**2019 Pre-Chapter ZOOM Meetings – Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center**

**Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019 Attendance**

Joe Castro John Chambers Kate Mims

Patty Masson Fr. Ronan Newbold Megan Silas

Fr. Ken O’Malley Ron Bickers Fr. Jorge Stanfield

Fr. Cedric Pisegna (remotely linked)

**WORKING GROUP: CHARISM**

Mike/Sierra Madre: How do you connect needs to model outreach?

* Neuro-science be important to retreat work
* More needs than possible
  + Prioritize – my passion

Fr. Simon – Louisville

* Ethos of Passionists – not into building (colleges, etc.)
* prayer is a main part of our spirituality.
* **PRAYER CEMENT!!** (love this) Ministry impact.

Sr. Maryanne – Louisville

She loved the comment of reaching out with compassion to the Crucified of today

St. Paul of the Cross – Detroit

* Communal discernment
* Collaboration committee – benchmarks or plans to pass on culture
* identify things to see these
* how to accomplish – measure
* who? - laity

Provincial Office – Fr. Alec

What is the value of communal thinking? Help to shape.

Louisville – Chris

More and more technology – positives

Christ the King – Bob Porter/lay person

* spirituality of Passionists
  + prayer and discernment are valuable

Birmingham – Fr. Alex

* World view – poverty – world view
* who are the crucified of today
* how do we meet those needs

Fr. Cedric

* Technology – we are barely touching surface – what does that mean
* Technology – 15 years
* More time in outer space will change our spirituality
* AI – space fight etc. – love to watch
* Neuroscience and the brain

Philip going back to Alex – technology

* Artificial intelligence (AI) – faith
* 30-40 years, 100 million jobs lost
* Will AI
  + Enhance our religion
  + Replace our religion
  + Separate us from our religion (invalidate)

Fr. Ronan – percent of the world population have access to technology

2.7 bill of 6 billion = appx. ½ of population (yes and no)

Birmingham – solar energy

**CHARISM WORKING GROUP NOTES – Fr. David Colhour**

35 volumes of St. Paul of the Cross’ writings

Memorial passions – memory of the passion, promoting, keeping alive

May the Passion be always in our hearts.

Slogans – intellectual piece or mission statement – WE SEEK UNITY!

Keep passion of Jesus Christ in our hearts

* Hot leads we have to sit with to ponder – contemplation
* Not static, but grow – a pure gift of God
* How do we know it is still alive
* Energy in room
  + Story telling – narrative – evangelizes
* More life giving

How do we keep telling stories that connect us – ways to keep Christmas alive?

* Nativities
* Cards
* Windows
* Children’s stories

Bring it around, making it theology and understanding passion

God has the last word – timely inspired.

Every person I meet has some grief. I met Christ even more fully in my grief.

* Children
* Teens
* Poor
* Rich
* Young
* Old
* Nativities

Taught me love, absolute love. ? – Crosses – stories – windows

How have we evolved into multileveled – at the foot of the cross. View through Charism.

Hope to put down info, surveys for lay and vowed; to gather experiences; video interviews.

**COLLABORATION WORKING GROUP NOTES: FAITH OFFMAN**

What you become; investment in laity and vowed.

**OUTREACH WORKING GROUP NOTES: FR. BRUNO, JEAN BOWLER**

Surveys – what is growing organically? Spiritual direction, ministry sites

**PREACHING WORKING GROUP NOTES: MIKE CUNNINGHAM, FR. JACK CONLEY**

Needs

Holy Spirit is the conductor; accessible as well as relational

Baseball –

1. God is love
2. Recognize food in their lives
3. Establish relationships – Jesus Christ – Passionists
4. Encountering God in everyday life – holy; longing; solitude; contemplation

Sacred eloquence – delivery/content

How do we reach the margins

Immerse ourselves in lives not immersed in faith

Signs of the times?

Lay Passionist defined – re – charism = gift given by the Holy Spirit. Reawakened – spiritual home.

Lay Passionists – no official role as Passionist, no clarity

How do we invite others?

Originally we had Passionist Partners or the Confraternity of Passionist Partners.

Originally POC – to have lay Passionists

Passion is not just ours – Passionist of the congregation lives it daily

Fr. Jorge – passion belongs to everyone

Fr. Ken – confraternity did exist, Dunkirk NY still exists the CPP Passionist partners.

Patty – how do we collaborate outside our walls

Need to respect the Passionist community

Spreads through retreats

Feedback

Fr. Antonio – modern technology number – difficulty with connection

50% without technology – marginalized. Etc. We know very well the future is technology.

John – Marks presentation 10 years ago

Most Hispanic have no computer/phone

Now changing

Be open to be courageous and have faith

Megan – technology may be first touch – what then

Fr. Antonio – need the personal connection. Signs of the times – look to what worked in the past

Preaching, spiritual direction, confession

John – feels a white flag is being waved by Passionist Vowed, not a good approach.

- Priests - Masses – is that a sense from the community?

In the past from a religious community they “passed” on recruiting – challenges with life gives them a want for

Prayer community

Fr. Ken – Passionist charism made the rest of it worthwhile.

- the five areas (ecology, etc.)

John – don’t abandon the past – vastly changing world. Go back to the roots. Partner with what’s happening. 40% businesses expected to fail.

There is a strength in who we say we are, and yet stay intuned.

Megan – Law people – not just serving rolls. They are raising children in Passionist vocation; not just serving this but creating an atmosphere for vocations within the family.

John – Challenge retreat centers. Not enough young people unlike the parishes. Preaching arms to go to the parishes.

Fr. Antonio – Our visibility – service we give to parishes – our visibility. Spiritual direction/formation of family. Expected/conversation

John – raised eyebrow – call me to water down – political correctness

Fr. Bruno

Faith – good voice.

Sierra Madre – sacraments, lack of vocations, formation in lay community

St. Vincent Strambi - acknowledge feelings, desire more practical

Charism fed others.

* Lay Passionist incorporation
* Who as lay people?
* Training and OME and role commitment
* Lay vs vowed Passionist, more.
* You can’t fix what you don’t measure.

Fr. Cedric – great conversation with himself. Laity collaboration, replacement of.

300 years in gratitude

Jean – urgency to sit down together, re-image our identity

Claire – working group collaboration.

Sacred Heart (Terry/David) trends – sin = division

Relevant to aging population, position and action, human resources – need to be accessible. Urgency of now.

Charism – who we are. Community is every place of charism.

Summary – Narrative – charism

Relational

Next steps in collaboration

**Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019 Attendance**

Joe Castro John Chambers Patty Masson

Fr. Ronan Newbold Megan Silas Fr. Ken O’Malley

Ron Bickers Fr. Jorge Stanfield Cesar Prada

Fr. Cedric Pisegna (remotely linked, joined Houston conversation in breakout sessions via cell phone)

Presentation notes:

* Spiritual path affected by immigration, economy, environment
* What if? What would it take to accomplish our ‘what if’? What changes need to be made? What is our collective narrative to achieve it? Are we willing to take the risk?
  + Moon landing analogy – follow the steps to accomplish the goal
* Courageous visionary discernment

Four virtues of a leader

1. Focus – set direction – what are we creating
2. Courage – enables full engagement that is otherwise blocked by anxiety/fear – what am I avoiding
3. Grit – what am I sustaining?
4. Faith – ensures agility and responsiveness in place of rigidity/entrapment. What are we yielding?

From Eric Kaufman – the Four Virtues of a Leader

Archbishop Oscar Romero – we are workers, not master builders, we are prophets of a future not our own.

Discussion: As a province it will take courage to come together to a specific goal. What does the Priest want to do? What do we do to set a goal? We are open to the plans of vision – what is the goal? The conversation became focused on the moon analogy.

**LOCAL GATHERINGS REFLECITON QUESTIONS SESSION 2:**

**QUESTION 1:**

* **WHAT OBSTACLES ARE WITH US IN THIS COMMUNITY AND IN THE PROVINCE AND HOW CAN WE ADDRESS THEM?**

**Age of Priests:** We have ten people on the Houston panel – 6 lay, 4 vowed, average vowed age is 72 years of age to carry on the work. However, one of the Sisters interjected that aged religious isn’t an obstacle, but a gift. It is their suffering for Christ.

**Vocations:** Younger men are needed to carry on the work of the mission, and that would be 7-8 years away for anyone who discerned to the priesthood now.

**Lack of energy**

**Changing times:** We can’t abandon formation/charism/prayer life. We must be open to the signs of the times, making charism felt in sharing with others – we need to do this more.

**Abuse crisis:** Fr. Cedric shared that he is experiencing lower attendance at his missions due to the climate of the church. These challenges are faced – we do not walk away from them. Passionists have to minister well and often to attract more to the priesthood.

**Formation of the laity:** What happens to our retreatants after a retreat if they are drawn to the Passionists? We need programs to form lay leaders, to continue the fire that has been instilled in our retreatants.

**Respecting our Priests:** Our Priestly numbers are down. Some people have forgotten to respect the priests in addressing them as Father, losing the identity that they have earned through their devotion and dedication of their lives to the Order. Their presence needs to be obvious – wearing the habit whenever they are in public. Some don’t see the habit enough in public.

**How do we improve what we do?** How can we do things better; it’s not just Fr. Cedric doing ministry – it is a part of the Passionist Mission.

**People from the outside not being welcomed into the Passionist community:** the thought of consolidating some Priests to a monastery setting, a place for people to come into the Passionist setting for Mass, reconciliation, prayer. Being greeted at this place by a Passionist, not a lay receptionist.

Priests don’t have the ability to meet with people consistently. Priests are limited in what they can do. No daily mass offered regularly from the Passionist community. Would it be possible for Passionist Priest to attend other masses, perhaps at a college or university on a regular basis, partly for the purpose of being that presence and encouraging the youth to discern vocation.

**Spanish obstacles:**

**Space:** lack of availability to do activities for the Spanish groups. Cesar began with four programs, by 2020 should have 11.

**Formation availability:** there is no time for Cesar to be formed as a lay Passionist.

**Priest availability:** Fr. Antonio Curto is the priest who is present for his Spanish events – formation, Days of Reflection, events.

**Lack of risk taking:** to go out and meet people on a diocesan level. In going out, there are different community needs that the Retreat Center could help with. The Diocese is open to listen and collaborate with Holy Name to work with the Spanish group. We have to go out and meet the people where they are, not have the people be fearful of participating for lack of money.

**Province group input to the obstacle question:**

**Systemic issues:** The aging of our benefactors, attrition. How do we attract younger people?

**Ministry focus:** developing what we are good at, responding to corporate ministry; how to be stretched not stressed – learning to live into a new reality.

**Are we a people of hope:** be positive, what can we offer? What is in abundance?

**Challenges of vocation:** try new recruitment techniques

**Struggles with anger:** burn out of people with suffering; bringing a presence of us collectively, a presence to penitents, working with their struggles for a Passionist presence.

**What is the potential of our gifts?** Where is our focus?

**LOCAL GATHERINGS REFLECITON QUESTIONS SESSION 2:**

**QUESTION 2:**

**What are we ready to let go of in this community and in the Province as we live into our future?**

* To think we can only do things here at Holy Name Retreat Center, rather than going out into the community
* The idea of not promoting vocations. The conversation came up with Fr. Antonio that in the past in Italy, the family was the group that prayed with, formed, and persuaded the discernment of vocations to their family members. We have to realize that we must pursue vocations to secure the mission of the Passionists for the future.
* Sharing community life with prayer and mass while respecting the privacy and space of our Passionist Fathers
* Our assumptions
* The idea that everything has to happen at the retreat center – looking at Earth and Life Center, Fr. Cedric’s missions.
* The idea of approaching the ‘Nones’ with the conversation that conversion is something we want, but also to bring them to the idea of promoting the acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
* Spanish – Cesar offered that these are his personal reflections of letting go:
  + Letting go of money and planning in favor of providence and faith
  + Letting go of his projects for projects of God
  + Letting go of the world’s wants to those of God
  + Letting to of his wants to the want of service
  + Not just doing a function, but a mission.
* Fr. Cedric – concerning Outreach, letting go of what he assumes is the Province direction. Not just doing things his way, letting go of trying to make people think like him; becoming inclusive; doing your best. We may be redemptive for something to come. We need to die nobly – be salvific as community, embrace the gospel dream, not the American dream.
* Old ideas/old ways. Maintaining a younger group of people, we need more cultural understanding, need to utilize technology.
* Fear, the unknown, change, take a risk, trust the process

**LOCAL GATHERINGS REFLECTION QUESTION, SESSION 3:**

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

* Yearning to see the religious in their habits – a clear and present appreciation of the Passionists
* Without concrete definitions/theories, where is all of this discussion leading? Vocations is not a priority? Charism of the order is the order. Are we Passionists with a “P”?
* One participants offered that as a lay person, they are shown respect, formed and trusted to do what is asked of them. Even though this person gets no vote, he still contributes. Hi doesn’t feel like a minor but an equal. There is a concentrated effort that the Charism is carried forward. We have a lay director – we share in carrying forth our Charism.
* The laity have as much right to Jesus’ suffering as the Vowed.
* Manuel Valencia – his heart was so moved to the Passionist Order that he took the fourth vow. The laity want the opportunity to say, “I am yours”. If the lay are involved, ask something big of them. That is what they want.
* Leading us to be more of a lay commitment to formation.
* St. Paul of the Cross said six months on the road preaching, six months at the foot of the cross. We have several doing that. Limited to the number of people who can do it.
* Fr. George, Fr. Simon, Fr. Bob, Fr. Ken, members of laity are motivators – when we motivate by the lives we live is prophetic. If everyone pushed a little more in your ministry the potential of our community is realized.
* How can we embrace vocations committee – we must always support in prayer.
* Our order speaks to the pain that the church is now experiencing. The prophetic is going beyond our senses. Aging is a gift. We are dedicated to the Passion, His death on the cross is our witness to redemption.

**NOTE:** Working groups should have an idea of what they will submit to the Chapter Meeting by mid-May.