

“You make a difference..”

We Are Called

***“Abandon yourself entirely to God’s
most Holy Will, leaving all cares to
Him. But do with diligence the work
that each day requires.”***

St. Paul of the Cross

Dear Friend of Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center,

Having a purpose in life, a “calling,” is what we aim to find on our life’s journey. Sometimes that purpose may seem hidden and unclear. To rediscover who God wishes us to be, and what God would have us do, we need to stop and reflect. A retreat provides this opportunity.

Retreats at Mater Dolorosa provide the space and time to find or rediscover our own sacred calling through the message of Christ. Once our priorities emerge or become clear again, our energy is freed up for all the other aspects of our lives. We re-enter the world refreshed and reinvigorated.

The gifts you make to Mater Dolorosa help us to maintain this sacred space to enable more and more people to embark on such journeys of self discovery. Every year hundreds of Mater Dolorosa friends and retreatants acknowledge the importance of the special ministry founded by St. Paul of the Cross through their gifts. We are truly grateful for each and every one of these gifts.

Take the time to reflect on God’s gifts to you and determine how you wish to say “thank you.” While you may never see the faces of those who will be touched by your generosity, you can imagine who they might be. Who knows, it might even be one of your children or grandchildren in search of that same experience of Divine love and peace, which you sought on the blessed mountain in Sierra Madre.

Let us pray for this legacy! And let us each help to keep the Passionist spirit alive.

Please, listen to your heart and give as your means permit.

May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts.

Sincerely in Christ,

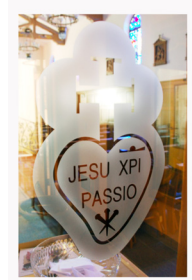
Rev. Patrick Brennan, C.P.

Rev. Patrick Brennan, C.P.
Retreat Director

Annual Fund

Your gifts to the Annual Fund are important and impact the areas of greatest need. Annual gifts help Mater Dolorosa remain a thriving sanctuary for all who enter its gates. Your annual gift also enables us to meet vital daily and weekend expenses such as the following:

Utilities	Food service
Maintenance of buildings and grounds	Chapel expenses
Repairs and maintenance to equipment	Linens and towels
Mountain Pieta printing and mailing	General operating expenses
Weekend retreat music ministry	Staff salaries and benefits



Annual Fund Appeals

Gifts to the Annual Fund can be made to any of the following appeals:

- ◆ **Century Club** ~ an annual membership whose funds are used for the maintenance and refurbishing of the Retreat Center and grounds, keeping it a place where retreatants and visitors can find a calm, relaxing and prayerful atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual growth.
- ◆ **NEW! Sponsorship Program** ~ Our Sponsorship Program fulfills the Passionist mission of never turning anyone away from a Passionist-preached weekend retreat for financial inability to make a donation. It also assists hosted groups from underserved communities such as High School Kairos retreats and Spanish-speaking couples retreat.
- ◆ **Restricted Donations** ~ to be used for a specific purpose such as Endowment
- ◆ **Unrestricted donations** ~ to be used where needed most

Ongoing Giving Opportunities

- ◆ **Memorial Donation Program** ~ A Mater Dolorosa memorial donation offers you a thoughtful, caring way to remember a loved one while contributing to our vital mission. Honor a birthday, anniversary, a special occasion, or condolence for the loss of a loved one with one of the following:

Memorial Garden Pillars
Chapel Seat Plaque
Garden of the Seven Sorrows ~ Engraved plaque or bench plaque
Unrestricted Donation to be used where needed most



- ◆ **Vehicle Donation Program** ~ If you have a car or other vehicle you no longer need, please consider Mater Dolorosa as the recipient of your donation. Any age – any condition! Give us a call.

Other Gifts to the Annual Fund may include:

- ◆ Gift of securities
- ◆ Gift of personal property
- ◆ Gift of IRA distribution
- ◆ Gift of real estate

Annual Fundraising Opportunities

- ◆ Christmas Raffle
- ◆ Harvest on the Hill Auction & Dinner
- ◆ Golf Tournament



Are You Employed by a Matching Gift Company?

If so, please take a few minutes to visit your company's human resources department, pick up a matching gift form, fill it out and mail it to us. An investment of a few minutes of your time can enable you to possibly double or even triple your support for Mater Dolorosa. Please mail your matching gift form to Development Office, Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

Your Gift of Time

Mater Dolorosa is blessed to have wonderful volunteers and we are very grateful! Volunteer opportunities are always available. Please let us know if you would like to work on a particular committee such as Harvest on the Hill, Golf Tournament, Building & Grounds, etc. Or you may want to assist with office and clerical work, assist in the Development Office, or you may have a special talent you would like to share.

Your Gift of Prayer

We thank you for your prayers in support of our Passionist traditions of preaching, hospitality and compassion that began so long ago with our Founder, St. Paul of the Cross.



*The Annual Fund drive runs from July 1 until June 30 of each year.
Your gift, postmarked by December 31st will be tax deductible for the current year.*

Major Gifts to Mater Dolorosa

While the Annual Fund is for our day to day operations and is necessary to maintain our facility, grounds and programs, major gifts are always needed for special purposes. Through generous donations from retreatants and friends, the hill surrounding our St. Paul of the Cross statue was totally landscaped and a waterfall added. The pergola above St. Paul of the Cross was built to provide a quiet, meditative place for retreatants that also offers an amazing view of the valley. What a wonderful tribute to our Passionist Founder.



If you have a particular interest or would like to contribute to one of many special projects that are waiting to be completed, we encourage you to speak to our Retreat Administrator or Development Office at 626-355-7188.

Mater Dolorosa Planned Gifts

A misconception is that planned giving is only for the “wealthy.” The truth is, even people of modest means can make a difference through planned giving. Through creative gift planning you can secure your own financial future, as well as the people and charities you care about. Gift planning is finding ways to make charitable gifts now or after your lifetime while enjoying financial benefits for yourself and your family. Unlike cash donations, planned gifts are typically made from assets in your estate rather than disposable income, and come to fruition upon your death.

Gifts That Pay You Income During Your Lifetime

- ◆ **Charitable Gift Annuities** ~ An opportunity to supplement your income with steady payments that are partially tax free. A Passionist Charitable Gift Annuity is a legal agreement which is made between you and the Passionists. In this agreement you may make an irrevocable gift of cash, marketable securities, mutual funds or other assets to the Passionists. In return, you receive a fixed income for life from the Passionists.
- ◆ **Charitable Remainder Trusts** ~ Create a charitable trust that pays you income annually.
 - ~ Charitable Annuity Trust
 - ~ Charitable Remainder Unitrust

Gifts That Benefit Mater Dolorosa After Your Lifetime

- ◆ Bequest ~ The most common way to name Mater Dolorosa as a beneficiary in your will or trust document.
- ◆ Beneficiary Designations – Name Mater Dolorosa as the beneficiary of your retirement assets or life insurance policy.
- ◆ Endowed Gifts ~ Interest from the St. Paul of the Cross Endowment Fund may be reinvested or may be used to assist the Passionists continue their ministry of preaching the Passion of Jesus Christ and sharing the Catholic faith with all who come to the mountain in search of a deeper relationship with God.
- ◆ Gift of Retained Life Estate ~ Give my home, but live there for life ~ Make a gift of your personal residence, vacation home or farm now but continue to live there.

Please Remember Us in Your Will

You can remember Mater Dolorosa in your will by a specific dollar amount or percentage, with an endowment bequest, or as the residual or contingent beneficiary of your estate. We hope you will consider including a gift to Mater Dolorosa in your will or living trust.

Our legal title is: Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, Inc.



For a specific bequest:

“I give and bequeath \$_____ to Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, Inc. a non-profit public charity located at 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.”

For a percentage bequest:

“I give and bequeath _____% of all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center Inc., a non-profit public charity located at 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.”

For an endowment bequest:

At your request, donations through bequests can now be invested in a special endowment fund. This fund will be used to provide retreat scholarships, support ongoing programs, and to care for the beautiful buildings, gardens and grounds at Mater Dolorosa.

STEWARDSHIP

The Passionist Community, the Board of Directors, the Staff and our loyal volunteers work diligently at being responsible stewards of your gifts of time, talent and treasure. We do this because we love Mater Dolorosa, we believe in the special ministry that takes place at the retreat center, and we want to ensure that Mater Dolorosa will be available to all of us for years to come. We know that when you make a contribution, it is because you also believe in the special mission that takes place at Mater Dolorosa.

Fiscal responsibility and stability are long held traditions at Mater Dolorosa. The income received from retreat operations, however, does not cover all of our expenses. The recommended donation for attending a retreat is less than the actual cost to the retreat center. Even so, 34.5% of retreatants pay less than the recommended donation. This is proof that our tradition of welcoming all who wish to attend a Passionist-preached weekend retreat regardless of their ability to pay the recommended donation continues. It is important to us and to those who are in need of God's touch that it does.

However, this means the shortfall needs to be covered in some way. This is done through Fundraising Appeals such as the Annual Fund, Fundraising Events, Raffles and Bequest Donations.

Your support, love and understanding is crucial to maintaining Mater Dolorosa for your retreat, personal use and benefit. It is through your generosity that the special retreat ministry which began in 1924 continues to be offered at Mater Dolorosa today.

Become a member of our distinctive

Mater Dolorosa Legacy Society

Please remember us in your will or bequest...

Our Legal Name and Address:
Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, Inc.
A nonprofit public charity
700 N. Sunnyside Avenue
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

...then give us a call at 626.355.7188, ext. 103 to let us know of your generosity and we will gratefully include your name as a member of the Mater Dolorosa Legacy Society!

“You make a difference...”

There are many ways to give, and **gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated.** It is our pledge and commitment to you that we will respectfully use your gift for the purpose for which it was given.

**St. Paul of the Cross
Founder of the Passionist Congregation**



Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center Mission Statement

We are a Passionist Retreat Center, preaching the Passion of Jesus Christ. We seek to welcome all who wish to hear the message of the Passion through our traditions of preaching, hospitality, and compassion. We resolve to place our focus on the Passion of Jesus Christ and its relevance in the lives of people today. We also resolve to foster and promote spiritual growth and renewal through Passionist retreat programs, and by providing a peaceful environment of prayer and reflection.

MATER DOLOROSA Passionist Retreat Center
700 N. Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626-355-7188 www.materdolorosa.org



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to access our website.
(Download a QR code reader for your smartphone from your app store.)