

Preaching Committee report 4.1.2019

In attendance: Elizabeth Cronan, Fr. Michael Higgins, Fr. Enno Dango, Mike Cunningham (co-chair)

The meeting this morning reviewed the issues which were raised from the last meeting and incorporated some discussion of the data presented by the Co-chairs since the last meeting.

The following conclusions were reached by those in attendance: At the next meeting, we should review with the balance of the team and determine if we are homing in on some observations, recommendations, and conclusions which could be submitted to the upcoming Chapter.

High-level recommendations

- A recognition that preaching is a core competency of the Passionist Charism and is present and vibrant in all ministries and locations in some form or other
- Including lay people into the decision-making process of what should be preached
- Recognizing the trends and signs of the times when it comes to teaching methods, techniques and delivery mechanisms (Refer back to research materials from Pew Research discussed during the session)
- Including awareness of preaching and preaching techniques from various ministries practiced today and new or emerging ones for potential inclusion by Passionists in the future
- Allowing each mission location to adopt recommendations as they see fit for their ministry and the communities which they serve

Some tactical suggestions for specific actions to be considered

- An online preaching course sponsored by the Passionists, specifically to help with the formation for lay ministers.

- Training in the use of on-line and multi-media tools and skills for existing ministry locations. Specifically, in broadcast, social media, use of blogs, web site development, and one-on-many preaching platforms
- As multi-media has become mainstream for many, some requirement to learn and use the tools should be encouraged for the Passionist message to be relevant to a modern audience. This applies in particular in the evangelization of young people and those considered Spiritual But Not Religious and NONEs (nonaffiliated with religious groups)
- Always remember that preaching is the lifeblood of the Passionist ministry in the world. Therefore, we should be focused on keeping it relevant in the world today.
- Meeting the needs of those “churched” or “unchurched” is vital to the next generation of those to be evangelized by Passionists.
- The province should be encouraged to develop and/or support these initiatives.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on these notes please let me know.

In addition, the following sources are available for those who may want to learn more specifically about the increasing trends for evangelizing young people, SBNRs and NONEs.

Drescher, Elizabeth. *Choosing Our Religion*. Oxford University Press. 2016.

Mercadante, Linda A.. *Belief without Borders*. Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.

Wittberg, Patricia. *Catholic Cultures: How Parishes Can Respond to the Changing Face of Catholicism*. Liturgical Press.

Wesley, Christopher. *Rebuilding Youth Ministry: Ten Practical Strategies for Catholic Parishes (A Rebuilt Parish Book)*. Ave Maria Press.

Senior, Jennifer. *All Joy and No Fun: The Paradox of Modern Parenthood*. HarperCollins.

Traister, Rebecca. *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation*.
Simon & Schuster.

White, Michael. *Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter*. Ave
Maria Press.