

January 2023

Passionist News Notes

St. Paul of the Cross Province



Haiti, and it's people **NEED** your Prayers

St Luke Foundation and Fr. Rick **NEED** your Prayers & your Support



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Caring for more than 60,000 patients each year.

OPENING DOORS FOR STUDENTS

Educating the next generation of Haitian leaders. 36 schools,

PROMOTING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Supporting communities through job creation and entrepreneurship.

SUPPORTING GRASS-ROOTS SOLUTIONS

Fighting for the dignity of every Haitian family

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Our U.S. team is volunteer-based, allowing 97.3 percent of every donation to reach Haiti.

We have achieved Guidestar's highest rating for charity efficiency and transparency

The St. Luke Foundation for Haiti is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax-deductible

Online <https://donate.stlukehaiti.org/give/352850/#!/donation/checkout>

Mail St. Luke Foundation for Haiti, 8980 SW 56th S, Miami FL 33165

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Click [here](#), If you are over 72, you can take money directly from your IRA account and you won't have to pay tax on it

Click [here](#) to add St Luke Foundation for Haiti as your charity when you make an Amazon purchase



Fr Rick's [VIDEO](#) giving some words of thanks for thier efforts to raise money by having Virtual Christmas Parties to raise money for St Luke's.



Day	Passionists
9	CLEARY, Christopher
10	GEINZER, Patrick
27	AVILES MERCADO, Javier Montalvo



[Christmas card vespers St Luke](#)

A Christmas Message from Fr Rick

Dear family and friends,

We are living in a dark age.

But as true as there is darkness, it is also wondrously true that there is light.

"The darkness will not darken from you, and the night will shine like the day."
(Ps 139:12)

A dark age can provoke the dawn of enlightenment, and the interplay between darkness and light will set before us the choice for evil or good, curse or blessing.

Amid thick psychological and spiritual tangles, we choose which to see, curse or blessing, and then our vision determines our choice.

Our choices either invigorate life, or invite the pall of death.

The Advent season invites us to face darkness head on,
and to ponder the dynamics that are even deeper than our own choices.

The first is that as truly as we choose, we are also being chosen.

"What you are looking for is looking for you."
-Rumi

The powers of good and the powers of evil are in pursuit of us, seeking us out with passion, in bitter contest.

We must be enormously valuable in the drama of life for this to be the case.

Our incredible value come from being both created, and then redeemed, by God.

From the many influences on our choices, some apparent and some mysterious,
what we finally choose comes from either the goodness or the perversion we treasure in our hearts.

Then flow from within us, as either blessings or curses, our thoughts, our words, our deeds.

For many people who seek God, who seek enlightenment,
the journey begins when life seems dark, cold, and threatening.

Thus begins a thirst for God, which is immediately met by God's gracious and merciful thirst for us,
because God was already seeking us.

The spiritual path is an encounter, a duet.

"He found them in a wilderness, *
a wasteland of howling desert.

He shielded them and cared for them, *
guarding them as the apple of his eye."
(Deuteronomy 32:10)

Here in Haiti, as in many other places around the world,
the term "howling wasteland" is a good description for what life is like under gang rule.
Assault weapons inflict massive wounds on countless people, terrorize the population, cause the most
painful deaths, mauled cadavers, refugees fleeing every direction, despair on all levels, and no escape.

It's a good description of hell.

The gates of hell would slam shut the day not another single bullet could cross the border into Haiti.
The tens of thousands of assault weapons could then be melted down and used to build a bridge over the
Grey River.

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks." (Isaiah 2:4)

Within the last days, we were called once again onto the streets of our neighborhood for yet another vic-
tim of brutal violence.

The vicious and barbaric death of an unknown young woman.

It's one thing to read reports of increase in violence against women.

It is quite something else when the victim is right in front of you.

What is left of her fills every one of your senses.

By her presence, by her very weight as you carefully lift her body, she refuses her place on a page of dry
statistics.

Statics touch none of your senses.

Not even common sense.

For those of us present, everything around us suddenly became dark and cold. There was a clear, yet
unheard howling.

The darkness had nothing to do with the sun.

The coldness had nothing to do with temperature.

The howling was the scorn of satan, the vile force that trashes life and dignity,
and which, in true parasitic fashion, can only become real when a person, such as her killer, or you or
me, accepts to be its agent.

We tried to pray, the Passionist seminarians and I.

The words came easily thanks to memory, which is an anchor when in such anguished distraction.

The prayers crossed our lips, but our eyes scanned the crowd, wondering if the killer was present.

There were questions to answer for the police and justice of the peace, in between psalms.
My mind wandered to her family, wondering how to find and inform them, since there was no identification on her person.

All the while, I felt on the nape of my neck the the filthy breath of a vile beast I could not see, grunting and snorting,
which I hoped was some imagination generated by my own adrenalin in overdrive.

I deliberately summoned these words to that dark place:

"I, John, saw an angel come down from heaven,
holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a heavy chain.
He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent,
which is the Devil or Satan,
and tied it up for a thousand years and threw it into the abyss,
which he locked over it and sealed,
so that it could no longer lead the nations astray.
until the thousand years are completed."(Revelations 20:1-3)

We still believe in angels. They light up the darkness.
We believe we will see victory against this darkness.

14 "For when peaceful stillness encompassed everything
and the night in its swift course was half spent,
15 Your all-powerful Word from heaven's royal throne
leapt into the doomed land." (Wisdom 18:14-15)

Angels make our choices for life, and our fight for the living, easy.
They drive us to be the counter-witness to terror, by honoring the illuminated souls
of the dead, by seeking out the vulnerable and bringing them to safety.

Angels fill the night skies, especially at Christmas.

May their music be a cause of wonder for you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAe4oyRkLdY>

May this Christmas nourish hope in your heart and soul, and gift you with abiding peace.

May your new year be blessed by God.

Thank you for your precious and ongoing support in such times of need.

Fr Rick Frechette CP DO
Port au Prince
Dec 11,2022



St. Vincent Mary Strambi Community
5417 S. Cornell Ave., Chicago, IL
October 20, 2022

Gathering of Young Passionists

Greetings, Passionist Family! My name is Cristian Martinez, a professed Passionist in 4th year of Theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois. From October 3rd to October 12th, I had the privilege to attend the "Gathering of Young Passionists" at Sts. John and Paul Monastery and Basilica, our generalate house in Rome. In a few words: it was life-giving.



For the first time in our history, over sixty-five young Passionists from across the world gathered to explore the roots of our congregation, and so develop our Passionist identity and recognize the universality of the charism the Holy Spirit entrusted to our founder, Sts. Paul of the Cross.



This gathering was rich with interactions between the young and not so young members gathered in Rome. Cultural festivals (held on two separate occasions after dinner at St. John and Paul) made palpable the overwhelming diversity that enriches our Congregation. "...though all its parts are many, they form one body" (1 Corinthians 12:12). We were able to communicate, reflect, dream, work, laugh, and pray together despite manifold spoken languages and cultural contexts. It was beautiful, inspiring, and life-giving.

We traveled over eight hours by bus to *Ovada* and *Castellazzo* to explore the birth place of St. Paul of the Cross which led to rich reflections on our family history and vocational processes. What is the foundation that sustains and guides our consecrated life? For Paul Danei, it was not enough to live a “common Christian life”. He received the intuition to live (the Christian life) in a more conscious and committed way. What more are we called to do?



We also traveled two hours by bus to *Monte Argentario* and *Vetralla*, on a later date. The group visited the first Passionist retreat: the Presentation. Fr. Adolfo Lippi, C.P., gave us a brief historical overview of the Passionist community. The mountain's view of the Tyrrhenian Sea was breath-taking. I understood better Paul's reference to “the sea of sorrows and the ocean of love”.



Furthermore, guided by Fr. Pablo Gonzalo, C.P. (president of the Historical Commission for the Congregation), we retraced St. Paul of the Cross' footsteps in Rome. My smart-watch recorded over 30,000 steps that day. Yes, we walked a lot! But learned so much! The Founder's conviction and fortitude was astounding and uplifting.

After being dispatched from the Quirinal Palace, Paul was inspired to profess “The Passionist Vow” in the Basilica of St. Mary Major. His steps were firmly grounded after being embraced by Mary -*Salus Populi Romani*. The once disdained Paul came to be acknowledged amongst the greatest preachers in Rome. Numerous crowds gathered in his last mission at the Basilica of Our Lady in Trastevere. I was left in awe while pondering how Mary played a significant role at the beginning and towards the end of Paul’s active ministerial life.



We entered the Basilica of St. Mary Major while retracing St. Paul of the Cross’ footsteps through the streets of Rome. A *Salve Regina* was sung as we approached the image of *Salus Populi Romani* in the lateral chapel. Although surrounded by numerous tourists, we sang with “all our heart”. In front of the same image Paul had professed his vow; we, privately (through personal prayer) renewed our profession vows. It was a soul-stirring experience. Afterwards, the group gathered outside the Basilica of St. Mary Major to pray an *Our Father* and renew our commitment to the community.

The Gathering ended with two days of discussions on Passionist Spirituality led by Fr. Massimo Parissi, C.P., and Fr. Rafael Vivanco, C.P. We dreamed as members of “the same body” and formulated lines of action around different aspects of our Passionist life: charism and spirituality, community, apostolic mission, formation, economy, government and organization. The exercise gathered our lived experience and oriented our gaze towards a common goal: the *Memoria Passionis*.





Finally, the audience with Pope Francis served as both a reminder of our humanity and of our connection to the Mother Church. Our group received tickets to enter St. Peter's Square and sit at a side of the main altar where Pope Francis would impart the weekly catechesis. At his departure, His Holiness noticed the group of men in black and encouraged us to live a life full of passion.

Fr. Ciro Benedettini, C.P. (1st General Consultor), said in the gathering's opening mass that we, the young people, will be the vanguard and propellers of a new Passionist springtime, awaited by the Congregation and the entire Church. However, this would happen only if, like St. Paul of the Cross, we are "*all fire of love*". Throughout the Gathering of Young Passionists, I felt the flames of the fire within me burn more intensely. I return energized and full of life after feeling the warmth of the "*fire of love*" that burns within my brothers and sisters that were gathered for this occasion and are now dispersed around the world. I also return grateful for my vocational process and the Congregation's 300 years of history. I remain hopeful for the years to come.

At the closing mass, Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P. (Superior General), urged us to rely on the gifts of "*fidelity*" and "*perseverance*" that are given to us by the Holy Spirit so that the flames of love we carry are not extinguished. Whether young or aged, I believe we all carry the same fire that emanates from the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let it not be extinguished! The legacy of our founder continues through us and the lives of many who proclaim the most stupendous work of Divine Love. Let us remain faithful and persevere for there is more to be done!

Fraternally,
Cristian Martinez Montalvo, C.P.



Fr. Vincent Segotta, CP died on December 2, 2022

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Associates, and Friends,

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Fr. Vincent Segotta, C.P. died on Friday, December 2, 2022.

Arrangements for his wake and funeral are as follows:

Wake: Tuesday, December 6, 2022

5-7pm Viewing Period; 7-8pm Prayer Service

Immaculate Conception Monastery, Public Chapel

Funeral: Wednesday, December 7, 2022

10:30am, Immaculate Conception Monastery, Choir Chapel

Burial: Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Jamaica, New York



Rev. Vincent Segotta, C.P.

Born: March 25, 1941 – Jersey City, New Jersey

First Profession: August 26, 1973 – West Hartford, Connecticut

Final Profession: September 5, 1976 – Jamaica, New York

Ordination: May 12, 1977 – Jamaica New York

In Christ Crucified and Risen,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "V. Segotta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.