

Visioning for Holy Cross Province
Charism Working Group Pre-Chapter Report

Due Date Friday January 4, 2019

Co-Chairs: Kate Mims, David Colhour, C.P.

Shepherds: Tim O'Brien, Trudi Webb- Stinson

Members: Megan Silas, Manuel Valencia, Mari Madary, Paul O'Daniel, Arthur Carrillo, C.P.

Please respond to the following:

1. How are you being guided by the original vision question for this Working Group and/or how has it evolved into something more specific or different?

The best way of keeping alive the Memory of the Passion is in the telling of the story. All Gospel stories are meant to be told. Because we humans are people of narrative, then the narratives of the Gospels come alive in us each and every time we retell these stories. We see this true in the Christmas season as we bring it to a close. There is something powerful about telling the story. And the story can be told in varieties of modes and mediums. In hearing and telling the story we find our place in redeeming human suffering and assist others in their ability to hear and grasp the immensity of what the Passion Narratives bring to us. And the sharing of the Passion stories of our lives and how the Charism of the Passion has touched our hearts unites us beyond our differences.

2. What thoughts and ideas are emerging for the future? What prayers, images, conversations, moments got you there?

It starts at the cross. We start with Standing at the foot of the cross. We can not project what we want the cross to say, or even what it said to us years ago. Before speaking we must listen.

Our working group has spoken about images but what really captivates us are human stories where the Passion Narrative overlays the experiential story. We realized many of our Passion stories reduced us to sacred silence. They never lull us to lethargy. And we ask, are we conscience of what is happening to ourselves as we shared these deeper sacred stories?

We spent considerable time looking at the understanding St. Paul of the Cross had in his day before it was even named as a Charism. We've watched this concept evolve into the community experiences. Now we are seeing it move even further to those who have been given the gift of listening and finding points of identification of the Passion of Christ in their lives and the world today. That unto itself is bold and prophetic.

3. Where do you presently see the group focussing between now and Chapter?

First, we anticipate some feedback with the Pre-Chapter.

Second, we also want to reflect on choices we make of how we respond to suffering in our world. Whether it is news media or local neighborhood events, we witness suffering and the working group realizes this overlaps with Outreach, Collaboration, and Preaching Working Groups.

And we anticipate further conversation with the other four Working Groups.

4. What one question would this Working Group would like to see addressed at Pre-Chapter?

What is our relationship with OME and the other Working Groups? We recognize so much of our work and content overlap with the other groups,

Questions for Reflection:

What specific practical concrete actions do you do because you are a Passionist?

How did you fall in Love with the Charism and/or Christ Crucified?

How can we be more pro-active at finding venues for story telling of the Passion of Jesus?

VISIONING FOR HOLY CROSS PROVINCE
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP PRE-CHAPTER REPORT

Co-Chairs: Dan O'Donnell; Don Senior

Shepherd: Jim Strommer

Members: E. John Hilgert, Ronan Newbold, McDaniels Johnston, Lissa Rommel, Alexis Salazar, John Schork.

1. The original vision question for our Community Working group is: *How have we evolved the Passionist communities of today into a multi-leveled concept "a community gathered at the foot of the cross "with both distinct and integrative structures and qualities."*

This question has continued to be at the center of our Working Group's focus. We are aware that the notion of community has developed over the years (e.g., from a more monastic style to an "apostolic community" style) and that a major development has been the progressive inclusion of lay partners into our ministries, associations, and spirituality. We intend to document this through a survey of our pertinent Passionist documents, both on the province and congregational levels, and to provide some social and theological context and examples in our current communities.

2. We intend to conduct a survey of our members about their own evolving experiences of community and, at the same time, to capture on video some conversations with some non-community members about the desire for community found in our culture today. We hope to present some form of a formative and educational experience for the chapter members in June.

3. Between now and June we are working on: 1) Conducting a survey of our members; 2) Capturing some pertinent video conversations about community; 3) preparing a “white paper” that will be a resource for the Chapter members.

4. At this stage we have not formulated “one question” for the Chapter but presumably it will be along the lines of “what is the most important thing for us as a province to do in order to deepen our experience of community as Passionists, both vowed and lay?”

Visioning for Holy Cross Province

Collaboration Working Group Pre-Chapter Report

Due Date: Wednesday January 2, 2019

Co-Chairs: Faith Offman and Alfredo Ocampo

Shepherds: Keith Zekind and Elizabeth Velarde

Members: Sandra Arnould, Matt Greenough, Toby Tabazynski, Alex Steinmiller, Claire Smith, David Horvath, Julia Senn-Reeves, Patti Masson, Victor Hoagland

Please respond to the following:

1. How are you being guided by the original vision question for this Working Group and/or how has it evolved into something more specific or different?

"How are we deepening and fulfilling collaboration of vowed and laity within the province and among local communities as well as forming meaningful collaborative relationships with external groups for sustaining mission, community life and ministry?"

The Collaboration Working Group (CWG) has considered the many ways that collaboration occurs in the Province of vowed and lay members of the Passionist Family. There is no question that we have accomplished many successful collaborative relationships over the course of many years. Many of the points of collaboration are task oriented and grew out of necessity i.e.: administration of ministry sites, adding lay preachers to the retreat teams, lay participation in the care of elderly vowed members, and many, many more. The critical question is how do we go deeper into the collaborative relationships and expand collaboration to meet the needs of the ministries of the Province. What is needed to accomplish that? Effort will need to be expended to ensure that all collaborative partners working to sustain the mission of the Province are satisfied with the relationship and remain inspired by the future of ministering together.

The CWG has yet to expand its discussion into the issue of "forming meaningful collaborative relationships with external groups" as originally stated in the vision question.

2. What thoughts and ideas are emerging for the future? What prayers, images, conversations, moments got you there?

The CWG has utilized a contemplative approach in our work and it has been a blessing – making room for what might be emerging, providing the necessary openness. Working Group members have consistently been open and frank in our internal discussions and in our interaction with outside panels we have invited for interview.

Thoughts and ideas emerging to date:

1. *What will happen to the Charism without collaboration with the laity?*
2. *Charism must be claimed and embraced by the laity.*
3. *Are the vowed open to receive and embrace the gifts the laity bring to and through the Charism?*

4. *What does the laity mean when they say: "we want a seat at the table"? How do the different avenues of lay participation in the ministries complicate the answer to this question? Are there different levels of lay participation which impact whether or not "a seat at the table" is appropriate? What are the legal ramifications of including laity in the corporate decisions of the Province; i.e. a sharing of power now held by the vowed members?*
5. *There is a need for co-responsibility and accountability within our vowed/lay collaboration.*
6. *Are there sufficient "corporate structures" in place in the Province to adequately represent the work and contribution of the Passionist laity?*

3. Where do you presently see the Working Group focusing between now and Chapter?

We have conducted two 'panel' meetings with vowed members (our current students and St. Vincent Strambi Community members) not in our Working Group, and we recognize the blessing of widening our lens – how do we bring in other voices? We anticipate inviting other panels to meet with our Working Group in order to expand our study.

CWG has been working on a survey to send to the broader constituencies in the Province, and we anticipate that will be sent out after the Pre-Chapter is complete.

4. What one question would this Working Group would like to see addressed at Pre-Chapter?

How do we individually (vowed and lay) and collectively receive the Charism?

How do we continue to develop trust and deepen the relationship of vowed and laity?

Do you perceive any obstacles that may be hindering full collaboration of vowed and laity?

How would you value lay collaboration in the mission and ministries of the Province?

What impact does laity have on the mission and ministries of the Province?

Visioning for Holy Cross Province
Outreach Working Group Pre-Chapter Report

Co-Chairs: Jean Bowler and Fr. Bruno D'Souza

Shepherds: Fr. Phil Paxton and Joe Castro

Members: Janet Selinske, Marta Salgado Niño, Sandra Arnould, Paul O'Daniel, Fr. Clemente Barrón, Fr. Cedric Pisegna, Fr. Joe Mitchell and Christopher Pinto.

Please respond to the following:

1. How are you being guided by the original vision question for this Working Group and/or how has it evolved into something more specific or different?
 - a. Initial ambiguity around the goal of the committee.
 - b. The topics are quite broad in scope and the resources seem to be limited.
 - c. As the meetings progressed, there was the acknowledgement and recognition that each member in the group represents another voice in the Province and Ministry.
 - d. The presence of open conversation during meetings was valued.
 - e. Acknowledgement of our strengths – the willingness to change according to the signs of times.
 - f. Process: From ambiguity to clarity...from generic to specific.

2. What thoughts and ideas are emerging for the future? What prayers, images, conversations, moments got you there?
 - a. The need to simplify our language. The words, “charism” or “crucified” need more secular nuances, especially while working with the “nones.”
 - b. Focusing inwards (within HCP) than into the Church.
 - c. Diversity is a given; unity is a choice.
 - d. Mindsets need to change; different practices need to be done.
 - e. There may be a time in the process when we may have to make choices and not just hear/listen.
 - f. Companionship – with love and understanding.
 - g. Passion of Christ...servitude...how was Jesus served on his journey? What was done during those last hours that was of service to him?
 - h. Anthony Gittins, “A Presence that Disturbs” – Chapter 4 on Community.
Communitas produces dreams and visions; community maintains works and programs that keep the dream alive and creates strategies that serves the vision.
 - i. Etty Hillesum: *We must be balm for all wounds.*
 - j. Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II: *We have to be on the side of the poor, the working, the sick, the immigrant. We have a moral and religious obligation to offer a different voice.*

3. Where do you presently see the group focussing between now and Chapter?
 - a. One of our major roles in the outreach committee is to inspire the rest of the province to push their boundaries and dare greatly...
 - b. Continue to listen to one another leading to more clarity about where we want to go from here.
 - c. Reaching more people - How do we get more retreatants? or how can we use technology to get the message out to more people? This could be related to the "branding" that was mentioned.
 - d. Reaching people we're not reaching now - This could do with Hispanic Ministry, or ministry in the inner city or engaging young adults or the "nones." It may lead us to going where the people are rather than inviting them to come to us.
 - e. Taking a stance on the issues of today - This may not be so much about having position papers as involving ourselves more corporately and explicitly with immigrants or care for the earth or nonviolence or food security, for example.
 - f. Answering people's needs for more engagement - This is what Janet was talking about with people's desire to know more about the Passionist Charism. But it could also speak to the "companioning" that Chris talked about. One of the people at our local discussion said that young adults don't want so much technology as engagement, which I took to heart.

4. What one question would this Working Group would like to see addressed at Pre-Chapter?

The group will discuss this question at the Thursday Zoom meeting.

Visioning for Holy Cross Province

Preaching Working Group Pre-Chapter Report

Due Date Wednesday January 2, 2019

Co-Chairs: Mike Cunningham, Jack Conley, CP

Shepherds: Mike Higgins, CP, Richard Burke, CP

Members: Patrick Brennan <patriciocp@aol.com>, Richard Burke <RBurke@cproov.org>, Jack Conley <jconley@passionist.org>, Michael Cunningham <mcunningham@materdolorosa.org>, Enno Dango <ennnodango@yahoo.com>, Michael Higgins <mhiggins@materdolorosa.org>, Ann Kemp <akemp@bdrconsultants.com>, Angela Kwasinski <akwasinski@passionistmonastery.org>, Terri Segura <terri.segura@gmail.com>, Priya Tharayil <trosep84@yahoo.com>, Jonathan Vaca <sstrdx15@gmail.com>

Please respond to the following:

1. How are you being guided by the original vision question for this Working Group and/or how has it evolved into something more specific or different?
 2. What thoughts and ideas are emerging for the future? What prayers, images, conversations, moments got you there?
 3. Where do you presently see the group focussing between now and Chapter?
 4. What one question would this Working Group would like to see addressed at Pre-Chapter?
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Preaching Visioning Committee Report

Initial Findings

Our group has ten members, and we may be adding another lay person for the January meeting. Currently, we have a mixture of five ordained members (including co-chair) and five laypersons. This provides us with a perspective which includes both a lay and clerical perspective on the issue of preaching.

Our initial findings include:

1. **The word “preaching” creates both positive and negative connotations.** The negative use of the word creates a message of chastisement or association with the prosperity Gospel, both of which are the opposite of any message intended by the Passionist community.
2. **“Preaching” has a very elastic quality to it.** At least effective preaching does so. This means it can be delivered in many forms, by example, through witnessing, prayer, service, traditional homiletics and the ministry of presence. We should not restrict the practice to any one of these, but include these as a general Call to Holiness for all.

3. **Effective preaching is a relational process with the Holy Spirit as the conductor.** Preaching itself should express the ability to communicate the *mind and heart* of Christ to the *mind and heart* of the people so as to affect their lives.
4. **Effective preaching has to be accessible as well as relational.** We cannot limit preaching to the Church. We must find ways to translate the message so others can find God, in particular where young people are invited to the relationship with Christ. Preaching can be active in many different forms, not just in the sanctuary, but everywhere. God is active in every person's life, whether a believer or not. These needs to be recognized in the means of delivery.

Ideas for going forward

Our current retreat ministry has a “others visit us” versus a preaching ministry which is meeting people on *their* turf.

1. The lay persons on the committee seem to be looking for outreach in preaching which meets them in their “everyday lives.” *This may require looking at other means to communicate the message.*
2. Our current preaching model has “others visit us,” in the retreat centers or in other ministries. *Perhaps we need to consider an outward facing ministry to complement this traditional model.*
3. *The laity needs to be engaged and enraptured by the Passionist message so they can deliver it to others in their lives.* We simply do not have enough bandwidth to use traditional methods alone to reach the enlarging potential audience of SBNRs. (Spiritual But Not Religious)
4. *The Passionist preaching method needs to be more accessible for those who have not yet recognized God in their lives or have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.* For the stages of this method we could use a baseball analogy in the spiritual movement. For example:
 - a. Begin with Love as the core preaching (first base)
 - b. Recognition of how God operates in their lives (second base)
 - c. Establishing a relationship with Jesus Christ through the Passionist Charism (third base)
 - d. Encountering God in everyday life (fourth base)

We plan to use these ideas (and perhaps others as they arise) as the basis for continued development of the Preaching Committee Vision.

Respectfully,

Co-Chairs: Michael J. Cunningham, O.F.S., Fr. Jack Conley C.P.