

Holy Cross Province 2019 Province Chapter Reports



HOLY CROSS PROVINCE
MEMBERSHIP December 31, 2018

PROFESSED MEMBERS	2014	2018
PRIESTS	50	40
BROTHERS	7	6
PERMANENT DEACONS	1	1
DEACONS		
STUDENTS	3	2
TOTAL	61	49
NOVICES		
RESIDENTS	2	1

FIRST PROFESSIONS 2011-2014

Nicholas Divine	08-15-2016
Phillip Donlan	07-11-2018

DEATHS 2014 – 2018

Bernard Weber	09-20-2014
Alfred Pooler	01-15-2015
Philip Schaefer	11-28-2015
Francis Cusack	06-01-2016
Joseph Van Leeuwen	02-28-2017
William Baalman	03-16-2017
Leonard Kosatka	08-02-2017
Emmet Linden	09-03-2017
Denis McGowan	01-15-2018
Michael Hoolahan	06-02-2018

DEPARTURES

Glenn Bisguera	02-25-2015
Robert Bovenzi	08-26-2015
Antonio Aquino	09-28-2015
Juan Gonzalez	07-16-2017

GENERAL STATISTICS

	2014	2018
PROFESSIONS	3	2
ORDINATIONS	2	
DEATHS	7	10
DEPARTURES		4

AGE BY PERCENT

AGE	TOTAL	PERCENT
90+	2	4%
80-89	15	30%
70-79	17	34%
60-69	7	14%
50-59	3	6%
40-49	3	6%
30-39	2	4%
20-29		
TOTAL	49	
	Average Age 72	
	Median Age 75	

MEMBERSHIP BY AGE – December 31, 2018

97 Herbers, Simon	74 Carrillo, Arthur
96 Joyce, Randal	72 Day, John Patrick Webber, Donald Brennan, Patrick
89 Berendt, Peter San Juan, Alfonso	71 Hilgert, John Robert Crossmyer
88 MacDonald, Sebastian	70 Gibson, Christopher Monzyk, John
85 Keenan, Francis X. Milazzo, Jerome	69 Schork, John Moons, Joseph Conley, John
83 Corl, Ronald George Stanfield Rockenbach, John	68 Joseph Mitchell
82 Czaja, Blaise O'Malley, Kenneth	62 Tu-Jin Kim Philip Paxton
81 Ormechea, John B. Weiss, Robert Hund, Carl Parks, Richard	61 Pisegna, Cedric
80 Meyer, Eric	57 Barbieri, Joseph
79 Sanchez Raymond Phillip, Alan	55 David Colhour
78 Senior, Donald	50 Wernert, Kurt
76 Griffith, James Newbold, Ronan	48 Nicholas Divine
75 Higgins, Michael Barrón, Clemente Strommer, James Steinmiller, Alex	46 Ocampo, Alfredo Dango, Enno
	39 Hugo Esparza-Pérez
	36 Phillip Donlan

MEMBERSHIP

PRIESTS

Joseph Barbieri
Clemente Barrón
Peter Berendt
Patrick Brennan
Arthur Carrillo
David Colhour
John Conley
Ronald Corl
Robert Crossmyer
Blaise Czaja
Enno Dango
John P. Day
Hugo Esparza-Pérez
Christopher Gibson

Simon Herbers
Michael Higgins
John Hilgert
Randal Joyce
Francis X. Keenan
Tu-Jin Paul Kim
Sebastian MacDonald
Eric Meyer
Joseph Mitchell
Joseph Moons
Ronan Newbold
Alfredo Ocampo
Kenneth O'Malley
John B. Ormechea

Richard Parks
Philip Paxton
Alan Phillip
Cedric Pisegna
Alfonso San Juan
John Schork
Donald Senior
George Stanfield
Alexander Steinmiller
James Strommer
Donald Webber
Robert Weiss

BROTHERS

Carl Hund
Jerome Milazzo
John Monzyk
John Rockenbach
Raymond Sanchez
Kurt Wernert

PERMANENT DEACON

James Griffith

RESIDENTS

SooHoon Hur

PROFESSED STUDENTS

Nicholas Divine
Philip Donlan

ORDER OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Fr. Randal Joyce | 26 Dcn James Griffith |
| 2 Fr. Simon Herbers | 27 Fr. John Patrick Day |
| 3 Fr. Peter Berendt | 28 Fr. Donald Webber |
| 4 Fr. Alfonso San Juan | 29 Fr. Patrick Brennan |
| 5 Fr. Sebastian MacDonald | 30 Br. John Monzyk |
| 6 Fr. Francis X. Keenan | 31 Fr. Christopher Gibson |
| 7 Fr. Blaise Czaja | 32 Fr. John Schork |
| 8 Fr. Kenneth O'Malley | 33 Fr. Joseph Moons |
| 9 Fr. John Baptist Ormechea | 34 Fr. John Hilgert |
| 10 Fr. Robert Weiss | 35 Fr. John Conley |
| 11 Fr. Ronald Corl | 36 Fr. Joseph Mitchell |
| 12 Fr. Eric Meyer | 37 Br. John Rockenbach |
| 13 Fr. Alan Phillip | 38 Fr. Robert Crossmyer |
| 14 Fr. Donald Senior | 39 Fr. Cedric Pisegna |
| 15 Fr. George Stanfield | 40 Fr. Tu-Jin Paul Kim |
| 16 Br. Carl Hund | 41 Fr. David Colhour |
| 17 Br. Raymond Sanchez | 42 Fr. Philip Paxton |
| 18 Fr. Richard L. Parks | 43 Br. Kurt Wernert |
| 19 Fr. Ronan Newbold | 44 Fr. Alfredo Ocampo |
| 20 Fr. Michael Higgins | 45 Fr. Hugo Esparza-Pérez |
| 21 Fr. Clemente Barrón | 46 Fr. Enno Dango |
| 22 Fr. James Strommer | 47 Fr. Joseph Barbieri |
| 23 Fr. Alexander Steinmiller | 48 Nicholas Divine |
| 24 Fr. Arthur Carrillo | 49 Phillip Donlan |
| 25 Br. Jerome Milazzo | |

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

BIRMINGHAM

Holy Family

Justin Nelson Fr (THOM)
Patricio Manosalvas Fr (LAT)
Alex Steinmiller Fr

CHICAGO

St Vincent Strambi

John Conley Fr
John Auram Fr (SPIR)
Enno Dango Fr
Nicholas Divine (Student)
Phillip Donlan (Student)
Sooheon Hur (Residency)
Francis Keenan Fr
Tu Jin Kim Fr
Alfredo Ocampo Fr
Robin Ryan Fr (SPC)
John Schork Fr
Donald Senior Fr
Donald Webber Fr

CITRUS HEIGHTS

Christ the King

James Strommer Fr
Thomas Bonacci, Fr (SPC)
Arthur Carrillo Fr
Blaise Czaja Fr
John Hilgert Fr
Carl Hund Br
Giltus Mathias Fr (THOM)
Joseph Moons Fr

DETROIT

St Paul of the Cross

Philip Paxton Fr
Peter Berendt Fr
Patrick Brennan Fr
Randal Joyce Fr
Raymond Sanchez Br

Note:

THOM = India

LAT = Italy

SPC = Eastern Province

SPIR = Australia

HOUSTON

Holy Name

Kenneth O'Malley Fr
Joseph Barbieri Fr
Antonio Curto Fr (LAT)
Ronan Newbold Fr
Cedric Pisegna Fr
George Stanfield Fr

LOUISVILLE

Sacred Heart

John Monzyk Br
Febin Barose Fr (THOM)
David Colhour Fr
Ronald Corl Fr
Robert Crossmyer Fr
John Patrick Day Fr
Christopher Gibson Fr
Sebastian MacDonald Fr
Eric Meyer Fr
Jerome Milazzo Br
Joseph Mitchell Fr
Richard Parks Fr
Alfonso San Juan Fr
Robert Weiss Fr
Kurt Wernert Br

SIERRA MADRE

Mater Dolorosa

Alan Phillip Fr
Clemente Barrón Fr
Michael Higgins Fr
John Rockenbach Br
Bruno D'Souza Fr (THOM)

ROME

John Baptist Ormechea Fr

HAITI

Hugo Esparza-Pérez Fr

PERSONAL ADDRESS

James Griffith Dcn

HOLY FAMILY PASSIONIST COMMUNITY

Birmingham, Alabama

Justin Nelson, C.P.

Greetings from Birmingham Passionist community!

We have three Passionist priests, Fr. Alex Steinmiller, Fr. Patricio and Fr Nelson, in our Birmingham local community. We three of us are involved in full time ministry in our respective parishes. Fr. Alex is the Pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes and it is twenty minutes' drive from our rectory. He serves to a mixed group of Catholic community. Fr. Patricio serves as Pastor at St. Joseph Church in Ensley, predominantly Hispanic community. Fr Nelson serves as Pastor at Holy Family and St. Mary's Church, predominantly Afro-American community. At Holy Family campus, we have both Holy Family Middle school and the Holy Family Cristo Rey High School.

We three are quite busy with our respective parish activities. We serve and work with good parishioners who appreciate and work with us. We all serve mixed cultures of faith and parishioners. Parishes are self-supportive in its finance and in moving forward with different activities.

Blessed with new Holy Family school board that is very active and vibrant. High School is doing well financially with the strong school board, good staffs and by leadership of Fr. Jon Charmers. Both Holy Family and St. Mary's work together and we have combined celebrations together and it has produced good responses from each church. Both churches have its long history of Passionist presence. This year, Holy Family celebrated its 80th Anniversary and St Mary's Church celebrated its 75th Anniversary and completed building a new social hall. St Mary's had various programs each month to celebrate its anniversary with larger community in Birmingham.

Local community meets once a week to pray, share reflections and having a meal together. We all feel it is one of our quality times together with our small community. Fr. Alex is sharing about Passionist Spirituality with our parishioners. It is open to anyone interested to get to know more of Passionists and their charism. Early this year, Fr Bob Crossmyer became very sick and was hospitalized for a couple of months and then he was moved to Louisville in Nazareth home. He has been making some slow recovery in his health ever since. He has been a great loss for the Birmingham community as a whole. He served in Birmingham for 21 years in both Holy Family parish and Holy Family High School. We thank him for his dedicated and selfless services.

We too have some challenges. At Holy Family, our Middle School has 40 students this year. It has been a challenge each year to support financially. This year would be more of a challenge since we have less students than previous years and the cost of running the school is the same. Not able to work with all the three parishes because of difference of cultures even though our churches are close to each other.

Over all, this year has been a great blessing in so many ways. We are blessed with a good and committed community and we have been playing a small part in making a difference to our people whom we serve in Birmingham.

ST. VINCENT STRAMBI PASSIONIST COMMUNITY

Chicago, Illinois

Jack Conley, C.P.

Hyde Park continues to be a rather diverse neighborhood. Violent crime remains an issue in Chicago, but significant building construction and remodeling have taken place in our area recently. 53rd Street, for example, now boasts of a series of new restaurants, a seven-story boutique hotel as well as a large condominium/apartment complex, and two high-rise residences (*roughly 26 stories each, one at 56th and Cornell, one at 53rd and Cornell*) have recently been constructed just a block down the street from us. Also, the Barack Obama Presidential Center is planned just blocks from our residence, in Jackson Park near the University of Chicago.

St. Vincent Strambi Retreat is a very active Passionist Community; the men remain extremely productive, apostolically, and offer the Church a great gift of ministry. There is a wonderful sense of cooperation among the men — rotating the role of presiding at weekday liturgies, (*about 10-12 folks from CTU participate in our liturgies regularly*) helping with dishes and clean-up after dinner, caring for the landscape, snow removal, etc. Our only employees are Lissa Romell (*reception, bookkeeping, administration*) and Bob Burns (*part-time time maintenance*). We now rotate the role of evening cooking among us Passionists, as well as all housekeeping chores.

With the closing of the Immaculate Conception Monastery and the Pioneer Avenue residence, and Joe Moons now residing in California, St. Vincent Strambi is the sole Chicago vowed Passionist presence (*along with the rectory at Korean Martyrs*). Because there are no other local Passionist residences, SVS entertains a significant number of guests, especially during the summer months; with several of us away from the community residence for extended periods of time, and no housekeeping assistance... offering hospitality to guests has proven to be a challenging issue. John Schork, Don Senior, and several others are good at keeping a noticeable Passionist public image in the Archdiocese and local church.

The quality of our prayer is good, and there is a good spirit among the men. For me, personally, it is a real pleasure to live in such a stimulating and nurturing environment. A sense of responsibility for the quality/vitality of community life (*feast day celebrations, community meetings or retreats, etc.*) often rests on the local superior or assistant superior, however, and I have been trying to improve on that.

The building was renovated twelve years ago, and now needs substantial cleaning and updating, with a few essential, major capital improvements underway (*plans for replacing front steps, tuck-pointing, perhaps interior and exterior painting*). In the past two years we have replaced all major appliances in the laundry and kitchen (*washers and dryers, stove/oven, microwave, two refrigerators, freezer, dishwasher*). Fundraising remains a challenge for me, especially because there is no real donor base at this point, and CTU is currently in the midst of a major capital campaign, but I hope to tap into the experience of community members.

Since last Chapter, Sebastian MacDonald, Arthur Carrillo, and Christopher Gibson have relocated; their presence, sanctity, vivacious personalities and skills are very much missed! Also, since the 2015 Chapter, Don Webber, Tu-Jin Paul Kim, John Schork, Enno Dango, as well as (students) Nicholas Divine, Phillip Donlan, and Soohoon Hur have moved in.

Recently, CTU has modified its curriculum, reducing the number of required courses and increasing the number of electives. The purpose, I believe, is to accommodate more lay students and their busy lifestyles. Now, however, it seems there are more evening classes lasting 2.5 hours. Coupled with this, one concern I have recently is the pattern of several within the community absenting themselves from the evening meal on a rather frequent basis; members are often absent during the weekend as well. I realize that different folks have various needs for socializing outside, and the culture of religious life has changed, but other than morning Eucharist, dinner is about the only time we come together; being a formation community, this is a weak spot and must be addressed.

When we met to elect a local superior, following the Provincial Chapter of 2015, I explained to the community that I continue to direct about 10-12 parish missions each year, as well as several retreats; the community agreed that a new model of local superior was possible. Because the men are healthy and self-starters, we could divide some of the responsibilities of the ministry of local superior.

Several of the men have served the Province through “in-house” ministries (*vocation director, mission appeal director, formation director, provincial secretary, province finance/development director, OME director, et al.*), so salaries are not commensurate with pastors or retreat directors. Finances remains a concern, but SVS remains “in the black”.

In addition to the many capital improvement projects that must be addressed, there are several administrative tasks that must be completed (updating the Employee Handbook, etc.)

Francis Keenan, 85, resides at St. Benedict’s Home on the North Side; though confined to a wheelchair, he remains mentally alert, and friends (*especially from his many years at Lutheran General Hospital*) and family visit him regularly. Don Webber is very good in keeping Frank “in the loop,” and Don also serves as Frank’s power of attorney, negotiating Medicaid issues, and communicates with Frank’s Chicago family, et al.

Don Senior, 78, has been teaching at CTU, as well as a course at Northwestern University in Evanston. He serves as editor of the *Bible Today*, president emeritus and chancellor at CTU (*spending considerable time in donor relations, fundraising, etc.*), and keeps very busy publishing (*most recently a comprehensive biography of Raymond Brown, published by Paulist Press*), giving retreats and days of reflection, talks and lectures, Holy Land and Turkey/Greece pilgrimages, etc. Don also writes a weekly reflection for the Chicago Catholic (*archdiocesan paper*), serves on several boards (*Sadlier*), and serves on the Province Investment Advisory Board

Don Webber, 72, resides at Korean Martyrs Catholic Mission in Chicago, where he assists Tu-Jin with Sunday liturgies and a monthly CCD liturgy. His primary ministry is Director of the Province’s Office of Mission Effectiveness. As mentioned, Don assists Frank Keenan in countless ways.

John Schork, 69, serves as assistant superior; with my itinerant ministry schedule John does a great job being present to employees and the men. He also serves as Provincial secretary, Province treasurer, assistant spiritual director of the Development Office; John also serves on the

Province Health and Aging Advisory Board, and the Province Investment Advisory Committee, and ministers as airport chaplain at Midway and O'Hare. John is also the major shopper for groceries, refreshments, and housewares/hardware.

Jack Conley, 69, serves as local superior. He also conducts about a dozen parish missions every year, and three or four retreats for priests and religious, various other days of reflection, Sunday work, and sits on a couple of boards for the Province (*CTU trustees, OME, Residency Review Board for the vocations' office*)

Robin Ryan (*St. Paul of the Cross Province*) teaches systematic theology at CTU, continues to publish, and ministers at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Hyde Park, as well as Sheil Student Catholic Center at Northwestern University, on weekends. Robin takes care of outdoor landscaping.

Tu-Jin Paul Kim, 62, serves as pastor/administrator at Korean Martyrs Catholic Mission in Chicago, and resides at the parish rectory.

Enno Dango, 46, recently completed doctoral studies at Notre Dame University, and is assisting in a theological integration class at CTU; hopefully, he will be teaching a course in Islamic studies next semester. He often celebrates weekend liturgies (supply) at local parishes, and serves as assistant formation director.

Alfredo Ocampo, 46, serves as formation director, and directs parish missions and retreats. Alfredo is also bilingual, always in demand, and most weekends ministers at either Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish on the far South Side, or other faith communities.

Nicholas Divine, 48, is a third-year theology student in temporary vows, and is currently in between parishes for his ministry appointment; he is a member of the Province Vocation Team.

Phillip Donlan, 36, is a first-year theology student in temporary vows, and ministers at St. Gabriel, teaching religious education and other various ministries.

Sooheon Hur, 36, is completing an associate degree at Harold Washington College, one of the Chicago City Junior Colleges. He is a gifted musician and ministers at St. Thomas the Apostle on a weekly basis.

CHRIST THE KING COMMUNITY

Citrus Heights, California

Jim Strommer, C.P.

There are seven members of the community including Joe Moons. Tom Bonacci from St. Paul of the Cross is assigned to the community and is on the retreat team but is not in residence. Jim Strommer is the local leader and John Hilgert is the assistant. Blaise Czaja is the senior member and is still active giving parish missions during advent and lent, and mission appeals for Mandeville in the summer. Carl Hund is second oldest and has no assigned ministry. Yet he is busy with many repair or clean-up projects around the house and property. Jim Strommer is on the provincial council and divides his ministry between counseling/spiritual direction and helping on the retreat team. Arthur Carrillo is the most recent addition to Christ the King. Though his ministry is now limited he will continue to coordinate mission appeals for the province and be of assistance as translator for the congregation. John Hilgert's primary ministry is his involvement with Marriage Encounter. He also does supply work in the diocese. Giltus Mathias is the retreat director on loan from the India vice province and doing a very good job.

Strengths:

- 1) We have a regular schedule of community prayer. We have a half hour of meditation each morning followed by the Office and Mass. Each evening we have another half hour of meditation followed by the evening Office. We take turns with the daily homily and are faithful to attendance.
- 2) We have a cook for the evening meal Monday through Friday. Usually those who are home watch the evening news before dinner and are present for the meal. The evening meal, along with our prayer time, is generally the extent of our community time together. Occasionally for a news or sporting event some of us are in the TV room together.
- 3) All of us are active in some kind of ministry. The retreat center is our primary ministry in the diocese and it is doing very well under Giltus's direction. We all join the large group of staff and friends each Thursday for Mass and a social gathering afterwards at the retreat center. All of us are available for help at the retreat center as needed.
- 4) We have a good reputation in the diocese and are available for confessions primarily for the clergy.
- 5) Even though we are off the beaten path we have a few visitors from around the province. We try to be welcoming and hospitable.

Challenges:

- 1) Since we are few in numbers and several of us travel our primary challenge is to be present to each other. Other than at major holidays we do not have many planned occasions for quality community life.
- 2) Community meetings are infrequent for the above reasons.
- 3) We have limited contact with laity, mostly because the retreat center does that on our behalf. Our community members, when in the house, are mostly isolated.
- 4) Though we are all in pretty good health it is becoming more noticeable that we are ageing.

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS PASSIONIST COMMUNITY

Detroit, Michigan

Phil Paxton, C.P.

In 2015, our community had seven members. Br. Bill Baalman, CP, was transferred to Sacred Heart Community in Louisville, and has passed away. In December, 2018, we have six:

Fr. Randal Joyce, C.P. – 96 years old. Fr. Randal is living at Marywood Nursing Home in Livonia.

Fr. Peter Berendt, C.P. – 89 years old. Fr. Peter helps out with confessions and the occasional Mass at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center.

Br. Raymond Sanchez, C.P. – 79 years old. Br. Ray ministers in the community – groceries, car maintenance, computer help for others

Dcn. James Griffith, C.P. – 76 years old. Dcn. Jim lives at Tapiola Village in Farmington and engages his neighbors, as well as being involved with community celebrations and events.

Fr. Patrick Brennan, C.P. – 72 years old. Fr. Pat is the retreat director at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center.

Fr. Philip Paxton, C.P. – 62 years old. Fr. Phil is on the ministry team at the retreat center, and is local superior.

Fr. John Phelps, CSsR, is living with us, as he continues to lead Life Directions, and is pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Detroit.

The main ministry is St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center.

Randal's going to Marywood Nursing Home has understandably changed the dynamics of community life here. We try to support each other as we age and health issues come up.

The highlights of our community life have occurred when we opened our doors to friends of the community and the retreat center and invited couples and individuals to dinner. Those times have energized our commitment to hospitality and have been beneficial to our life together. We need to continue and develop these kinds of efforts.

The community is also a member of the neighborhood associations in which we are located. We have a wonderful relationship with the staff of the retreat center that are very generous and help us to great degree.

Our challenges, besides finances, have to do with the future of the community. Our situation, as we look to the future, demands, I think, that we be part of, not isolated from, the visioning process with regards to community life. We need to look at creative ways to live together as Passionists as we move to the future. All in all, we continue to strive to be faithful members of the Passionist community.

HOLY NAME PASSIONIST COMMUNITY

Houston, Texas

Kenneth O'Malley, C.P.

Basic Community Statistics: We are six in number. We are: Joseph Barbieri ('61), Antonio Curto ('51), Ronan Newbold ('42), Cedric Pisegna ('57) Kenneth O'Malley ('36), and George Stanfield ('35). Our average age is 71. Technically, Antonio is a member of one of the Italian Provinces. Former members of HNC but who have been transferred in the past four years are: Carl Hund and Simon Herbers.

Briefly, Joseph is assigned to the HNPRC as Director of Ministry. He is also involved in the ministry of Deliverance. He receives a salary for the latter ministry from the Diocese. Antonio is involved in the program at HNPRC, for Spiritual Direction in Hispanic by Hispanics. He is involved with the Spanish Radio Program. Both ministries are very successful. Ronan is part time on the HNPRC program. He is also assigned to Vocational Ministry for HCP. Cedric continues preaching Parish Missions. He is also very successful in his TV Ministry, and he has written 22 books. Kenneth continues as local superior for HNC. He is also Chaplain to the CCVI, and does spiritual direction at the diocesan seminary. He also gives days of recollection and retreat ministry.

Areas Of Growth:/Success: In the HNRC the leadership model with Deacon James Anderson as Administrator, Kate Mims as Director, and Joseph Barbieri Director of Ministry, is working well. Moving from a catering staff in the Kitchen to employee staff has been successful A statue of St. Michael the Archangel has been a nice addition to the grounds. Cedric's TV and publishing ministry is expanding, with his producer being in Tulsa, the publication of his 22nd title is impressive.

Antonio is getting raves for his teaching and radio projects. Joseph is receiving recognition for his involvement with the Passionist nuns and their transitioning to being a confederation. His Ministry of Deliverance deserves to be noted. Ronan's Vocational Ministry is getting results. Kenneth's chaplaincy to the CCVI, and Spiritual Direction at the diocesan seminary continues.

Having Br. Thomas LeJeune, CFC living with us community continues to be a blessing for us.

The Challenges your community is/will be facing? We have just finished switching from carpet to tile in the three quads. The Challenges before us is: Should we tile the public areas, e.g. corridors, Community Room, Offices, etc. Challenge before us is question of local leadership, Balance of personality types in a small community? Enculturation – How incorporate new members into the larger province.

We are six in number: Joe Barbieri, Antonio Curto, Ronan Newbold, Cedric Pisegna, George Stanfield and myself.

Joe Barbieri A major change in governance at the HNPRC has taken place July 1, 2018. Joe Barbieri is now Director of Ministry. Kate Mims is Retreat Center Director, and Dcn. James Anderson is Administrator. Joe along with Kate Mims and Dcn. James have become officially involved with people who need the ministry of Deliverance.

Antonio Curto, from Italy, a former Provincial, Master of Novices, Director of the Office for Missions in the Generalate. He is a staff member on the Program in Spiritual Direction for the Hispanics and by the Hispanics. Once a week he is Spiritual Director at the Shalom Center. This is a diocesan Guest House, center to help priests, brothers, seminarians and sisters who are dealing with addictions, etc. He is also involved as a presenter on the Spanish Language Radio Program (Hail Maria).

Ronan Newbold is part time on the HNPRC retreat team. He goes out to the parishes on weekends to preach and promote the importance of making retreats. Ronan is also local vocation coordinator. The second Thursday of each month Ronan works with the diocesan vocational director. The program is called Discovery. There are usually fifteen to twenty young men interested in priesthood. Ronan is called upon to visit schools, parishes, and conferences on vocations. Ronan had three young men about 22 years here for supper, stations, and group reflection. He volunteers as a chaplain in a neighboring Hospital. He volunteers once a week at Magnificat House. He bikes almost every day.

Cedric Pisegna has been on sabbatical this past year. He has published his twenty-first book. He continues to give parish missions. He has been invited to celebrate Mass on EWTN. EWTN has also invited him to do a television series on Passionist Saints. His plan is to spend more time on the TV Ministry. Presently his producers are located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is hoping to work with a producer here in Houston.

George Stanfield is having some health problems. He has to deal with the beginnings of Parkinson. He is also having a hip problem. He finds the chiropractor helps relieve much of his pain. He also helps with supply work on the weekends. He celebrates the Mass in Spanish in two different parishes. He also does spiritual direction and pastoral counseling.

Kenneth O'Malley, continues as local leader, Chaplaincy to the Sisters of Charity, and Spiritual Direction at Saint Mary's Seminary. This year I continue to give retreats, days of recollection, and spiritual direction. I assist with reconciliation on the Catholic retreats at HNPRC. Once a month I give a morning of recollection for the residents at St. Dominic's Village. One Sunday a month I celebrate Sunday Mass at SDV the diocese's retirement center for senior citizens.

Brother Thomas LeJeune, CFC. He is on sabbatical to help his elderly parents. They live close to Holy Name Community. He works part time for the Jesuit High School. It is good for us to have him. Hopefully, we hope being with us is also good for him.

Projects: The major project this year was to remove the carpets and replace the four quads (bedrooms and bathrooms) with tile.

Vocations. Ronan is working with three young men who are interested in the Community. As I mentioned above Ronan also works with the Vocation Director on the Discovery Program. We are doing our best with regard to vocations, but it is very slow work. This is a great diocese for vocational ministry. The Passionists are held in high esteem by the Hierarchy, Clergy, and Religious.

Ecology. A paper Ronan prepared on HNC's efforts will be distributed to ALS members in Detroit. This paper is a response to Joe Moons request.

SACRED HEART PASSIONIST COMMUNITY

Louisville, Kentucky

John Monzyk, C.P.

After elections in 2015, Sacred Heart Community in Louisville consisted of:

Br. John Monzyk, C.P., Local Superior
Fr. Francis Cusack, C.P., Assistant Local Superior
Fr. David Colhour, C.P. (lives at St. Agnes)
Fr. Ron Corl, C.P.
Fr. Leonard Kosatka, C.P.
Fr. Emmet Linden, C.P.
Fr. Eric Meyer, C.P.
Br. Jerry Milazzo, C.P.
Fr. Joe Mitchell, C.P.
Fr. Richard Parks, C.P.
Fr. Jose San Juan, C.P.
Fr. John Schork, C.P.
Fr. Philip Schaefer, C.P.
Fr. Robert Weiss, C.P.
Br. Kurt Wernert, C.P.

In 2015:

John Schork moved to St. Vincent Strambi Community
Philip Schaefer died November 28

In 2016:

Francis Cusack died June 1
Richard Parks became resident at Nazareth Home, Clifton
William Baalman joined the community
Simon Herbers joined the community
Sebastian MacDonald joined the community
Denis McGowan joined the community resident at Nazareth Home, Clifton
John Patrick Day joined the community was away on sabbatical
Robert Weiss became Assistant Superior

In 2017:

John Patrick Day while assigned here serves as pastor in Nashville Diocese
William Baalman died March 16
Leonard Kosatka died August 2
Emmet Linden died September 3

In 2018:

Denis McGowan died January 15
Robert Crossmyer joined the community and resident at Nazareth Home, Highlands
Febin Barose, member of India Vice-Province, joined the community resident at St. Agnes

Currently the Sacred Heart Community Consists of:

Br. John Monzyk, C.P., Local Superior

Fr. Bob Weiss, C.P., Assistant Superior
Fr. Febin Barose, C.P., member of India Vice-Province, lives at St. Agnes
Fr. David Colhour, C.P., lives at St. Agnes
Fr. Ron Corl, C.P.
Fr. Bob Crossmyer, C.P., lives at Nazareth Home, Highlands
Fr. John Patrick Day, C.P., lives at St. Andrew Parish, Sparta, TN
Fr. Chris Gibson, C.P.
Fr. Simon Herbers, C.P.
Fr. Sebastian MacDonald, C.P.
Fr. Eric Meyer, C.P.
Br. Jerry Milazzo, C.P.
Fr. Joe Mitchell, C.P.
Fr. Richard Parks, C.P., lives at Nazareth Home, Clifton
Fr. Alfonso San Juan, C.P., lives at Nazareth Home, Highlands
Br. Kurt Wernert, C.P.

Staff at Sacred Heart Consists of:

DeeDee Lockhart, Administrator, Head Bookkeeper
Kay Woodworth, Health Care Worker
Steve Thim, Housekeeper
Eileen Kalbfleisch, Head Cook
Mona Roetin, Receptionist, Secretary
Gary Thim, Maintenance, Assistant Bookkeeper, Assistant Cook
Monica Santillan, Province Vocation Department Secretary and Assistant

Daily Events:

Morning Prayer (except Wednesdays)
Eucharist
Evening Prayer (except Sundays)
Prepared Lunch and Supper
Gatherings (Social before supper, News and Game Shows after supper)

Weekly Events:

Volunteers at lunch (Wednesday)
Visits from Bob Crossmyer and Alfonso San Juan (Wednesday)
Different Sunday Schedule with Brunch prepared by Jerry
Thursday Pancakes prepared by Jerry

Monthly Events: (Approx.)

Community Meeting
Meeting of Province Health and Aging Advisory Board

One-Time Events:

John Monzyk, Jubilee
Chris Gibson, Jubilee
Sebastian MacDonald, Jubilee
Alumni Reunion
Hosted a meeting of Provincial Council

Ministries:

St. Agnes Parish
Passionist Earth and Spirit Center
Director of Assisted Living
Assisted Living Level of Care
Province Vocation Office
Care of Grounds
Xaverian Brothers Chaplain
Pastor, St. Andrews in Nashville Diocese
Weekly Mass Skyped to shut-in
Monthly Mass at Saint Matthews Care Center
Confessions at Parishes in Diocese as Requested
Occasional outside Masses as requested
Parish Missions
Acting Pastor, Nashville Diocese

Visitors:

We have two designated visitors' rooms. Each is appropriate for a couple. We also have three empty suites which we generally limit to visiting Passionists use. We have had a good number of visitors, Passionists and lay, over the past four years. Some of our men have had friends and family from out of town. Others come to attend events in Louisville. Visitors report they find the community welcoming. Steve Thim keeps the rooms clean and ready for visitors. Mona schedules visitors. I would estimate that we average more than one over-night visitor per week.

Capital Improvements:

Wetlands Installation near Beargreass Creek, grant through UofL Professor
New Pillar (Southern-most) and Portico Repair, funded by fundraiser
Landscaping of Front Elevation for better near-building drainage
Sealing of front foundation to avoid water infiltration
Sealing of bricks on 2nd and 3rd floor rear porch
Sealing of joints and holes in posts of rear porch
Patching of suspected breaches in flat roof of dining room
New Recliners, game table, chairs in TV room, grant from S.O.A.R. (Serving our aging Religious)
New Beds with remote control for head and foot elevation, grant from S.O.A.R.
New heating/A.C. units in many rooms, heater in elevator, heating in South halls, S.O.A.R. grant
New Sewer Line from barn with automatic lift station, and check valve near monastery basement

Needed Capital Improvements:

Repair and painting of Monastery Bell Tower
Installation of Vapor Barrier in Crawl Space under Dining Room to preserve hardwood floor
Gutter system and its drainage system to stop erosion near building
Exclusion of bats from attic and cleaning up droppings now there
Restoration or replacement of Sacred Heart Statue in front of building
Sealing of remaining parts of foundation
Repair and sealing of front circle drive and South parking lot.
Repair of crumbling mortar in some basement areas.

MATER DOLOROSA PASSIONIST COMMUNITY

Sierra Madre, California

Alan Phillip, C.P.

We are five vowed members:

Alan Phillip, age 78, local superior and author. Assists at retreat center as well as local parishes and schools.

Bruno D'Souza, age 42. Focus on young adult ministry. He is also finishing up a Master's program.

Clemente Barron, age 75. Focus on Spanish speaking ministry.

John Rockenbach, age 83. Maintenance.

Michael Higgins, age 75. Focus on Passionist preached weekend retreats.

We all live and work at the Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center. Mike is the director of the Passionist preached weekend retreats. Bruno, Clem and I assist with confessions on these retreats. Bruno also preaches on these retreats. All of us join in on the retreat center fund-raising and fun-raising activities!

This year's retreat schedule calls for twenty men's retreats, eight women's retreats, two married couple's retreats, one youth retreat and one Spanish speaking retreat. On other weekends we host a variety of programs, including AA retreats.

We also host a variety of mid-week programs, including about 30 high school retreats. Often we assist the high schools with Masses and confessions.

There have been a few significant changes here this past year. First of all, in our local community, Mike Hoolahan passed away in June. His presence is dearly missed. Earlier Clemente Barron joined our community, so we are still at five. We are all in good health – for our age! Besides ministry at the retreat center we are often called to help at local parishes and schools with Masses, confessions, etc.

In the past year our long-time Retreat Center Administrator, Elizabeth Velarde, retired. And so did her husband, Gus Velarde, who was head of the kitchen. We have a new person running the kitchen, Ricardo Solda. In the past year we have hired a brand new CEO, Mike Cunningham, to do the heavy lifting in administration. That has given Mike Higgins more time to concentrate on retreats. We also hired a new Director of Finances and Administration, Marta Salgado-Nino.

Deacon Manuel Valencia and his wife, Chela, continue to assist on many retreats. Jean Bowler assists on the women's retreats.

Retreat attendance has been good, and the financial situation of the retreat center is positive. Our community finances are also in the black.

Most of the year we have a serious concern about the draught and the possibility of fires. Recently (early December) we have received some rain, so we are able to breathe easy for a while.

A lot more information is available on our (new-look!) website, materdolorosa.org.

CHRIST THE KING PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

Citrus Heights, California

Giltus Mathias, C.P., Executive Director

Mission Statement

Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, in the Spirit of the Passionist charism, exists to promote the personal reflection and spiritual growth of all who come according to their needs by creating a safe, welcoming, and prayerful environment and providing ministries of inspiration, education, and guidance.

Christ the King is the result of the initiative taken by the Passionists at the request of Bishop Armstrong in 1945. The Current two Buildings, Chapel building and Holy Cross Building, built in 1949 and 1987 respectively has 67 guest rooms that accommodate up to 110 retreatants. The Facility is designed to host more than one group at a time. Currently each retreat season hosts fifteen preached retreats: nine for women, five for men and one mid-week retreat for both men and women. Our weekend retreat is planned and Preached by an efficient team of Vowed Passionist and Lay people. The team consists of Fr. Tom Bonacci, C.P. of St. Paul of the Cross Province, Fr. Jim Strommer, C.P., Deacon Red Cheever, Talib Huff, Gwen Devereux and Fr. Giltus Mathias C.P. While the Passionist community residence is separate from the retreat center buildings the community members are involved in some way at the retreat center.

The other Passionist sponsored programs are 4 weekends of 12 step retreat, two Bereavement retreats, two caregivers retreats, Advent day of Prayer, Ash Wednesday of prayer, New Year's Eve retreat, Triduum Retreat, Married Couples retreat, etc. Added to that an "Institute for Counseling and Spiritual Direction" has been established to meet the growing demand for Spiritual Direction and Counselling. Also, the "Institute for the study of Passion" was founded to provide adult-spiritual education and programs, which hosts four series each retreat season, each series consisting of three lectures on variety of topics like Scripture, spirituality, Encyclicals and Documents of the Church, Christian Traditions, etc. which also works toward ecumenical connections.

Each Thursday morning Mass is celebrated in the retreat center chapel which has become a huge time of celebration for the local community, which has brought different ethnic groups to the retreat center. Apart from that the center also hosts variety of Diocesan events, Religious events, pious associations, other Christian groups, Schools, etc. for their retreats or formation programs throughout the season.

Areas of Growth/Success

- ❖ Growth toward financial stability. This has been gradual but consistent.
- ❖ Newly introduced day retreats/programs have great feedback and well attended.
- ❖ New retreat participants: Though the number of retreat participants is volatile each weekend witnesses an average of 8 to 10 first time retreatants who are in their middle ages.
- ❖ Youth/Young Adult ministry: The Young and Married ministry continues to grow each month and has found generous people to support.

- ❖ Thursday weekly Mass: We have an average of 65 people each week and who are multi-cultural in its nature.
- ❖ Increase in Number of School/Kairos Retreats
- ❖ Inclusiveness and respect for other cultural traditions and celebration of the same.
- ❖ Christ the King named as the Local Diocesan Shrine for Our Lady of Fatima.
- ❖ Well supported by great group of men and women who serve on the Board.
- ❖ Number of Hosted groups have increased due to our five star hospitality.
- ❖ Very active and involved ladies guild
- ❖ Development:
 - Successfully completed two Matching Campaign in the last two Years \$100k and \$75k respectively.
 - First Fundraiser event was a great success
 - Memorial garden for St. Paul of the Cross and buy a brick campaign was successful.

Challenges

- ❖ Maintenance: The facility is in need of a major rebuild/renovation.
- ❖ Tussle between an Ecclesial model vs Business model of operation.
- ❖ Spanish ministry needs greater attention and better roots.
- ❖ Retreat Outreach: Faces resistance from Priests who tend to be territorial.
- ❖ Presence of vowed members in the future?
- ❖ What would be the right time for transition in to lay leadership?

CHRIST THE KING PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

Deacon Jackson R. Gualco, Board Chair

Basic description of retreat center from the perspective of a board chair

- Oasis from the daily work and family schedule
- Outstanding management and staff from the following perspectives:
 - Preaching:
 - Well developed and meaningful messaging
 - Very well presented
 - Variety of speakers with difference strengths
 - Very thought provoking topics
 - Very “caring and serving” atmosphere
 - Current executive director has instituted new programming with outstanding results
 - Increased focus on outreach to Latino and Asian communities
 - Hospitality:
 - Very welcoming staff and volunteers
 - Beautiful grounds, immaculately maintained
 - Spartan yet comfortable rooms
 - An oasis of peace and quiet in a busy suburban setting
 - Very positive feedback on vastly improved quality of food
 - Overall:
 - Recognized as a peaceful and serene place in which to enhance spiritual foundation
 - A very prayerful setting

Basic description of the Board:

- This group of people is a commendable mix of returning and new board members
 - We have adopted the new governance policies and are in the process of learning more about how to transition to the new model of oversight and engagement
 - Members of the board share a strong commitment to the success of the retreat center and are fully supportive of Fr. Giltus Mathias, CP
 - We continue to seek out new qualified board members in light of the length of service of some of the board members
 - Backgrounds and temperament of the board members are conducive to a smooth transition to the new governance model

- What the board will focus on in 2019

A prayerful transition to the newly adopted governance model by:

- Reviewing and revising recently adopted policies to reflect our shared experience

- Focusing on the Passionist charism to enhance the spiritual focus of the board and to prepare for the day when we may not have a Passionist as our CEO
- Supporting Fr. Giltus as he too transitions to his new, enhanced CEO role
- Further understanding our role as stewards of the retreat center and its mission mindful of our overarching responsibility to have a viable long-term succession plan in place
- Supporting Fr. Giltus as he continues his already successful efforts to turnaround the finances of the retreat center

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS PASSIONIST RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Detroit, Michigan

Patrick Brennan, C.P., Retreat Director

St. Paul of the Cross is very blessed. We have a wonderful staff and truly great preaching team that reflect the “face of the Church.” In addition, we have some highly talented leaders who coordinate life and ministry here at the retreat center, as well as guiding our retreat board of directors as it transitions to a new policy governance model.

Our biggest challenges are twofold: changing demographics of our local Church and the absence of younger men and women who are open to the invitation to discover the graces and benefits of our wonderful preached retreats.

Financially we are sound thanks to the hard efforts of administration, development, and the growing number of retreatants who support us with financial donations and volunteer presence. While we remain very much a blue collar retreat center, more and more frequently those who come here recognize the good that we are doing and are happy to get behind our efforts and to support us with their donations.

The facility is in good shape, even while we face the need to put a new roof onto one retreat wing and our dining, assembly, and library rooms. But, thanks to the hard work of our supporters, we will accomplish this without any problem, I am sure!

We are on an upswing in retreat attendance, as well as mid-week hosted programs. And, thanks be to God, we are able to host more high school retreat groups than we have in the past. While our average age on the weekend retreats continues to rise, we also take joy in the fact that we are helping countless men and women to prepare for the “final exam” as our beloved Fr. Bart Adler used to say!

Our greatest strengths are our leadership and the quality of our preaching team. We are continually working to fulfill some of our current ministerial goals, namely, to have a greater outreach to the Black Catholic community, and to strive to build up a larger number of young adults who come to St. Paul of the Cross.

Another challenge for the very immediate future will be what we do with our Passionist residence at 23335 Schoolcraft, the building directly south of the retreat center. There has already been a fair amount of brainstorming, including ideas of creating a live-in small community that may be vocationally directed, to a community of young adults looking for prayer, community, and some ministry opportunities while continuing to lead their own professional lives. I am sure the Holy Spirit will guide us as we continue to serve those who come here and discern the best use of our community residence.

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS PASSIONIST RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Detroit, Michigan

Patti Gillis, Board Chair

Basic description of the retreat center as a lay person appreciates it. Our mission statement describes beautifully what happens when people spend time at our retreat center:

In the spirit of St. Paul of the Cross and through the love of Christ crucified, we provide a unique, sacred place of hospitality and compassion where all are welcome to experience hope, renewal and the loving presence of God through spiritual retreats and hosted events. Many people state that they find a sense of peace when they walk through the front door. The experienced staff at St. Paul's have honed their hospitality skills into many expressions of care and compassion. The gifts of the Passionist charism are lavishly given: all find a respite from their fatigue, tensions, and confusion; and many find meaning and strength in dealing with suffering and tragedy in their lives. Thanks to the 2015-2017 capital campaign which raised \$762K, the retreat center continues to be clean, comfortable and beautiful.

The Passionist retreat program is the core of our ministry. The excellent ministry team at St. Paul's conducts weekend retreats for approximately 1700 men and women each year, as well as days and evenings of reflection for hundreds. In the past three years, we have reversed the trend of diminishing numbers of retreatants; and this year we have a 3% increase over last year. St. Paul's also welcomes over 4,000 others each year: recovery groups, Roman Catholic clergy, married couples, young adults, Catholic junior and high schools, Catholic sisters, and groups with their own retreats, programs and conferences.

A basic description of the Board The Board is currently 16 members, including Fr. Phil Paxton, Provincial Council Delegate. Demographically, we are 12 men and 4 women, with ages ranging from the 30's to the 70's. We are all Euro-Americans. There is a variety of professions and life experiences among us. For example, three of us (besides Fr. Phil) have advanced degrees in theology.

There are five Board committees: Audit/Finance, Board Affairs, Charism, Policy Governance, and Ends Policy. The Charism Committee provides a 30-minute reflection and prayer at each Board meeting, and longer presentations at the Board's annual retreat day.

What are the areas of Growth/Success that the Board would highlight?

For the last two years, with the assistance of Elizabeth Velarde, we have implemented the Policy Governance model. We are turning away from our earlier pre-occupation with details of management; and turning more towards other members of Holy Cross Province for inspiration, formation and direction. We are also proactively looking at the needs in our immediate community and the Archdiocese to be more visionary.

What are the Challenges you, as a Board, are/will be facing? Policy Governance demands much discipline. Policies must be monitored according to a schedule set each year, and policies re-written as needed. Board members must continue to be involved with Holy Cross Province's Visioning process as one way of "linking with the owners". Formation in the Passionist charism is a continual need.

As the retreat center reaches out to the Crucified of Today, new Board members will hopefully come from among the women and diverse ethnic groups that come to St. Paul's.

HOLY NAME PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

Houston, Texas

Kate Mims, Retreat Director

Hosted Programs:

All seems to be going well. Everyone is happy to be here. February has two 12 step retreats. The men's retreat is totally full with a waiting list of 23 and the woman's , scheduled for February 8-10, is practically full. I am working with one of the ladies from the board, Debbie Brolan to bring 'Mosiacs for Mercy' to the retreat center. It is a group that uses the making of mosaic hearts to bring about healing. We are working on an afternoon with the possibility of bringing them more often.

Catholic Retreats:

The Catholic retreat season is full on and underway. The new members of the 'preaching' staff have been welcomed with great enthusiasm. Deacon Gary and our own Janet Northrup. All the January retreats have had ordinary numbers, just less than 50 each. The couples retreat in February is full with a waiting list.

Spanish retreats and events:

Caesar and Franca Show is going along well.

- They have 50 or so in their regularly attended Spiritual Direction programs (3-year program, running simultaneously year 1,2, and 3). The total program cost for each participant for the 3-year program is \$3075.00. They are currently interviewing for the next class.
- They have two days of reflection in January. The diocese allows these days as the required day of reflection for ministry.
- The Eucharistic School that they started last year (sold out last year) has been enhanced and a second year has been added with a certificate at the end. There is great enthusiasm about this within the Spanish community and they expect to sell out again this year.

Gala

Our next gala meeting is set for tomorrow evening. I hope to see many of you there! I am still looking for a couple to head the whole thing up. I have talked to a few that might be interested but no one has stepped up. It is generating a lot of conversation, and people seem excited to help.

Golf Tournament

The golf tournament is scheduled for April 23rd. We have 2 underwriters as of today that will cover most of the cost of the tournament. Please write the date in your calendar and bring a friend!

Volunteer Days

A few days after each retreat a letter gets sent to all of the Catholic Retreat goers that gives them a choice of ways to help. One of the ways is a 'volunteer day' to help around here. Is there anyone on the board who would like to work with me on organizing a quarterly work day here at the retreat center. I am talking, power-washing, weed control, planting young trees, painting etc.

Board Retreat

Possibility of changing the date because of conflict with our speaker from the Vatican

observatory, Brother Guy Consolmagno October 2nd. More as we discuss.

Thoughts:

The January Catholic retreats may be an opportunity to consolidate the 4 retreats into 3 and by doing that have a healthier January. We will discuss with the parishes involved.

HOLY NAME PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

Houston, Texas

Ron Bickers, Board Chair

Since 1946, when the land was purchased, Holy Name Retreat Center has blossomed into a place where Miracles Do Happen.

It started out as “only” a Retreat Center for men and now is not only utilized by men for retreats but also, women, couples and the 12 Step Community for weekly meetings and retreats. The Hispanic Ministry has grown tremendously in the last seven years or so.

Almost everyone who sets foot on the grounds of Holy Name comment on how special of a place it is and has been in their lives. Another saying heard is “Come to Holy Name Retreat Center and Experience the Miracle”. Our guests believe in this. I know I do.

Our Governing Board is compiled of 11 men and women, both retired and currently working, with diversified backgrounds. The Board makeup provides a wealth of wisdom and knowledge in legal financial, fund raising, volunteerism, board formation, security and business operations for overseeing the Passionist spiritual and financial investment in those we serve at Holy Name.

Areas of Growth and Success are as follows:

- Completed Board governance documents

- Completed committee charter

- Drafted amendments to the Bylaws to be consist with the new governance process

- Employed a new CEO to take on the duties of the Retreat Director (Fr. Joe to be director of retreat ministry)

- Reduced the number of board members through attrition

Regarding our challenges, I believe there are two major ones. Number one is Financial Stability and Sustainability.

The second one is being able to continue the Charism of the Passionist when there is no Passionist on the property. Our Board takes this very seriously. We must find ways to make sure that when guests visit Holy Name, for whatever reason, they know it is a Passionist Retreat Center. This has to be accomplished through ongoing education of the board members, the staff and volunteers in the Charism. This is where we MUST rely on OME and vowed Passionist to educate us.

MATER DOLOROSA PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

Sierra Madre, California

Michael Cunningham, Retreat Director, CEO

Mater Dolorosa is a unique and uniquely important facility. We serve a religious constituency that is geographically dispersed and demographically diverse. We are unduplicated as a point of renewal, contemplation, reflection and commitment for a population of more than four million Catholics in 288 parishes located in 120 cities spread over more than 8000 square miles in the Los Angeles diocese, plus tens of thousands more people in the Diocese of Orange, the Diocese of San Bernardino and San Diego. We provide retreatants a place of spiritual contemplation, respite, and renewal.

We are also stewards of a very special, God-given physical place. The location and setting of Mater Dolorosa is exceptional. It offers an ideal setting for the kind of active contemplation we seek to foster. Its sylvan setting amidst a surrounding urban environment encourages retreatants to transform themselves from the time of their arrival. It also makes attending a retreat easily accessible for the millions of Catholics who live from Santa Barbara to Orange County. We have a chapel, three large conference rooms, 89 bedrooms, a large kitchen and dining area and 85 acres of pristine gardens including Stations of the Cross and Our Lady of Sorrows gardens. The facilities are decorated with beautiful artwork and is well maintained.

Our mission and successes

Throughout a year, we offer many opportunities for Catholics and other Christian denominations to engage in spiritually nourishing retreats. These include over thirty Men's, Women's, married couples, Hispanic and Young Adult weekend programs which are led by a team of vowed and lay Passionist ministers. We also host scores of high school Kairos and teen retreats as well as a myriad of meetings for other organizations who made Mater Dolorosa their retreat destination. More than 10,000 visitors come throughout the year.

Many of the retreatants have been coming to Mater Dolorosa for years, creating a pilgrimage type renewal for the parish groups which continue to fill the center each weekend. This year, the center has begun a program of outreach with the use of social media, permitting the retreat visitors to continue their retreat experience for a complete year with reflections being sent to them each week. This is a new program and has been greeted with a lot of enthusiasm. Also, contemplative prayer programs are being offered at the center, and a new summer series of events with speakers, preachers and musicians all providing spiritual renewal in line with the Passionist Charism.

Challenges and the Future

At Mater Dolorosa, we have a unique mission within a mission. Our mission is to provide the space and place for people to have a contemplative experience that deepens their religious insight and engagement. What people experience at Mater Dolorosa is different than their daily experience as a Catholic. It is an opportunity to listen internally, consider larger questions of spirituality, and think about how they might pursue a deeper and more meaningful level of religiosity.

Despite our successes, we do have an aging population of retreatants and there needs to be some significant activities to try and recruit younger members in both the men's and women's categories. Work is underway, but it needs to happen faster than the current rate of activities. In general, we need greater bandwidth and resources to expand our Young Adult ministry and in particular our ability to sustain effective communication in an increasingly electronic world.

Our other challenge is the transition to preaching teams which have an increasingly lay component. The laity will likely move from being a "complement" to the vowed team members to a majority in the next ten years. This will certainly be inevitable as there is no replacement stream of vowed Passionist to replace existing Passionists as they begin to retire from ministry due to age. A serious program for academic and pastoral formation for faith-filled Catholic laity in ministry in our retreat center is essential. This problem is not unique to Mater Dolorosa but will be an essential key to our future. If there is no-one to do the ministry, how can it be grown and sustained? This must be the most important question facing our future.

Having said all that, we remain very enthusiastic looking forward. Mater Dolorosa has implemented a formation program for staff at all levels, and while still in its infancy, clearly illustrates the traditions and gifts which Mater Dolorosa has provided in the past can be passed onto the next generation of needy visitors.

After all, we are all needy for God.

MATER DOLOROSA PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

Sierra Madre, California

Heather Banis, Board Chair

A basic description of the retreat center as a lay person appreciates it:

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center (MDPRC) provides a serene and welcoming space for those who come to the mountain, seeking to find, rediscover, or deepen their relationship with God. The moment one passes through the gates at the top of Sunnyside, the feelings of calm, and connection to the divine, begin to swell. It is a sacred place – an oasis of peace that has steadfastly offered its profound retreat programming against the backdrop of God’s beauty and. The spirit of hospitality is palpable and the sacred space is inviting, comforting, and nourishing. The retreat team consistently offers an exceptional retreat experience from start to finish, in which each year’s theme seems to speak even more profoundly than the previous one. This year’s theme is “Be not anxious. Living in the peace of Christ” and by all accounts it is resonating in many ways with those who have attended retreat thus far this year. Most importantly, the retreat center and its Passionist-preached retreats are available to all, regardless of ability to pay – hospitality at its very best.

A basic description of the board:

The board consists of 19 members, all of whom are retreatants, have a strong connection to MDPRC, and give generously of their time, talent and treasure. Board members represent an array of professions, including an attorney, a developer, a fundraiser, several with a construction or financial services background, an educator and a psychologist, each of whom provides the board the benefit of their expertise and experience. Fairly balanced in terms of gender, we are continually seeking ways to diversity board representation to better reflect that of those served by MDPRC.

Areas of growth/success the board would highlight:

- MDPRC is a fiscally responsible and stable organization. Notably the majority of our financial support comes from retreatants who attend the Passionist-preached retreats offer throughout the year.
- We have seen an increase in hosted group utilization of the retreat center which has furthered our ability to serve an essential need in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (by providing for Kairos retreats for students) and for other ministries and religious orders serving the many needs of the Archdiocese.
- We have recently completed a beautiful renovation of Stations of the Cross, making them even more accessible to those who were challenged by the uneven pavement, and added to the very powerful experience of following in Jesus’s footsteps with the addition of the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Education in, and adoption of, policy governance governing process.
- Of particular note is the newly formed Ambassador Committee – spearheaded by our immediate past-chair, this committee is rejuvenating the energy and commitment of retreat captains and co-captains whose efforts in recruiting retreatants and communicating retreatants’ needs and feedback to the retreat center are truly invaluable.
- Finally, we are successfully transitioning from a history of vowed Passionists serving as retreat center director to our first lay person serving in that capacity. With just 7 months

of transition behind us, we are pleased with our new director's vision, abilities, and leadership.

- Miracles happen at MDPRC on a regular basis – people come with their sorrows, burdens, and needs and leave feeling relieved, affirmed, and graced.
- Programming innovations already being implemented by our new retreat center director, including post-retreat reflections, spiritual formation in centering prayer, and other ministry-expanding events (evening of Celtic music and spirituality, theology program with Dr. Michael Downey, and more).

Challenges the board is facing/will face:

As is usually the case, areas of growth and success also constitute challenges for the institution.

- Transition to lay leadership is revealing assumptions embedded in the historical leadership by a vowed Passionist. Intentional efforts to nurture a strong relationship between the retreat center director and the Passionist community are critical to the success of this transition.
- Transition to policy governance has revealed the need to revise board members' understanding of their role and the means by which they contribute to the center's governance, creating some confusion even as it reveals new opportunities
- Connecting with the hundreds of youth who attend retreats at MDPRC in hopes of "converting" them to retreatants who will come to the mountain as young adults and thereafter is a longstanding goal of the center.
- Connecting with retreatants in this electronic age – balancing the means of connection with its authenticity.
- Responding to the increasingly complex needs and burdens faced by retreatants will continue to challenge our efforts to fulfill our mission in meaningful ways.
- Coming down from the mountain, so to speak, to explore ways in which the much sought-after Passionist charism can be shared with retreatants after they leave the center, or with those who are unable to make an annual retreat, is another longstanding goal of the center.
- Diversity in board membership – across multiple social locations including parish affiliation, racial/ethnic identity, and age, is yet another longstanding challenge for MDPRC.

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center is thriving. We are navigating the important transitions in leadership and governance in robust and collaborative ways. The retreat center is cherished by those of us on the board and by 1,000's of youth and adults for whom it is their retreat home. We are confident in our mission, eager to explore its manifestations in light of the demands of the 21st century, grateful for our history and all that the vowed Passionists have built in the 90+ years since Mater Dolorosa was founded.

ST. AGNES PARISH
Louisville, Kentucky
David Colhour, C.P., Pastor

Situated in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Saint Agnes Parish continues to build on a heritage and rich tradition of many who have gone before us dating clear back to 1885. We currently have 1316 families in the parish making up 3651 members.

Six years ago we began a new strategic plan. Much like Holy Cross's Province's visioning process we were asked to be bold in our thinking and imaginative in our creativity. The seventh and hardest goal to achieve was an ambitious upgrade to the campus. We agreed to address the safety concerns of the front steps of the church building, relocate the parish house, build a preschool building, and other capital concerns.

We launched a capital campaign three years ago with a target of \$3.4 million. Our first task was the safety of the front steps of the church which included a new large plaza area and an ADA complaint handicap ramp. This was completed in the summer of 2017.

The current parish house, constructed in 1969, was built on fill from the city's incinerators, this fill has been compacting for over 50 years and the building is settling in a variety of directions. Currently, this building serves as parish office space for ten parish employees and houses two vowed Passionists. Our current plan is to demolish the current Charity Hall (the old convent for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth who taught in the school) and relocate a new parish house on the solid ground where the convent is currently located.

For many people in the Highlands, the reality is that both parents work. So childcare is a necessity for working parents. Three years ago, we began a very small preschool in the school building for 18 children. But the need is so much greater. Therefore our current plan is to build an additional preschool building onto the existing school. We hope to break ground on the new parish house and the preschool this spring of 2019.

We have had two significant additions to the staffing of the parish. In December of 2016, the parish hired an administrator who has done an outstanding job overseeing the administration of 67 employees and all the day to day needs which perpetually spring up. Second, Fr. Febin Barose from our India Vice Province joined us in May of 2018. He has been warmly received, and is quickly adapting to American culture and US Catholicism. He will be quick to tell you though he doesn't like the cold weather.

Saint Agnes School continues to maintain a high level of academic excellence. We have 439 students K-8. As our eighth graders graduate and move on to high school, the high school teachers will frequently comment on the superior quality of the students from Saint Agnes Parish. We continue to brag about Saint Agnes School being the only school in Kentucky who has been awarded the Blue Ribbon of Excellence from the United States Department of Education three times.

Overall, there is good energy and a good spirit in the active life of Saint Agnes Parish.

ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL SUPERIORS (ALS)

Phil Paxton, C.P., Chair

Purpose – The ALS (Association of Local Superiors) is made up of the leaders of each of the local Passionist communities in the province. The purpose of the ALS is for the local superiors to give support to each other, and to give feedback to province leadership about certain issues as requested.

In 2015, the ALS met twice a year (fall and spring), but since 2016, the ALS has met once a year in the fall, usually at the same time the PRCB (Province Retreat Center Board) met. Since the two groups meet at the same time, there have been times when both groups listened to the same input. At the last meeting in November of 2018, joint topics which were discussed had to do with lay formation, cyber security, and feedback for some of the working groups for the province visioning process.

For the meetings, each local leader provided a report on the state of his local community, bringing up issues particular to each locale. The issue of health and aging was a topic that was discussed at most meetings.

The main highlight over the past few years occurred in August of 2016, when Jim Strommer, C.P. facilitated a gathering of the ALS. This wasn't a usual meeting, but an opportunity for the leaders to reflect on the basics of community life: "Reflecting Upon Our Passionist Local Community Life and Charism." There was great sharing and mutual support during this gathering, and many remarked on what a great event it was for them. One of my challenges as the chair of the ALS has been to try to replicate this experience.

Another productive discussion occurred in the last meeting of November, 2018. Br. Kurt Wernert, C.P., and Julia Senn, from the PHAAB (Province Health and Aging Advisory Board) had a conversation about a document on which they worked: "Exploring Concerns of Health and Well-Being." This document was written to help the local superiors deal with the issues that can come up with regards to the health of the members. Again, there was some honest sharing about how to best care for each other.

The challenges facing local leaders are many. One challenge, of course, is finances. As the members age, there are less opportunities to bring in substantial income, and for many local communities, their reserve accounts will dwindle over the next few years to nothing.

Another challenge for local leaders is to encourage a culture of vocations, and to find creative ways to promote vocations to the vowed life.

I think the two issues I will now mention are the most challenging of all. The first of these has to do with health and aging. It has become more and more of a local superior's responsibility to monitor and be sensitive to the health of the members. Many local leaders are not very proficient in this, and they need help, especially from the PHAAB. Fortunately, the PHAAB has been very willing to help in any way it can. Another aspect of this is trying to find a way to confront a member when he is not dealing with a health issue that needs to be addressed. In general, our members do respond well in a crisis, but are more challenged in day-to-day living.

The second of these challenges is local leadership itself. As there are fewer vowed members, the number of those that are available for local leadership seems to be fewer, and so perhaps creative ways to approach leadership are necessary for future community life. In fact, creative ways to approach community life in general are needed as part of our province vision.

Many local leaders are wearing more than one hat, but strive to be faithful to their office. We can be thankful for their generosity.

PROVINCE RETREAT CENTER BOARD (PRCB)

Patrick Brennan, C.P., Chair

The Province Retreat Center Board, PRCB, has an extensive history going back as far as the late 1960's and early 1970's, when Fr. Terrence O'toole, C.P., was asked by the Provincial, Fr. Paul Boyle, C.P., to coordinate Passionists involved in retreat center ministry. The earliest purpose of the PRCB was twofold: to offer support and sharing of ideas and insights between the retreat centers and, secondly, to be a tool of communication between the retreat centers and the Provincial and his council.

Many years have passed and the PRCB, once composed of a council liaison, retreat directors, associate directors, business administrators and elected at large representatives from among the retreat teams, now includes representatives of local retreat center boards and other staff and team members who may be invited by the retreat center directors. We also include two CEO's, with two former retreat directors who serve as directors of mission and ministry. The makeup of the PRCB, like the individual retreat centers themselves, is made up of vowed and non-vowed Passionists alike and offers far greater consultation and diversity of experiences. All of us involved in retreat center ministry in Holy Cross Province rejoice in the growth and collaboration that we presently experience.

The PRCB represents the four retreat centers of Holy Cross Province: Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, Citrus Heights, California; Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center, Houston, Texas; Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, Sierra Madre, California; and St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center, Detroit, Michigan.

Though each center is diverse in various ways, we are all united in a similar ministry, namely, to keep alive the spirit and charism of our Holy Founder, St. Paul of the Cross. We carry on a great tradition of welcoming on our weekend retreats all who seek to come regardless of their ability to make a donation.

We are grateful for the collaboration, support, and sharing that we experience at our annual meeting, generally held in late October. With the many challenges that we face we are all determined to keep alive the spirit of St. Paul of the Cross as we welcome more and more diverse groups of people who share in preached and hosted retreat programs. Clearly a more highly secular society impacts our efforts; however we are all committed to the great ministry with which we have been entrusted by Holy Cross Province.

PROVINCE HEALTH AND AGING ADVISORY BOARD (PHAAB)

Kurt Wernert, C.P. and Capper Rademaker, Co-Chairs

Purpose Statement

Recognizing that aging is a universal human process marked by diversity, the Province Health and Aging Advisory Board of Holy Cross Province exists to promote a culture of healthy aging. This includes recommendations and education regarding the spiritual, physiological, psychological, and social dimensions of aging. The Board functions under the direction of the Provincial and Council in serving the Sacred Heart Retreat Community and the Passionists of Holy Cross Province in general.

The current members of the PHAAB are: Co-chairs Capper Rademaker, MD & Kurt Wernert, C.P., Julia Senn-Reeves, APRN, Mary Anne Burkardt, SCN, Terry McDevitt, Ph.D, John Monzyk, C.P., John Schork, C.P. & David Colhour, C.P. (Provincial Council Liaison). Meetings are held six times year at Sacred Heart Retreat from 3:30 – 5:00 PM followed by dinner with the local community. These include a meeting held during the annual Provincial Visitation. The PHAAB members residing in Louisville, in addition to their advisory role, serve in a voluntary capacity in support of the Senior Care dimension of Sacred Heart Retreat. This includes serving on the Senior Care Team that assists Br. Kurt with transitioning and supporting aspects of health care for our elders in Louisville, visiting and praying with Passionists residing at both Nazareth Home campuses, coordinating Passionist alumni to visit with the elders in the community, and serving in other ways as requested.

Recent accomplishments have been focused on educating the vowed membership and informing the broader Passionist Family about the mission of Senior Care at Sacred Heart Retreat in Louisville.

- The **Annual Flu & Pneumonia Vaccination Clinic** held at the monastery annually in September to ensure all community members receive their required vaccinations and providing this opportunity to staff and volunteers. This is done in collaboration with CVS Pharmacy and Nursing Program at Bellarmine University.
- The **Senior Care Welcome Booklet** has been developed as a response to Province members who would like more information about the Senior Care aspect of Sacred Heart Retreat. This has also served as a valuable resource for informing families and friends of our senior religious currently in Senior Care.
- The **Exploring Concerns Document** was created as a resource for leadership who have requested guidance in responding to the age-related changes of their communities. The focus is on promoting the necessary supports for our elders to age optimally in their present locations and thus continue to contribute their gifts in service to Passionist life and ministry.

The PHAAB is presently working on:

- Updating the Province Health Care Plan and Senior Religious Policy to be reflective of the present health care strategies being promoted in the Province.
- Advising local superiors on responding to age-related changes and providing necessary supports for elder Passionists in each community.
- Developing the role of the Care Coordinator to support transitions to Senior Care.
- Addressing ongoing concerns about health and aging in our local communities.

PROVINCE VOCATION MINISTRY
Ronan Newbold, C.P. and Monica Santillan

Community Entrances:

- Phillip Donlan joined the seminary on January 11, 2016 and was initially at St. Vincent Strambi in Chicago, IL. Phillip completed residency at Holy Name Retreat in Houston, TX. Went on to do Novitiate in Queretaro, Mexico in May 2017 and began the process in June 2017. A year prior he studied Philosophy while doing his residency, completed the novitiate, and was professed in July 11th, 2018.
- Samuel Divine, was vested in the habit and began Novitiate August 14, 2015. He was professed Nicholas Divine, on August 15, 2016 at Citrus Heights Community. Nicholas will be graduating from C.T.U, Chicago on May 23, 2019 with perpetual profession tentatively scheduled for August 15, 2019.
- Soohoon Hur, joined the Passionists March 19, 2016. He is living at St. Vincent Strambi and is completing his Residency there. It will be at least another two years before his studies are complete.

Present Candidates:

- **Conner Camet**, age 19, of League City, TX. 2nd year of College at San Jacinto Community college. Comes to 2nd Sunday of the month, 5:00 p.m. afternoon vocation gathering at Holy Name residence. I am mentoring Conner; he is also interested in the La Salette religious order. Conner is an “Engaged Prospect.” We have invited him to a Catholic Men’s Retreat.
- **David Ponce**, age 28, of Lansing, MI. David came to us through Sr. Maria Rhea, CP and has been journeying with us since December 2016. Pat Brennan, his mentor, mentioned that he is waiting for David to give him a report on medical attention that he is receiving. David is an “Engaged contact” in extended mentoring – in as much as we are waiting for a medical report.
- **Hung Nguyen**, age 29, from Houston. Fr. Chris Gibson met him as the Life Awareness retreat in July 2017. He is Vietnamese and is on a student visa. He will be finishing his college degree by mid 2018 and will be entitled to work a year on his student visa. He remains an “engaged prospect”.
- **Marvin Recepcion**, age 22, of Los Angeles. Fr. Bruno D’Souza is his mentor. He is in the “Initial Contact” stage.
- **Ethan Wersland**, age 18, of Cle Elum, WA. He has been in contact with Fr. Chris Gibson online since March 2017. He is an “Engaged prospect”.

Past Activities:

- I composed a letter to the Passionist Family and it was sent out with vocation brochures on the Feast of St. Paul of the Cross, to heighten the awareness of our need for vocations; as well as the need of everyone’s help in trying to spot vocations.
- Participation in the NRVC convocation in Buffalo, NY, this past November 1st to 5th. A report was written and sent out to the members of the Holy Cross Province.
- During Vocation Awareness Week (November 4th to 10th), participation in local (Houston, TX) vocation projects: Vocation Coffee Shop at Strake Jesuit High School,

Sunday Morning Vocation Expo at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, talk to the Galveston Serra Club.

Present Efforts

- There are ongoing efforts for Holy Cross Province to collaborate with St. Paul of the Cross Province in vocation ministry. At the NRVC convocation, all of us there met with Ross Boyle, vocation director for SCP, and he extended the invitation for any active candidates of HCP, to attend a COME AND SEE weekend. These weekend retreats are mainly for young fellows to get a glimpse of and receive information on Passionist life.
- Our approach with initial contacts is shifting to include more persistent outreach. Following up on initial inquiries with up to a third email response.
- There have been at least 15 initial inquiries; about 6 have been from Nigeria. Thankfully, we have two communities in Nigeria and were able to give them the contact information necessary to continue in their discernment.

Vocation Team Future Plans:

- ✘ A gathering for the vocational teams of East and West provinces planned at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center during the week of January 7-11, 2019 to discuss collaboration within vocations as a whole. Find ways to act more effectively and refine financially sound methods. Once we meet at Mater dolorosa, we will plan those dates and places for the COME AND SEE weekends.
- ✘ Continue with The National Religious Vocation Conference (**NRVC**).
- ✘ Continue participation in local Archdiocesan Vocation group in Houston. Attending a Vocation Conference in 2019.
- ✘ In January of 2019, Giltus will start youth group gathering at Christ the King Retreat Center with the help of public high school teachers who come on retreat.
- ✘ Monica will continue posting Passionist material and ideas on the Passionist Discernment page on **Facebook** and the **Province web site**.
- ✘ Continue Participation in the “Vision Match” vocation promotion project.

OFFICE OF MISSION EFFECTIVENESS

Don Webber, C.P., Director

Description and History

The Office of Mission Effectiveness had its origins in the Provincial Chapter of 2007, when the Office was formed and several goals were identified. The 2011 Chapter endorsed OME and proposed the establishment of a Board. The 2015 Chapter affirmed and encouraged the work of OME.

The OME has had four Directors since 2007. The Director's job description, as stated in the 2007 Chapter, is intimidating and unrealistic (recruitment, discernment, formation, training, assessment, networking, and offering a speakers' bureau). Each Director had to define OME for himself and begin a program suited to his own ideas and skills while working with the OME Board. Therefore, OME has had a bumpy and an inconsistent journey. Additionally, Directors were chosen who had full-time assignments or there was an urgent need for reassignment of an acting Director.

The previous OME Board created an excellent mission statement which continues to be followed:

"The purpose of the life and work of St. Paul of the Cross was to keep alive the memory of the Passion of Christ, and to relate that memory to the lives of the people of his day. The Office of Mission Effectiveness of Holy Cross Province promotes that purpose by supporting, educating and inspiring people for mission in order to ensure a vibrant Passionist presence in the world."

Growth/Success

Fourteen OME Monthly Reflections will have been distributed by December 2018. The reasons for these reflections are to highlight the many laity who serve, support and promote the Passionist charism, many we are not aware of as an vital part of our Passionist Family; to inspire us by the their example; to enable laity to share their personal understanding of the charism; and to demonstrate the depth and vitality of the Passionist charism within Holy Cross Province.

In 2017 OME desired to produce two short meditative videos that retreat center boards and other groups could use for group and personal reflection on the values of St. Paul of the Cross. The goal now is to produce one per year. The first one centered on trusting God; the second video invites participants to engage with Paul's well-known exhortation, "May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts".

Presently, OME is promoting an annual Passionist Formation Conference for both laity and vowed Passionists. A draft of the details was presented for comments at the Province Retreat Center Board and Association of Local Superiors in November. The hope is that this new initiative will be confirmed by early 2019.

In the past 14 months I attended one retreat board meeting and conducted a charism formation program for the Mater Dolorosa Retreat Board and the Holy Name Retreat Board. The former was a two-hour program and the latter a three-day retreat. I also offered a program for the Community of Passionists Partners in Nashville.

Since 2016 OME joined our Donor Relations Department in sponsoring Lenten Reflections (daily videos) for friends and benefactors. We decided to have two presenters, one from our province and the second from St. Paul of the Cross Province. The videos are shared with St. Paul of the Cross Province. The 2019 reflections will be presented by Frs. Jack Conley and Richard Burke.

Challenges

The first challenge for OME occurred when a new Director was appointed in 2016. As with any new assignment, it takes time to take on and understand a new role, to appreciate what has been done before and to begin envisioning future programs and possibilities with the OME Board. Jack Conley, the previous Director, offered abundant wisdom and care to have a smooth transition.

Another and immediate challenge was to secure the OME Board membership. There was a fifty-percent turnover due to health, family, or ministry demands. The Board has been and continues to be excellent, representing several Province geographic and apostolic sites. For 2016-2018 lay members have been Jean Bowler, Bob Hotz, Faith Offman and Angie Kwansinski; the vowed members are Don Webber (Director), Jack Conley, Art Carrillo and Dave Colhour (Provincial liaison). The OME Board carries on its work through two annual meetings. We have added a third meeting via Zoom. Term limits have been instituted so that the OME Board will have new members on a regular basis.

It is an ongoing challenge to clearly define OME development because “formation” means different things to different people or groups.” Each retreat center or group in the Province is unique, with distinct concerns. The OME Board has decided to be more proactive by introducing the OME Monthly Reflections, proposing an annual Passionist Formation Conference, studying the possibility of Retreat Center Charism Standards and creating short videos to help new board members understand what is a Congregation, a Configuration and a Province.

The new Passionist Alumni Council has asked OME to assist in creating some way to add a formation piece when they meet every two years and in between these face-to-face gathering. What this means and what OME might be able to offer are being discussed. OME eagerly desires to assist the Alumni members who have been influenced by the Passionist charism in their formative years.

A final challenge is OME’s goal to have easy access to Passionist resources (Letters of Paul of the Cross, St. Paul of the Cross biographies, histories of the Congregation and Province, presentations [audio or video] on Passionist spirituality, and lives of Passionist saints. Copyright permissions are being obtained to digitize out-of-print books that remain valuable today. We are working with Fr. Victor Hoagland, C.P., to accomplish this goal.

Conclusion

Holy Cross Province is blessed by those who are committed to and seriously interested in the Passionist Charism and Mission. OME believes vowed and laity together are carriers of a fuller expression of our Passionist Charism. We actively want to create our future as a Passionist Family. Many steps have been taken; more steps are needed. Some of those steps are refreshing, exciting and liberating; some may be upsetting and puzzling. Together we stand at the Cross and contemplate what God and humanity are asking of us today to keep alive the memory of the

Passion and Death of Jesus Christ as the greatest act of God's love. We understand that together with laity and other Passionist religious we can renew and revitalize our Passionist Charism and Mission with gratitude, prophecy and hope (47th General Chapter). OME genuinely desires to be part of shaping our Passionist Charism for today and for the future.

PASSIONIST EARTH & SPIRIT CENTER

Louisville, Kentucky

Kyle Kramer, Executive Director

The Passionist Earth & Spirit Center (PESC) is a ministry of the Holy Cross province, founded by Fr. Joe Mitchell, CP in 2005 and separately incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit in 2010. PESC is an interfaith spirituality center dedicated to furthering the work of Thomas Berry, CP by offering educational and service programs in the areas of spiritual development, social justice and compassion, and care for the Earth.

PESC is committed to forming and supporting a community of people who are awakened and transformed for service in the wider community.

From the humble beginnings of a few small classes in mindfulness meditation, over the last 14 years PESC has become the largest provider of mindfulness meditation instruction in the entire central United States.

We have trained thousands of students in mindfulness meditation and other contemplative practices, including close to 500 new meditation students every year and almost two thousand annual program participants. We are best known for mindfulness meditation, in which we offer several courses each year, for beginning and experienced meditation students and for specialized groups like parents, educators, counselors, and others. Other offerings focus on cultivating compassion for self and others, making mindful choices around personal finance and economics, processing grief and trauma, developing a healthy relationship with the Earth, and many other topics.



St. Agnes students help build our wetlands.

Over the last several years, we have invested a great deal of energy in tending the 27-acre Passionist property as a wildlife sanctuary and modeling responsible urban land stewardship. Through various organizational partnerships, and with the help of generous funders, high school volunteers, Boy Scouts, college interns, and many others, we have constructed two large wetlands, established a series of contemplative nature trails, built board walks, cleaned up the old seminary swimming pool and grotto area, planted community gardens for African refugee families, built two large greenhouses, removed acres of invasive species, planted hundreds of trees and native plants, built a rain garden to capture and filter roof runoff, planted gardens to support birds and pollinators, installed bird houses for enhanced bird habitat, and established a “food forest” based on Permaculture principles, among other projects.

The Passionist land is now feeding over 150 legally resettled refugees from Burundi and the Congo. We host over 160 children in our Camp Odyssey summer nature camps (one-third of them from underserved neighborhoods, on 100% scholarship), plus hundreds more through educational field trips and volunteer opportunities for local schools, including Catholic schoolchildren who learn about Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* environmental principles in a hands-on way.



Members of our refugee community organic farm

In addition to the courses, retreats, workshops, and other programs offered in the PESC Barn and on the Passionist property, we have taken our instruction beyond the campus into underserved areas of Louisville. The benefits of mindfulness – increased focus, better executive function, less anxiety and impulsiveness, etc. – are well documented in the scientific literature, and we feel it is a justice issue to make those helpful tools available to those who could greatly benefit from them but have little access to mindfulness instruction: those living in poor, underserved, violence-prone areas of Louisville. To address this need, we started our Mindfulness Mentors program in late 2015, with a mission to provide pro bono mindfulness instruction for Louisville's underserved communities and support networks. From an informal core group of six volunteers, we now have over twenty Mentors who have partnered with close to two dozen social service organizations to deliver mindfulness instruction to more than a thousand clients. We are exploring similar sorts of programs with the Metro Louisville Corrections System and other potential partners.



Camp Odyssey participants

PESC employs two full-time staff (Fr. Joe Mitchell, the president and lead teacher, and Kyle Kramer, the executive director) and five regular part-time staff. The paid staff is assisted by over 150 volunteers, who contribute more than 6,000 hours of service annually. PESC's board of directors has thirteen members, who meet six times per year as a full board, plus serving on various board committees. PESC also houses the national desk of the Passionist Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation organization, with an additional part-time staff person.

PESC is in a healthy financial condition. PESC's annual operating budget for FY 18-19 is \$487,636. On the revenue side, we receive approximately \$100,000 in grant funding, \$300,000 in program fees, \$67,000 from individual donors, and the balance in book sales, barn rentals, and contributed goods and services. We operate in the black every year and are able to save between 5 and 15% of our net income (5% budgeted for FY2018-19), such that we have built up cash reserves equivalent to almost twelve months of operating expenses. This strong financial position enables us to take measured, strategic risks in terms of new programs and the staff to support them. In an effort at mission

alignment across our operations, much of PESC's savings is invested in money market funds at a nonprofit, community-based credit union that supports organic agriculture, urban housing development, and other issues that help underserved and marginalized people.

We could not be in such healthy financial shape without the support of the Sacred Heart community, which has subsidized a substantial portion of Fr. Joe Mitchell's salary (this subsidy tapers off completely over the next five years) and has provided the use of the Barn and grounds at no cost for many years and now at a very generous rental rate, which increases stepwise over the course of our ten-year lease agreement.

In the latter part of 2018, PESC hired an organizational development specialist to guide us through a new strategic planning process. With active involvement of the board and PESC staff, we created a new plan with five strategic priorities that revolve around building up the PESC community, expanding its reach and impact in the Louisville, strengthening our justice/compassion and Earth care programming, and increasing our organizational capacity and fundraising efforts to support an ever-more-extensive scope of mission-driven work.

So that the strategic plan remains relevant and continues to drive our mission, we have also created a detailed implementation plan with clear metrics and progress indicators for 2019-2020, which will be revised annually. This entire planning process has worked from the conviction that sound strategy must always be driven by our vision and supported by organizational structure and culture that are aligned with it.



Fr. Joe Mitchell leads a group in mindfulness meditation practice.



A PESC community member blesses a newly-planted tree at our 10-year anniversary celebration

PESC is a unique Passionist ministry in the Holy Cross province. It has some analogues with the Passionist retreat centers in the province, but it has a broader, interfaith audience and a wider scope of work that, in addition to spirituality programming, encompasses active engagement of justice and environmental concerns through wide-ranging partnerships with over three dozen other local organizations. Approximately 50% of our community members have Catholic affiliation, another 25% are Protestant, and the remaining 25% are of other faiths or have no institutional religious affiliation. We see it as our role to model Catholic values and the Passionist charism in a way that is

inviting and welcoming to a very wide spectrum of constituents. Specifically, we emphasize prayer and contemplation, inclusivity, and a special concern for those who are marginalized and

suffering, including our suffering Earth itself. As we continue to grow the scope and scale of our ministry every year, we are grateful and proud to be part of the Passionist family, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the years to come.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tim O'Brien, Chair

Purpose

The purpose of the Investment Advisory Committee is to provide advice and oversight to the Province's investment programs in accordance with the approved Province Investment Policy. Specifically:

The Council has delegated to the Committee the authority to oversee its investment program, subject to the final approval of the Council. As such, the Committee shall be responsible for making and implementing all financial and administrative decisions concerning the account, subject to periodic review and final approval by the Council. The Committee shall keep minutes of meetings and records of attendance. Any member in disagreement with a Committee action or abstaining from voting will be noted by name if he or she so requests.

The Investment Officer has been authorized to implement the decisions of the Committee as approved by Council, to serve as the Committee's primary liaison with the various service providers and to give specific instructions to the various service providers. The Committee and the Investment Officer, in carrying out their responsibilities, shall act in accordance with this Province Investment Policy and all applicable laws and regulations.

Committee Membership

The Committee membership as specified by the Province Investment Policy consists of:

Ex-Officio:

- A. Internal Investment Officer/Treasurer appointed by the Provincial Council.
- B. Investment Advisory Committee Chair appointed by the Provincial Council.
- C. Province Finance Director appointed by the Provincial Council.
- D. A representative of the Province Retreat Center Board recommended by the Retreat Centers and appointed by the Provincial and Council.
- E. Qualified lay persons who are experienced in financial and investment management and knowledgeable vowed members of the Province.

Currently, the Committee consists of:

- Tim O'Brien; Chair
- Keith Zekind; Province Finance Director, Investment Officer
- John Schork, CP; Treasurer
- Roy Barron; PRCB Representative
- Shale Lapping; Investment Advisor, IPEX
- Don Senior, CP
- Arthur Carrillo, CP
- DJ Boyd (renewal ends 2018)
- Matt Greenough (term ends 2021)
- David Rodriguez (renewal ends 2018)
- Phil Suess (renewal ends 2019)
- Bill Taki (term ends 2019)

- Paul Benson (renewal ends 2019)
- Bill Hanigan (recommended to join the Committee November 2018)

Each lay member is appointed to the Committee by the Provincial Superior, with approval by his Council, for a three-year term that can be renewed once.

Meetings

The Committee meets quarterly each year, usually by teleconference. Reports, an agenda, and minutes from the previous meeting are distributed the week before each meeting to allow members to review the issues and reports and come prepared with questions or expressions of concern and/or recommendations. A sub-committee consisting of the chair, finance director, treasurer, controller (Susan Arvinitis) and representatives from IPEX generally meets two weeks before the quarterly meeting to discuss operations, analysis and the agenda for the upcoming meeting. This model has proven to be a successful way to meet the committee's obligations and provide good decision-making information.

Accomplishments

The Committee has offered excellent professional advice to the Provincial and Council regarding the investment program. The Committee has offered advice to the Province for many years, in good times and bad, and the investment program has produced good results over time as a result. The program has grown and is positioned to continue to grow.

Challenges

Institutional investment programs are by their nature, risky. The Committee has provided good advice on how to maintain the all-important balance of risk and reward. The Committee continues its vigilance of the markets and global economy and offers the best possible advice on maintaining and growing the Province's financial assets that help to sustain Holy Cross Province.

An additional challenge is to recruit potential new committee members to replace those that rotate off after two terms of service. We have had great success with faith-filled professional committee members and we need to continue to recruit more.

MISSION OFFICE / MISSION APPEALS

Arthur Carrillo, C.P.

The Mission Office is staffed by Arthur Carrillo and Loretta Ciesielski. During the 2018 appeal year, the procedures followed by the Mission Office are the following:

August--September 2017: Request applications for the 2018 Missionary Cooperative Program ("MCP") from a list of approximately 40 arch/-dioceses (Loretta).

September--December 2017: Complete and return applications to the jurisdictions (Sr. Loretta).

January—March: 1) Receive acceptances from the jurisdictions, 2) confirm commitment to fulfill assignments, 3) contact the pastors to select mutually acceptable dates for a scheduled appeal weekend (Director)

As soon as possible, a database table should be created to contain all of the relevant parish information, preacher information, and calendar information (e.g., weekend Masses and Confessions schedule) (Director).

As soon as a parish is scheduled, solicit a priest from Holy Cross Province to conduct the appeal. Although a some appeals, nationally, are conducted by Sisters or Brothers, our experience is that the pastor usually expects to have a priest which allows one of the parish priests to take the weekend "off" (Director). Attention has to be paid to whether a Spanish-speaking preacher is required.

After the date is set and the preacher is confirmed, send a "parish data sheet" (extracted from the database) to the preacher (Director).

THE APPEAL: Each preacher is invited to write his own "mission appeal talk." The Director can offer some samples and guidelines for preaching. Although envelopes for use on the appeal can be provided by the Mission Office, it is the most recent experience that most dioceses either forbid or discourage the use of envelopes. The preacher records any expenses associated with the appeal, which are usually paid by credit card or petty cash. After the appeal, the preacher submits the amount of associated expenses to the local bookkeeper, who seeks reimbursement from the Province Controller (Susan Arvanitis).

After the appeal has been conducted: await the jurisdiction's check, acknowledge receipt of the check, give the check to Susan Arvanitis (Loretta).

Enter the amount of the donation into the database; if the jurisdiction has indicated the amount from each parish, enter the amount for each parish; if donation is a "lump sum," enter the amount into the database, and note that it represents the total for all of the parishes in the jurisdiction (Director).

Toward the end of the calendar year, calculate the stipends due to each preacher (Director).

The stipend amounts for the 2018 MCP program are attached to this report. The Director does not take a stipend for appeals preached since he receives a monthly salary from the Province. Submit the stipends to be paid to the Province Controller (Susan Arvanitis).

The annual net income of the Holy Cross Province Mission Office varies from year to year; in the last five years, it has been varied between \$50,000 and \$100,000 dollars per year.

Current challenges in the Holy Cross Province Mission Office:

The priests of Holy Cross Province who are available for mission appeals is extremely limited, and will continue to decrease.

The priests of Holy Cross Province who can preach in Spanish is extremely limited; yet several of the dioceses which regularly invite us to take part in their programs are expecting us to provide Spanish-speaking preachers (Los Angeles, Sacramento, Fresno, Houston, Omaha).

There are other Passionist jurisdictions which are also applying for acceptance into diocesan MCPs, which leads to some confusion in the diocesan mission offices about which of these disparate mission entities, all having the name "Passionist," should be given preference of acceptance.

A position paper, "What are the Passionist Missions of Holy Cross Province," is attached which attempts to clarify the evolution of the Passionist Missions of Holy Cross Province. This position paper was sent to the Diocesan Mission Offices at the time of asking for admission to the Diocesan program.

There has been, for some years, some conversation about uniting the mission offices of Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross Provinces; should this become a priority for Holy Cross Province?

Mission Appeal Stipends, 2018

1-4 Masses, \$500
5-7 Masses, \$700
8, 8+ Masses, \$1,000

Alfredo Ocampo, \$2,500

St Viator, 4
Assumption, 8
St Mary, 3
St Lawrence, 3

Bob Weiss, \$1,500

St Margaret of Scotland, 3
St. Cronan, 3
St Raphael, 3

Clemente Barron, \$2,200

St. Philip, 8
St. Anne, 6
St. George, 3

Febin Barose, \$3,900

Our Lady, 3
St. John Baptist, 3
St Louis Cathedral, 5
St Ronald, 3
St Casimir/St Stanislaus, 5
St Peter, 4
Immaculate Heart, 3

Giltus Mathias, \$500

St Joseph, 3

Jack Conley, \$1,700

Immaculate Conception, 5
Our Lady, 3
St Lucy, 3

Junesh Vakapadath Xavier, \$1,500

St John Bosco, 3
St Joan of Arc, 4
St Charles, 4

Ronan Newbold, \$1,200

St Mary, 4
St Cyril, 6

THE PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Keith A. Zekind, Executive Director

PURPOSE OF THE PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The purpose of the Province Development Office (PDO) can be summarized in our mission statement:

The Passionist Development Office supports the life and ministry of the Passionist Community. Passionists foster the memory of Christ's Passion and death in order to address the sufferings that people experience in their lives.

The Development Office raises funds to:

- *Promote the preaching of the Word of the Cross and associate apostolates,*
- *Help Province missionary endeavors,*
- *Recruit candidates to the Passionist Community,*
- *Provide care for Passionists who are aging or in ill health, and*
- *Educate the public about the role of the Passionists in Church and society.*

It pursues these objectives in close collaboration and communication with the Passionist Provincial Office of Holy Cross Province, and with an awareness of the important role of the laity in the work of the Passionist Community.

BASIC DESCRIPTION OF THE PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

There are four main departments of the Province Development Office. These are:

- **Direct Mail:** Responsible for the annual creation, coordination and mailing of direct mail campaigns throughout the United States. These campaigns may be seasonal (Christmas, Easter), devotional (healing, sympathy) or sweepstakes.
- **Donor Relations:** Responsible for solicitation of major and planned gifts, as well as charitable gift annuities. Solicitation may take place via direct mail, phone calls, email or personal visitations.
- **Communications:** Responsible for the creation, update and maintenance of the Province's website. Also, coordinates publication of the bi-annual magazine, *The Passionists*. Creates and publishes the monthly Province newsletter and emails to our donors. Prepares other communications as needed.
- **Processing:** Responsible for the processing of donations received, fulfillment of card orders and acknowledgment of donations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Some of the accomplishments of the PDO over the last four years include:

- Reaching out to over 150,000 active direct mail donors via the Apostolate of the Printed Word. We mail approximately two dozen appeals per year.
- Expanding the Office of Donor Relations staff by hiring Phil Jackson and Christopher Jungers. Donor Relations can now visit more of our Passionist Family in person.
- Expanding our outreach into social media by partnering with Marci Madary. The PDO recognizes the importance of other forms of communications to spread the good news of the Passionists.

- Redesigning the www.passionist.org webpage with the assistance of the Province Internet Committee.
- Creating special online reflections for the seasons of Advent and Lent.
- Providing subsidy to the Provincial Office for their use in ministry of at least \$500,000 per year for the last four years.
- Assisting in the formation of the Passionist Alumni Council.
- Participating in the combining of the PDO and Provincial Office staff under one roof.
- Collaborating with St. Paul of the Cross Province for presentations and reflections.
- Presenting at national conferences and serving on national and local boards.

The PDO is an integral part of the Province's future. The PDO is becoming more of a resource with retreat centers and communities in fulfilling the mission of the Province. There are three areas where collaboration with the Province is possible:

- Proclaiming the Passion of Jesus as the most efficacious expression of the Love of God,
- Assisting local communities, and various ministry sites with their Development programs, and
- Offering the fundraising expertise of PDO personnel in a more collaborative fashion.

CHALLENGES OF THE PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Going forward, the PDO is challenged by the following factors:

- The environment, both nationally and internationally. We know that economic uncertainties and natural disasters cause our donors to focus on the issue at hand, which results in fewer donations to the PDO. We have no control over the ever-changing environment.
- The increased competition among other religious institutes and other not-for-profits. Many of the younger donors today are giving to a cause, rather than to general operations. We are looking at ways how we interact with our donors and possible other ways for fundraising.
- Making the Passionists relevant for today's current donors and our future donors. We need to make sure we are meeting the needs of our Passionist Family and those we are cultivating to be a part of our Passionist Family. We need to listen to how they want to communicate with us.

The ministry of the PDO is an integral part of the future of Holy Cross Province. We look forward to ministering with the Passionist Family to keep alive the memory of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

THE PROVINCE FINANCE OFFICE

HOLY CROSS PROVINCE

Keith Zekind, Director of Finance

John Schork, C.P., Treasurer

PURPOSE OF THE PROVINCE FINANCE OFFICE

The purpose of the Province Finance Office is to provide assistance to Holy Cross Province in the areas of accounting, finance and operations. We assist the Provincial and Council, local communities, retreat centers, sponsored ministries and the Passionist Family to be responsible stewards of time, talent and treasure.

BASIC DESCRIPTION OF THE PROVINCE FINANCE OFFICE

The Province Treasurer is Father John Schork, CP. We remember and thank Father Michael Hoolahan, CP, for his many years and valuable contributions to the Province as Treasurer and Investment Officer. May he rest in peace.

The Province Finance Office in Park Ridge, IL has the following personnel:

- Keith Zekind, Director of Finance and Investment Officer
- Susan Arvanitis, Controller
- Chris Rodriguez, Finance Manager (shares time with the Province Development Office)

The Province Finance Office is responsible for the preparation, review and distribution of monthly Provincial Office financial statements to the Provincial and Council and the Province Treasurer. We also assist in many other ways, including working with legal counsel, real estate transactions, our Passionist General Econome in Rome, independent auditors and many requests for assistance. We do a myriad of functions during the course of the year assisting the communities, retreat centers, sponsored ministries and vowed members of the Province.

ASSISTANCE THAT THE PROVINCE FINANCE OFFICE PROVIDES

The Province Finance Office performs a number of functions on a routine basis, such as:

- Work with our Investment Advisory Committee and Province Investment Consultant, IPEX, to advise on the management of our Province investment portfolio;
- Manage banking relationships for Province entities;
- Oversee community and retreat center budget preparation and evaluate actual financial performance as compared to budget;
- Prepare and coordinate the annual financial audit performed by Plante Moran;
- Assist vowed members with Medicare/Medicaid/Social Security benefits;
- Review community and retreat center financial performance and annual reports; and
- Offer guidance and consultation on various issues, including human resources, risk management, insurance, taxation, accounting, and fundraising.

In addition, the Province Finance Office has played an active role in the Province Visioning process since its inception in 2016.

CHALLENGES OF THE PROVINCE FINANCE OFFICE

Internal Challenges:

- Aging population and the health of vowed members
- The Province's ability to support new and existing ministries today and into the future
- Accomplishing the same tasks but with a reduction in Province Finance Office staff and budget
- Working with Provincial and local leadership to help responsibly steward Province resources and commitments
- Communities and retreat centers using reserve funds for operational needs
- Community residences that will need internal and external repairs and capital improvements
- Support of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified with assessments from the Province
- Funding the cost of recruitment/formation/education of seminarians
- The unknown

External Challenges:

- The United States and global economies
- The return on our investment portfolio
- The successful sale of the Sierra Madre 'meadow' property due to building and water moratoriums enacted by local and state elected officials
- Rising cost of seminarian education at schools of higher learning
- The unknown.

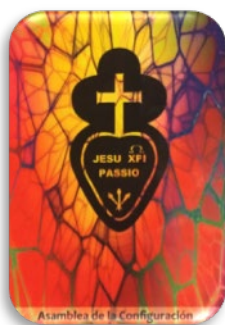
New challenges, either internal or external ones, face us every day in the Province Finance Office. We never know what that challenge is going to be until we answer our phone or open an email. With research, consultation, discussion and determination we usually come up with a favorable resolution to the challenge. Some challenges take longer than others to resolve, but the Province Finance Office tries its best to be good stewards of all that God has given us to work with, be it time, talent or treasure.

A more detailed report of Holy Cross Province finances will be provided at a future date, prior to Chapter.

THE CONFIGURATION OF JESUS CRUCIFIED (CJC)

Joseph Moons, C.P., Provincial Superior

Meeting of CJC during 47th General Chapter in Rome:



During the recent October 2018 47th General Chapter in Rome, there was much discussion regarding the six configurations into which the international Passionist Congregation has been divided. The configurations were formed during the 2008 Congregational Synod in Mexico...as experiments. Our Configuration was called the Configuration of Jesus Crucified (CJC). Many changes have taken place since then. The Portugal and Naples (Italy) provinces, including Angola in Africa, are no longer part of our Configuration. Two of the configurations have become individual provinces, and other configurations have had changes in the number of provinces in their membership.

With all the changes, much remains unsettled. During the recent 47th General Chapter of 2018 the five Provincials of CJC and the eight delegates from our Configuration met to together discuss our future.

Our Configuration includes the countries of the USA, Mexico, Canada, Haiti, Jamaica West Indies, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Mozambique. Both positive and negative factors were discussed.

After two lengthy evening meetings, the CJC delegates at the General Chapter considered forming two separate “zones”, or possibly two separate configurations. With the development of the CJC possibly becoming two configurations, this would leave Brazil’s two provinces as one configuration. This possibility led to further discussion to re-establish cooperation and collaboration across different configurations --such as the Conference of Latin American Passionists (CLAP), which would also include the Passionist Sisters. There were also Passionist organize for formation personnel among the Latin American countries. All five provincials of CJC were encouraged to reach out to the Spanish Province configuration of SCORE, which would include the other Latin American countries. The Brazilian Provincials would reach out to those countries in South America, and the North American Provincials would reach out to the Central American countries.

In light of the discussions mentioned above, the delegation from the CJC at the recent General Chapter formulated this recommendation:

After all the members, who attended the 47th General Chapter from CJC, met for two evenings. It was decided to separate into two configurations—North America and South America. The process will be that CJC would separate into two zones with the prospects of becoming two configurations. The five provincials of CJC would take this back to their respective memberships. The provincials of CJC will be meeting as configuration leaders in Quentero, Mexico in Feb. 3-8, 2019. After reviewing their discussions with their local membership, the five provincials of CJC’s will decide and if needed then make a request to the General and Council. We will continue to collaborate with Brazil.

The five provincials of the CJC then had one final meeting with the newly-reelected General Superior, Fr. Joachim Rego. He emphasized that the configurations are to help revitalize the Congregation. He basically concluded that, if this is seen as the best way, then proceed.

CJC Meeting in Querétaro, Qro., Mexico

CJC last meeting was hosted by Cristo Rey Province at their novitiate house in Querétaro, Qro., Mexico-- February 2 to 8, 2019. Francisco Valadez presided over the meeting because the president of the CJC, Francisco Murray, of Argentina could not attend because of health issues. In attendance were the provincials from the USA (two), Mexico (one) and Brazil (two), plus some of the council members from the respective provinces.

Keeping mind what was discussed above, one of the main considerations of the meeting was a follow-up to the gathering of the members of the CJC who attended the October 2018 Congregational General Chapter in Rome. The issue before us is whether to become two separate configurations or operate as two zones within one configuration.

After a lengthy discussion, the following decision was made in a written statement to be presented to the Superior General:

During the last 47th General Chapter in Rome, the Capitulars of the Configuration of Jesus Crucified met three times, once with the Superior General, to reflect on the reality of the Configuration.

The Configuration was described as a heavy structure with no effective impact on the life of the religious and implementation of real solidarity between the different areas. Therefore, the Provincials decided to involve the religious of the respective provinces to express their opinion and on how to move forward. During the assembly of the Configuration in Queretaro (Feb. 4-7, 2019) the five provincials and some of the council members continued the dialogue and came up with the following decision:

Recognizing the value of communion and the need of functionality, in order to be more effective in our mission, we unanimously felt the need to remain as one Configuration but with two zones that will operate independently with their own structures as needed. The zones will deal with their internal matters in regard to Formation, Personnel and Finances.

The focus of the entire Configuration instead will be to assure internally a constant dialogue between the two zones and outward toward building solidarity experiences with other configurations, especially with the wider Passionist Family in the Americas.

The two zones are

A. CRUC: U.S.A.

PAUL: U.S.A., Canada, West Indies, Puerto Rico

REG: Mexico, Dominican Republic

B. EXALT: Brazil

GETH: Brazil, Argentina, Mozambique, Uruguay

The President of the Configuration will assure the functionality of the zones, promote the dialogue inside the Configuration and with other Configurations, especially with the wider Passionist Family in the Americas.

The Statutes of the Configuration will be revised and submitted within six months to the Superior General for his approval.

This new model will be evaluated by the President and the Provincials of the Configuration before the next General Synod.



Francisco Valadez, from Cristo Rey Province of Mexico, was elected President of the CJC. Aurelio Miranda, of the Province of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, was elected vice president. A unanimous expression of gratitude was extended to Francisco Murray for his dedicated years of service as president. It was also decided that the CJC provincials will meet for an assembly every two years, with the next meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina in February 2021.