

Outreach Committee

Minutes, October 25, 2018

Time: 9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

Co-chairs: Bruno D'Souza & Jean Bowler

Attendees: Phil Paxton, Jean Bowler, Bruno D'Souza, Janet Selenski, Marta Salgado-Niño, Joe Mitchell, Paul O'Daniel, Clemente Barrón and Christopher Pinto.

1. Phil opened the meeting with the Visioning Prayer
2. After quick introductions, Phil updated the members on the Visioning Committee. He informed that each committee will be allowed twenty minutes of presentation on the progress of the committee during the Leadership meeting on November 5th in Houston. Jean Bowler will be representing the Outreach Committee.
3. Open Forum
 - a. Reconnecting with the Assembly in Houston. Was there anything unspoken?
 - i. The diversity of issues addressed during the Assembly beckons a need to focus on the whole person rather than cylos. What about the need of food, education, addictions, etc.?
 - ii. Ministering to the mentally ill: requires special skills and may be beyond our scope in most of our ministry places.
 - iii. Our Charism unifies us. We stand in solidarity with the marginalized around us. As a Province we are responding in various ministry places out of a shared Charism.
 - iv. How do we want to be known as Passionists?
 - b. What bridges have we crossed, knowing and at peace, that it is God's will and there is no going back?
 - i. Our CP Charism grounds us in human experience that invites a compassionate response to the marginalized.
 - ii. We are where we are because of our willingness to change. E.g. Retreat house to Retreat Center.
 - iii. Involvement and gifts of the laity.
 - iv. Earth and Spirit Center: Awareness of ecological concerns.
 - c. What's the one area demanding attention in terms of outreach to the crucified of our times? Is there something growing organically in our ministry places? Something new beginning to emerge? A growing edge?
 - i. Paul: People don't necessarily relate to words like "charism," or "crucified" as we use them to speak of our ministry. They are easily intimidated by such language and can begin to have a sense of not belonging. There is a need to speak a common ministerial language (vernacular).
 - ii. Detroit: Building more relationship with the neighboring community; challenge in reaching out to the "nones."
 - iii. Mater Dolorosa: There is an increase in number on Weekend Retreat for Women; a growing need/demand for spiritual direction.

- iv. Joe Mitchell: “Nones” not interested in Churchy things. How do we take our values and while using a secular language reach out to the “nones”?
4. Due to time factor, the participants were asked to ponder on the closing remarks.
5. Paul volunteered to look for a communication platform to share our thoughts until the next meeting.
6. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 15th at 9:00 A.M.
7. Bruno closed the meeting with a prayer.