

## Collaboration Working Group Meeting Summary

**Date of meeting** October 10, 2018    **Co-Chairs** Faith Offman and Alfredo Ocampo, CP

**Attendees:** Keith Zekind, Sandra Arnould, Faith Offman, Patty Masson, Toby Tabaczynski, Claire Smith, David Horvath

### **Recommendations/Actions:**

#### **Vision Statement:**

**need to acknowledge fear:** some of the fear is actually grief, when named as grief one can better navigate the journey;

**What does Collaboration look like?** Collaboration is not something we ‘do’; rather collaboration is the ‘way we do’. Perhaps part of the struggle is that the lay and vowed have different understandings/definitions of collaboration. Maybe separate yet concurrent ‘retreats’ one for laity and one for vowed – perhaps a shared keynote (Mark Clarke or similar) with time for each to go off and continue the conversation in a safe environment. This may provide a needed beginning to reaching a mutual understanding

**Who to Collaborate with** Vowed and Lay, East and West Province, Configuration. Alumni and Passionist Partners. Inter-faith – Muslim, Jewish, ...Any Individuals and institutions who can help forward the mission.

**Who is a Passionist?** If immersed – a Passionist. All are legitimately Passionist. How can we broaden the trust that is needed to ground this truth

**Formation:** Who and how? Vowed and lay around the others reality. Ongoing.

**Key Initiatives & Action Plans:** still emerging, but some things to notice: Opportunities for lay and vowed to gather for honest discussions around understandings of collaboration. Is there grief or mourning that need to be named and navigated. Follow up with committee members we have not heard from as yet – get some thoughts to add to minutes. Do we need to alternate meeting days and times?

**Who is Responsible for Timeline for next Steps:** Committee chairs and shepherds – follow up with committee members and explore whether something can be set up before Chapter 2019 to facilitate the necessary conversations. Possible vowed facilitators for Lay gathering – Don Senior and Robin Ryan; A lay facilitator for vowed ???; perhaps a joint keynote such as Mark Clarke....

## **Notes on Key Points of the Meeting Discussion:**

### **Keith:**

- Those three questions to ponder, would like to hear about this one –
- What bridges have we crossed knowing and at peace that it is God's will and there is no going back?

### **Toby:**

- We should do this, the challenge is how do we do that?
- Provide structure and next steps to get that collaborative engagement and involvement.
- It's a process.
- Is our goal structuring these steps?
  - We may need a facilitator to walk with us through this process.

### **Sandra:**

- Reading the history from the retreat center level,
- putting in Michael and Kate in the retreat centers as leadership,
  - this was embraced and another bridge crossed.

### **Faith:**

- the laity invited to chapter was moving forward. Don't think we are going back from that.

### **Keith:**

- The role of laity in our various ministries across the province;
- accepted diminishment of the numbers of vowed members.
- I think they have crossed, maybe not accepting but crossing the bridge.

### **Claire:**

- The vowed have welcomed the laity in
  - and have allowed laity to wear more hats, more leadership hats.
- One of the pieces that happened in terms of diminishment (smaller communities) is when we closed Harlem Avenue.
  - It was a practical move, but that was their home and hard for some of the vowed to process.
- Hard for a lot of people, some may still not be at peace with it.

**Sandra:**

- that grief is huge, grief of change, aging –
- takes a lot of work to get through, the grief in so many different facets of aging.

**David:** Agreed.

**Faith:**

- not always identified as grief
- but once named, the journey is more intentional

**David:**

- The Passionist family has more or less made a transition to see the charism as appreciating and administering to Christ's passion in the world.
- At the assembly there were a few vowed members who pushed back and said this was a distraction –
  - our charism is literally on the passion of Christ, the other is a diversion.
- I was surprised at that, but I was a minority at this point.
- It is essential to use the charism to see that Christ is crucified every day.

**Keith:**

- We have to get beyond our walls.
- We are comfortable, we expect people to come to us.
- We have to get out of the mentality.
- Maybe we take our retreat out - a mobile retreat to those in need.

**David:**

- Agreed, we want to remember that our retreat sites have a charism of their own.
  - Immigration issues, racism, economical issues, ecology crises, addressed by walking out of the door.
- How do we bring our work forward including this in our work?
- There are other organizations we can partner with sharing space, wisdom, teaching skills, spiritual perspectives – placing us in solidarity with them.

**Faith:**

- These topics are dear to Alfredo's heart.

**Sandra:**

- yes, a street retreat.
- Everyone wants to stay in their own lane, not ruffle feathers.

- You can't do that – so much to think of – these times are just as problematically daunting as any time
- How do we move forward without just staying in our lane?

**Faith:**

- I like your image of a lane – at least we are all in the same race
  - as opposed to a silo.

**Claire:**

- We look for the crucified today – who are they?
- Who do we see and what are we currently doing for the crucified,
  - what could we be doing,
  - how do we do that?
- We have Hugo in Haiti, could we do more collaborating with the Eastern Province?
  - Could both provinces work in Haiti, somewhere in the U.S. –
- if we are going to be missionaries to go out and serve –
  - do they have to be vowed, could it be a lay and vowed partnership.
- What are we doing to go out and talk to the runaways on the streets, the immigrants?
- Eastern Province has international volunteers,
- we used to have Passionist Ministers (Alums), maybe bring that back in some form or fashion.
- Partner with another religious order. Look at CTU – with vision we could make a lot happen.

**Faith:**

- Every site has their own way of delivering the Charism –
  - they don't all have to be the same thing.
- Thinking outside the box, losing our walls, going beyond vowed/lay –
- I am hopeful as a result of our committee work some of that will grow exponentially as we embrace together a common understanding of what collaboration is.

**Claire:**

- Looking beyond our borders, starting a process guided by Enno involving Jewish and Muslim orgs. So we can encompass the entire community.