Background on the Congregation of the Passion,
Holy Cross Province, Mission Activity.

**For use in parish bulletins, flyers, etc.,
in preparation for the Passionist Mission Appeal**.

The Passionist Congregation was founded in 1720, in Italy, by St. Paul of the Cross. St. Paul of the Cross and his followers, from the very beginning, took a “special vow” to “promote the memory of the Passion of Jesus in the hearts of the faithful.”

St. Paul was convinced that not only would this special vow bear much fruit preaching and instructing the largely rural Catholics of the Italian peninsula in the 1700’s, but that the same vow would win many non-Christians and non-Catholics to the Catholic faith. Toward that end he counseled his congregation to accept any opportunities offered by the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith to send “foreign missionaries” where ever they were needed.

The first foreign missionaries went to Bulgaria; followed in the middle of the 19th century by the great missionary to England, Blessed Dominic Barberi, who is the one who accepted the profession of faith of the great English Cardinal Newman.

During the same century, Passionist Missionaries spread out to the continents: Australia, North and South America. Missionaries went to Asia and Africa in the 20th century.

A team of missionaries from the two Passionist Provinces of the United States began work in China in 1927, where they worked until the Communist takeover of 1950. Subsequently, American Passionist Missionaries went to work in the Philippines, Japan, South Korea and India.

Another “mission field” for American Passionist Missionaries has been the southeastern United States, where priests and parishes were often far from their nearest neighbors, under-staffed, and under-funded. For years between the two World Wars, Passionists traveled through the south conducting missions from railroad chapel cars, or from the backs of flat-bed trucks.

In keeping with the spirit of the Congregation, Passionist Missionaries have suffered persecution, some even death, in fulfilling their special vow. In 1988, Fr. Carl Schmitz, a native of Chicago IL, was assassinated in the Philippines for his defense of the land-rights and human-rights of the Bila-an tribe.

The Passionists in India are helping the poorest of the poor with parish development, ministry to prisoners and ex-prisoners, and economic development of communities through ownership of their own livestock.

Your generosity will support the preaching of the Gospel, the formation of Christian communities/parishes, and the formation/education of young Passionists for a new generation.

Bulletin Suggestions in advance of the Passionist Mission Appeal

# Mission Collection Scheduled

[Name of Missionary], a Passionist Missionary, will preach the annual mission appeal at all of the Masses on the weekend of [weekend dates]. Father will present the needs of the Passionist Missions of Holy Cross Province. The American Passionists have missions in India, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Mexico and in Alabama. This annual collection gives us the opportunity to participate in the Missionary Work of the Church. Please be generous. Checks should be made out payable to the parish because the collection will be counted in the parish and a single check will be forwarded to the mission office.

=======================================================

# Mission Collection Scheduled

[Name of Missionary], a Passionist Missionary, will preach the annual mission appeal at all the Masses on the weekend of [weekend dates]. Father will present the needs of the Passionist Missions of Holy Cross Province. A special collection will be taken up to support their missionary work.

The Passionists, founded in 1720, are working worldwide, in 62 countries. American Passionist Missionaries are working in India, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Mexico as well as in Alabama. Please welcome Father [Name of Passionist Missionary] and be generous. Checks should be made out payable to the parish because the collection will be counted in the parish and a single check will be forwarded to the mission office.