PRE-CHAPTER COMMUNITY MEETING

JANUARY 15-16, 2019

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Members Present: Fr. Nelson, Fr. Alex, Fr. Patricio, Sharon Brewer, McDaniels Johnston, Kim Moore and Trudi Webb-Stinson

***How are the signs of the times reflected in these reports?***

The Passionist has three parishes: St. Mary’s, St. Joseph and Holy Family. Fr. Patricio said that most of his Parishioners are Hispanic and mostly families with young children, however he does have a small older group consisting mostly of Anglo members that come on Saturdays. Fr. Nelson is the pastor of Holy Family and St. Mary’s…both parishes consist mostly of older African Americans. Both priests agreed that the work at the parishes can be very demanding, but also rewarding. Fr. Alex works at a Diocesan parish that has Anglo and Hispanics members.

Everyone agreed that with the many advancements made in technology, it is hard to keep up. Our younger generation are using their phones to keep up with everything that is going on around them. We must find a way to tap into that technology to attract our young people back into the church. Ever mindful that just producing a Facebook page or a podcast is not necessarily the ultimate goal. We want to invite them into our Passionist home…for them to become familiar with our Passionist family. We want them in our parishes, worshipping with us. How do we attract them?

***What obstacles are with us in this community and in the Province and how can we address them?***

Poverty, drugs, broken homes, being in-different, and poor leadership … unfortunately these are obstacles that has always faced communities without the financial means. However, with all the obstacles that faced past generations, these churches continued to grow. The Hispanic community is constantly growing…but the job is getting them educated enough to help the priest run the parish. Fr. Patricio spends a lot of his time with teaching and training.

***Where is the Spirit leading us in a bold and prophetic way?***

We believe that our Passionist Charism is just as important today as it was 80 years ago. We must find a way to light the way for the next generation. We must infuse in them the Passion of the Lord and his wonderful example of love for everyone. We must get beyond our comfort level by stepping out and spreading the good news…Evangelize…whether it is using technology or walking the neighborhood and telling them his story…the Passionist’s story…our story.