

## **CP CHAPTER WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNITY MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2018 MEETING**

The co-chairs, Dan O'Donnell and Don Senior, along with our Shepherd Jim Strommer, met via Zoom for an organizational meeting. The following points were made:

1. We foresee that one contribution of the Working Group will be to inform the chapter about the evolution that our Passionist community life has experienced over the past several years, moving from a "monastic" style of vowed religious community life to a variety of expressions, including intersecting with lay participants at various levels and in various ways. As indicated in an earlier graph our current communities intersect with lay participants: e.g.,
  - as a worshipping community (e.g., St. Vincent Strambi and Citrus Heights)
  - as a ministerial community (e.g., retreat team members; parish staff; etc.)
  - as a "covenant" community (e.g., Passionist partners)
  - as a supportive community (e.g., involvement of various laity in supporting roles in Louisville).
  - we also recognize that many young people today are looking for experiences of authentic community.
2. Another important consideration is that Passionist community in its various forms is connected to our Passionist mission. In other words, not just community as a human support structure but a community with an evangelical purpose—related to our Passionist vocation to keep alive the memory of the Passion and to proclaim the gospel. This is done through the witness dimension of authentic Christian community and through works of the ministry.
3. We aspire as a Working Group to serve the chapter through presenting some creative ways of conceiving Passionist community for the future. Focus on affirmative inquiry. This might take the form both of a "white paper" tracing the nature and evolution of our Passionist community life and some of the reasons for this, as well as a video presentation that would include testimonials of people who are themselves seeking a community life.
4. We do not rule out that, as we progress as a Working Group, there might be some specific proposals about community life that we would present to the chapter body.
5. Next steps. We agreed that we should have a core group and at various stages may reach out to particular resource persons to help us in our work. The core Working Group: Jim Strommer, ("Shepherd"), Dan O'Donnell and Don Senior (co-chairs), Ronan Newbold, John Hilgert, Max Johnston. We will invite Lissa Rommel and Alexis (CTU student) to join us.

Key dates: November 5 (one day meeting in Houston- progress report); January 15-16 pre-chapter on-line (report on direction working groups are taking); Chapter in June.
6. Don agreed to write up minutes and to ask Lissa via Doodle to arrange a meeting time towards end of October.

D.Senior

10/2/18