

March 2022

Passionist News Notes

St. Paul of the Cross Province



Labyrinth at Holy Family Retreat House, CT



The labyrinth at Holy Family, dedicated on September 11, 2008, is an ancient symbol of wholeness and a metaphor for life's journey. While labyrinths date back more than 4000 years, the medieval labyrinth dates to the Middle Ages when medieval pilgrims, unable to fulfill their desire to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, went instead to many pilgrimage sites throughout Europe. They often convened at a labyrinth formed of stone in the floor of Gothic cathedrals. Within the safety of the cathedrals, they would walk the labyrinth, symbolic of their life's journey to God.

Spirituality of the Labyrinth

Life is full of twists and turns. Life's journey is rarely one straight path directed toward our goal. Unexpected events can take us in directions that may surprise and even stress us. Our faith steadies us in the midst of many twists and turns. Throughout the walk, we rely on our faith and trust that the winding path truly leads to God, the center of our lives. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path leading from its entrance to its center and back out, albeit by a winding route. When we walk the labyrinth in the presence of God, even though we do not seem to know where we are going, we trust that we will find our way back home.

At the Center of our Labyrinth

At the center of the labyrinth is a circular sculpture created by stonemason Dan Sieracki. The circle is a symbol of eternity and the fullness of life to which God calls each of us. This empty circle at the labyrinth's center reminds us to empty ourselves so that we might be filled with Christ's peace.



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[VIDEO -Holy Family Labyrinth featured on ORTV's Crossroads Magazine - 1-16-2022](#)

A Source of SPIRITUAL Renewal

*Take a journey with God in the meditative retreat center
or by walking the peaceful grounds.*

Story by KAREN A. AVITABILE | Photos by AARON JOSEPH

For more than 70 years, Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford has offered guests the opportunity to rest, reflect and discover the peace of God.

"On our spiritual journey, it is essential to be able to step back and take stock of our relationship with God and with those who surround us each day," says Father David Cinquegrani, a Passionist priest, who recently celebrated his 25th jubilee of ordination and has been retreat director for 23 years. "St. Paul of the Cross, the founder of the Passionist Congregation, knew this well, and therefore established the retreat ministry as a key mission of his followers."

Holy Family is a Catholic retreat house in the Passionist tradition, welcoming people of all faiths who want to deepen their connection with God. "In the Spirit of Trust" is written on a sign posted on the main entrance into the retreat center.

The phrase, which serves as this year's retreat theme, is intended to build more Christian people on their journey of faith to bring about a world of justice and peace as members of the body of Christ.

"He invited lay persons into the Passionist monasteries to find perspective in their lives by carving out sacred space to be with the crucified Christ in prayer," Father Cinquegrani adds.

Outdoors, the nearly 50-acre campus sits on a hill with deer grazing on the back lawn and wooded paths inviting guests to wander and discover. The grounds include miles of walking paths, a koi pond, perennial gardens, ceramic and illuminated Stations of the Cross, playing fields for school groups, statues of saints and plenty of benches for reflection.

Also on the grounds is an expansive labyrinth made from cobblestone recycled from New York City streets. Its circular design represents the circle of peace and infinity. Priests and brothers who lived at the retreat center, including

◀ *Labyrinth*

Dedicated on Sept. 11, 2008, the outdoor labyrinth on the grounds of Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford is an ancient symbol of wholeness and a metaphor for life's journey. At its center is a circular sculpture, a symbol of eternity and fullness of life to which God has called each of us. It was created by stone mason Dan Sieracki. Unlike a maze, the labyrinth has only one path leading from its entrance to its center and back out, along a winding route. The three stages of the walk are: purgation or emptying yourself of thoughts, distractions and burdens; illumination or receiving from God what is there for you to receive; and union in joining God.

■ EASTER PROGRAM

"The Joy of Easter: Evening Prayer and Concert" will be held on **April 29, 7 p.m.**, at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center. Featuring the center's adult choir, chamber choir, instrumentalists, handbell choir, soloists and children's choir, the concert will celebrate the joy and beauty of the sacred Easter season. There is a cost to attend which includes a reception immediately following the concert. For more information, call 860.760.9705 or visit holyfamilyretreat.org.

Joseph Leo Flynn, one of Holy Family's founders, are buried in a small cemetery on the property. Since the coronavirus pandemic began, more people have used the grounds, says Luke Giroux, director of administrative operations.

Open for three years inside the retreat building, the Monastery Gallery of Art unites the arts with diverse faith traditions. Artists of all backgrounds are welcome and the artwork rotates regularly. The main chapel, which seats more than



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS of Holy Family Retreat Center, visit archdioceseofhartford.org/catholictranscript.

“WE WANT OUR WALK THROUGH LIFE ... TO BECOME OUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF HOPE FOR ALL.”

— The Passionists



▲ Grotto

A grotto with Mary has been part of the grounds of Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford since it opened in 1951.

◆ Stations

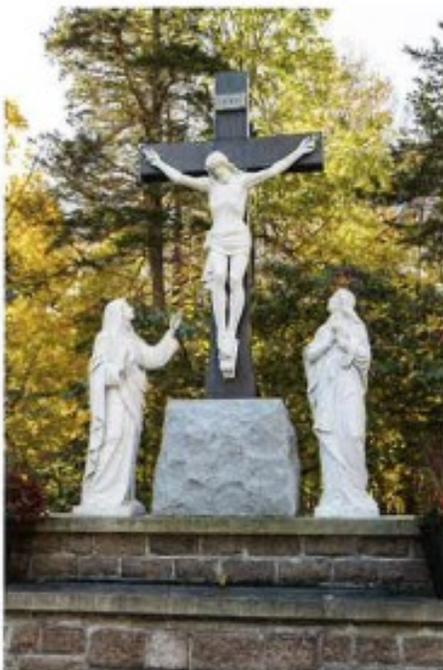
The nearly 50 acres at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center include walking trails, a koi pond, playing fields, gardens, a labyrinth and Stations of the Cross.

▶ Chapel

The main chapel is used during retreats at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center. A weekly Mass, open to the public, is held on Sundays at 7 p.m.

▲ The Holy Family

A statue of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is the centerpiece of the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center. Artwork of the Holy Family can be seen inside the center and amid the grounds.



200 people, is open during retreats and for Mass on Sundays. A smaller chapel is available daily for private reflection. A gift shop selling a collection of inspirational books and handcrafted items is located inside. There is an area to purchase Mass cards.

The purpose of Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, Giroux explains, is to “deepen your connection and relationship with God” and “to bring in the spirit of tranquility and trust.”

■ PRAYERFUL EXPERIENCES

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center is located at 202 Tunxis Road, West Hartford. The grounds are open for private reflection from sunrise to sunset, even during the winter months. A Mass open to the public is celebrated on Sundays, 7 p.m., in the main chapel. The Monastery Gallery of Art is open to the public during regular hours. For more information and a schedule of retreats, call 860.521.0440 or visit holyfamilyretreat.org. The gift shop is open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and some weekends. Call 860.760.9734 for additional hours or visit holyfamilyretreat.org/giftshop. Volunteers are needed in the gift shop and the front desk. Open houses will take place in 2022 or call for an individual tour.

Married Couples Retreat at Holy Family Retreat House— Feb 2022

This Valentines weekend the Holy Family Retreat House in CT hosted a married couples retreat with the theme “In the Spirit of Trust”. It was amazing that about 30% were first time retreatants and many did an Internet search for Married Couples retreats and found this weekend retreat. It also included a special Valentine Dinner on Saturday night.



Conference



Mass



**A fabulous
Valentine Dinner**



THE PASSIONISTS

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS PROVINCE

VOCATIONS TEAM

February 10, 2022

Dear Brothers,

As we approach the celebration of the feast of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother (February 27th) we would like to invite all our communities throughout the province to join in prayer and promotion of Passionist vocations, as well as for the perseverance of our brothers in formation.

Saint Gabriel is the Patron Saint of the Passionist youth, and his vocational story is a very powerful and appealing one, which we should share and promote, especially on the occasion of his feast, even though it takes place on a Sunday this year. Let us all join in prayer, asking of our brother, Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother to intercede for more vocations for our province and for the congregation in general.

We humbly ask you to include some intentions related to vocations within the prayer of the faithful, as well as the Passionist Vocations Prayer at the end of the Mass (See attachments). However, if possible, it would also be good to have other activities through which we could share our charism and mission.

Along with this letter we will be mailing some packets to each community with different brochures and promotional materials that you may share with the people to whom you minister. We want to encourage you to reach out to the young people in your places of ministry, especially volunteers, youth groups, and any other opportunities that you may consider appropriate for this occasion.

Please feel free to reach out to us in case you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, or if you need additional materials. You may email us by vocations@cpprov.org or directly to any of us (our emails are included below).

Thank you for your ministry and for your efforts to help us promote the Passionist charism and vocations.

With much gratitude and hope,

St. Paul of the Cross Province Vocations Team

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PASIONISTAS

PROVINCIA SAN PABLO DE LA CRUZ

EQUIPO DE VOCACIONES

10 de febrero de 2022

Queridos hermanos:

Al acercarnos a la celebración de la fiesta de San Gabriel de la Madre Dolorosa (27 de febrero) queremos invitar a todas nuestras comunidades de la provincia a unirse en oración y promoción de las vocaciones pasionistas, así como por la perseverancia de nuestros hermanos en formación.

San Gabriel es el patrón de la juventud pasionista, y su historia vocacional es muy influyente y atrayente, por lo que debemos compartirla y promoverla, especialmente con motivo de su fiesta, aunque este año se celebre en domingo. Unámonos todos en oración, pidiendo a nuestro hermano San Gabriel de la Madre Dolorosa que interceda por más vocaciones para nuestra provincia y para la congregación en general.

Además, le pedimos humildemente que incluyan algunas intenciones relacionadas con las vocaciones dentro de la oración de los fieles, así como la Oración Vocacional Pasionista al final de la Misa (Ver anexos). Sin embargo, si es posible, también sería bueno tener otras actividades a través de las cuales podamos compartir nuestro carisma y misión.

Junto con esta carta, enviaremos por correo postal algunos materiales que pueden compartir con las personas a las que ministran. Queremos animarlos a acercarse a los jóvenes en sus lugares de ministerio, especialmente a los voluntarios, a los grupos de jóvenes y cualquier otra oportunidad que consideren apropiada para esta ocasión.

No duden en comunicarse con nosotros en caso de que tengan alguna pregunta, idea o sugerencia, o si necesitan que le enviemos materiales de promoción. Pueden enviarnos un correo electrónico a vocations@cpprov.org o directamente a cualquiera de nosotros (nuestros correos electrónicos se incluyen a continuación).

Gracias por su ministerio y por sus esfuerzos para ayudarnos a promover el carisma pasionista y las vocaciones.

Con mucha gratitud y esperanza,

Equipo de Vocaciones de la Provincia de San Pablo de la Cruz

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The Passionists Vocation Team

THE PASSIONISTS ***ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS PROVINCE***



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4th Theology

Cristian Martinez
3rd Theology

Samuel Joseph
1st Theology

Fr. Curtis Kiddy

Adenald Fleury
1st Theology

Daniel Cadet
1st Theology

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Suggested intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful:

- Through the intercession of Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother, bless, O God, all who are involved in the ministries of the Saint Paul of the Cross Province, and help our Passionist communities be welcoming schools of prayer and fraternity for all, we pray to the Lord.
- For the perseverance of the Passionists who are in formation, that they may continue to grow in their faith and in their desire to walk with the People of God, through a life of service and companionship, we pray to the Lord.
- For an increased awareness of the closeness of the Lord among our young people, that they may hear and respond courageously to the call of God to follow Him and serve his suffering people through consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

INTENCIONES SUGERIDAS PARA LA ORACIÓN DE LOS FIELES:

- Por la intercesión de San Gabriel de la Madre Dolorosa, bendice, oh Dios, a todos los que están comprometidos en los ministerios de la Provincia de San Pablo de la Cruz, y ayuda a nuestras comunidades pasionistas a ser escuelas de oración y fraternidad para todos, roguemos al Señor
- Por la perseverancia de los Pasionistas en formación, para que sigan creciendo en su fe y en su deseo de caminar con el Pueblo de Dios, a través de una vida de servicio y compañerismo, roguemos al Señor.
- Por una mayor conciencia de la cercanía del Señor entre nuestros jóvenes, para que puedan escuchar y responder con valentía al llamado de Dios a seguirlo y servir a su pueblo que sufre a través de la vida consagrada, roguemos al Señor.

PRAY FOR

Passionist Vocations



Jesus,
you gave your life on the Cross
so that we could share in God's own life
and know his love for us.
May the love that flows from the Cross
transform our hearts,
so that we can bring your love and compassion
to those whose lives we touch,
especially those who are suffering.
Give the light of your Holy Spirit
to those young people who have received
the grace of a Passionist vocation.
Inspire them to give their lives
as Passionist priests, brothers, nuns,
sisters or associates,
keeping the Memory of your Passion alive
in their own hearts and in the hearts of others.
May Mary, who stood by the Cross,
be their example,
and may Saint Paul of the Cross be their guide.

Amen.



**THE PASSIONISTS
WITH YOU.**



ORACIÓN POR LAS VOCACIONES PASIONISTAS

Jesús,
entregaste tu vida en la cruz
para que pudiéramos participar en la vida misma de Dios
y conocer su amor por nosotros.
Haz que el amor que brota de tu Cruz
transforme nuestros corazones,
para que podamos llevar tu amor compasivo
a aquellos cuyas vidas tocamos,
especialmente a quienes están sufriendo.
Da la luz de tu Espíritu Santo
a esos jóvenes que han recibido
la gracia de una vocación pasionista.
Inspíralos a dar su vida
como Pasionistas sacerdotes, hermanos, monjas,
hermanas o asociados,
manteniendo viva la Memoria de tu Pasión
en su propio corazón y en el corazón de los demás.
Que María, que estuvo junto a tu Cruz,
sea su ejemplo,
y que San Pablo de la Cruz sea su guía.

Amén.

Fr Victor Hoagland, C.P., Youtube Channel

[LINK](#)



[Fr Victor's Blog](#)

Fr Cedric Pisegna, C.P., Youtube Channel

[Link](#)



[Fr Cedric 's Website](#)



[Download the Book](#)

I welcome the opportunity to write these few lines in introducing this book *The memory of the passion in the founding charism of St Paul of the Cross. Guidelines for a hermeneutic*, by Fr. Cristiano Massimo Parisi.

As a theologian and General Postulator of the Congregation of the Passion (Passionists), Fr. Parisi is well-qualified to address the principal matter of this book which was born in his mind when he noted the variety of meanings purported to and the confusion caused to many by the use of the term: CHARISM. Often this word has been used quite loosely and broadly when speaking about various aspects of the Consecrated Life and Religious Congregations. In many instances, it would seem that 'charism' and 'mission' are used interchangeably.

Fr. Parisi's initial desire to principally reflect on and clarify for himself the proper meaning of the term 'Charism' in the context of the Consecrated Life has developed into a much larger and deeper exposition of a theologically correct understanding of charism in its multiple application. Further, Fr. Parisi's research has led him to delve deeper into the mind, understanding and spirituality of St. Paul of the Cross – founder of the Passionist Congregation which is commemorating this year its 300th anniversary. This is a valuable resource for us Passionists.

I thank Fr. Parisi for his work and for sharing with us his insights through this book which will surely assist us to be more careful and precise when speaking or writing about the charism. I commend this book for your reflection and study.

~ Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P.
Superior General