed Passionists:

Due to the current COVID situation, the planning committee of Fr. Pat Brennan, C.P.; Fr. Michael Higgins, C.P.; Fr. Jim Strommer, C.P.; and Fr. Jack Conley, C.P., have decided to move the meeting of the vowed Passionists from May 2022 to October 24-27, 2022. Many topics at this meeting will be discussed. As a result of our visioning process, one area of discussion will be about discerning our life together in different local communities with fewer vowed members.

Fr. Ronan Newbold, C.P.:

Facing some medical challenges and need for extra care, Fr. Ronan Newbold, C.P., has resigned as Local Superior of Holy Name Community in Houston, TX. We are grateful to Ronan for the years of service as a member of the retreat house staff and local superior. We are also grateful for the wonderful support and help of Bill and Linda Berger, who helped move Fr. Ronan to Sacred Heart Community in Louisville, KY. Presently, he resides at Nazareth Home, which is next door to the monastery. Fr. Ronan was welcomed at the airport by Br. John Monzyk, C.P., Local Superior, and Br. Kurt Wernert, C.P., Director of Senior Care.

Fr. John Schork, C.P.:

On the recommendation of the local community and with the consent of the Provincial Council, I confirmed Fr. John Schork, C.P., as the new Local Superior of Holy Name Community in Houston, TX. Fr. John, thank you for accepting this important role. Fr. John will continue to be the Province Vocation Director.

Fr. Vimal Backiyaraj, C.P.:

Fr. Vimal is taking a course in *Clinical Pastoral Experience* at Norton Hospital in Louisville, KY. He is a member of Sacred Heart Community and living in St. Agnes Rectory with Fr. Justin Nelson, C.P., and Fr. Febin Barose, C.P. Let us keep Fr. Vimal in our prayers as he undertakes this new hospital ministry.

Fr. Febin Barose, C.P.:

Fr. Febin, after serving three years at St. Agnes Parish in Louisville, KY, will be assigned to the Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center preaching team in Sierra Madre, CA. This will be effective July 31, 2022. We are grateful for his dedication and ministry at St. Agnes, and his willingness to serve the Province in this new assignment. Thank you, Fr. Febin, and welcome to California. Our prayers are with you as you make this transition.

Deacon Phillip Donlan, C.P.:

Phillip will be ordained to the Passionist priesthood on May 14, 2022, at St. Agnes Parish in Louisville, KY. His assignment will be as a member of the Christ the King Passionist Community and a member of the Retreat Center preaching team and to minister among the Hispanic Community. This will take effect during the summer of 2022. Thank you, Phillip. You will be welcomed to California and to our community here in Citrus Heights, CA. Our prayers are with you as you finish your studies at Catholic Theological Union and prepare for the ordination to the priesthood.

Upcoming Events:

- February 16-22, 2022 St. Paul of the Cross Community Provincial Visitation, Detroit, MI.
- February 23-24, 2022 Provincial Council meeting, via Zoom.
- March 7-12, 2022 Provincial's private Retreat.

- March 23-30, 2022 Sacred Heart Community Provincial Visitation, Louisville, KY.
- May 14, 2022 Ordination of Phillip Donlan, C.P., St. Agnes Parish, Louisville, KY.
- **June 7-9, 2022 Province Assembly, held virtually via Zoom.**
- September 8-21, 2022 Passionist Congregation General Synod, Rome, Italy.
- September 22-24, 2022 Configuration of Jesus Crucified meeting, Rome, Italy.
- **October 24-27, 2022 Meeting of Vowed members, Detroit, MI.**

Conclusion:

During these winter months, where many of us find ourselves more inside the house than outside, may we take the time to be grateful for all the blessings the Lord has bestowed on us. Let us keep each other in prayer that, with God’s grace, we continue to be safe and healthy.



God bless,

Joe Moons, C.P.
Provincial Superior

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