

# 35<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter of Holy Cross Province

Report of Fr. Joseph Moons, C.P., Provincial

January 2019



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## 1) INTRODUCTION

It's hard to believe that it has been almost three and a half years since the last Provincial Chapter in 2015. These have been good years for me, and I find it a privilege to have served you, our Passionist Family. I can't say they have always been easy years, but with your support and prayer through the years, God has always found a way for us to move forward. I'm truly grateful to all of you, both lay and vowed that with God's help together we have accomplished much, and as we forge ahead we will be able to meet the opportunities and challenges still before us.

In reviewing these last three and a half years, we continue to be challenged by the changing makeup of our ministries and membership as Holy Cross Province. We have seen the laity continue taking their place alongside the vowed as we reach out to enhance our ministry to and with the people of God. We have been assisted by seven vowed Passionists from other parts of Congregation who willingly came to us and have taken up ministries that sustain our mission among the people whom God daily entrusts to us. The June 2007 "Holy Cross Province Mission Statement" has been our motivation and challenge as we live today and envision our future:



*We Passionists  
proclaim God's love for the world  
revealed through the Passion of Jesus Christ.*

*The Passionists,  
a family of priests, brothers and laity,  
reach out with compassion to the crucified of today.  
We keep alive the memory of Christ's passion through  
our commitment to community,  
prayer,  
ministries of the Word,  
and service to those who suffer.  
We welcome all who seek renewed life  
through the power of the Cross  
and the hope of the Resurrection.*

Given our resources, we can expect challenges as we face the future of our mission as Holy Cross Province. The Visioning Commission has had a vital role in moving us forward in a process that, with everyone's input, will help us embrace a grace-filled future...with God's help. The Visioning Commission has been entrusted with many aspects of the recommendations of the June 2015 Provincial Chapter. With faith, we are invited to have open hearts so that we may envision the future God has prepared for us in serving God's people.

Humanly, we want clarity about our future before we move beyond where we are and what we have in hand. A vision may not always give us that confidence or opportunity. In hope, we trust each other and God's grace that the foundation we lay down in this visioning process will provide us the confidence to "let go" so that God can show us the way. In this manner, we move ahead with whatever God has in store for us...quite a challenge! We may not be able to see the end of the road as we look down the road ahead of us, but as the African American Community has reminded us over



the years, “God didn’t bring us this far just to leave us now.” God will be there with us, the Passionist Family.

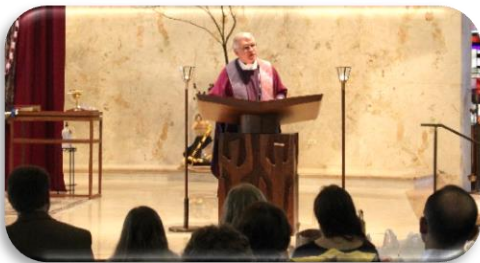
At a Provincial Council meeting, as we reflect on the last three years of the visioning process, Jim Strommer, C.P., stated that, “It is not so important that we come up with a vision, but that we become visionaries.” The process of working together as vowed and lay and all that we have shared is a great foundation for a bright future for Holy Cross Province. Thus, remaining faithful and with open hearts, we forge ahead, venturing to faithfully respond to the needs of God’s people whom we are called to love and serve.



## **MISSION:**

In all our deliberations and discernment about our future, ultimately it is about our Passionist Mission as Holy Cross Province. This is our first priority. Our Province focuses on reaching out to the pastoral needs of everyday life and the struggles of God’s people—especially the crucified of today. As everyday life and struggles change, so must we in reaching out and ministering among God’s people. This is part of our personal cross as a Passionist Family: letting go of the past that has served us well so that we can clearly see people’s needs and struggles – both today and in future years.

### **Mission: Ministry**



Our ministry today focuses on the people God has entrusted to us, wherever they may be – giving us both an identity and a mission. These ministerial relationships impact our community life and the evolving expression of our Passionist Charism as it responds to the signs of the times and the changing needs of God’s people.

The ways these relationships express themselves are many, and with God’s grace they have changed over time. Ultimately, ministry is always about God’s people. Our ministries have developed over the years, growing from the seeds that St. Paul of the Cross sowed so many years ago. Though the ground and climate have changed and the manner by which we sow has changed, the Passionist Charism continues to offer healing, hope and reconciliation, and above all an unconditional love in Jesus Crucified in which no one is a stranger.

We see this in the ministry of our presence and preaching during our parish missions and retreats, in the retreats at our centers, in our pastoring in our parishes, and in all





the support staff and benefactors that help this miracle of our Passionist Charism to touch and change the lives of so many of God's people. My brothers and sisters, this is who we are.

Together we have reason to be grateful. We can celebrate what God has allowed us to do:

- through the retreats we have conducted in our centers and other locations,



- through our four retreat center Governing Boards and retreat center staff and volunteers,
- through our many parish missions,
- through our parish ministry in Birmingham, Alabama; Louisville, Kentucky; Chicago, Illinois and various parish supply locations,



- through the sacred life and wholeness affirmed by the *Passionist Earth & Spirit Center* in Louisville and the many people they have touched in last 11 years through the efforts of Kyle Kramer as CEO and Joe Mitchell, C.P. as President.

- through Cedric Pisegna, C.P.'s *Live With Passion* television ministry,

- through the participation of Hugo Esparza, C.P. in St. Paul of the Cross Province's Passionist Mission in Haiti and a member of their Provincial Council,
- through the protection of the earth and other social justice issues focused upon by the *Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee*,
- through the health and well-being that the *Province Health and Aging Advisory Board* provides for both our young and old vowed members as we seek to "age with grace",
- through the formation community at St. Vincent Strambi Community in Chicago, as it inspires our students to further discern and grow in their vocation, and as both the Community and Catholic Theological Union (of which we are a founding member) each celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of foundation,
- through our internal ministries of local superior, vocation ministry, provincial council, health care, development, etc.,
- through our expanding ministry in the world-wide web, social media and the printed word,
- through our confidence in the *Province Investment Advisory Committee* in helping secure a sound financial future for our mission,



- through our Province *“Instruments of Hope and Healing Review Board”* whose members guide the Province in the protection of children and vulnerable adults, and
- through the creative and committed efforts of our staff of the Passionists of Holy Cross Development Office in reaching out to donors and the Passionist Formation Alumni, as well as the provincial administration’s efforts to secure stable and secure financial and administrative structures for the Province.

Though there are many names that could be mentioned, in the name of our Province I am deeply indebted and grateful to all those who, along with God’s help, have helped make possible the above ministerial expressions of our Passionist Charism in Holy Cross Province.

### **Collaboration of the Vowed and Laity in Mission together:**

One of the great resources for mission we have is our relationship as vowed and lay collaborators. This provides a necessary vitality as we move forward in the shared Passionist Mission as Holy Cross Province. We have achieved a level of comfort with one another so that our mission continues to thrive...with God’s help. Over the years, our Province has found a welcome confidence and healthy dependence on each other as vowed and lay collaborators. God’s grace is richly operative in our ministries in a manner that has grown over time and will continue to grow.



Collaboration among the vowed and laity comes in many forms, as seen in the broad spectrum of Province life, ministry and administration. Together, we have been enriched and inspired. With this collaboration God’s people are being served by the grace-filled “*memoria passionis*”...the Memory of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Together, we raise the Cross on high and proclaim the most effective remedy is the Passion of Jesus, “the greatest and most overwhelming work of God’s love” (Passionist Constitutions, #1).

## **2) THE CHANGES AND CHALLENGES WE HAVE SEEN:**

### **Vowed Community Life:**

The challenges of community life will always be with us. As no individual is ever perfect, so no community is ever ideal. When we look at vowed community life, numbers are fewer in almost all communities, but in many cases the demands have remained the same. Many of the vowed have more than one responsibility, some three or more. This makes for a much more challenging community living condition.

We have seven vowed communities. Can we find seven local superiors...when some of our present superiors are in their 80’s or will soon be? Should we close a community, or can we envision a new local Passionist presence with both vowed and lay members? What criterion do we have for closing a Passionist community presence or ministry ... or possibly envisioning a new community presence or ministry?



As the current communities of vowed members age and decrease in membership, three communities will have financial challenges and will likely depend on the Province to help cover their annual operating deficits, much less their capital repairs. Their meager reserve accounts will have run out. Can the Province ask other communities to “twin”



with another community, helping them by sharing their reserve funds? Currently, four local communities are “blessed” by their association with a retreat center as ministry stipends and lease agreements often make significant financial contributions to community life.



Also, our vowed community life has been enriched and challenged by vowed Passionists from other areas of the Congregation. We have seven Passionists “on loan” to Holy Cross Province, ministering in key Province positions. We are deeply grateful to them and to their provinces / regions for allowing them to minister with us. No doubt, there are also challenges in ministering in a different culture. I know from my nine-year ministry in India that the challenge of inculturation and ministry in a new culture can be difficult. To let go of the ways we do things in our home country, from what we eat, from how we pray and minister – that was most difficult for me. Culture is part of

our identity, allowing us to feel at home. Thus, the challenge to serve in another culture as these seven Passionists have done is a learning experience requiring patience, sacrifice and openness for everyone. We are most grateful to the men that serve in our Province and the sacrifices they have made to serve God’s people. This is truly a “grace” of membership in an international congregation like ours.

### **The Vowed and Laity together:**

In these changing times, the laity is not always sure of their role, responsibility and authority in collaboration. As collaboration develops, further clarity is needed for the benefit of both the laity and the vowed. A change of leadership, whether vowed or lay, can at times change the relationship and nature of collaboration in both ministry and administration. Some of the resulting challenges are part of normal human growth, and some are the result of new and developing relationships. There needs to be a forum or structure where this necessary dialogue between laity and vowed can take place to allow collaboration to grow and bear fruit, helping continue our Passionist mission.



Moving forward, collaboration of laity and vowed will become important for our future ministry. We see this development in our retreat center governing boards as they relate to the Trustees (the Provincial and Council) as owners, and to the retreat director (vowed or lay Passionist) as an employee of the retreat center governing board.

We have already seen many successful transitions in collaboration with laity, especially with two retreat centers having lay retreat directors and all four centers having lay administrators and lay members on their preaching teams. We also see this in the Province Development Office with a professional lay development staff working in collaboration with vowed Passionists. We also find this in our parish ministries and Fr. Cedric’s ministries.





## **Birmingham:**



Our Passionist presence in Birmingham remains critical to the Province. In a significant way, the Province continues an important ministry begun there over 75 years ago, ministering in a variety of parish settings, in academics, and social justice issues. Those members of the Passionist Family who minister there foster the spiritual lives of the people served there, as well as the larger Passionist family...and thus reflecting the richness of our Passionist Charism serving the People of God in Birmingham. All of our

Province ministries contribute to the life and identity of the Province; our ministries in Birmingham speak to the heart of who we are as Passionists.



## **The Vice-Province of St. Thomas the Apostle, India:**



Holy Cross Province, in its new leadership, will continue its strong relationship with our Passionist brothers in India. We have faithfully fulfilled our five-year agreement (2013-2018) with St. Thomas the Apostle Vice-Province helping them financially and in a variety of other ways. We are grateful for their brothers that serve with us, enriching our life and ministries. We will continue to work together and support each other in the years to come.

## **3) OUR SHARED MISSION:**

### **The Hispanic Catholic Community in the USA:**

Within the larger USA Catholic Church there is a demographic change in which we are blessed by an ever-growing presence among us of our Hispanic brothers and sisters. This is an enormous opportunity and grace that God has entrusted to us -- and one that will demand from us an ever more creative response to continue and expand our mission.



### **The International Congregation of the Passion:**



We are blessed and enriched by our membership in an international congregation that offers a deeper understanding of the universality of the Catholic Church. We Passionists are now present in 63 different countries, with over 1,800 priests and brothers. At the last General Chapter in October 2018, I was impressed by the presence of the Congregation's young leadership and their dedication as Passionists to address the challenges



that are before them. And, 40% of Chapter members were participating in their first General Chapter, including myself.

### **The Configuration of Jesus Crucified:**

Presently we are in serious discussion as how to move forward as the Configuration of Jesus Crucified. The Configuration includes five provinces: two in Brazil, two in the USA, and one in Mexico. As my letter of October 2018 explained, there needs to be a change. We leaders will meet in Mexico at the beginning of February 2019 to discuss how we can bring vitality to our mission and more effectively serve the people God has entrusted to us.



### **The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and Praesidium, Inc.:**

The CMSM has a significant role in the life of the Catholic Church in the USA, primarily for the individual communities of men religious. One significant resource CMSM has provided is the creation of the Instruments of Hope and Healing program to respond to the crisis of the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults. Because of the abuse scandal, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops established the Charter and the Essential Norms of 2002. CMSM, with the assistance of Praesidium, Inc. (an independent accrediting agency), first issued Standards for Accreditation in 2003. These Standards, which deal in detail with prevention, response and supervision, were updated in 2016. They are the current expression of the commitment that men religious in the USA have made for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults. We are fully accredited by Praesidium in meeting these Standards, with our accreditation up for review and renewal in 2020.

This program has moved us into a model of accountability and transparency that we have not experienced before. Each of the three years, during my Provincial Visitation of our local communities, I have conducted an ongoing training session sponsored by CMSM on the Instruments of Hope and Healing Standards, along with a review of related past materials focused on the protection of children and vulnerable adults. In line with this, let us continue to keep the victims of abuse in our prayers that they may experience the healing they need.

### **Holy Cross Province Ministries:**



In the history of our Province we have seen many transitions and changes. The ministries of our retreat centers, the parish missions and retreats, parochial ministry and our involvement in foreign missions have all changed dramatically over the years. Other ministries of leadership, formation and teaching have changed as well. As the people we serve change, so with God's help do we.

Our four retreat centers have seen significant change with Governing Boards, two lay retreat directors and lay staff participating on the preaching teams. The retreat centers have also seen changes in those they serve, compared to years ago. The preaching ministry has evolved, as seen in the significant impact of the "Fr. Cedric Ministries" domestic and international presence on television and radio. The Internet and social media now offer us new opportunities to allow the love of Jesus





Crucified to be a part of many more lives. The success of these transitions can be seen as a sign from God that we are on the right path, with a vision that helps us cooperate with God to do even more for others in the coming days.

#### 4) COMMUNITY LIFE:

##### **Vowed and Laity: is an experience of community life possible?**

Questions arise: Where can the lives of the vowed and laity meet to bring forth a new concept of a community that offers a new sense of life, one where there is a certain level of interacting and praying together? As lay and vowed collaborate in ministry, how can we journey together to enrich our interconnected spiritual lives so that Passionist Community life remains a constitutive element of our Charism and ministry? Though our Passionist Mission is our first priority, our community life is both integral and a constitutive element of the effectiveness of our mission.

Community life entails celebrations of Passionist feasts and milestones, shared liturgical prayer and other spiritual exercises, coming together often for meals and the details of common life, and healthy relationships that inspire and challenge each other to be faithful to our Passionist Charism. These aspects of community life can regularly be shared by the lay and vowed members of the Passionist Family.



For both the vowed and lay there is an ongoing need for formation in our Passionist Charism. The *Province Office of Mission Effectiveness* (OME) will continue to focus on the increasing need for depth in personal understanding and growth in our Passionist Charism, for both the lay and the vowed.

##### **Vowed Passionists in Community:**

Our General Superior, Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P., has repeatedly reached out to the Congregation with thoughtful encouragements and challenges regarding community life. A few years ago during provincial visitation, I reviewed two of his letters to all members of the Congregation: one on community life and the other on personal finance. Both remain timely and important.



Leadership continues to be an important issue, both now and in the future, and at both the provincial and local levels. At the provincial level we have the challenge of many different positions / responsibilities for which qualified members are needed. At local level we need local superiors who will actively engage the community in forming a healthy and prayerful life style, healthy interpersonal relationships and the ability to see community in light of increasing collaboration with the laity.



One of the issues that arose at the recent General Chapter is at what point does a Province cease to be a Province and become a Vice-Province, or even a Vicariate or a mission? It may come down to membership numbers, but also it may be that the province no longer has qualified members for leadership positions, or individuals for specific responsibilities like novice master, formation director, vocation director, etc. Such challenges are being faced in other parts of the Congregation.



Our community life is to be a shared presence in prayer, administration and celebration. As we become smaller in number and remain quite busy, the need becomes stronger for a common commitment to a community calendar with a long-range schedule of events regarding Passionist religious and civic celebrations, community meetings, shared responsibilities, etc.

As we age as vowed members, both young and old, we are encouraged to be ever more attentive to our health and well-being. *The Province Health and Aging Advisory Board* (PHAAB) has been instrumental and supportive as the Province experiences aging, especially for our senior religious. The members of PHAAB are helping us see what is possible for those that are older, in order to live safely and “age in place” in the communities in which they currently live. They are also trying to reach out to those who are relatively younger to maintain a healthier life. We are deeply grateful to PHAAB for their interest, expertise and practical advice.



Local community finances will continue to be a significant concern for the Province, due to fewer religious engaged in full time ministry, more of our men serving part-time in ministry or being completely retired. The Province has been blessed with very generous benefactors and a positive return on our investment portfolio. However, both of these income sources cannot be taken for granted...they are true blessings that God has provided for us at this time.



Community life will be less than ideal. The quality of community life cannot be legislated through enactments or recommendations or covenants; it is lived at the local level by human beings. Important will be leadership and the individual member's capacity for tolerance and the ability to see, affirm and celebrate the good in others. Local leadership is important, but the individual member's efforts to cultivate community are fundamental to the vitality of the community. Everyone must do their part. We each are to use the special grace of our Passionist vocation to see what God sees in our brother in community, and thus respond as God would have us respond. As mentioned above, an individual's commitment to an agreed upon community calendar can be a strong element of our life together, including those times where laity could be invited to participate in special aspects of community life. Such collaboration takes planning and commitment, prioritizing such community events rather than personal outside commitments.

## 5) HOLY CROSS PROVINCE PLANNING:

### Office of Mission Effectiveness (OME):

As the participation / collaboration of laity and vowed increases, the OME will continue to take an ever-important role in the Passionist formation of all involved. I want to thank both Don



Webber, C.P., as the OME director and his Board as they help move this important effort forward. In development are Passionist Charism Workshops and the establishment of formation requirements for individuals participating in the Province's mission, relative to their level of responsibilities and ministerial participation. The OME is establishing *The Passionist Formation Institute*, which will be centered on the Passionist Charism and Mission; *The Passionist Formation Institute* will be independent from the CTU Summer Program.



### **Vocation and Formation Ministries:**



A new *Holy Cross Province Vocation Team* was established as of March 2018. The Province Vocation Office has been moved to Sacred Heart Monastery in Louisville. Ronan Newbold, C.P., is the Province Vocation Director, with Chris Gibson, C.P., serving as a consultant. In August 2018, Ms. Monica Santillan was hired as a part time Administrative Secretary for the office.

The members of our Vocation Team met with the members of St. Paul of the Cross Province Vocation Team while participating in the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) annual convocation. Both teams are getting together January 7-10, 2019 at our Sierra Madre, California retreat center to further develop areas of cooperation between the two provinces' vocation efforts.

We thank Chris, Ronan and Monica for their efforts, along with the rest of the team: Jim Strommer, C.P. (Provincial Council liaison), Justin Nelson Alphonse, C.P., Bruno D'Souza, C.P., Giltus Mathias, C.P., Febin Barose, C.P., and Nicholas Divine, C.P.

St. Vincent Strambi Community in Chicago has been the formation house for many years. Presently there is one aspirant in college, and two temporarily professed student theologians. In particular, we thank Jack Conley, C.P., as Local Superior and Alfredo Ocampo, C.P., who serves as Director of Students, as well as the other members of the formation community.



### **Province Development Office:**



This important ministry continues to develop. The recent combination into one facility of the Development Office and the Provincial Office has been a great encouragement for all staff members. The offices and staff are now in one building which we own, with a redesigned office layout providing for the effective use of both staff and resources.

In the "big picture", the Development Office continues to annually provide the Province a welcome and necessary annual mission support of some \$500,000. Through its special efforts, the Development Office also financed the combination /

renovation of two offices. We continue to encourage major gifts and estate planning using our direct mail solicitations as our source for prospects. We are very grateful to the Development





Office staff, under the direction of Executive Director Keith Zekind, for their dedication and creative efforts on many levels. Thanks and appreciation also goes to Kristine Richter, Director of Development, Angela Kwasinski, Director of Donor Relations and Claire Smith, Director of Communications, for helping guide us in this important ministry.

In recent years, we have organized and enhanced our outreach to the many Passionist Alumni. An alumni organization has been organized, with its “Passionist Alumni Council” leadership team, and an evolving presence on the Passionist web site. We thank Development Office members John Schork, C.P., Angela Kwasinski, Phil Jackson, Claire Smith and all members of the “Passionist Alumni Council”, especially Mike Owens, its chair.



### **Province Finances:**

As stated above in this report, the Province does not have a significant guaranteed annual income. The Province depends on our ongoing Passionist ministries, the generosity of our benefactors through various donations and bequests, and positive returns from our professionally managed investment portfolio.

We are very grateful to the 16 members of the *Province Investment Advisory Committee* (IAC) and its chair, Mr. Tim O'Brien. The Province invests conservatively, and in God's providence we have found a way for us to move forward with our mission and take care of our members as they age. We thank Mr. Shale Lapping of IPEX, our investment performance evaluation consultant who provides professional guidance for our portfolio and helps the IAC work with the Provincial Council in following our Investment Policy. All investments are approved by the Provincial Council, based upon the advice of the IAC.



Our Province Director of Finance, Keith Zekind, will provide a more up-to-date and comprehensive financial report before the Provincial Chapter. We thank Keith, Province Controller, Susan Arvanitis, and Provincial Office Secretary, Sr. Loretta Ciesielski, for their commitment to the multi-faceted work of the Provincial Office. We are very fortunate to have such competent staff to serve our Province in such critical areas.

### **Caring for our Religious:**

Both Sacred Heart Passionist Community in Louisville and PHAAB continue to play a major role in the care of our religious. As vowed members continue to age, we are encouraged to be informed and proactive regarding our health and the opportunities available to optimize our health. With the encouragement and efforts of PHAAB, we are grateful for the “Welcome”/Senior Care Booklet recently published on life at Sacred Heart, the *Province Health Care Plan*, the *Wellness Review* and the other professional resources now available to Province membership.



The question facing those with physical or mental challenges is “How can my local community help me be safe and have the time and talent to attend to my changing needs?” My suggestion: ask them. There are also opportunities to “age in place” - staying in our local communities - but with some necessary adjustments. Which adjustments? I again would suggest asking the local community members or superior.



We want the best care for our senior religious and those needing assistance, no matter where they are assigned. However, we must be realistic and honest on the part of the individual member and the on the part of the community. When is it time to decide to move to Sacred Heart Community for an individual to receive the care he needs, where his needs are too much for the local community to care for? This is no small matter, for the safety of the member himself, or his community.



Again, we thank the members of PHAAB and the excellent support they are to all of us religious, young and old alike. We particularly want to thank the local superior at Sacred Heart, John Monzyk, C.P., and Director of Assisted Living Kurt Wernert, C.P., and the entire staff at Sacred Heart for their excellent leadership in the care they provide our members.

## **6) THE CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT PROVINCIAL AND COUNCIL:**

- a) First and foremost is further development of the insights and graces that have surfaced from the Visioning Process over these last few years. Some may be expressed in concrete proposals / recommendations / statements during the Chapter itself; others will be nuances that surface which the new Provincial Council will need to reflect upon – and which will then need to be focused on, articulated and then implemented.
- b) The Provincial Council will likely be called upon to help develop an integrated Passionist community life / presence with laity who is very active in our ministry. Dialogue, prayer, common celebrations and ongoing formation will be critical. This likely means guiding the transition from a traditional vowed community presence to a more fluid presence with laity in our current seven Passionist communities.
- c) When evaluating our different communities and ministries, can we continue all seven of our communities and all of our ministries? What is the criterion for continuing our presence in a place or ministry? How is laity included in this decision making or how can they allow us to continue our presence / ministry in a certain place or even start one?
- d) Province vocation ministry will need considerable support and involvement from not only the vowed members, but also from laity who share our life as members of the Passionist Family. Together, our efforts at creating a “culture” that affirms religious vocations will be critical to encourage young men to consider the call of God to vowed Passionist life, and other young men and women to consider being vital and involved members of the Passionist Family. We need everyone’s involvement.
- e) Given the increasing level of civil investigation by different states’ attorneys and the Federal Justice Department on the issue of the sexual abuse of minors and its cover up and the likely passage of the lifting of the statute of limitations in the state of California, an increased amount of psychic energy and personal and financial resources may be called upon to responsibly and pastorally reach out to possible victims of sexual abuse.
- f) The new Provincial Council will be invited to continue to develop areas of enhanced collaboration with the Provinces of Cristo Rey (Mexico) and St. Paul of the Cross (U.S.), as well as with the Passionist Sisters in the USA and Mexico, the Passionist Nuns and the greater Passionist Family. This enhanced collaboration will help best serve the people of God through our Passionist ministries, especially the growing Hispanic Catholic population.
- g) Given the multi-level changes the Province will continue to undergo as part of the Church and world today (personnel, leadership, facilities, finances, etc.), the new Council will need to be attentive to and involved in responsibly stewarding our resources of charism and



mission, to the needs of our people (vowed and lay), the care of our facilities and financial stability.

- h) As we age and further collaborate in life and ministry, there needs to be a focus on leadership development among the vowed and laity.

## 7) GIVING THANKS:

Looking back over the past three-plus years, in the name of the Province, I do want to thank the members of the Visioning Commission for the volume of work and ministry they have undertaken for the good of Holy Cross Province and its future mission. I thank Jim Strommer, C.P., and Keith Zekind as Commission co-chairs, and Elizabeth Velarde, Trudi Stinson, Mike Higgins, C.P., Phil Paxton, C.P., Joe Castro, Richard Burke, C.P., and Tim O'Brien -- and finally our consultant and facilitator, Anne Kemp. The Province is deeply grateful for the time and effort all of you have invested in this process.



In name of the Province, I thank the members of the Provincial Council: Jim Strommer, C.P., Alex Steinmiller, C.P., Dave Colhour, C.P., and Phil Paxton, C.P. They have been an ongoing and necessary support to me as Provincial these past years. I am grateful for their insight and dedication to deal with the challenges the Province has faced, as well as their willingness to take on tasks as needed for the Province to successfully move

forward. In the same breath, I wish to thank my secretary, John Schork, C.P., for his patience with me, making me look good and understandable in getting out many of my communications to the Province and others -- as well as serving as recording secretary for Provincial Council meetings, and secretary for the *Province Instruments of Hope and Healing Review Board*.

There are many others for whom I am sincerely grateful and to whom the Province owes their gratitude. Particularly: the various ministry staffs, administrators, Board chairs and members, auditors, lawyers, volunteers, etc. -- to all those who in any capacity help allow our Mission as Holy Cross Province to continue and flourish. To all of them we say a heartfelt "thank you!"



As we approach the coming Provincial Chapter in June 2019, let us keep the visioning process in our prayers. I pray that it will provide us the grace we need to envision the needs of the people we are called to serve, and the strength and resources to fulfill that ministry. Thank you for allowing me to serve you, the Passionist Family of Holy Cross Province, as your Provincial. God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Joe Moons, C.P.

Provincial Superior

