

Outreach Committee

Minutes, November 29, 2018

Time: 9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Co-chairs: Fr. Bruno D'Souza & Jean Bowler

Attendees: Fr. Phil Paxton, Jean Bowler, Fr. Bruno D'Souza, Anne Kemp, Janet Selinske, Marta Salgado-Niño, Sandra Arnould, Fr. Clemente Barrón, Fr. Cedric Psiegna and Fr. Joe Mitchell.

1. Sandra Arnould opened the meeting with the Visioning Prayer.
2. The Minutes from the November 15th meeting were approved by the group.
3. The group welcomed Anne Kemp to the meeting and Fr. Cedric to the group.
4. There was no significant update from the Visioning Committee.
5. Fr. Bruno invited the group into the open forum suggesting that the group begin the conversation from where we left at the last meeting.
6. **Open Forum:**
 - a. Fr. Phil and Sandra shared information from the local community meeting they had on the previous evening. Following are some of the take-aways from that meeting:
 - i. Looked at the five working groups and the intersecting theme.
 - ii. How are we drawn to the CP Charism?
 - iii. How are we drawn to the Passionists?
 - iv. The reality of people being broken in the neighborhood, city and the Archdiocese and how the Charism of the Passionists informs this reality; they can find a place and people who can accompany them in this journey.
 - v. Letting people know that they are not alone; Christ is with them.
 - vi. Passionist continue to do what they do well.
 - vii. Is there a need for direct action or a need for accompaniment?
 - viii. Importance of story-telling; using technology to share stories.
 - b. Story-telling is an important part of our ministry and our forte!
 - c. Direct action or accompaniment – It's a both/and way of ministering to people.
 - d. Technology is not limited to social media but includes radio and television, and we need to offer that to people.
 - e. Once we understand what our core identity is and out of that core identity, we begin to formulate our mission.
 - f. Looking differently at our institutions: sanctuaries for people to encounter the holy.
 - g. Need to think broader than our retreat centers.

- h. Inviting people to sit at the foot of the cross and accompanying them on their journey. We need to be at peace as we accompany people, else they are going to sense it.
 - i. Victor Frankl: *Circumstances don't determine our choices. No matter what the circumstances, we determine our own choices.*
 - j. Getting to the root cause of the suffering can be challenging.
 - k. Need for direct outreach, direct action on our part. E.g. CTU education, Earth and Spirit Center, etc.
 - l. As Passionists, we don't just accompany people in their suffering. We help them get deeper into their cosmos, their situations of sufferings, etc.
 - m. The Passionists have the gift of meeting people where they are.
 - n. Are we lacking in some way in direct action in and through our ministry? What would that look like?
 - o. The need to collaborate with other committees, to facilitate conversation around direct action.
 - p. Are we at a point where we want to name and embrace a new reality of outreach?
 - q. There are people who are seeking, looking for answers. Opening our doors with programs that need not necessarily be retreats but can be day programs that will give people tools/resources for their life.
 - r. How are we reaching out to the "nones" as they struggling with what's going in the society and in the Church? (refugee crisis, sexual abuse crisis, environmental issues)
 - s. As a committee, we can provide a framework or a vision and mission statement regarding outreach. The framework starts with acknowledging our identity as Passionists and moves beyond, it then helps us form what we do at our respective ministry sites and look at our resources. We want to be clear about what our message is.
- 7. Closing Comments:**
- a. Direction: How are we going to do the outreach?
 - b. Goal: What are the things that are rising at the top at the end of our conversations?
 - c. What are the few things that we are talking a lot and begin to work with those?
 - d. It's helpful as we start to see things emerge, to allow them to emerge and more fully develop to the point where we can have a better understanding of what the choices might be for the vision that the Province is looking for.
 - e. Suggestion: Come up with an issue and couple of categories to present it to the Chapter body. We need to narrow it down.
- 8. In between meetings:** Fr. Cedric will look into creating a Facebook closed group for our in-between conversations.
- 9. Next Meeting: December 14, at 9:00 A.M.**
- 10.** Fr. Cedric said the closing prayer.