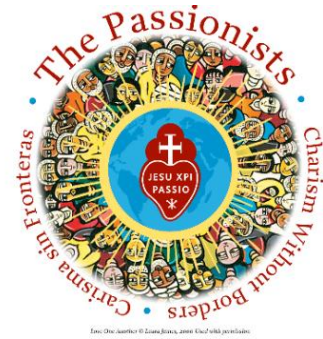


36th Provincial Chapter of Holy Cross Province

Report of Fr. Joseph Moons, C.P., Provincial

January 2023



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INTRODUCTION:

These last few years we have seen a lot of development through the visioning process and initiatives that came about because of it. I have found these years to be graced-filled, as well as challenging. Overall, they have been good for me, and I find it a privilege to have served you, our Passionist Family. I cannot say they have always been easy years, but with your support and prayer through the years, God has always found a way for us to move forward. I am truly appreciative to all of you, both lay and vowed, that with God's help, together we have accomplished much, and as we forge ahead, we will be able to meet the opportunities still before us.

In reviewing these last few years, we continue to be confronted by the changing makeup of our ministries and membership as Holy Cross Province. Our ministering together has continued to enrich our outreach.

We have furthered our collaboration with members of **St. Thomas, The Apostle, Vice Province** (THOM) of India, who continue to take their place alongside our United States vowed and lay members as dedicated fellow Passionists reaching out to enhance our ministry to and with the people of God.

We have also been assisted by two vowed Passionists from **Mary of the Presentation in the Temple Province** (MAPRAES) of Italy. They have taken up ministries that sustain our Mission among the people whom God daily entrusts to us, especially among our brothers and sisters in the Hispanic Community.



The June 2007 "*Holy Cross Province Mission Statement*" has fostered a vision that continues to offer Holy Cross Province a future we can celebrate together.



*We Passionists
proclaim God's love for the world
revealed through the Passion of Jesus Christ.*

**The Passionists,
a family of priests, brothers, and laity,
reach out with compassion to the crucified of today.
We keep alive the memory of Christ's passion through
our commitment to community,
prayer,
ministries of the Word,
and service to those who suffer.
We welcome all who seek renewed life
through the power of the Cross
and the hope of the Resurrection.**

Given our resources, we can expect opportunities and challenges as we face fulfilling our Mission. The Vision Fulfillment Commission and now the Chapter Planning Committee (CPC) have a vital role in moving us forward in a process that, with everyone's input, will help us embrace



a grace-filled future. The CPC has been entrusted with many aspects of the recommendations that came out of our 2022 Assembly and our 2019 Provincial Chapter. Central to our commitment are the documents that we affirmed during the last Assembly: *The Passionist Way*, *Cultural and Racial Diversity*, and *Laudate Si*. With faith, we are invited to have open hearts, minds and ears so that we may envision the future God has prepared for us in serving God's people.



Humanly, we want clarity about our future before we move beyond where we are and what we have in hand. A vision may not always give us that confidence or opportunity. In hope, we trust each other and God's grace that the foundation we have laid down in this visioning process will provide us the confidence to "let go" so that God can show us the way. In this manner, we move ahead with whatever God has in store for us. We may not be able to see the end of the road as we look down it, but as the African American Community has reminded us over the years, "*God didn't bring us this far just to leave us now.*" God will be there with us, the Passionist Family, as we take the road less traveled and face the unknown before us.

Mission:

In all our deliberations and discernment about our future, ultimately it is about our Passionist Mission as Holy Cross Province. This is our priority. We are committed to respond to the pastoral needs of everyday life and the struggles of God's people, especially the crucified of today. As everyday life and struggles change, so must we in reaching out and ministering among God's people. This is part of our personal cross as a Passionist Family: letting go of the past that has served us well so that we can clearly see people's needs and struggles, both today and in future years.

Ministry:

Our ministry today focuses on the people God has entrusted to us in name of Jesus, wherever they may be, giving us both an identity and a mission as Passionists. These ministerial relationships impact our community life and the evolving expression of our Passionist Charism as it responds to the signs of the times and the changing pastoral needs of God's people.



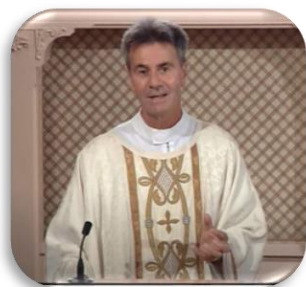


The ways these relationships express themselves are many, and with God’s grace, they have changed over time and will continue to change. Ministry is always about God’s people. Our ministries have developed over the years, growing from the seeds that St. Paul of the Cross sowed so many years ago. Though the ground and climate have changed and the manner by which we sow has changed, the Passionist Charism continues to offer seeds of healing, hope and reconciliation, and above all, an unconditional love in Jesus Crucified for whom no one is a stranger.

We see this in the ministry of our presence and preaching during our parish missions and retreats, in the retreats at our centers, in our pastoring at our parishes, and in the support staff and benefactors that help this miracle of our Passionist Charism change the lives of so many of God’s people. My brothers and sisters, this is who we are.

Together, we have reason to be grateful. We can celebrate what God has allowed us to do through:

- The retreats we have conducted in our retreat centers and other locations.
- Our four retreat center Boards of Directors, staff and volunteers.
- Our many parish missions.
- Our parish ministry in Birmingham and Fairfield, Alabama; Louisville, Kentucky; and various parish supply locations.
- The sacred life and wholeness affirmed by the *Passionist Earth & Spirit Center* in Louisville and the many people they have ministered to in the last 15 years through the efforts of Kyle Kramer as CEO and Joe Mitchell, C.P., as President.



- Cedric Pisegna, C.P.’s *Live With Passion* television ministry.
- The protection of the Earth and other social justice issues focused upon by the *Passionist Solidarity Network*.
- The health and well-being that the *Province Health and Aging Advisory Board* provides for both our young and senior vowed members as we seek to “age with grace.”
- The formation community at St. Vincent Strambi Community and Catholic Theological Union (of which we are a founding member) in Chicago, Illinois, as they inspire our students to further discern and grow in their vocation and serve the Church.





- Our internal ministries of local superior, vocation ministry, provincial and extended council, health care, development and finance.
- Our expanding ministry on the worldwide web, social media and the printed word.
- Our confidence in the Province’s *Investment Advisory Committee* in helping secure a sound financial future for our Mission and ministries.
- Our Province’s “*Instruments of Hope and Healing Review Board*” whose members guide the Province in the protection of children and vulnerable adults.
- The creative and committed efforts of our staff of the Province Development Office in reaching out to benefactors, the Passionist Formation Alumni, as well as the Province’s administration’s efforts to secure stable and secure financial and administrative structures.

Though there are many names that could be mentioned, in the name of our Province, I am deeply indebted and grateful to all those who, along with God’s help, have helped make possible the above ministerial expressions of our Passionist Charism in Holy Cross Province.

COLLABORATION HAS BECOME ESSENTIAL AND A LIFE GIVING GRACE TO THE FUTURE MISSION OF HOLY CROSS PROVINCE:

Collaboration has allowed Holy Cross Province to continue to respond and minister to the needs of God’s people in today’s society. This collaboration has been both with lay and vowed members of the six Configurations of the Passionist Congregation.

Vowed and Lay ministering in our Mission together:

One of the great resources for mission we have is our relationship as vowed and lay. This resource provides a necessary vitality as we move forward in the shared Passionist Mission as Holy Cross Province. We have achieved a level of comfort with one another so that our Mission continues to thrive, with God’s help. Over the years, our Province has found a welcomed confidence and healthy dependence on each other as vowed and lay. God’s grace is richly operative in our ministries in a manner that has grown over time and will continue to grow.

Vowed and lay ministering together comes in many forms, as seen in the broad spectrum of Province life. Together, we have been enriched and inspired and God’s people are being served by the grace-filled “*memoria passionis*”, the Memory of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Together, we raise the Cross on high and proclaim the most effective remedy is the



Passion of Jesus, "the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love" (Passionist Constitutions, #1).

Collaboration with St. Thomas, the Apostle, Vice-Province and our Province in Mission together:

We have been blessed with the presence of four of our Passionists from the Indian Province who have dedicated themselves to serve willingly in the Mission of our Province. Their collaboration over the years has been invaluable and will continue to be an essential part and grace for our future ministry in the United States.

We are deeply grateful to St. Thomas, the Apostle, Vice Province for allowing them to minister with us. No doubt, there are



challenges to ministering in a different culture. I know from my nine year ministry in India that the challenge of inculturation and ministry can be both difficult and enriching. Culture is part of our identity, allowing us to feel at home. We are grateful that they have found a home with us.

The men of our Province, with the grace of God, were able to lay the foundation of THOM back in 1981. Those efforts have now bore fruit and have now offered new life for the Congregation in India. They share that new life with us, enriching our lives and the charism of our Mission in the United States by their presence and enthusiasm.

THE CHANGES AND CHALLENGES WE HAVE SEEN:

Vowed Community Life:

The challenges of community life will always be with us. No individual is ever perfect, so no community is ever ideal. When we look at vowed community life, numbers are fewer in all communities, but in many cases the demands have remained the same. Many of the vowed have more than one responsibility. This can make for a much more challenging community living condition.

We have seven vowed communities. Can we find seven qualified local superiors when some of our present local superiors are in their upper seventy's or soon will be? Should we close a community, or can we envision a new local Passionist presence with both vowed and lay? What criteria should we use for closing a Passionist community presence, ministry or envisioning a new community presence or ministry?

As the current communities of vowed members age and decrease in membership, three communities will have financial challenges and will likely depend on the Province to help cover



their annual operating deficits, much less their capital repairs. Their meager reserve funds will run out. For this purpose, the Extended Council has set up a **Community Support Reserve Fund**, which took effect in July 2022, whereby communities are assessed based on their reserve funds. Communities can petition the Extended Council for funds related to projects and specific needs from this fund. Currently, four local communities are blessed by their association with a retreat center, as ministry stipends and lease agreements often make significant financial contributions to community life.

Vowed and Lay together:

In these changing times, laity is not always sure of their role, responsibility and authority in co-responsibility. As co-responsibility develops, further clarity is needed for the benefit of both vowed and lay. A change of leadership, whether vowed or lay, can possibly change the relationship of ministering together. Some of the resulting



challenges are part of normal human growth, and some are the result of new and developing relationships. There needs to be a forum or structure where this necessary dialogue between vowed and lay can take place, allowing co-responsibility to grow and bear fruit, helping continue our Passionist Mission. We are invited to see this as a work in progress, with the help of God.

Moving forward, co-responsibility of vowed and lay will continue to be important for our ministries.

We see this development in our retreat center Boards of Directors, as they relate to the Board of Trustees (the Provincial Council) as owners, and to the retreat director (vowed or lay Passionist) as an employee of the retreat center.

We have already seen many successful transitions with laity, especially with three retreat centers having lay retreat directors and all four retreat centers having lay administrators and lay members on their preaching teams. Collaboration with members of St. Thomas, The Apostle, Vice-Province has enhanced and enabled our Passionist Mission to succeed. We also see co-responsibility in the Province Offices with a professional lay staff working with vowed Passionists. We also find this in our parish ministries and Fr. Cedric's ministries.

Birmingham and Fairfield, Alabama:

Our Passionist presence in Birmingham and Fairfield remains critical to the Province. We have Holy Family Parish, Holy Family Catholic Academy and St. Joseph Parish in Birmingham and St Mary's



Parish in Fairfield. We continue to endorse Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School as they prepare young men and women for college and a secure place in society.

In a significant way, the Province continues an important ministry begun there over 85 years ago, ministering in parish settings, in academics and in social justice issues. Those who minister in Birmingham and Fairfield foster the spiritual lives of the people of God, as well as the larger Passionist Family, thus reflecting the richness of our Passionist Charism. All our Province ministries contribute to the life and identity of the Province. Our ministries in Birmingham and Fairfield speak to the heart of who we are as Passionists.



OUR SHARED MISSION:

The Hispanic Catholic Community in the United States:



Within the larger United States Catholic Church, there is a demographic change occurring. We are blessed by an ever-growing presence among us of our Hispanic brothers and sisters. This is an enormous opportunity and grace that God has entrusted to us and one that will demand from us an even more creative response to continue to remain relevant and be able expand our Mission.

The Configuration of Jesus Crucified:

The Configuration of Jesus Crucified includes five provinces: two in Brazil, two in the United States, and one in Mexico. Fr. Francisco Valadez, C.P., is the president. We find it easiest to operate as two zones. The North Zone includes the provinces of Cristo Rey (Mexico), St. Paul of the Cross (Eastern Province) and Holy Cross (Western Province). The South Zone comprises the two Brazilian provinces. There will be a February 2023 North American Passionist Meeting in New York, NY. The Passionist Sisters from Mexico are invited.



The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and Praesidium, Inc.:

CMSM has a significant role in the life of the Catholic Church in the United States, primarily for the communities of men religious. One significant resource CMSM has provided is the creation of the *Instruments of Hope and Healing* program to respond to the crisis of the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.



Because of the abuse scandal, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) established the *Charter and the Essential Norms of 2002*. CMSM, with the assistance of Praesidium, Inc. (an independent accrediting agency), first issued *Standards for Accreditation* in 2003. These Standards, which deal in detail with prevention, response, and supervision, were updated in 2020. They are the current expression of the commitment that men religious in the United States have made for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults. We are fully accredited by Praesidium, Inc., in meeting these Standards. Our accreditation is up for review and renewal in 2025.

CMSM has moved us into a model of accountability and transparency that we have not experienced before. Each of the seven years during my Provincial Visitation of our local communities, I have conducted an ongoing training session sponsored by CMSM on the *Instruments of Hope and Healing Standards*. We have also reviewed past materials focused on the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.



We also have an Independent Review Board of lay professional volunteers, who advise the Extended Council on these issues. We also have as our Province Survivor Assistant Coordinator, Dr. Michael Bland, Psy.D., D.Min., LCPC. He helps with our efforts to meet the requirements of the Praesidium Standards, as well as reach out to those that may have been abused. Let us continue to keep the victims of abuse in our prayers that they may experience the healing they need.

Holy Cross Province Ministries:

In the history of our Province, we have seen many transitions and changes. The ministries of our retreat centers, parish missions and retreats, parochial ministry and our involvement in foreign missions have all changed dramatically over the years. Other ministries of leadership, formation and teaching have changed as well. As the people we serve change, so, with God's help, do we.

Our four retreat centers have seen meaningful change with its Boards of Directors, three lay retreat directors and lay staff participating on the preaching teams. The retreat centers have also





seen changes in those they serve, compared to years ago. The preaching ministry has evolved, as seen in the significant impact of Fr. Cedric Ministries domestic and international presence on television, radio and in print. The internet and social media offer us new opportunities to allow the love of Jesus Crucified to be a part of many more lives. The success of these transitions can be seen as a sign from God that we are on the right path, with a vision that helps us cooperate with God to do even more for others in the coming days.

COMMUNITY LIFE:

Vowed and Lay: is an experience of community life possible?

Questions arise: “Where can the lives of vowed and lay meet to bring forth a new concept of community that offers a new sense of life, one where there is a certain level of interacting and praying together?” “As lay and vowed ministering together, how can we journey to enrich our interconnected spiritual lives so that Passionist Community life remains a constitutive element of our Charism and ministry?” Though our Passionist Mission is our first priority, our community life is both integral and a constitutive element of the effectiveness of our Mission.



Community life entails celebrations of Passionist feasts and milestones, shared liturgical prayer and other spiritual exercises. It also includes coming together often for meals with healthy

relationships that inspire and challenge each other to be faithful to our Passionist Charism. These aspects of community life can regularly be shared by lay and vowed members of our Passionist Family.



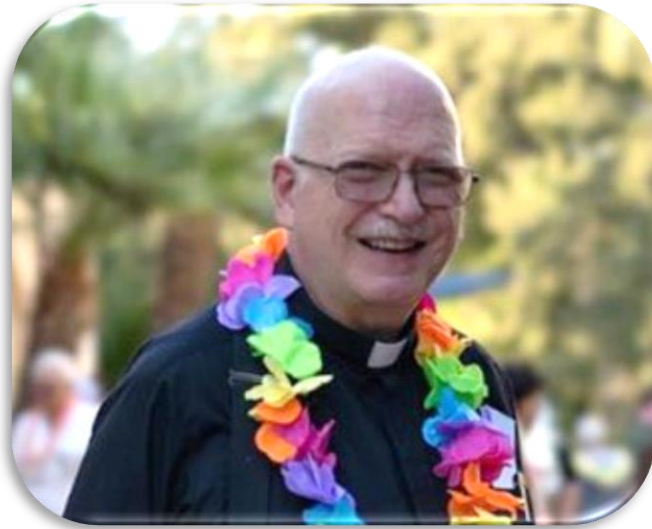
There is an ongoing need for formation in our Passionist Charism for vowed and lay. The Province’s *Office of Mission Effectiveness* (OME) will continue to focus on the increasing need for depth in personal understanding and growth in our Passionist Charism.

Vowed Passionists in Community:

Our General Superior, Fr. Joachim Rego, C.P., has repeatedly reached out to the Congregation with thoughtful encouragements and challenges regarding community life. A few years ago, during Provincial visitation, I reviewed two of his letters he sent to all members of the Congregation: one on community life and the other on personal finances. Both letters remain timely and important.



Leadership continues to be a critical issue, both now and in the future, and at the provincial and local levels. At the provincial level, we have the challenge of many different positions and responsibilities for which vowed Passionists are needed. At the local level, we need local superiors



who will actively engage the community in forming a healthy and prayerful lifestyle, healthy interpersonal relationships and the ability to see community in light of increased collaboration with vowed and lay members from other Congregational configurations.

One issue that arose at the recent General Chapter was at what point does a Province cease to be a Province and become a Vice-Province, a Vicariate or a mission? It may come down to membership numbers, but it also may be that the province no longer has qualified vowed members for leadership

positions, or individuals for specific responsibilities, like novice master, formation director or vocation director. Such challenges are being faced in other parts of the Congregation.

Our community life is to be a shared presence in prayer, administration and celebration. As we become smaller in number and remain quite busy, the need becomes stronger for a common commitment to a community calendar. This calendar would include a long-range schedule of events regarding Passionist religious and civic celebrations, community meetings and shared responsibilities.

No matter our age, vowed members are encouraged to be even more attentive to our health and well-being. The *Province Health and Aging Advisory Board* (PHAAB) has been instrumental and supportive as the Province experiences aging, especially for our senior religious. The members of PHAAB are helping us see what is possible for those who are older, in order to live safely and “age in place” in the communities in which they currently live. PHAAB is also trying to reach out to those who are relatively younger to maintain a healthier life.



We are deeply grateful to PHAAB for their interest, expertise and practical advice.

Local community finances will continue to be a significant concern for the Province, due to fewer religious engaged in full-time ministry, more of our men serving part-time in ministry or being completely retired. Over the years, the Province has been blessed with very generous benefactors and a positive return on our investment portfolio. However, these two income sources cannot be taken for granted. They are true blessings that God has provided for us at this time.



Community life can be less than ideal. The quality of community life cannot be legislated through enactments, recommendations or covenants. Rather, community life is lived at the local level by human beings. Important will be leadership and the individual member's capacity for tolerance and the ability to see, affirm and celebrate the good in others. Local leadership is important, but the individual member's efforts to cultivate community are fundamental to the vitality of the local community and the Province. Everyone is invited to do



their part. Each

of us are called to use the special grace of our Passionist vocation to see what God sees in our brother in community, and thus respond as God would have us respond. As mentioned above, an individual's commitment to an agreed upon community calendar can be a strong element of our life together, including those times where laity could be invited to be included in special aspects of community life.

Such participation takes planning, commitment and prioritizing such community events rather than personal outside commitments.

HOLY CROSS PROVINCE PLANNING:

Office of Mission Effectiveness (OME):

As participation and co-responsibility of vowed and lay increases, OME will continue to take an ever-important role in the Passionist formation of all involved. I want to thank both Don Webber, C.P., OME director, and his Board as they help move this important effort forward. In development are Passionist Charism workshops and the establishment of formation requirements for individuals participating in the Province's Mission, relative to their level of responsibilities and ministerial participation. OME successfully established *The Passionist Formation Institute*, which has been centered on Passionist Charism and Mission. *The Passionist Formation Institute* has been independent from the CTU Summer Program.



Vocation and Formation Ministries:

A new *Holy Cross Province Vocation Commission* was established in October 2022. David Colhour, C.P., chairs it. The Commission is asked to review the Province's vocational efforts and explore the use of social media, lay involvement and the use of resources available at our local communities, ministerial sites, and Province Offices.



We thank John Schork, C.P., for his efforts, along with those who have made efforts to share our life with others. Vocation Ministry has remained a challenge. Presently there are no candidates in our formation program.



St. Vincent Strambi Community in Chicago has been the Province's formation house for many years. We thank David Colhour, C.P., Local Superior, and Alfredo Ocampo, C.P., Director of Students, as well as the other members of the formation community. Alfredo will be finishing his many years as Director at the end June 2023 and will be pursuing his doctoral studies starting in the fall. We are truly

grateful to Alfredo for the dedication and attention he has given to the students during their formative years. The Eastern Province will be appointing a formation director for the coming 2023-24 academic year.

Province Development Office:

This far-reaching ministry continues to progress. The creation of the Province Offices, a combination of the Province Development Office and the Provincial Office into one building, has been a great encouragement for all staff members.

In the "big picture", the Province Development Office continues to annually provide the Province a welcome and necessary annual mission support of around \$500,000. We continue to encourage major gifts and estate planning using our direct mail solicitations and personal conversations as our sources for prospects.

We are very grateful to the Province Development Office staff, under the direction of Executive Director, Keith Zekind, for their dedication and creative efforts on many levels. Thanks, and appreciation, also go to Kristine Richter, Director of Development, Angela Kwasinski, Director of Donor Relations and Claire Smith, Director of Communications, for helping guide us in this important ministry.



In recent years, we have organized and enhanced our outreach to the many Passionist Alumni. An alumni organization has been organized, with its *Passionist Alumni Council* leadership team, and an evolving presence on the Passionist website. We thank Province Development Office staff of

Angela Kwasinski, Phil Jackson and

Claire Smith, John Schork, C.P., and all members of the *Passionist Alumni Council*, especially Mike Owens, chair of Passionist Alumni Board.



Province Finances:

As stated earlier in my report, the Province does not have a significant guaranteed annual income. The Province depends on our ongoing Passionist ministries, the generosity of our benefactors and positive returns from our professionally managed investment portfolio.

We are very grateful to the members of the Province’s *Investment Advisory Committee* (IAC) and its chair, Tim O’Brien. The Province invests conservatively, and in God’s providence, we have found a way for us to move forward with our Mission and take care of our members as they age. We thank Shale Lapping of IPEX, our independent investment performance evaluation consultant, who provides professional guidance for our portfolio and helps the IAC work with the Extended Council in following our Investment Policy. All investment vehicles and changes in investment strategy are approved by the Extended Council, based upon the advice and recommendations of the IAC.

Our Province Director of Finance, Keith Zekind, will provide a more up-to-date and comprehensive financial report before the Provincial Chapter. We thank Keith, Susan Arvanitis, Province Controller, and Loretta Ciesielski, Province Administrative Assistant, for their commitment to the multi-faceted work of the Province Offices. We are very fortunate to have such competent staff to serve our Province in such critical areas.

Caring for our Religious:

Sacred Heart Community in Louisville, together with Province Health and Aging Advisory Board (PHAAB), continue to play a major role in the care of our religious. As vowed members

continue to age, we are encouraged to be informed and proactive regarding our health and be aware of the opportunities available to optimize our health.



The question facing those with physical or mental challenges is “How can my local community help me be safe and be able to attend to my changing needs?” My suggestion - ask them. There are also opportunities to “age in place”, staying in our local communities, but with some necessary adjustments. Which adjustments? I, again, would suggest asking the local community members or superior.

We want the best care for our senior religious and those needing assistance, no matter where they are assigned. However, we must be realistic and honest on what is best for the individual member and for the local community. When is it time to decide to move to Sacred Heart Community for an individual to receive the care needed when the burden is too much for the local



community? This is not a matter that should be taken lightly, as it involved decisions regarding the safety of the member himself and his community.

Again, we thank the members of and the excellent support they are to all of us religious, young and old. We particularly want to thank the Local Superior at Sacred Heart, John Monzyk, C.P., Director of Senior Care, Kurt Wernert, C.P., PHAAB Board, and the entire staff at Sacred Heart for their excellent leadership in the care they provide for our members.

VISIONARY INITIATIVES THAT CONTINUE TO ENRICH HOLY CROSS PROVINCE’S PASSIONIST CHARISM AND MISSION:



- **The Passionist Way**

Tim O’Brien chairs this committee. The committee continues inviting the Passionist Family to reflect and meditate on the document’s content as it relates personally to the growth of their spirituality in the Passionist Charism.

- **Laudato Si’**

Patty Gillis, Lissa Romell, and the committee continue to engage the Passionist Family in the International Congregation’s and Holy Cross Province’s pledge to participate in the *Laudato Si’ Action Platform* called for by Joachim Rego, C.P., our Superior General, and Pope Francis.



- **Cultural and Racial Diversity**

Elizabeth Velarde is the convenor. The committee continues to invite the Passionist Family to engage in the document at various levels in helping our society heal itself of any systemic racism in terms of what the Gospels invites us to do.

- **Province Leadership Commission**

Elizabeth Velarde is the convenor for this commission.

Its goal is to develop a structure for Provincial leadership.

The commission will study and recommend models of provincial leadership to be presented at the June 2023 Chapter. It is hoped that a new model will delegate some of the responsibilities of a provincial to others. It is recommended that a new model of leadership be implemented after the June 2023 Chapter.



- **Extended Council**

The Extended Council is made up of five elected vowed members and three lay members appointed by the Provincial Council. The 2022 Assembly created the Extended Council. As of December 2022, the Extended Council has met five times, two in person at the Province Offices in Park Ridge, Illinois. An evaluation was presented at the Pre-Chapter in January 2023.

- **POPS - Proclaiming our Passionist Story**

Faith Offman facilitates this committee. By telling our Passionist story, POPS has offered creative reflections in a format that has both moved us and challenged us as who we are as part of the Passionist Family.

- **Province Retreat Center Ministry Commission**

Elizabeth Velarde has headed this commission that has fully developed a charter for replacing the former Province Retreat Center Board. This charter recognizes the new reality of our retreat centers having Boards of Directors and lay CEOs, as well as the relationship with the Board of Trustees, the Province and the Passionist Family.



THE CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT PROVINCIAL AND COUNCIL:

- First and foremost is further development of the insights and graces that have surfaced from the Visioning Process over these last few years. Some of these may be expressed in concrete proposals, recommendations or statements during the Chapter and Assemblies themselves. Others will be nuances that surface that the Extended Council will need to reflect upon, and which will then need to be focused on, articulated and implemented.
- The Extended Council will likely be called upon to help develop an integrated Passionist community life with the presence of laity, who are very active in our ministry. Dialogue, prayer, common celebrations and ongoing formation will be critical. This will require transition from a traditional vowed community presence to a more fluid presence with laity at our current seven Passionist communities.
- When evaluating our communities and ministries, will we be able to sustain all of them in the future? What criteria will be used for continuing our presence in a community or ministry? How will laity and other vowed Passionists from other parts of the Congregation be included in this decision making or how can they allow us to continue our presence or ministry in a certain place, or perhaps even start a new one?
- Province vocation ministry will need considerable support and involvement from not only the vowed members, but also from laity who share our life as members of the Passionist



Family. Together, our efforts at creating a “culture” that affirms religious vocations will be critical in encouraging young men to consider the call of God to vowed Passionist life, and other young men and women to consider being vital and involved members of the Passionist Family. We need everyone’s involvement. The recently formed *Province Vocation Commission* will be reviewing these aspects and make recommendation before the Chapter.



- There is an increasing level of civil investigation by different states’ attorneys and the Federal Justice Department on the issue of the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults. There is a possibility that certain states will lift the statute of limitations on sexual harassment of vulnerable adult like what has occurred in New York. This issue will demand an increased amount of energy and possible financial resources on the part of Province leadership. It will be important to continue to reach out to possible victims of sexual abuse in a responsible and pastoral manner.
- The Extended Council will need to continue developing areas of enhanced collaboration with St. Thomas the Apostle, Vice-Province (India), the Provinces of Cristo Rey (Mexico) and St. Paul of the Cross (United States), as well as with the Passionist Sisters in the United States and Mexico, the Passionist Nuns and the greater Passionist Family. This enhanced collaboration will best serve the people of God through our Passionist ministries, especially the growing Hispanic Catholic population.
- Given the multi-level changes the Province will continue to undergo as part of the Church and world today (personnel, leadership, facilities and finances), the Extended Council will need to be attentive to and involved in responsibly stewarding our resources. This is important in ensuring the future continuation of our Passionist Charism and Mission for the needs of our people, the care of our facilities and to sustain our financial stability.
- As we age and further collaborate in life and ministry, there needs to be a focus on leadership development among vowed and lay.

GIVING THANKS:

Looking back over the past seven-plus years, in the name of the Province, I do want to thank the members of the Visioning Commission, Chapter Planning Committee, and the many others chairs and committee members for the volume of work and ministry they have undertaken for the good of Holy Cross Province and its future Mission. There are too many to mention for me to express my appreciation. The Province is deeply grateful for the time and effort all of you have invested in this process and the Mission of Holy Cross Province.



In name of the Province, I thank the members of the Extended Council: David Colhour, C.P.; Jim Strommer, C.P.; Phil Paxton, C.P.; and Alfredo Ocampo, C.P; and the three lay members: Joe Castro, Faith Offman and Keith Zekind. They all have been an ongoing and necessary support to me as Provincial and to the Mission of the Province. I am grateful for their insight and dedication to deal with the opportunities and challenges the Province has faced, as well as their willingness to take on tasks as needed for the Province to successfully move forward.



There are many others for whom I am sincerely grateful and to whom the Province owes their gratitude. I am particularly grateful for the vowed Passionists from other Configurations, for the various ministry staffs, administrators, board chairs and board members, auditors, lawyers, volunteers and to all of you, who in any capacity, have helped to allow our Mission of Holy Cross Province to continue and flourish. To all of you, I say a heartfelt “thank you!”

As we approach the coming Provincial Chapter in June 2023, let us keep the visioning process and the visionary initiatives mentioned above in our prayers. I pray that this work will provide us with the grace we need to foresee the needs of the people we are called to serve, and to strengthen our resources in fulfilling that ministry. Thank you for allowing me to serve you, the Passionist Family of Holy Cross Province, as your Provincial. God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Moons, C.P." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joe Moons, C.P.
Provincial Superior



“May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts”

