



Holy Cross Province News

January 2023

January Birthdays

- 8 Nicholas Divine
- 12 Alfredo Ocampo

LOOKING FORWARD...

January 1

Mary, Mother of God

January 3

Birthday of
St. Paul of the Cross

January 5

Feast of
St. Charles of Mount Argus

January 8

Epiphany of the Lord



St. Charles of Mount Argus

Updates...

- Our Holy Cross Province Pre-Chapter will be held January 10-11, via Zoom videoconferencing. More information will be forthcoming.
- The Provincial and Extended Council meets January 17-18, via Zoom videoconferencing.
- The Province Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16, in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday.
- Joe Moons, CP, will conduct visitation at Holy Name in Houston, Texas, January 12-19. Visitation at Holy Family Community in Birmingham, Alabama, will be January 19-24.
- Holy Name Community in Houston, Texas, removed several trees which were close to the residence. Last year, a tall pine fell onto a corner of the building causing significant structural damage.
- Congratulations to the Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School Band, which held its first ever concert in December! Band is offered as an elective for scholars interested in music and is taught and directed by Assistant Principal, Yihsrael Vélez. The Christmas Concert featured holiday favorites such as “Joy to the World,” “Jingle Bells,” “Silent Night” and “Feliz Navidad.”

Holy Cross Province
660 Busse Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Submit news to Claire Smith
csmith@passionistmonastery.org
Address changes to Loretta Ciesielski
loretta@cppo.org

2023

‘HAPPY ‘NEW ‘YEAR’



Province Happenings...

Christmas Cheer...

St. Vincent Strambi Community and the staff at the Province Offices in Park Ridge, Illinois, annually contribute to a “Christmas Collection.” This collection becomes a Christmas surprise for a deserving resident at Senior Suites of Norwood Park (the former monastery on Harlem Avenue).

James Grogan was identified as the recipient of the \$1,000 that was collected. He is very grateful to all who contributed.

Photo: (l-r): Loretta Ciesielski and James Grogan.



Forward in Faith...

Catholic Theological Union (CTU) will celebrate the completion of its 50th Anniversary Campaign, *Forward in Faith*, on Sunday, January 22. Mass is at 3:00 p.m., CST, followed by a reception at the school.

Don Senior, CP, was co-chair of the campaign. As part of the celebration, CTU will “celebrate Fr. Don’s extraordinary life of leadership and his final chapter as co-chair of the Forward in Faith campaign.”

For more information, visit CTU’s [website](#).



Live with Passion!...

With time comes blessings: *Live with Passion* is going Global!

All times are Eastern Time.

Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) has offered Cedric Pisegna, CP, a continuous Sunday time slot on EWTN premiering the first Sunday of Lent: Sundays at 6:30 a.m.

As usual, you can also watch Fr. Cedric’s programs on Sundays on TBN, at 7 a.m., and Daystar, at 1 p.m., as well as many Catholic affiliates and listen on several radio stations.

For more information, visit [Cedric’s website](#).



(l-r): Cedric Pisegna, CP, and Doug Keck, COO of EWTN.

Laudato Si'...

SAVE THE DATE for a *Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross*, Brochure #2 conversation.

The Holy Cross Province *Laudato Si'* Team is happy to announce a second opportunity to engage Brochure #2 of *Passion of the Earth Wisdom of the Cross*. Please join a one-hour conversation and sharing on the topic of Brochure #2: *Honoring God's Revelation in the Natural World, Addressing Consumption and Consumerism* (Chapter 2 of *Laudato Si'*) on January 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., Pacific; 5:00 p.m., Central; and 6:00 p.m., Eastern.



The session brochure is available to download, in English or Spanish, on the Province website: [*Passion of Earth, Wisdom of the Cross*](#). We ask that you download and read the Brochure #2 before the session on January 19.

To join the Zoom call, please go to: [Zoom link](#).

For more information, please contact: Patty Gillis at pjgillis48@gmail.com, or 313.399.8320, or Marta Salgado-Niño at msnino@materdolorosa.org, or 626.355.7188, extension 134.

Right Angles...

Congratulations to Nicholas Divine, CP, whose play, *Right Angles*, was a resounding success!

The play ran December 16-18 at the University of St. Thomas' Jones Hall in Houston, Texas.

See photos from the play by [Nicole Norton Photography](#).

In her review of the play, Rachel Parker notes, "Hilarious, touching, and fresh as hot-out-of-the-oven *piernik*, *Right Angles* offers Houston theatergoers a sumptuous holiday treat."

Rebecca Torrellas, of the Texas Catholic Herald, interviewed Nicholas prior to the play's run:



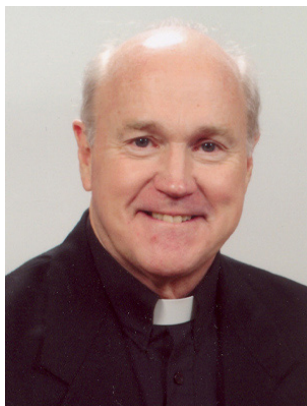
Nicholas Divine, CP.

Some of the most famous writers in the world were inspired by their life experiences to create their films, songs and other works of art. For Father Nicholas Divine, C.P., director of ministry at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center, his play "Right Angles" is a snapshot of his childhood.

The family-friendly comedy is based on actual events and actual dialogue that he heard and treasured from childhood through young adulthood in the Polish American neighborhood in Holyoke, Massachusetts, "where the Mater Dolorosa Church was the center of our lives."

Read the full article [here](#).

Life Directions...



Alex Steinmiller, CP.

From Alex Steinmiller, CP:

In 1975, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men wrote the document entitled *A Concert of Charisms*. The document encouraged religious communities to invest their charisms in mutual missions that target unmet needs in the Church in the United States.

In 1974, three religious communities: the Redemptorists (Fr. John Phelps, CsSR), Adrian Dominicans (Sr. Rosalie Esquerra, OP), and the Passionists (Fr. Alex Steinmiller, CP), inaugurated a retreat and follow-up support groups “for young adults through their 30s.” The program, *Life Directions*, now celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year!

V. Rev. Paul M. Boyle, CP, then Provincial Superior of Holy Cross Province, approved of the venture. During the years of the pandemic, *Focus Life Retreat* went virtual on Zoom videoconferencing. The retreat extended over three week-nights, 90 minutes per night, and five hours on Saturday. The next *Focus Life Retreat* will be conducted the week of January 15. For follow-up to the retreat, four Peace Circles in Detroit, Michigan, and one in Chicago, Illinois, continue the spirit of the retreat.

For more information, contact Annette Howard at annetteh@lifedirections.org.

Christmas in Chicago...

The Passionist Community at Catholic Theological Union (St. Vincent Strambi Community) was reduced to just a handful (3) of members over the Christmas break from classes and the writing of papers. Cristian Martinez Montalvo, CP, and Jonathan Ramos Torres, CP, went home to Puerto Rico for the holidays. Samuel Joseph, CP, (Haiti), spent the holidays in his home Province of St. Paul of the Cross. Conor Quinn, CP, (Ireland), headed to California where he was the guest of our two Passionist Communities in Sierra Madre and Citrus Heights.

New Year’s blessings to all.



A lovely Christmas table setting.

Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center...

December was busy with holiday celebrations at the retreat center. The month began with the first Men's Weekend Retreat. The Men's and Women's Retreat Weekends will resume in January, continuing through April.



The Men's Weekend Retreat was well-attended.

Christ the King's Board of Directors had their annual Christmas dinner. Bob Porter stepped down from his role as Board Chair, and Deacon Dan Haverty stepped in as the new Board Chair.

The Ladies Guild held their annual Christmas luncheon and fundraiser, *Celebrating Christmas with the Saints*. Lunch was prepared by the retreat center's chefs, Deanna Jensen and Anoud Zaki. Short presentations were given from each table about the Saint's life they chose to represent their table.



Members of Christ the King's Ladies Guild sing Christmas carols for the guests during the Christmas luncheon.

Christ the King staff, along with the Passionist Community and guests, held their Christmas luncheon. The afternoon was filled with laughter, stories and great food. *Simbang Gabi* celebrations, a Filipino tradition, were held at the retreat center each evening from December 15-23. Guests attended Mass followed by fellowship.



Jack Conley, CP, (left), with staff member Al Foley and his wife, Vicki, during the Staff Christmas Luncheon.



Phillip Donlan, CP, (sitting, far right), and Natalie Svistonoff (standing, far right) with guests during a *Simbang Gabi* celebration.