



Merciful God, You gifted St. Paul of the Cross, our Father, a special charism by which he could see in the Passion of your Son "the most marvelous work of your love".

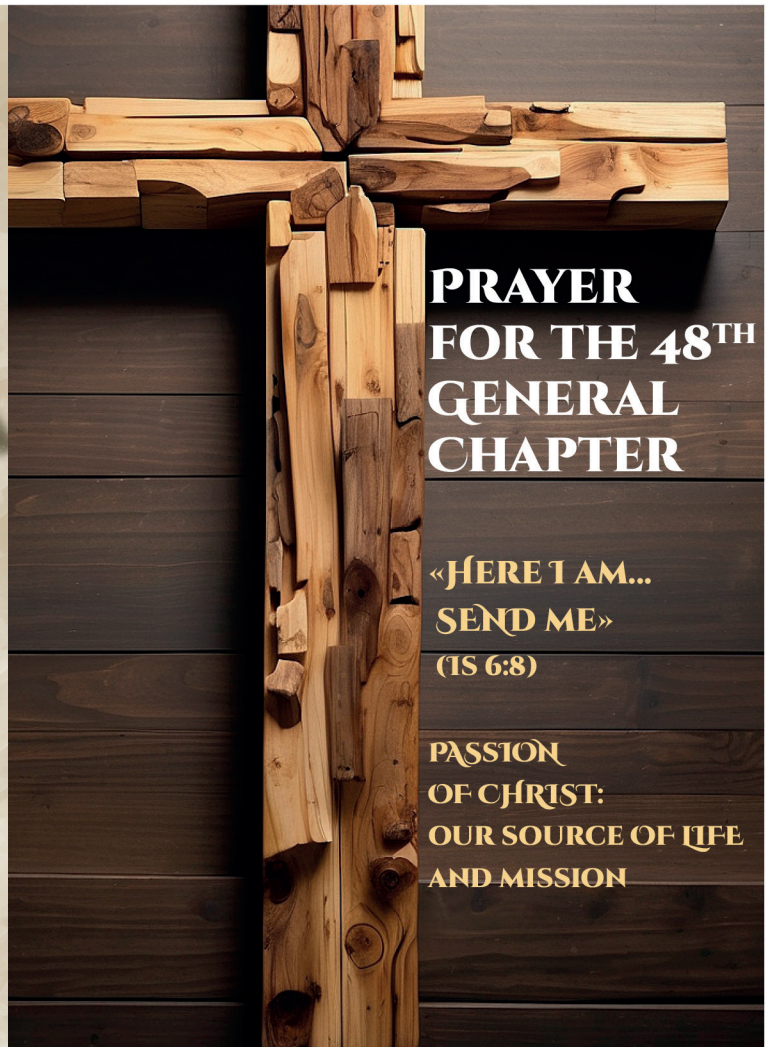
Help us, his sons to capture this Love in our lives of prayer, penance, solitude and poverty.

By being filled with and strengthened by this Love, may the words and deeds of our proclamation of the Gospel of the Passion be heard throughout the world. May we keep the memory of his Passion alive in the hearts of all people.

Grant your Spirit to the participants of the 48th General Chapter of our Congregation so that, remaining faithful to the spiritual patrimony of our Founder, they may find the pathways to a renewal of our mission in the Church and in the world.

Amen.

16



PRAYER FOR THE 48TH GENERAL CHAPTER

**«HERE I AM...
SEND ME»
(IS 6:8)**

**PASSION
OF CHRIST:
OUR SOURCE OF LIFE
AND MISSION**



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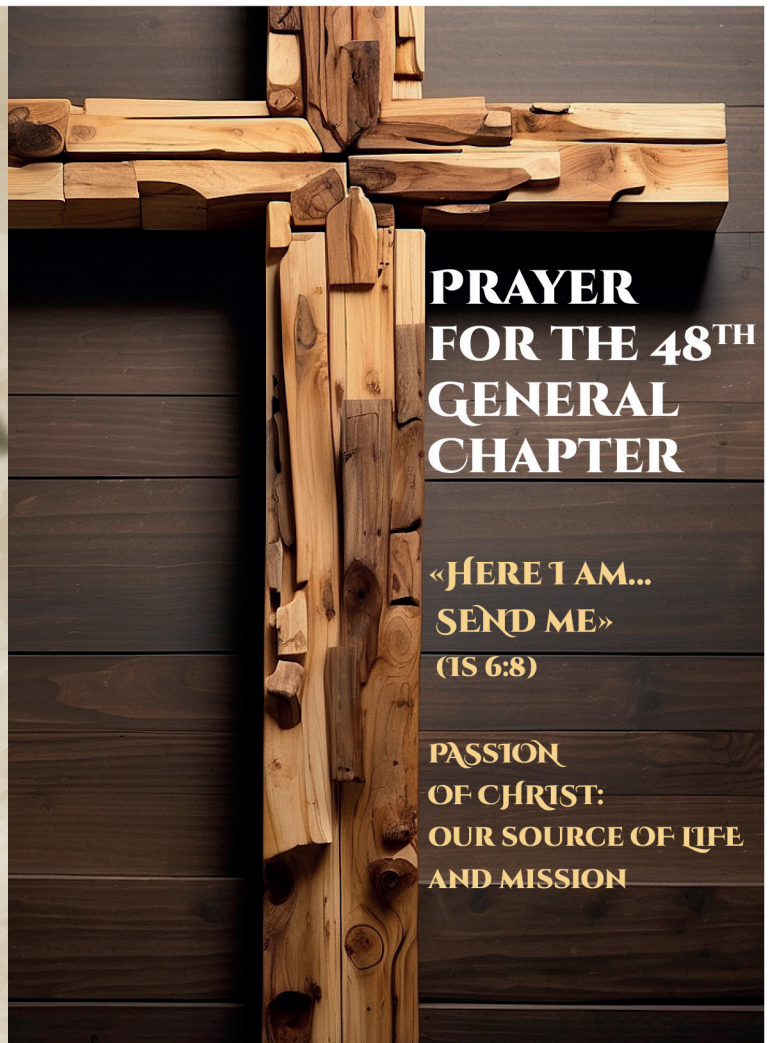
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Father in heaven, you chose St. Paul of the Cross to gather companions in your name. Now, during our General Chapter, may we be one with your Crucified Son.

Lord Jesús, you have etched in our heart the memory of your sorrowful passion, keep us always attentive to the suffering men and women found everywhere in the world.

Holy Spirit, you transform us into valiant apostles of the Resurrection,

give us an ardent missionary zeal so that we may bring the Word of the Cross to the world.

Our Sorrowful Mother, you remained at the foot of the cross to the end, support us when we tire in the work of discernment so that we may learn to seek only the will of the Father.

Amen.

14

PRAYER FOR THE

48th GENERAL CHAPTER

Here are the prayers to be recited daily in preparation for our 48th General Chapter, which will be celebrated in Rome, Italy, from October 7 to 26, 2024.

The Pre-chapter Committee suggests that they be made available to all of our Communities where they can be used both individually and by the Community as we prepare for this moment of grace in the life of our Congregation.

We are also including the Chapter logo which may serve in publicizing and encouraging support for our General Chapter.

The Pre-chapter Committee appreciates all of the efforts carried out in preparation for this next General Chapter.

Gratefully, and with an assurance of prayers; fraternally in Christ Crucified...

«Here I am... send me» (Is 6:8)



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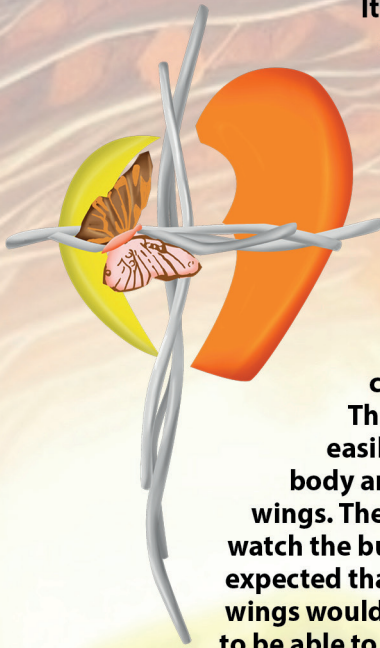


A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress.

It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no farther.

Then the man decided to help the butterfly, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The butterfly emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time.



who work to build peace are often persecuted and crucified as was your Son.

Men, women, youth, native peoples, and all those who are abandoned along the wayside of society hope for opportunities to build and live in a more humane world.

You brought Paul of the Cross to a love for contemplating the mystery of the Cross as the most generous work of your immense love. He lived, preached and passed on his love for the mystery of the Cross to his sons. Grant your Spirit to all of the

Passionist Family; may the charismatic treasure which we have received from our founder help us to grow in fidelity to you and to augment our missionary sensitivity. During this time in preparation for the General Chapter, and during its celebration, may we experience growth in dialogue and fraternity so that our decisions will allow us to be even more generous in responding to our invitation that we carry on the work of your Son.

We entrust our Chapter to Mary of Nazareth, the strong and faithful woman at the foot of your Cross. May she guide us on our way to fulfillment of life and mission.

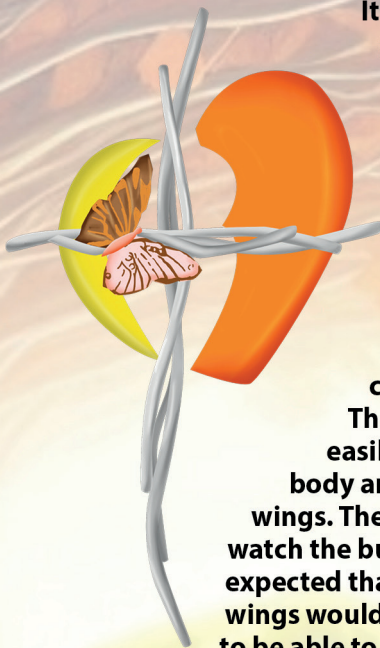
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God, Father of our human family, we know that you are always alert to the needs of your sons and daughters, after all, you want only what is good for us. In the person of your Son, Jesus, you met humanity with a profusion of grace and love in order to show that fraternity and service are the best ways of revealing your Kingdom. The simplicity of Jesus' life, his nearness to all, especially to those who were suffering and those who were deprived of their dignity, were the most eloquent expressions of this boundless love.

Today, humanity thirsts for witnesses who will show the way to authenticity and renewal, who will help it to quench its thirst with the true living water. There are many people who are experiencing sorrow, emptiness, meaninglessness and desolation. Violence against the most poor, and their exclusion continue to grow. Those



Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's ways of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Sometimes challenges are exactly what we need in our life. If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. And we

could never fly. The Spirit, in its infinite Wisdom, offers us challenges and new opportunities to go through the unpredictable. So we can gain the strength we need to deepen into our charisma, feel the Spirit within us and fly to serve in the new ministries this suffering world requires from us.

Our prayer is that we can emerge from this Chapter stronger, confident, and full of God's love to share with others. Our prayer is that we can allow ourselves to transform like the caterpillar to a butterfly, able to fly and share God's love and grace with all.



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We give you thanks, God of infinite goodness, for all of the blessings which you have showered upon our Congregation and over the greater Passionist Family.

As we approach our General Chapter, we ask that, once again, you extend your Holy Spirit over us.

We thank you for the charism which our founder, Paul of the Cross, left us as his legacy. Today, this charism continues its work in the lives of all who are dedicated to him by engendering in us a creative fidelity and a truly apostolic zeal.

All of us, disciples at the foot of the Cross, ask:

- **May your Spirit set us aflame, so that our hearts become like Yours, on fire with loving charity.**

6

a Heart moved with compassion for those who suffer.

We pray that you renew the Memoria Passionis in us as we live daily the Memoria Passionis in our world.

As we come together for Chapter we are mindful that all of us gather, that all pray together, that all listen to the other's story,

that all speak with words inspired by the Holy Spirit.

For we are all one in the Crucified Christ, the expression of God's great love for us.

We are all followers of St. Paul of the Cross, founder of the Congregation of the Passion.

Amen.



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Good and gracious God,
We come to you as the
offspring of St. Paul of
the Cross
as we prepare for
another General Chapter,
in October of 2024
Today, we are numerous
and live in many
countries,
speak many languages
and have flourished in

many cultures.
We plead with you to
create within us a New
Spirit,
A Spirit of Listening,
Understanding and
Wisdom
so we can experience
solidarity in our
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We plead with you to
create within us a New
Heart,
so all of us can be of one
mind,



10

- Renew our vitality so that we may continue to fulfill our mission.
- Confirm our desire to live in communion: with You, with one another, and with our fractured world.
- May we always be a people of peace and joy since we know that we are loved by You far more than we deserve.

Renew our life so that we may achieve a more profound commitment to our mission at the service of those who are poor and those who suffer.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and through the intercession of Mary, our Mother of Sorrows; of St. Paul of the Cross; and of all our Passionists Saints and Blessed.

Amen.

3 Hail Mary's

7



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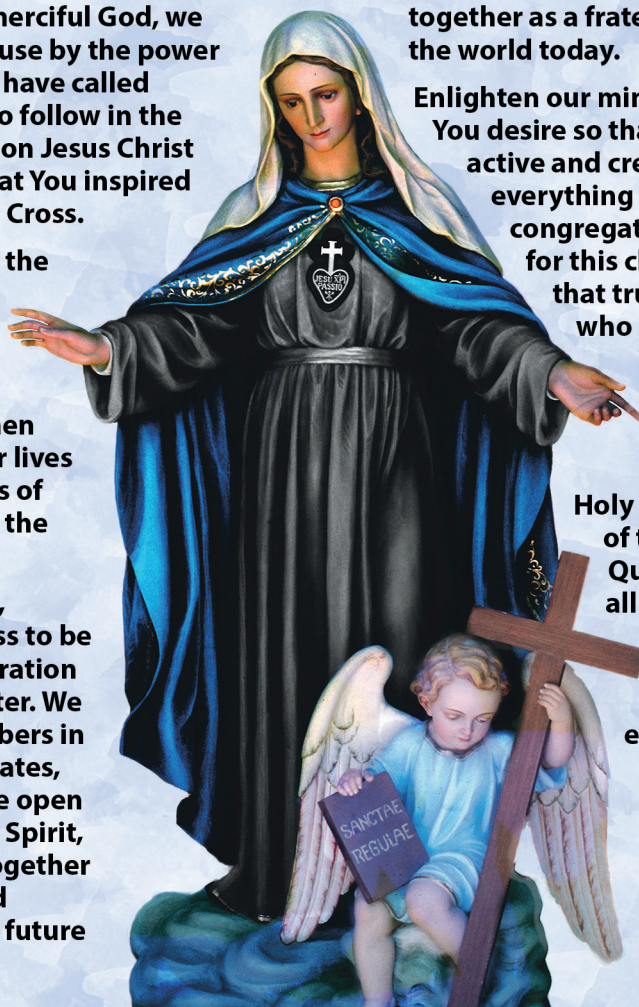


Almighty and merciful God, we thank You, because by the power of Your love, you have called and gathered us to follow in the footsteps of Your Son Jesus Christ according to the way of life that You inspired in Your servant, St. Paul of the Cross.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us the opportunity to prepare for the 48th General Chapter of the Passionist Congregation. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide, bless, and strengthen our determination to have our lives continually reveal the richness of the congregation's charism to the world and the Church.

Awaken in us the courage, joy, determination, and willingness to be actively involved in the preparation process for this General Chapter. We pray that all community members in all Provinces, Provincial Vicariates, and Regional Vicariates will be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, so that we can use this time together to develop plans of action and contemplation to address our future

8



together as a fraternal community in the Church and the world today.

Enlighten our minds and hearts to understand what You desire so that we are truly firm in our faith, active and creative in reflecting and planning everything related to the future of our congregation. Help us so that in preparing for this chapter, we can create communities that truly pray and become a people who are increasingly caring and active in contributing reflections and constructive thoughts for the development of our beloved Passionist congregation.

Holy Mary Mother of God, virgin model of the Church, and peace-loving Queen; with Saint Paul of the Cross, all the powers of heaven and all the saints, pray for us to your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

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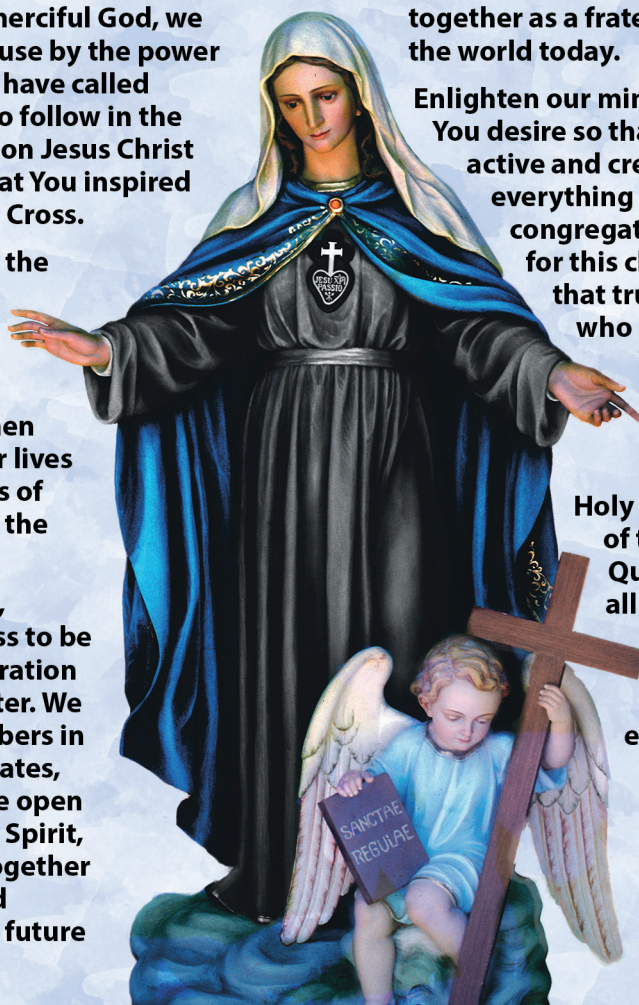


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