

Summary and (my) observations from the February meeting:

- There is some concern we are focused too much on the retreat center model, and not taking into account the mission, parish or chapels which we are supporting. We may need to ensure what we may be proposing/suggesting/imagining is too Retreat Center focused.
- We discussed the fact that each group, (or even individual) has a lot of autonomy regarding the preaching message, delivery and target audience. Perhaps this autonomy is a part of the charism, which should not be “messed with.” For those of us new to the Passionists, I think there is still a need to “capture” the essence of Passionist preaching content and charism, even if it is only to pass it on to others. (This may be well beyond the scope of this committee but becomes an element in future visioning).
- There seemed to be a sense we were becoming too specific in the committee actions and direction and should return to a more “imagining of the potential of our future” at our next meeting.

I am attaching the previous discussion point which brought us into the February meeting. If you would like to add your own commentary/suggestions/observations to mine above, then please email them and I will integrate them into our next agenda.

Thank you again for all your input and assistance.

Sincerely,

Mike

Preaching Committee Discussion points

Points for discussion of where to take the preaching dialog next:

1. The vowed Passionists (Priests) on the committee appear to be comfortable with the existing preaching model in the retreat centers. It has worked in the past and is working now. This model is based on:
 - a. Having those coming in retreats who are “churched” in some way. They are often Catholics who are familiar with the faith and sacraments and want to continue to deepen their faith through retreats and visits to our centers.
 - b. Most of the preaching is based on traditional Passionist “preaching” model.
 - c. We have a very small number of retreatants who are younger. This is a serious problem in the long term.
2. The lay members of the committee are looking more for outreach to see where we can bring the message of Christ into their everyday lives. The message needs to be relevant, accessible and available to them where “they are.” This means the preaching model has to “come to them” rather than they coming to the retreat center. We also need formation programming which will encourage young people and adults to come to the centers.
3. The transition of preaching content creation and delivery will increasingly move to a team comprising of laity members. The transition to the lay members requires both a

“knowledge” and “skills” program to ensure the charism of the Passionist preaching has continuity regardless of whether we address a “churched” or “unchurched” audience. We should discuss each of these points to determine if we can gain consensus on these issues. Some questions to consider:

- Do you agree with the statements above? Discuss.
- Is there an opportunity for a both/and model to meet the needs of either group?
- Which areas would need to be reskilled or re-equipped to deliver these messages?
 - Vowed Passionist?
 - Lay preaching and formation?
- What programming is most attractive to lay members today in their daily lives?
- What can the Passionists do to augment the spiritual needs of lay people in their workplace and everyday lives?

We plan to use these ideas (and perhaps others as they arise) as the basis for continued development of the Preaching Committee Vision.

Respectfully,

Co-Chairs: Michael J. Cunningham, O.F.S., Fr. Jack Conley C.P.