



CONGREGAZIONE DELLA PASSIONE DI GESÙ CRISTO  
P.ZA SS. GIOVANNI E PAOLO, 13  
00184 ROMA – ITALIA  
TEL: (39)-06.77.27.11 – FAX: (39)-06.700.8454  
*Il Superiore Generale*

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## INVITATION TO THE PASSIONIST FAMILY PRAYER VIGIL FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

My dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in the Passionist Family,

During our reflection and sharing in the General Council last April, the members of the Council became very aware of the great amount of suffering being experienced in our world in these times – suffering resulting from disease, war, conflicts, starvation, power, abuse, inequalities, injustice, greed, selfishness, indifference. No one of us is spared, but everyone is in some way affected physically, mentally, psychologically, emotionally or spiritually. Pope Francis' image chosen as the title of the first chapter of his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* seems fitting: *"Dark Clouds Over a Closed World"*. These 'clouds' extend to all parts of the world plunging humanity into confusion, isolation and desolation, and hindering the development of universal fraternity by leaving many people wounded, discarded and rejected.

We remembered all our Passionist brothers and sisters who are living, suffering and ministering in this situation, called to *"keep alive the memory of the Passion of Jesus"* by expressing God's compassion and love symbolized in the Passionist Heart worn on their breast. We remembered our sisters and brothers whose hearts, like that of Jesus, are *"moved with compassion"* (Mt. 9:36) for the suffering Earth and crucified humanity, *preaching a Crucified Christ as the power and wisdom of God* (1Cor. 1:23-24).

Recalling our stance as Passionists who stand at the foot of the Cross contemplating the passion of the Crucified Jesus in relationship to the continuing 'crucifixion' in our world, the General Council desired that we may, as a world-wide family, demonstrate and express support and solidarity with all who are living the passion today, by uniting with them in spirit and joining in communion with one another through participation in a Prayer Vigil.

We chose the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be an appropriate day for the Passionist Family to schedule **one hour** for gathering in prayer, together with other faithful and people of good will. Reflecting on the symbolism of this feast, and using the prepared Prayer Service, we ask you to carry in your hearts all those who are suffering, bringing them to encounter the love and compassion flowing from the heart of Christ. We also pray for the grace of **conversion** from *hearts of stone to hearts of flesh* (cf. Ezekiel 36:26).

On behalf of the General Council, I offer you the attached Prayer Service as a guide which was prepared by Fr. Rafael Vivanco (General Consultor) to whom we are grateful.

I invite all members of the Passionist Family to gather as community/family on **Friday, 11 June 2021**, Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for a one-hour Prayer Vigil in solidarity with all those who are suffering in these times.

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.*



*J. Rego, C.P.*

Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P.  
Superior General  
6 June 2021