

Charism working group invite to Collaboration group 3/20/2019

2:00 p.m. Central time

Zoom Details:

The Charism Working Group is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Wednesday, Mar 20, 2019 3:00 PM Eastern Time, 2:00 pm Central

Join Zoom Meeting

Access Code: 483 180 3340

<https://zoom.us/j/4831803340>

Fr. David Colhour, Meghan Silas, Kate, Patty, Claire, Fr. Bruno, Jean Bowler

Charism seems to be more fun and productive than other groups. We have a lot of sharing. Very rewarding and fruitful. No agenda, the goal was to work across these groups. There needs some cross-pollination to happen. This is contagious for me, this morning I was trying to write an article for the parish bulletin, started talking about the cross, what does it mean when the rubber meets the road. One day a month we have Dare to Care – 150 guests come, Dare to Care provides the food. What does that look like, when do people engage.

1. No faith at all, comes, participates, no reward from God but meaning from doing something good for society. They may feel good about themselves, not merely about faith.
2. Followers of Christ, some may say as Jesus fed the 4-5000 in scripture, we feed those who come to us.
3. As a Passionist is in my heart I see everything differently. I respond with the love of Christ, more spirit driven. I pray before the crucifix and am more in tune with people's suffering. I see the parallel of the crucifixion in my world. The connection I make with people is more important than the food I give them.

For some working with Dare to Care it is more about their egos than feeding people. How do people move deeper?

Jean: reflecting on the constant need to remind ourselves and those who are new what the lens is. Ministry in this Province has a particular lens, what I liked about Fr. David's reflection is that, regardless of how people are aware of why they do something, they do it because the love of God is in their heart. You give them a mechanism of how to understand that. What to do during our presentations, having charism sharing sounds very exciting, especially for lay people to hear and share some of the wisdom, as well as we bring a fresh new voice to an established presence.

Those intersecting pieces of the charism in formation leads to something developed for understanding deeper the charism in growth.

Fr. David: I'm wondering if we have five working groups and we have a major piece missing not covered in the working groups. Formation is a bigger piece missing.

Jean: formation is an intersecting theme through all the groups. It will come up in preaching.

Claire: it has come up in collaboration.

Jean: are all five working groups present? Preaching and community are missing.

Fr. Juno: in our outreach meetings, when we talk about our talks, it's us v. them. In our meetings how about reaching out to lay collaborators; often when people call Mater Delarosa, the phone person is the first person they meet, first impression. Formation of non-vowed Passionists – that piece is missing and surfaces in many of our meetings. It was hinted toward the end when speaking of the lay Passionists. As our numbers are diminishing, what happens as we go into the future. This has come up in outreach as well.

Megan: people are wary of the diminishing point, stop thinking of the stop point of diminishment, think of the growth, the people enriched by the Passionist charism: the folks who are vowed and should continue to grow; the folks who actually work at Passionist centers who work as lay people; but also the lay people characterized by their connection with the Passionists. For me, there isn't a forward way of formation – you kind of find your own way. For someone serious in becoming engaged in the Passionists, there aren't a lot of rich prospects. If we think of growth, what can we do moving forward to learn more about the charism, the spirituality, thus producing the desire to serve; to experience in your own prayer life, if missing that fruit won't come.

Jean: Good point – we have board members who come on for three year terms, renewed for a second-3, while they are on the board, we have charism reflection, inviting people in to a deeper understanding of the call. As board members, we are hired to hire retreat members, etc., but when people move off what do you have to offer – when you connect and identify with it, what is there for former board members, except we get put on charism committees the rest of our life.

Megan: what about potential board members.

Jean: tying up the loose ends; a fire on the board members who are involved. And that is the multiplication that feeds our desire to serve – that's mission right there.

Claire: from my perspective we don't necessarily have an active physical ministry on sight. My formation has been what I have done on my own. I went on my first Passionist retreat two years ago because it isn't easy to get from Chicago to Detroit, etc. I've gone back every year since. I also record their sessions. I am a part of the women's retreat and observe the men's retreat – an interesting perspective for me. If I don't have someone to discuss the books I read, I may not

understand it the way it needs to be understood. That's where I get disenchanted because it is the reality of how things are in Chicago.

Fr. David: Category of community, how community builds charism. I have heard more through these zoom conferences nosticism, like there is a secret Passionist charism knowledge. I don't know what Bruno had in his novitiate. Take the head knowledge with practicality. You don't get that until you get some kind of ministry. You can't take charism and plug it into someone's head.

Claire: I may already be doing and living it, but do I understand what it is.

Kate: we had this understanding that what we have isn't truly the charism of the Passionists until we meet either a Passionist, a person of the Passion or a Paul fo the Cross. Then we have an encounter that makes this be the miracle grow – you bump into someone and have that encounter, and now you want more.

Jean: Technology – this is where technology fits in, zoom. How effective these calls are, why wouldn't we take a book like we did on our women's retreat, reflect on it and share our conversation. Kate said encounter – it is encountering the charism because the sister who spoke to us about Paul said his meditation was not didactic but emersion, to understand who the founder of the Passionsit is. Having book club with technology is a great option.

Megan: we have people gifted as preachers who share their charism, etc., why not have regular opportunities to hear that preaching. What about a person who lives a thousand miles but would love to be enriched. What opportunities are we doing?

Fr. Phil: I think some social media stuff is growing along that way. At St. Paul's and the Province we are doing videos. I think having to meet a Passionist – all that means is that somebody from the Passionist family can help articulate what the charism is and how they have it.

Claire: Bruno the work that must not be named (diminished). One of the things we talk about in collaboration, is, with the older guys, the vowed members, there has to be some form of grieving for the vowed because it's a sense of loss with declining numbers, but we as lay people want the vow to understand that we are grieving with them, out of grief something new can be born. That was a point that was important to get across.

Fr. David: yesterday was the first time I heard that, I don't have a need for grieving, we spend too much time grieving, I want to look forward.

Claire: do some guys need to have that process to look forward.

Fr. David: Prayer before the cross – as soon as I talk to Jesus face to face, the whole energy in the room changes. I put a basket at the bottom of the crucifix, pieces of paper in the pews with questions, where is the hardest place to trust Jesus, they bring it up to the foot of Jesus and drop it in the basket. It has to start with the cross. But that's not where it ends. Everyone engaged is

there together in a rhythm, you go out from the cross and you go back to the cross. That has to be the rhythm of who we are.

Jean: it would be nice to incorporate your points into the prayer services. I think that will be very valuable for everyone there – community prayer changes us, regardless of where we are on the Passionist life – vowed, non-vowed – something happens when we come together. Very profound, we just had to come together with a common goal and the spirit exploded.

Kate: even though the Sisters were on the other side of the chapel (there is a font that streams up to the altar) we have one baptism but different vocations, but in that separation praying brings community.

Jean: one altar, one cross, one community.

Fr. David: How can charism help you?

Jean: for outreach, to have some charism reflections, liturgy, some formation pieces available so that whatever happens it is there as a resource – intentional. There is a need for intentionality whether a board or staff member – everyone has the opportunity to attend a retreat. Should someone desire it, it's always offered. Intentional incorporation.

Claire: intentionality speaks to collaboration. Vowed and non-vowed Passionists working together, does that non-vowed Passionist have that underlying charism understanding of the bigger picture of what they are doing. If we extend our collaboration to external groups that everyone from the Passionists wanting to share that charism and spread and knowing that is what they are sharing and spreading.

Jean: Has a picture of Fr. Frank, my memory of him and how he responded to an accident, immediately ready to go and aide the accident. Like firefighters running into the building when everyone else is running out.

Claire: Fr. Frank Keenan was the Chaplain at Lutheran General hospital – a trauma 1 hospital. He had a stroke and is at a local nursing home.

Jean: Someone like Fr. Frank who I knew very well to kind of capture his story, joining in ministry hear a little bit about those wonderful men who have gone before.

Patty: talked about Birmingham and their needs.

Fr. David: Phil, should I bring up Mexico? We had our north American gathering in Mexico with US Brazil, on Sunday they brought in all their lay people. Beautiful day, different lay organizations. Presentations of who they were. Running for 20-25 years, non-sacramental ministry. One group doing soup kitchens, one doing immigrants, had unique kinds of jobs and ministries. They had a good relationship with vowed and lay, but lay didn't have a dependence on the vowed – took care of their own formation, prayer time, etc. When I hear how are we growing to grow, it has to happen outside of sacramental kinds of ministry. Where do we want to

grow in the Province outside of the sacramental norm. Hopefully that will encourage people to say I want to continue with this work. I say spend more time at the cross. Mexico is a very Catholic culture, I look at what we do at St. Agnes and we have 100 volunteers with Dare to Care. People want to be involved, the question is how do we move from secular to Christian to Passionist. I do this out of a Passionist identity, not because it's something good to do.

Jean: We can, but the Holy Spirit can't. Giving people the opportunity to pray together and to grow. Dcn. Manual does a talk on our retreat Sunday morning and focuses on the Martha and Mary story. He focuses on the fact that first we pray, leads to community, leads to service. Mary was doing her first thought sitting at the feet of Jesus, Martha kept working and got discouraged. I find his reflection very profound for the three movements of life – it has to be prayer.

Fr. David: I agree with you 100%, but in a few hours I will lead a prayer service and be lucky if 7 people show up. The seven people who show up will say it will be really good, but I'm not going to get the 150 to show up. My reflection will get 150 readers for sure. It's how you advertise and market – when you feed people they start coming.

Kate: In our first charism meeting, we talked about storytelling; somehow being able to connect the stations of the cross with humanity, the stories of the Passionists who have come before us. So many stories, how do we get those out, how do we get people to connect with them?

Jean: I love the idea of story, it begins with a story. When I hear the members talk about people who are gone...

Kate: that's the encounter.

Fr. David: Has this been beneficial? What is the next step?

Fr. Bruno: I've been trying to process what I've been hearing. One of the things, I sent an email out concerning formation of vowed/non-vowed Passionists, the storytelling, if you don't hear the stories of the Passionists, you don't get a sense of how the Charism has been lived out first and foremost by the Passionists themselves; how does it play out in ministry? Yes, we work together in the parish and in retreat centers, I've heard the stories from Jean and the Passionist nuns concerning what the charism means to these men and women; what does that mean to me? How do I put that in my ministry? I wanted these women to write a proposal for the formation of the non-vowed (Sandra, Jean, ___)

Fr. David: I don't see the steps as a finality. What do we do between now and chapter, what do we do after chapter? Zoom is going to continue to be used, I'm impressed how well it works and builds community together. I'm excited to have the zoom conference. I look forward to them, an alternative form of community. We are stupid if we don't continue to use zoom post-chapter. We can jump into one of these and be together.

Fr. Bruno: look at our outreach working group – we still don't know how to present at chapter. We'll have something to talk about going into the future, the conversation will continue – an ongoing process.

Jean: It is important to hear what else is happening. For practical reasons, we have a meeting tomorrow, all are invited. Fr. Bruno will send out the invitation. I think one of the things we talk about is inspiring all members of the province to go beyond where we are and reimagine – looping in the guys in Louisville – Sebastian, Fr. Ron – sharing their experience of the charism.

Claire: We did a call with the guys in Louisville last week, they were very forthcoming with the collaboration and their experiences, what guys are doing now, and technology keeps coming forward.

Jean: Having those wonderful men in Louisville be available for a conference for spiritual direction, pastoral counseling – there is a great loneliness out there. In today's young people they don't look at the older generation the same way, they are appreciative of the wisdom.

Fr. David: