

New Partnerships
Minutes
March 10, 2020

Attending:

Fr. Pat Brennan, Tim O'Brien, Sharon Brewer, Fr. Alex Steinmiller, Elizabeth Velarde

Not attending:

Fr Jon Chalmers

Open Meeting:

We opened with a reflection from "Rediscover the Saints," Chapter 1, St Augustine: You Have a Future. What do you believe about your past that is keeping you from your future? Are there things, issues, situations, experiences, which act as a stumbling block for Holy Cross Province in fulfilling the vision of the Passionist Family?

Loving Father,

Help us to know deep in our hearts that you are ready to remove today whatever obstacles we have placed between ourselves and you in the past.

Open our heart, minds, and souls to see the future you have imagined for us, and give us the courage to embrace your plans even when we feel inadequate and insecure.

Amen

It was agreed that we would begin each of our conversations with a short reflection. The committee members will take turns offering the reflection. Next week-- Fr. Pat Brennan

Conversation:

1. Tim encouraged everyone to read the General Chapter Calls to Action which he had previously provided, and relate them to the work of Holy Cross Province.
2. COA #5 -- Initiate a mission in collaboration with Configuration and Passionist Sisters addressing immigrants at the southern border;
 - a. There's a sense that we as members of HCP need to know more about the Configuration that we are a part of. We are aware that we are in the "North Zone" of Jesus Crucified Configuration along with St Paul of the Cross Province in Eastern U.S. and Cristo Rey Province in Mexico. The South Zone of the same configuration includes Central and South America.

- b. The purpose of combining forces in configuration is to allow the Charism to be more effective in the regions and countries we operate and to accomplish this by working together. PASPAC would be an example/model.
3. Outside the HCP there are many examples of New Partnerships, such as Interfaith Evanston, where 40 organizations come together to provide shelters and warming facilities for people in need. They hold a volunteer driven “Walk for Warmth” to fund the shelters. Members in HCP could participate in this event as a show of solidarity with their organization – everything we do doesn’t have to be a MAJOR event. Every good thing counts, no matter how small.
4. COA #4 for New Partnerships reads “Expand understanding of our relationships with broader constituents of Passionists in North America;”
 - a. Maybe this means St Paul of the Cross Province – the Province that we are closest to geographically and with whom we have common roots. There have been discussions about enlarging our relationship with SPOC Province at various province meetings, but we always seem to arrive at a dead end. What if we put the situation in a different light and try again....do we need a new partnership with SPOC?
Where we are today:
 - i. We are not partnering with SPOC in any real way;
 - ii. We have no collective vision with the two provinces;
 - iii. SPOC hasn’t really reached out to HCP which may mean they don’t want to work together;
 - iv. We are still expanding because of our inclusion of the laity in our ministries and they don’t seem to be expanding;
 - v. Vowed members in the past have championed increasing our interaction with SPOC, but the idea has never really gone anywhere because other vowed members do not see the viability.
 - vi. The two provincial cultures are significantly different; the East is more parochial.
 - vii. The Retreat Centers are managed differently, with HCP center’s having much commonality with sharing of best practices, organization structure, etc. and each of the SPOC Centers being more or less “independently” run; that is with local management and ministry personnel having authority and responsibility for the center.
 - viii. Areas that could be explored further:
 - ix. We had a joint retreat two years or so ago, with the invitation “Let’s talk informally.....”
 - x. JPIC offers many ways to work together;

- xi. Jamaica NY Retreat Center being redone and will focus on ecology. It will be called “Thomas Berry” Center
- xii. A suggestion was made that HCP organize a pilgrimage to Pittsburgh where the Passionist were first founded in the United States.
- xiii. Encourage HCP members to make their way to St. Anne’s in Scranton, to take part in the Novena which happens every year and is staffed by both East and West Coast Passionists.

This conversation led to the suggestion that we invite Fr. Richard Burke, CP, SPOC Province, to one of our committee meetings and continue this discussion.

Honoring our commitment to contain our discussion to one hour, we adjourned at 2:58 pm EST.