

Louisville Community Summary

Louisville is the most diverse Passionist community in the Holy Cross Province and always responds positively to invitations to participate in activities and processes organized by the Province. Over the course of the past year, the Louisville Community meetings for the Visioning Process have included representative attendance of 18 – 28 people from the vowed Passionists in residence at Sacred Heart Monastery, lay staff, lay volunteers, Passionist alumni, Earth and Spirit Center staff, and Connection Committee members from St. Agnes Parish.

Tuesday evening, March 26, 2019, was no exception as the group came together for the third and final Community gathering in the Visioning Process. We met in the dining room of the monastery and recalled how the previous year when we met the first time, almost to the day, we had looked out the window to an 8” blanket of snow whereas on this day it was beautiful and sunny, full of hints of Spring all around.

In Louisville there is always a sense of abounding wisdom when the Passionist family gathers. All segments participate enthusiastically to generate very good discussion from their diverse roles in the life of the community. The views expressed and opinions offered are frequently very different but are respectfully presented. They seem to have warm regard for one another.

In the March meeting vowed members contributed from their perspective of having lived their life as a vowed Passionist, representing service in the many ministries of the Province. The lay volunteers and staff have come to know the Passionists at some point in their life and have incorporated the Charism in their life. Their ideas stem from this connection, being committed to the Charism and Province ministries but looking through the lens of a life lived outside the Passionist family. Enriching the mix of participants were several Passionist alumni. They are in the unique position of having been formed as young men as vowed Passionists who have since lived their life in the secular world but remain connected and affiliated with the Province.

Measuring the content of these conversations yields a community with a view directed toward their local ministries, balanced with a broader perspective of actions which could prove beneficial to Holy Cross Province. A few interesting points from the most recent community meeting:

- A suggestion that we erase all our commonly held notions of what a Passionist Community looks like and start from “scratch” to formulate what community should be today.
- An observation that we come together in gatherings to try to envision a future for the Province and yet have to acknowledge that “we really don’t know each other” at the level that would make this work more productive.

- A suggestion that we as a Province should take this special time of envisioning the future to make sure our own house is in order in every way before we expand our horizons to additional areas of suffering in this world.
- We need to be willing to challenge the Church in all of its brokenness to boldly move to strengthen our own Province and ministries -- to be the holy remnant without giving up the best of who we are and have been.
- We don't want to be paralyzed by our fears – those spoken aloud and those carried in silence. We don't want to be made stagnant by fears.
- We need to be action oriented and innovative – be willing to move ahead with the small tests of change, and we have to be willing to not be successful with everything we try. We learn from both successes and failures.