

## Collaboration Working Group Meeting Summary

**Date of meeting** October 3, 2018    **Co-Chairs** Faith Offman and Alfredo Ocampo, CP

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

### **Recommendations/Actions:**

#### **Vision Statement:**

**need to acknowledge fear:** of change, of vulnerability, of unknown future, of letting go, loss of control over ie: charism, ministry, decision making; fear of addressing the reality vs. denying or delaying the fear – ‘let’s just merge the Provinces and we’ll have more vowed’

**What does Collaboration look like?** Mutuality, equality, interwoven, investment, need to be vulnerable and open to other perspectives, all parties be around the table, working together for the greater good, cross-functional teams with folks from different walks of life, willingness to ‘ruffle feathers’ in a respectable and professional way, demands accountability, hard but doable, decrease fear with mutual involvement, relationships – naturally grown, mutual understandings of differing vocations, formation of both vowed and lay,

**Who to Collaborate with** Vowed and Lay, East and West Province, Configuration. Alumni and Passionist Partners. Individuals and institutions who can help forward the mission.

**Who is a Passionist?** If immersed – a Passionist. Even those with little investment of time. Even those who may leave working with the Passionist Family for another walk of life. Those who get the Charism.

**Formation:** Who and how? Vowed and lay around the others reality. Charism formation. OME, all employees should be able to make a Passionist Retreat with at least some subsidy – some will need to go to another retreat center because of their role on the ministry team – travel should be considered as well. Everyone is worth the investment. Do the laity need some ‘retreat’ time among themselves (similar to the vowed Preaching Retreat)?

**Key Initiatives & Action Plans:** still emerging, but some things to notice: Voice – clear goals and reasonable expectations – Once a Passionist, Always a Passionist – everyone worth the investment of formation – unification of the laity voice – call the question even in the midst of fear – formation investment collaboration between ministries – no us and them.

**Who is Responsible for Timeline for next Steps:** so early in the process, this falls with the co-chairs and shepherds – but this will grow to others as we narrow the focus

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

**To conclude our time Faith asked all to pause and consider ‘ What is emerging as something important for us to remember?’**

**Toby:**

- The structured side of me says anytime there is a group gathering like we are, so there is a path we follow,
- so we have clear goals with reasonable expectations of what can we achieve is critical.
  - You have to say what is attainable, reasonable, within a certain timeframe.
- We all have similar expectations but maybe there are differences as well.
- We all need to be on the same page.
  - What does it mean for us to be reasonable and attainable?

**Elizabeth:**

- Once a Passionist, a Passionist for life,
  - what you do with that may look different but you are still a Passionist for life
  - you are still extending out into the world and family.
- You minister to a person’s life – they change in their retreat experience as well as in their Passionist background.
- Everyone is still worth the investment of formation.
  - I think this is reasonable and attainable.
  - We have funds and access to people who can teach and train.

**Keith:**

- Unification of the laity, speaking in unison that we understand what we are trying to get to.
- Maybe we need a retreat of laity together.
  - What do we, as laity, want?
- We have to define our role, we are not threatening; we have reasonable and attainable goals.

**Claire:**

- How do the laity get formed?
  - I have never had a structured type of Passionist formation/education that could help me understand the charism more and some of the Passionist theology would be helpful for me.
- How to form the religious around the laity is important in and of itself.
  - Get them a better understanding that we are working with them,
  - not taking over what they are doing.

**Faith:**

- I am hearing concerns of fear and recognizing the fear
  - but is it time to call the question?
- collaboration could be the safe container for the conversations that we can have.

**Patty:**

- Agrees with Keith on a laity retreat,
  - any interested preaching team member or staff member should be given an opportunity through the Province to make an annual PASSIONIST retreat.
  - Maybe make an agreement between all retreat centers to do a retreat exchange where we can attend a retreat at no cost to the interested lay member.
    - If possible, ask those wanting to take advantage of this offer to either pay or split travel expenses (if they can afford it).
    - If they cannot afford it, allow a travel stipend that would be covered by their retreat center.
  - This past weekend, I had to find a retreat, ask for a scholarship, and drive 4 hours to Dallas (one way) for a 3.5 day Jesuit retreat. It was wonderful, but not Passionist.

the importance of all of our staff being involved in Passionist formation.

**Sandra:**

- Fear, vulnerability,
- no us and them.
- We don't want to take over,
  - in Detroit we will have only one Passionist in the next 5-10 years.
  - We need to be able to have that succession planning to move from vowed to lay so they can entrust us moving forward.
- Understanding so we can move forward as they can see in this vision.
- I want to help with this, we have to get through the fear of us and them.