

HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY
Birmingham, Alabama
Phil Paxton, C.P. – Local Leader

The vowed Passionist Community is comprised of three members: Patricio Manosalvas, C.P., Bob Weiss, C.P., and Phil Paxton, C.P., the local superior. Patricio Manosalvas, C.P., is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in the Ensley section of Birmingham. The parishioners are mostly Spanish-speaking. Bob Weiss, C.P., is associate pastor of Holy Family Parish in Ensley and St. Mary's Parish in Fairfield, AL, which is right next to Ensley. Phil Paxton, C.P., is pastor of Holy Family and St. Mary's.

Bob Weiss, C.P., and Phil Paxton, C.P., do Sunday work at other parishes, notably Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Homewood. Patricio Manosalvas, C.P., also does occasional Sunday work at other churches, but he is engaged heavily with various ministries at St. Joseph. So, we are busy.

In light of that, we get together on Tuesday evenings for prayer and sharing faith and just checking in about what is going on with us. We get together for special occasions and holy days and do our best to support each other.

Whatever success we would claim would be in our growing closer as a community. The challenge is to broaden our community life with regards to the lay members of the Passionist Family. This we have not done so well.

Another major challenge looking towards the future is the sustainability of a community here. If we look at the situation of just the vowed, it would seem difficult to sustain a number of Passionists to make a viable community. I, for one, believe in continuing the Passionist presence in Birmingham. This would necessitate a different vision of community, which has been expressed in our visioning process.

We have tried to highlight the Solemn Commemoration of the Passion and the Founder's Feast Day as times when we invite others to a celebration, but we could do more here, as well.

In summary, community life, considering the situation and the busyness of the ministry, is good. The challenge is to extend our notion of community life and sustain our presence in the future.

SAINT VINCENT STRAMBI COMMUNITY (SVSC)
Chicago, Illinois
David Colhour, C.P. – Local Leader



As one of the founding members of Catholic Theological Union (CTU), Saint Vincent Strambi Community is focused on formation and education of Passionist seminarians. Its setting, in the Hyde Park area of Chicago, offers a richly extensive and diverse international and multilingual environment, which includes other Religious Congregations which are similarly engaged.

Since 1968, both Holy Cross Province and St. Paul of the Cross Province have had members on the CTU faculty, which have favored the long-term stability of the Passionist Community. To this stable base of members, is added the complementary student group who experience formation, study and a transition into ministry during their four years of residence. Currently, we have four students from three different cultures as members of our Community:

- Conor Quinn (Northern Ireland, St. Patrick Province)
- Cristian Martinez-Montalvo (Puerto Rico, St. Paul of the Cross Province)
- Jonathan Ramos-Torres (Puerto Rico, St. Paul of the Cross Province)
- Samuel Joseph (Haiti, St. Paul of the Cross Province)

The senior Passionists include:

- Robin Ryan, C.P., (Full Professor of Systematic Theology at CTU, St. Paul of the Cross Province)
- Alfredo Ocampo, C.P., (Director of Students, Holy Cross Province)
- Arthur Carrillo, C.P., (Provincial and Generalate Translator/Editor, Holy Cross Province)
- David Colhour, C.P., (Local Superior, Holy Cross Province)

The Community extends its membership beyond the walls of Saint Vincent Strambi. Three of our vowed Passionists live outside of Hyde Park.

- Tu-Jin Paul Kim, C.P., (Pastor of Korean Martyrs Parish, Chicago)
- Don Webber, C.P., (Assistant at Korean Martyrs Parish, Chicago)
- Frank Keenan, C.P., (Senior Care at St. Benedict Village, Niles)

We are blessed to have with us Lissa Romell, who is an active member of the Passionist Family and Cynthia Poindexter, who is always an uplifting spirit.

Following the graduation, ordination and assignment of Phillip Donlan, C.P., to Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, Citrus Heights CA, Holy Cross Province has no vowed member initial formation here at SVSC. Changes in the Community since the last Chapter also include: Fr. John

Auram, C.P., of Holy Spirit Province, who completed a double Masters Degree and returned to his home province and is now serving in Papua New Guinea. John Schork, C.P., transitioned to Holy Name Community, Houston, and accepted the responsibility of Local Superior. Donald Senior, C.P., who was a solid and enduring presence in the community since 1973, died in early November 2022.

This is truly a unique time for us here at Saint Vincent Strambi Community. With the death of Don Senior, C.P., Robin Ryan, C.P., is the only Passionist on staff at CTU, and our more prominent presence at CTU has been reduced. It is also significant that Don Senior C.P., brought in a significant income for this Community. We will need to explore what adjustments will be necessary for our community life and budget for the coming year.

We desire to actively share in the life of the Congregation. Our mission has a unique way of building the future of the Congregation. At the same time, our mission includes sustainability for the future, and we continue to find ways to live into the *Laudato Si'* action platform. It should also be mentioned that the quality of the education received here has encouraged us to welcome Passionists from other Passionist Provinces (whether seminarians or for continuing education) to share our community life and enroll at CTU. Several Provincial Chapters ago, we had brought up the possibility of starting an International House of Passionists, and that reality has unconsciously happened. The diversity around our table is a rich blessing.

As our Province continues its visioning and our commitment to synodality grows, we realize there are untapped resources here, especially in the areas of formation and higher education. We are open to ways which this can assist the Province.

CHRIST THE KING PASSIONIST COMMUNITY
Citrus Heights, California
James Strommer, C.P. – Local Leader

There are six vowed members at Christ the King Community, including the Provincial Superior, Joe Moons, C.P., living in residence. Joe is frequently away on Province business, but when he is home, he participates fully in Community life. When he is able, he helps with confessions at the Retreat Center and is a familiar face to the staff.

Jim Strommer, C.P., is the local superior. His primary ministry is counseling and spiritual direction through the retreat center. As a member of the Provincial Council he is also involved in province leadership.

Carl Hund, C.P., is the oldest member of the community. Although he is retired from a stipend position, he volunteers his time and talents for maintenance projects on the buildings and grounds.

John Hilgert, C.P., is the assistant superior. He takes care of banking and suffrages for the community. His primary ministry is with Marriage Encounter as a presenter and, at times, in an organizational role. This year, he spent some time in Louisville for hip surgery and recovery.

Jack Conley, C.P., is the director of ministry at the Retreat Center. He is also quite busy with itinerant ministry, parish missions and retreats to sisters, priests and even a retreat to bishops in Chicago. He also regularly ministers at Folsom Prison. We have a cook for evening meals Monday through Thursday. When she is not here, Jack usually steps in. It is a good reason for us all to stay home for Sunday dinner.

Phillip Donlan, C.P., is the newest and youngest member of the community. He is full-time at the Retreat Center as assistant director of ministry. He also coordinates programs for Spanish speaking and young adults.

Tom Bonacci, C.P., from St. Paul of the Cross Province, is on the preaching team at the retreat center and is technically part of our community, but he does not reside with us.

The Retreat Center is the primary ministry for our community. All of us priests are on hand for sacramental ministry, and we are all present for celebrations or fundraising events. We also have the long tradition of a community Mass every Thursday. It is our most consistent opportunity for larger Passionist Family gatherings.

Beyond our Thursday gatherings, this kind of interaction between vowed and lay is an area for growth for us. We could be more creative in finding ways to share our faith and Passionist life together.

Another continual challenge for our community is the residence building itself. All six of us live in five separate areas of the house. The original small existing house was expanded with old “temporary” army barracks. So, we now have a collection of virtual hermitages. Because it takes an effort, we need to make time and space to be together for community sharing. This would include more regular community meetings and more planned community gatherings. We do have regular prayer twice a day and regular evening meals. Usually after evening prayer and before the meal, we gather in the living room for an informal social.

We are an ageing community, except for Phillip. As of now, we are all healthy enough for independent living. Obviously, the time will come when age and health will be a larger issue. As the community gets smaller, we will need to wonder what kind of Passionist presence we will have at Christ the King. The lay staff at the retreat center are very much a part of the Passionist Family. They have a sense of Passionist identity and are dedicated to the mission. With continued efforts at formation, we think that will grow. As the number of vowed diminishes, our Passionist presence will take a new form. Perhaps the modular structure of our residence will even serve us better for multiple living areas in the future.

After almost 75 years in the Sacramento diocese, the Passionists have a good reputation and great respect among clergy and lay. We are one of only four religious orders of men in the diocese. We have the largest retreat facility, which Bishop Soto refers to as “the gem of the diocese.” In the future, things may look quite different for us here, but we believe our Charism is firmly planted in the Sacramento diocese and will continue to grow with God’s grace.

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS COMMUNITY

Detroit, Michigan

Enno Dango, C.P. – Local Leader

The Basic Community Statistics (e.g., names of members, age. Ministry, death, main local ministries, etc.)

● **Members:**

- Patrick Brennan, C.P., (76)
- Enno Dango, C.P., (51)
- James Griffith, C.P., (80)
- Ray Sanchez, C.P., (84)
- Alex Steinmiller, C.P., (79)
- + Randal Joyce, C.P., (1922-2019)

- **Living arrangements:** Alex Steinmiller, C.P., has recently moved back into the Community residence to join Enno Dango, C.P., and Ray Sanchez, C.P., after more than a couple of years of living off-campus on a special mission. Ray Sanchez, C.P., is currently in Louisville recovering from his recent car accident. Pat Brennan, C.P., continues to live in the Retreat Center.

■ **Guests:**

- John Phelps, CSsR, (82) – has been living with us on a permanent basis for four years
- Fr. Richard Cassidy (80) – the Community welcomed him to live with us since last June 2022. He teaches Scriptures at the Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit.

● **Ministries:**

- The Retreat Ministry continues to be our main ministry in this location. Pat Brennan, C.P., and Enno Dango, C.P., are members (Alex Steinmiller, C.P., helps with confessions) of the pastoral and preaching team, with Faith Offman as our lay collaborator. This ministry further serves beyond the traditional Passionist-preached weekend retreats. It also caters to the sacramental and non-sacramental needs of our hosted groups or prayer groups and provides spiritual direction. The integral physical and fiscal operations of this ministry, on the other hand, have been managed by talented and dedicated lay staff members. Finally, we have the Retreat Advisory Board who have dedicated their time and brains to help keep the ministry updated and dynamic.
- Outside of the retreat ministry, both ordained non-ordained members have been actively involved in sundry internal and external ministries. Ray Sanchez, C.P., has been taking care of several house chores; Alex Steinmiller, C.P., besides being closely involved with Life Directions ministries, and with other groups as well, has been actively helping several parishes, near or far, on weekdays and weekends. Pat Brennan, C.P., besides providing spiritual directions and following up the well-being of retreatants, is also

actively helping several parishes, near or far, on weekdays and weekends as well. Enno Dango, C.P., besides the Local Superior and the *ex-officio* econome, is an adjunct instructor at Madonna University teaching Religious studies courses. He is also actively helping several parishes, near or far, on weekdays and weekends. He also actively ministers to the pastoral needs of the Filipino Catholics in Southeast Michigan. In addition, Alex Steinmiller, C.P., Pat Brennan, C.P., and Enno Dango, C.P., have also been occasionally assisting the pastoral needs of the Hispano-Latino communities in different parishes as well.

What are the areas of growth/success that you would like to highlight?

- Despite our small number and busy schedules, we tried our best to meet regularly discussing routine Community business, doing faith sharing and keeping each other updated of one's journey in life. We also tried to be consistent with our Thursday socials before dinner. We are financially stable, at least, for the next three fiscal-year cycles, after difficult streamlining measures amidst the pandemic. Friends and donors have been quite generous. Ministry-wise, with the dwindling number of priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit - with their undergoing implementation of the "Unleash the Gospel" and their restructuring process into "families of Parishes" – our ordained members could not have received more requests than ever to assist them in their pastoral needs. Pat has also received more requests than ever for spiritual direction. With some retreat centers in the area having struggled but slowly opening their doors after the pandemic, our Retreat Center has experienced a surge of high school students from different Catholic schools for their Kairos Retreats, which, in the process, expands our ministry to the youth.

What are the challenges your Community is/will be facing?

- With our small number and busy schedules, our Community prayer life observances and presence at dinners occasionally suffer, but we keep them going, nonetheless. With Ray Sanchez, C.P.'s "temporary" time of recovery in Louisville, we have been recently experiencing a more hectic schedule of responsibilities than usual, but we also manage thus far. In general, we are facing the reality of aging and its attendant health challenges, and the uncertainties it presents to the Community living "standard" and to our ongoing ministry involvements in the next five years or so when, except Enno Dango, C.P., all will be over or in the middle 80s.

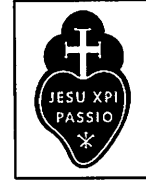
What are the hopes/future plans for your Community?

- We envision a more creative participation and involvement of our lay people to our community life and ministry. Thus far, since the (CPP) Community of Passionist Partners no longer exists in Detroit, our regular association or interaction with the lay people takes place when the vowed and staff work side by side at the Retreat Center, including the monthly gatherings of our Retreat lay Advisory Board and, liturgically, at our weekly Mass. Pat Brennan, C.P., and Enno Dango,

C.P., also regularly help and interact with the two charismatic prayer groups gathering at the Retreat Center.

- As the Church demographics in the United States has changed dramatically in the recent decades, we have experienced the richness of the blend of different ethnicities in our ministries - especially here in Southeast Michigan. So, we encourage this Chapter or the next Provincial Council to explore a possibility of a sort of “Passionist loan” program under a defined and limited term - Passionists from other continents, probably a similar program to how we invited our Indian Passionists to our Province - to help cater to the Pastoral needs of these different ethnic groups.
- We also envision reaching out more to the Hispano-Latino population of Southeast Michigan, that is more than the occasional Spanish Masses that we do. A visiting Hispano-Latino Passionist to our Community would definitely be helpful to this vision.
- We also envision a more creative interaction with the younger generation.

HOLY NAME COMMUNITY
Houston, Texas
John Schork, C.P. – Local Leader



✘ Our Community:

Members:

- John Schork, C.P., (73): Local Superior, Province Vocation Director, Province Treasurer/Investment Committee, Trustee for CTU, Vowed Contact for Alumni, part-time Province Development Office ministry
- Cedric Pisegna, C.P., (65): Assistant Local Superior, Mass Media, Itinerant Preaching
- Blaise Czaja, C.P., (86): Itinerant Preaching
- Antonio Curto, C.P., (71): Spanish programs at retreat center; Itinerant Preaching. (Italian Province)
- Nicholas Divine, C.P., (52): Retreat Center Director of Ministry; Supply Work

- “New” members of the Community in the last four years: Blaise Czaja, C.P., and John Schork, C.P.
- Members who “moved on” in the last four years: Joe Barbieri, C.P., Ken O’Malley, C.P., Ronan Newbold, C.P., and George Stanfield. C.P.

Main local ministries: Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center (including Spiritual Direction Spanish & English Schools); Broadcast Media; Itinerant Preaching / Supply; Mission appeals; Various Internal Ministries

✘ Areas of Growth / Success:

- An active, involved community; good sense of hospitality and Passionist Family spirit.
- Regular community prayer, Liturgies and meals.
- Community meetings monthly.
- Involvement in “media ministries”: TV, internet/social media, books, theater/play.
- Involvement of laity in community prayer, ministries, Charism and celebrations.
- Renewed “life” in the local Community of Passionist Partners (CPP).
- Good relationship with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.
- Decent financial picture, with some savings.

✘ Challenges now and in the future:

- The reality of health and aging.
- Ministry needs / requests we are unable to meet. The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has 1,750,000 Catholics from a variety of cultures.
- Ongoing spiritual vitality and growth via faith sharing, community dialogue, visioning, etc.

- Needed capital repairs and upgrades to the 40+ year old residence and grounds.
- Responsible stewardship of our facility and finances.

✘ **Hopes and Future Plans for the Community:**

- Additional community members, ideally including Spanish and possibly Vietnamese speakers to help meet the needs of the local Church.
- Enhanced community office and maintenance resources.
- Completing the needed major capital repairs and upgrades.
- Improved local vowed vocation promotion.
- Cultivating local relationships with benefactors and Passionist Alumni – the Passionist Family.
- Facility and financial stewardship.

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY
Louisville, Kentucky
John Monzyk, C.P. - Local Leader

Sacred Heart Community (Louisville) serves Holy Cross Province in several ways: managing the healthcare of our senior religious, serving as home base for ministries at St. Agnes parish and the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center. The Senior Care office, St. Agnes Parish and the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center will report on their ministries separately. This report will focus on the community aspect of those assigned to Sacred Heart Community.

Personnel (Vowed) As of March 1, 2023

There are 11 vowed Passionists assigned to the Sacred Heart Community:

John Monzyk, C.P.	73	Local Superior
Robert Weiss, C.P.	85	Extended supply work in Birmingham
Kurt Wernert, C.P.	54	Director of Senior Care
Justin Nelson, C.P.	49	Pastor of St. Agnes (member of St. Thomas Vice-Province)
Jerry Milazzo, C.P.	89	Cooks breakfast twice weekly, recycling, some maintenance/yard work
Kenneth O'Malley, C.P.	86	Hears confessions at St. Agnes, organizes community library
John Patrick Day, C.P.	76	Recently completed extended parish work in Nashville Diocese
Robert Crossmyer, C.P.	75	Resides at Nazareth Home-Highlands, does some ministry with patients
Chris Gibson, C.P.	74	Recently completed preaching for Food for the Poor, does supply work
Joseph Mitchell, C.P.	72	On Sabbatical from the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center
Vimal Backiyaraj, C.P.	36	Associate Pastor of St. Agnes (member of St. Thomas Vice-Province)

On Medical Visit

There are 2 vowed Passionists of Holy Cross Province here for medical rehab: Raymond Sanchez, C.P., and E. John Hilgert, C.P.

Deaths

There have been 9 deaths of vowed members of Sacred Heart Community since the last Provincial Chapter:

Alfonso San Juan, C.P.; Simon Herbers, C.P.; Peter Berendt, C.P.; Sebastian MacDonald, C.P.; Ronald Corl, C.P.; Jorge Stanfield, C.P.; Ronan Newbold, C.P.; Eric Meyer, C.P., and Richard Parks, C.P.

Laity

There are 6 lay staff members of our Passionist Family:

DeeDee Lockhart	Administrator and Accountant
Kay Woodworth	Health Care
Steve Thim	Housekeeping
Gary Thim	Maintenance, Bookkeeping, Cooking
Mona Lise Roeten	Receptionist
Kelly Cherry	Full-time Cook

We are blessed with volunteers who also help us in our endeavors. Most notably among these are Julia Senn-Reeves, who advises Kurt Wernert, C.P., on medical issues, provides some hands-on care as needed and helps in many medical ways, Patrice and Kenneth Wickerham, Dick Scherrer and Jim Byrne, who help with decorating and other events.

Events

The Community remained pretty much locked-down during the pre-vaccine days of the pandemic. The monastery residents remained separated from the Pastors. Phillip Donlan, C.P., did his Clinical Pastoral Education course in Louisville but lived with the Pastors. Kay Woodward lived in a guest room and did the cooking. DeeDee Lockhart worked from home. The cook (Eileen Kalbfleisch) shopped but did not come into the monastery. No vowed member of the monastery community contacted COVID-19 in the pre-vaccine days.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we hosted two significant Province events:

- The Passionist Alumni Reunion of 2022 was attended by nearly 100 alumni and guests.
- The Ordination of Phillip Donlan, C.P., occurred in May 2022.
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On-going events include:

- The community worships with St. Agnes Parish on Sundays.
- The *Province Health and Aging Advisory Board* meets quarterly.
- Zoom session (“Coffee at Sacred Heart”) with local volunteer/alumni group occurs twice-monthly.
- “Friends for Life” alumni group Zoom gathering happens about once-a-month.
- Connection Committee to promote Sacred Heart-Saint Agnes communications meets as needed.

Plant Improvements

In the last four years, thanks to some tremendously generous benefactors and grants from the organization *Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!)*, we have been made some significant improvements to the Sacred Heart physical plant. We have been able to:

- Reduce the presence of bats in the attic,
- Repair the monastery bell tower,
- Reduce erosion by modifying the monastery guttering,
- Replace older heating/cooling units,
- Install solar panels on the carport and batteries in the basement,
- Repave or reseal all the driving and parking areas,
- Replace the Sacred Heart Statue in front of the monastery,
- Install a new flat stone walkway to and around the new Sacred Heart Statue,
- Incapsulate and dehumidify the crawl space under the kitchen/dining area,
- Install check valves on monastery sewer line exits,
- Install exercise equipment in monastery.

The Future

We know the need for the ministry we perform here will continue in Holy Cross Province. Over time, a network of healthcare providers has been developed. St. Agnes Parish is of such size and diverse ministries that it can provide a ministerial outlet for any of our men. Local parishes frequently call to request supply work from those who could be more active.

As the Province membership ages, the ability of our own men in our communities to help with care after surgery or an accident is minimal. We expect that more men will be considering Louisville for the place of their surgery and rehab before returning to their respective community.

Upcoming physical plant improvements include new windows on the front of the monastery, elevator and heating/cooling upgrades and replacement of the hot water recirculation line.

With the help of God and our benefactors, we look forward to continuing to serve Holy Cross Province for the health and comfort of our senior religious.

MATER DOLOROSA COMMUNITY
Sierra Madre, California
Bruno D'Souza, C.P. – Local Leader

Members

Bruno D'Souza, C.P., (47) - Local Superior

Michael Higgins, C.P., (79)

John Rockenbach, C.P., (88)

Clemente Barrón, C.P., (79)

Febin Barose, C.P., (36)

Transfers in: Febin Barose, C.P., joined the Community in August 2022.

Death

Alan Phillip, C.P., died in March 2021 after his illness with Mesothelioma. During his years at Mater Dolorosa, Alan was active in ministry at the Retreat Center as well as in the neighboring parishes and schools.

Ministries

- Bruno D'Souza, C.P., Febin Barose, C.P., and John Rockenbach, C.P., are on the Retreat Preaching Team in the Retreat Center.
- Mike Higgins, C.P., and Clemente Barrón, C.P., stepped down from their roles as Director of Ministry and Director of Hispanic Ministry, respectively, at the Retreat Center in June 2022. However, they assist with sacramental needs on Passionist preached weekend retreats and for hosted groups during the weekdays.
- Outreach to the Hispanic community and young adults.
- Sacramental outreach to parishes, schools and high schools.
- Parish missions and retreats.
- Assistance with mission appeals during summer.
- John Rockenbach, C.P., helps with maintenance in the Retreat Center and in the Community.

Areas of growth/ success

- Cultural/ethnic diversity in the community.
- Availability of the members for ministerial opportunities.

Challenges

- Local leadership.
- Aging membership.
- Ministerial outreach.

Hopes/future plans

- Continued vowed Passionist presence and participation in the retreat center ministry.