

New Partnerships -- April 28, 2020

Attending the Zoom meeting were Fr. Pat Brennan, Fr. Alex Steinmiller, Sharon Brewer, Tim O'Brien, Cindy LaFond and Elizabeth Velarde.

1. We began with the Vision Fulfillment Prayer.
2. In the week since our last meeting, Fr. Pat Brennan wrote up two proposals for New Partnerships to process forward. The first of these pertains to creating days of recollection to provide opportunities for spiritual healing for the many people who will have been negatively impacted by the pandemic and the upheaval of life in our country. We discussed the timeliness of the idea as well as the urgency that we be in a position to provide this ministry once things begin to open and people try to adjust to their new normal life. The new partnering aspect would involve engaging other professionals accustomed to dealing with people who are dealing with extreme stress and displacement. It was decided that this proposal should be finalized and forwarded to the resource groups as soon as possible. We discussed sending it to the leadership at the retreat centers, their pastoral committees, perhaps the board chairs, and also the Provincial Council. We will put this proposal in the format proposed by Vision Fulfillment Commission and review everything at our meeting next week with the plan to move it along as soon as possible.
3. The next proposal concerns creating new partnerships for retreat recruitment and outreach with the intent of finding new and creative ways to attract people to the gifts of our weekend preached retreat. We know they are out there, and we are confident that our ministry provides much needed spiritual growth and healing, but we need new ways of finding them and making them aware of what we offer. This proposal too will not need to wait. The resource groups include retreat center leadership, ministry teams, the PRCB, and recruitment teams present at the centers. We will prepare the proposal in the proper format and plan to finalize at our meeting next week.
4. Fr. Alex Steinmiller has proposed inviting people within the Holy Cross Province Passionist Family to come together via Zoom for the purpose of having informal conversations about how they are being affected by the pandemic. The purpose is not formalized and the results would be open to whatever develops during the meeting. It is meant to give people within the community an opportunity to share their experiences and feelings and to hear and understand the same from others. Alex will write up the invitation and we will finalize at our meeting next week.
5. Cindy LaFond suggested that at the appropriate time, when reopening becomes possible, each Province location would host a "bereavement" ceremony to offer people an opportunity to grieve what was lost to our country and to all of us during this time of extreme crisis. She suggested that it could be held outdoors.
6. Tim O'Brien told of a program at Northpark University where he teaches. They have formed a partnership of the Proctor Conference and the management school to offer a program to

train contact tracing ministers. This is an example of new programs which will develop as a result of the pandemic.

7. We discussed the Resource List. Do we actually know the full extent of the resources available to the Province? Who is in the “Passionist Family” and who are they connected to? Should we recommend doing a survey to find out if resources are available through the Passionist Family that we are currently unaware of?
8. Fr. Alex continues his work with the local young adult connections that he is developing. He also joined the Laudato Si Fulfillment Team and will serve as a bridge between their work and ours.

Next meeting – Tuesday, May 5, 2020.