

ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL SUPERIORS (ALS)

Phillip Paxton, C.P.

The ALS is the Association of Local Superiors and was formed for the vowed local leaders of our Passionist Communities to support one another as well as discuss issues pertaining to the role of local leader. The members are the local leaders of the various communities within the province as well as the Provincial Council. Added to the ALS in 2022 was Kurt Wernert, C.P., as the Director of Senior Care. As of this date, the local leaders are Phil Paxton, C.P., - Birmingham, David Colhour, C.P., - Chicago, Jim Strommer, C.P., - Citrus Heights, Enno Dango, C.P., - Detroit, John Monzyk, C.P., - Louisville, John Schork, C.P., - Houston, and Bruno D'Souza, C.P., - Sierra Madre. Joe Moons, C.P., as Provincial Superior, also attended.

After the 2019 Chapter, we responded to one of the Calls to Action coming from the Charism Working Group, which was to have regular gatherings via Zoom, in which we would share our faith regarding our Passionist Charism. And so, we changed from meeting once or twice a year to about 10 times a year via Zoom.

Interspersed between meetings in which we prayed and shared faith, we discussed certain topics that were brought to us, either from the visioning process or from different committees or persons around particular issues. Here is a list of most of the topics we covered, and when we had special presentations and guests:

Our first meeting after the Chapter was a joint meeting with the (PRCB) Province Retreat Center Boards in the fall of 2019. This followed the previous model of meetings.

We met on the Calls to Action we received from various Vision Fulfillment teams. We had decided that to talk about the integration of lay Passionists into community life, we needed to hear from them. For our first attempt, we invited Faith Offman and Elizabeth Velarde.

We discussed racism with Lissa Romell, Marta Salgado-Niño, and Deacon Peter Smith. Again, the Calls to Action from the Visioning Process.

Community Covenants

Principles of Community Life/Vocations

Laudato Si' – with a presentation by Joe Mitchell, C.P.

Statement on Cultural and Racial Diversity

Community Life and Lay Passionists

Community Support Reserve Fund – with a presentation by Keith Zekind

Health and Well-Being – with a presentation by Kurt Wernert, C.P., and Julia Senn-Reeves

Future of Religious Life

Recommendation for an open Chapter for 2023 – This is something voted on by the ALS leading up to an upcoming Chapter.

Leadership

Laudato Si' Engagement – with a presentation by Patty Gillis

Report on the Inter-Province Council meeting at Thomas Berry Place – January 2023 – which focused on the issue of migration

THE INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC)

Tim O'Brien - Chair

The Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) was created by the Provincial Council in 1988 to assist the vowed Passionist then serving as both canonical and civil law Treasurer with revising the Province's Investment Policy and selecting investment vehicles (e.g., investment managers, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds) for the Province's portfolio. Initially, the IAC had six members, including three laity and three vowed Passionists, and met twice per year. As the number and complexity of investment choices has proliferated, the IAC's membership and function have evolved to help the Province steward its resources prudently in a challenging environment.

The Committee currently has 10 members and meets quarterly. In addition, there is an administrative subcommittee that sets the agenda for the IAC meetings, follows up on initiatives and organizes ad hoc committees that meet for specific purposes. Lay committee members serve 3-year terms, renewable once. Vowed members are appointed by the Provincial Council and serve for indefinite terms. The listing of roles and Committee members are listed below:

Personnel:

Assistant Treasurer – An officer of the civil law corporation of the Province who assists the Civil Law Treasurer with performing his duties. Currently this role is filled by the Director of Finance.

Canonical Treasurer – A vowed Passionist of the Province who serves at the pleasure of the Provincial Superior and acts in a fiduciary capacity on behalf of the canonical Province entity (e.g., the public juridic person of the Province under canon law). Responsibilities include oversight of the accounting function, ensuring assets are invested and property is maintained in a prudent and legal manner, and issuing periodic reports of the finances of Province administration. The Canonical Treasurer may or may not also be the Civil Law Treasurer.

Chair of the Investment Advisory Committee – An individual appointed by the Provincial Superior, subject to the approval of the Provincial Council, to serve in a leadership role on the Investment Advisory Committee. This individual may be either a layperson or vowed religious, and is responsible for scheduling and conducting committee meetings, communicating the committee's recommendations to the Provincial Superior and other administrative duties.

Civil Law Treasurer – An officer of the civil law corporation of the Province who is appointed by the Board of Directors and charged with oversight of Province funds and securities and its accounting function. Historically, a vowed Passionist has served as both Civil Law Treasurer and Canonical Treasurer, but this is not mandatory. The Civil Law Treasurer may be either a vowed religious or a layperson.

Director of Finance – An employee of the Provincial Office who oversees day-to-day administration of financial matters in consultation with the Provincial Superior. Responsibilities include financial reporting to the Provincial Council/Board of Directors, budgeting, payroll, administrative and legal matters relating to human resources, real estate, and regulatory filings, and management of the Province Offices and its employees. Currently, the Director of Finance also serves in the roles of Investment Officer and Assistant Treasurer and is an authorized signer of Province bank and investment accounts.

Investment Consultant – A representative of the independent investment consulting firm retained by the Province who provides periodic reports of the Province’s portfolio investment performance, attends IAC meetings, conducts investment vehicle searches and asset allocation studies and provides other guidance and consultation as needed.

Investment Officer – An officer of the civil law corporation of the Province who is appointed by the Board of Directors and is responsible for implementing the recommendations of the IAC that are approved by the Provincial Council. The Investment Officer acts as agent of the Province with respect to investment custodians and is an authorized signer of Province bank and investment accounts. Currently, this role is held by the Director of Finance.

IAC Personnel Listing as of January 1, 2023

- John Schork, C.P., Canonical Treasurer and Civil Law Treasurer
- Keith Zekind, Director of Finance, Assistant Treasurer, and Investment Officer
- Shale Lapping, Consultant IPEX and Investment Advisory Committee
- Tim O’Brien (Chair)
- Dan Banis (Retreat Center Representative)
- Philip Paxton, C.P.
- Matt Greenough
- Phillip Donlan, C.P.
- Phil Laughlin
- John Pieper
- Sandra Sierra

In addition, the IAC has an Administrative Subcommittee:

- Tim O’Brien (Chair)
- John Schork, C.P.
- Keith Zekind
- Susan Arvanitis
- Shale Lapping (IPEX)
- Neha Patel (IPEX)

Achievements and plans for the future:

Over the years, the Committee has grown in terms of number of Committee members and also in terms of the work being performed. In recent years, the IAC has formalized its charter, created an administrative subcommittee to create better efficiencies for meetings and assure alignment with the Province's financial needs. In addition, a formal orientation program has been established for new and existing IAC members.

The investment environment is often volatile, and the subcommittee works to assure the IAC is well-briefed on market conditions in order to provide the best opportunity for providing the best advice to the Provincial Council.

The IAC has also entered into conversation with members of the Laudato Si' committee and hopes to continue to educate one another on how we can maintain portfolio performance and meet the social needs of our investment program.

THE PROVINCE OFFICES

Keith Zekind – Director of Finance & Executive Director of Development

The Province Offices consist of the following ministries:

- Provincial Administration (separate report issued)
- Office of Mission Effectiveness (separate report issued)
- Office of Vocations (separate report issued)
- Province Development Office
- Province Finance Office

PURPOSE OF THE PROVINCE OFFICES

The purpose of the Province Offices is to perform certain administrative functions on behalf of Holy Cross Province in the areas of accounting, finance, development and operations. Our work helps the Extended Council, local communities, retreat centers, sponsored ministries and the Passionist Family to be responsible stewards of time, talent and treasure.

The Province Development Office uses direct mail, donor relations, communications, and social media to raise funds for:

- Promoting the Word of the Cross and associate apostolates,
- Helping Province missionary endeavors,
- Recruiting candidates to the Passionist Community,
- Providing care for Passionists who are aging or in ill health, and
- Educating the public about the role of the Passionists in the Church and society.

The Province Development Office also assists Province ministry sites with their own development programs, particularly with the handling of more complex types of charitable giving.

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

- Preparing, reviewing and distributing monthly Province Offices' financial statements to the Extended Council,
- Working with our Investment Advisory Committee and Province Investment Consultant, IPEX, to advise on the management of our Province investment portfolio,
- Managing banking relationships for Province entities,
- Preparing for and completing the annual independent audit of the Province Offices' financial statements performed by Plante Moran,
- Assisting vowed members with Medicare/Medicaid/Social Security benefits,

- Reviewing community and retreat center financial performance and reporting on same to the Extended Council, and
- Offering guidance and consultation on various issues, including human resources, risk management, insurance, taxation and accounting.

CHALLENGES FACING THE PROVINCE OFFICES

Going forward, the Province Offices' ability to support new and existing Province ministries today and in the future is being challenged by the following:

- The aging and health of our vowed members.
- The aging of the U.S. general population and our donors.
- The significant investment of time and effort needed to recruit and fund vocations, both vowed and lay.
- The future return on our investment portfolio as impacted by market volatility.
- The need to be flexible in responding to a rapidly changing global environment.
- The ongoing need to find ways to keep the Passionists relevant for today, by being synodal and listening to our Passionist Family.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

New challenges, either internal or external ones, face us every day at the Province Offices. 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 produce a favorable resolution to the challenge. Some challenges take longer than others to resolve, but the laity and vowed of the Province Offices work together 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 Chapter.

The Province Offices:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ross Anthos, Office Services | Susan Arvanitis, Controller |
| Loretta Ciesielski, Administrative Assistant | Pat DePaola, Donor Relations Team |
| Ryan Gold, Social Media Consultant | Robin Heart, Donor Relations Team |
| Phil Jackson, Donor Relations Team | Christopher Jungers, Donor Relations Team |
| Angela Kwasinski, Director of Donor Relations | Joe Moons, C.P., Provincial Superior |
| Kristine Richter, Director of Marketing | Chris Rodriguez, Finance Manager |
| John Schork, C.P., Province Treasurer | Claire Smith, Director of Communications |
| Katie Staunton, Donor Relations Team | Elizabeth Velarde, Policy Governance |
| Carolyn Wagner, Donor Relations Team | Don Webber, C.P., Director of OME |
| Keith Zekind, Director of Finance and Executive Director of Development | |

PASSIONIST MISSION OFFICE
Loretta Ciesielski - Mission Director

The Mission Office is the arm of the Province that engages with Arch/Diocesan Mission Offices in order to secure invitations to take part in the "Missionary Cooperative Plan" (MCP) of the Arch/Diocese(s).

Since 2019, Loretta Ciesielski, Provincial Office Administrative Assistant, has been responsible for the work of the Mission Office. She is responsible for all the tasks of this Office: letters to the Arch/Diocesan Mission Offices; contacting the pastor of the parishes assigned to the Passionists for the Missionary Cooperation Plan appeals; asking the vowed religious who are available to preach the weekend appeals to accept the assigned parishes and so much more!

Letters of request, from the Provincial, Joe Moons, C.P., and the mission director, Loretta Ciesielski, are written asking to be accepted into the MCP program, that are sent in September to the Arch/Dioceses where our vowed religious are located, or in close proximity to our locations. These letters do not ensure an affirmative response. Usually, the invitation from the different mission offices are made during the months of January to March.

Once the letter of acceptance and the parishes assigned to us is received, the work begins! Dates are arranged with pastors in the light of the availability of preachers. The availability of our men to travel and preach several Masses over a weekend has decreased in the last four years. We have been fortunate to call upon our Indian Passionists to help us with the appeals. Several Arch/Dioceses request bi-lingual preachers. We are limited in that regard but have managed to cover a significant number of appeals in both English and Spanish.

A new experience in 2022 was a Korean Parish and a Polish Parish given to us for the MCP appeals. That was accomplished by the preacher giving his talk ahead of time to be translated into Korean and Polish. The missioner and the parish made accommodations with the presentation of the homily/talk that were very well accepted.

The COVID experience the past three years had a great impact on our Mission Appeals. Several dioceses cancelled all mission appeals. Because of fewer persons attending Church in person, the donations were less. At the same time, there were some generous unexpected donations received the past three MCP summer appeals.

Basic statistics for the Missionary Cooperative Plan Appeals 2019-2022:

| | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|
| 2019 | 30 parishes | \$126,468.00 |
| 2020 | 7 parishes | \$15,715.00 |
| 2021 | 16 parishes | \$83,359.00 |

2022 22 parishes \$67,500.00 as of 02/13/23

In conclusion, the Mission Office of the Province depends on the acceptance by the Arch/Diocesan Mission Offices and our vowed religious who are willing to give of their time during the summer months to travel and preach at weekend Masses. I am grateful to all the Passionist preachers that have traveled and preached the mission appeals these past four years.



The Passionist Community at Sacred Heart Retreat

The Passionists of Holy Cross Province 1924 Newburg Road Louisville, KY 40205

PROVINCE HEALTH AND AGING ADVISORY BOARD (PHAAB)

Kurt Wernert, C.P. – Director of Senior Care

The Province Health and Aging Advisory Board (PHAAB) serves to advise the leadership of Holy Cross Province in matters concerning the health and well-being of its vowed members. The PHAAB meets quarterly at Sacred Heart Community in Louisville and via Zoom.

The PHAAB has been responsible for composing and revising the following documents:

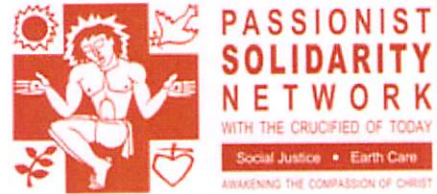
- The Annual Wellness Review;
- The Province Plan for Health and Well-being;
- Senior Care Welcome Booklet which outlines the dimensions of care in Louisville;
- Considerations When Exploring Concerns of Health and Well-Being, a guide for leaders to plan for and address healthcare needs in their communities; and
- Recommendations for Staying Healthy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PHAAB is currently discussing:

- Improving and expediting each man's access to Medicare and Medicaid benefits;
- Developing further ministerial and personal enrichment opportunities for those residing in Louisville; and
- Ways in which the Senior Care Team in Louisville can better support men throughout the Province with health conditions.

Finally, individual PHAAB members have generously provided their expertise and time regarding healthcare matters upon the request of the Provincial and local superiors.

PHAAB members are: Co-chairs: Julia Senn-Reeves, DNP, APRN, and Kurt Wernert, C.P.; Capper Rademaker, MD; Mary Ann Burkardt, SCN; Jim Byrne; John Monzyk, C.P.; and David Colhour, C.P., Provincial Council Liaison.



PASSIONIST SOLIDARITY NETWORK (PSN)

Michael Nasello & Jim Wayne

- **Basic Description and purpose of Passionist Solidarity Network (PSN)**

The Passionist Solidarity Network reflects the Passionist Charism of remembering Jesus's Passion by entering into solidarity with the crucified of today: the Earth, and those who are marginalized, minimized and minoritized by our social, political and economic systems.

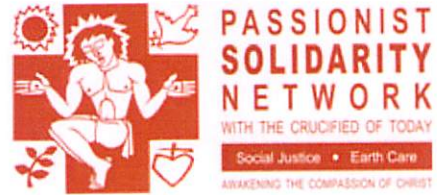
Our mission is to engage the Passionist Family — vowed and lay — in the social ministry and Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) work of the Passionist Provinces of St. Paul of the Cross and Holy Cross, in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean.

List of Committee Members

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Michael Nasello, Director | Jim Wayne, Acting Chair |
| Joe Mitchell, C.P. - Chair (on sabbatical) | Chris Gibson, C.P. |
| Lissa Romell | Patty Gillis |
| Annemarie O'Connor | Steve Dunn, C.P. |
| Alex Steinmiller, C.P. | Paul Wadell |
| Alfredo Ocampo-Mata, C.P. - HCP Liaison | Anthony Mullen |
| Marta Salgado-Niño | Hugo Esparza-Perez, C.P. |
| Jim O'Shea, C.P. - SPC Liaison | Joe Moons, C.P. |

- **Areas of achievement/success PSN would like to highlight**

- Partnership with Laudato Si' Action group:
 - Congregational collaboration in the creation of 6-brochure international series: *Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross*.
 - Interprovincial partnership including the joint launch of Laudato Sí Action Platform (LSAP) and joint sessions of *Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross* reflection groups.
- Began synodal process on PSN issues of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation through a successful Thought Exchange survey, commitment to continuing the conversations inspired there and developing a renewed PSN strategic plan.
- Significant contributions to the development of Holy Cross Province's Statement on Cultural and Racial Diversity.
- Ongoing advocacy on significant issues: for example, a call for the Biden administration to withdraw support for violent attacks on civilians in Peru, a call



for United States to allocate sufficient funds to back the COP 27 Climate Change commitments, a call for the Afghan government to halt plans to execute 19 year old male who was found guilty of “crimes against God” (protesting the government restrictions on women taking part in educational activities) and for United States government to do likewise, developing a response to the ongoing racially motivated violence across the United States, most recently the murder of Tyre Nichols, etc.

- **Challenges PSN will be facing**

- Engaging youth and young adults in Laudato Si’ conversations and in future PSN initiatives.
- Networking among Passionist ministries to keep alive a keen sense of mission to the crucified of today through the lens of justice, peace and integrity of creation.
- Creating and maintaining a “live” directory to enable and encourage communication, interaction, mutual support and sharing of best practices.
- Raising the public visibility of our Passionist Charism through advocacy efforts and getting support to take the lead on some issues, more than just signing on with others.
- Making PSN integral to the life of everyone in the Passionist Family, its diverse gatherings and various ministries, especially through ongoing education programs and presentations at province gatherings (Assemblies, Chapters, etc.).
- Recognizing we cannot do everything.

- **Hopes / Future Projects of PSN**

- Re-imagining the physical manifestations of our Passionist Mission to the marginalized in today’s world and the forms of ministry this might take.
- Moving from individual ministries to interconnected, mutually sustaining Passionist ministries in solidarity with the crucified. Recent survey results from Holy Cross Province indicate the highest degree of commitment to the following:
 - Care for Creation and Climate Change, and
 - Creating a more Inclusive Church.
- Joining hands, resources and commitment at the “margins”, moving the peripheries to the center - “Enlarging the space of our tent!” by diversifying our PSN board to fully represent the diversity of both provinces.
- Continuing to build inter-provincial collaboration and infrastructure to support JPIC concerns and work.

HOLY CROSS PROVINCE

MEMBERSHIP

2019 - 2022

Holy Cross Province Membership

| Members | Priests | Brothers | Deacons | Students | Residents | Total |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-------|
| 2019 | 40 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 49 |
| 2022 | 31 | 6 | 1 | | | 38 |

Age by Percent

| 90+ | 80-89 | 70-79 | 60-69 | 50-59 | 40-49 | 30-39 | 20-29 | Total |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 12 | 16 | 3 | 5 | 2 | | | 38 |
| | 31% | 42% | 7% | 13% | 5% | | | |

Average Age = 74

Median Age = 76

General Statistics

| | Professions | Ordinations | Deaths | Departures |
|------|-------------|-------------|--------|------------|
| 2019 | | | 10 | 4 |
| 2022 | | 2 | 11 | 1 |

Deaths 2019 – 2022

Ward Biddle 02-13-2019
Randal Joyce 09-22-2019
Alfonso San Juan 09-29-2019
Simon Herbers 02-11-2020
Peter Berendt 09-09-2020
Sebastian MacDonald 01-01-2021
Alan Phillip 03-04-2021
Ronald Corl 07-03-2021
George Stanfield 08-08-2021
Ronan Newbold 03-06-2022
Donald Senior 11-08-2022

Ordinations

Nicholas Divine 03-07-2021
Phillip Donlan 05-14-2022

Departures

Giuseppe Barbieri 06-10-2021

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

December 2022

BIRMINGHAM

Holy Family

Phillip Paxton Fr
Patricio Manosalvas Fr (MAPRAES)
Robert Weiss Fr

CHICAGO

St Vincent Strambi

David Colhour Fr
Arthur Carrillo Fr
Samuel Joseph (PAUL)
Francis Keenan Fr
Tu Jin Kim Fr
Cristian Martinez Montalvo (PAUL)
Alfredo Ocampo Fr
Conor Quinn (PATR)
Jonathan Ramos Torres (PAUL)
Robin Ryan Fr (PAUL)
Donald Webber Fr

CITRUS HEIGHTS

Christ the King

James Strommer Fr
Thomas Bonacci Fr (PAUL)
John Conley Fr
Phillip Donlan Fr
John Hilgert Fr
Carl Hund Br
Joseph Moons Fr

DETROIT

St Paul of the Cross

Enno Dango Fr
Patrick Brennan Fr
James Griffith Dcn
Raymond Sanchez Br
Alex Steinmiller Fr

HOUSTON

Holy Name

John Schork Fr
Antonio Curto Fr (MAPRAES)
Blaise Czaja Fr
Nicholas Divine Fr
Cedric Pisegna Fr

LOUISVILLE

Sacred Heart

John Monzyk Br
Justin Nelson Alphonse Fr (THOM)
Vimal Backiyaraj Fr (THOM)
Robert Crossmyer Fr
John Patrick Day Fr
Christopher Gibson Fr
Eric Meyer Fr
Jerome Milazzo Br
Joseph Mitchell Fr
Kenneth O'Malley Fr
Richard Parks Fr
Kurt Wernert Br

SIERRA MADRE

Mater Dolorosa

Bruno D'Souza Fr (THOM)
Febin Barose Fr (THOM)
Clemente Barrón Fr
Michael Higgins Fr
John Rockenbach Br

ROME

Casa Generalizia dei Passionisti

John Baptist Ormechea Fr

KOREA

Richard Thompson, Fr
Laurence Finn, Fr

OFFICE OF MISSION EFFECTIVENESS (OME)

Don Webber, C.P. - Director

Description and History

The Office of Mission Effectiveness (OME) 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. At the end of the 2019 Chapter, the participants listed several Calls to Action Statements. In the Formation section, OME was encouraged to be a valuable role in vowed and lay formation, establish co-directors, and to help create a formal formation program for all, to review the purpose of OME and expand its charter. The OME has had four Directors since 2007.

A 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

Started in 2018, the Monthly Reflections have continued to the present time. They are emailed to all the Passionist Family of Holy Cross Province and a few have been reprinted in the Passionist International Bulletin. The reasons for these reflections are to highlight the many people who serve, support and promote the Passionist Charism and to demonstrate the depth and vitality of the Passionist Charism within the Passionist Family. This Monthly Reflection is now published bi-monthly.

In September of 2019 a formation program was conducted at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center. It was presented by Don Webber, C.P., Faith Offman and Richard Burke, C.P. (Eastern Province). The recommendation was made to offer the program at other sites. COVID impeded that type of face-to-face program.

In late 2019, OME published a second volume of the *Transformed by Love* pamphlets. The second pamphlet was titled “What Is...” and tried to respond to the many questions people had: What Is a Charism?, What is a Province or a Congregation?, What is a Configuration?, etc.

At the beginning of February 2020, OME joined with Angie Kwasinski (Donor Relations) to prepare a local celebration of the 300th Jubilee. The event was conducted at St. Paul of the Cross parish in Park Ridge, Illinois, with an evening meal for special donors and helpers. It was well attended and much appreciated. Several posters created for this event were shared with other locations.

During 2020, the retreat boards suggested that OME produce videos that retreat center boards and other groups could use for group and personal formation on the values of St. Paul of the Cross. Five topics have been chosen: Life of St. Paul of the Cross, Expansion of the Congregation, Passionists Come to America, Holy Cross Province and The Passionist Family. This project is about sixty-percent completed.

OME has taken on the responsibility of organizing the annual Catholic Theological Union (CTU) Summer Class and Passionist Formation in the month of June. This is a full-time, one-week program. For example, the participants attend a CTU class in the morning, a Passionist formation session in the afternoon and an evening reflection session. The Provincial invites people and OME gets them registered, selects the academic class and confirms the formation presenter and facilitator for evening reflections. When the pandemic began, this program continued via Zoom, which allowed us to invite more people. This summer program will probably continue via Zoom in 2024 so that there can be more participants. The program is not planned during a Chapter year.

OME began Passionist Family Formation e-Learning in 2021. This is a six-month program with open registration. The presenter for each monthly session is a professor from Catholic Theological Union. This gives the Passionist Family an opportunity to expand their understanding of contemporary theology and our Passionist Charism (Scripture, Morals, History, Liturgy, Mission, etc.). This effort has brought together laity and vowed from both provinces, as well as a few from other countries.

In 2019, the Chapter recommended adding the position of co-director. As the Board began its search, it became clear that those we believed capable of fulfilling the position at this time were already asked to take on other projects for the Province.

The Board did create a draft model for Stages of Passionist Formation, which would give a process for those who want to be more involved in the Passionist Charism and ministry. This model has not been finalized at this time. The document “The Passionist Way” that came from the Charism visionary group is of great benefit in understanding charism formation.

Don Webber, C.P., and David Colhour, C.P., have been working on an easy access to Passionist resources through the “Learn” tab on our website, www.passionist.org, (Letters of Paul of the Cross, St. Paul of the Cross biographies, histories of the Congregation and Province, presentations [audio or video], Passionist saints, etc.) Many materials have been uploaded.

Challenges

The challenges for the immediate future will be to complete the work on the document for The Stages of Passionist Formation, the videos for formation sessions, a friendly/workable site for

accessing Passionist resources, continuing our relationship with Catholic Theological Union and aligning, as needed, OME with the vision(s) determined by the next Provincial Chapter.

Another constant challenge is to secure the OME Board membership. The Board has been and continues to be excellent, representing several geographic and apostolic sites. At present the lay members are Jean Bowler, Bob Hotz, Faith Offman and Angie Kwansinski; the vowed members are Don Webber, C.P., (Director), Enno Dango, C.P., Don Ware, C.P., (Eastern Province) and Dave Colhour, C.P., (Provincial liaison). Four of the members will need to be replaced this year as their term limits have or will expire.

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 lay together are carriers of a fuller expression of our Passionist Charism as we actively reimagine our future as a Passionist Family.

Together, we stand at the Cross and contemplate what God and humanity are asking of us today in order to keep alive the memory of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ as the greatest act of God's love. We believe that OME can be one source of renewing and revitalizing our Passionist Charism and Mission with gratitude, prophecy and hope (47th General Chapter).

PASSIONIST FORMATION ALUMNI COUNCIL

Michael Owens

- *A basic description of the Alumni Council and its purpose.*

Who are the Passionist formation alumni? We have attended one or more phases of Passionist formation including high school, novitiate, college and theology. Currently we have 190 registered lay and vowed members. Our mission is to celebrate the camaraderie of the shared charism and experience and be enriched by the diversity of our lives as they have unfolded since, through interactive opportunities, shared family and community experiences and renewed relationships with the men and women of Holy Cross Province.

The Alumni Council works on behalf of the alumni and includes 11 alumni, one of whom is a vowed liaison to the Province, plus two Province Office representatives. The Alumni Council has four working committees: Family Events, Alumni Profile and Recruitment, Passionist Companions, and CrossRoads Newsletter/Alumni Website. We meet every other month via Zoom.

The Alumni Council members are: Ray Alonzo, Jim Byrne, Carl DeLage, Jack Dermody, Bob Duffield, Phil Jackson, Carl Middleton, Don Noltemeyer, Mike Owens, Richard Padilla, John Schork, C.P., Claire Smith and Bob Yeargin.

Areas of achievement/success for the Alumni Council and the Alumni.

Family Events

- Conducted two in-person reunions and one virtual reunion:
 - 2019 Detroit - St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Conference and Retreat Center. 100 alumni and guests attended.
 - 2021 Virtual Reunion via Zoom. 63 alumni participated.
 - 2022 Louisville - Sacred Heart Community/St. Agnes Parish. 93 alumni and guests attended.
- Supported multiple regional gatherings:
 - St. Louis ArchAngels bi-monthly dining group.
 - Louisville Monday breakfast group
 - Regular Zoom gatherings for the Indiana-Illinois-Wisconsin alumni.
 - Regular Zoom gatherings with John Monzyk, C.P., at Sacred Heart Community.

Alumni Profile and Recruitment

- Maintained and increased the membership database including contact information and formation history.
- Maintained a professionally designed and ongoing information management system of surveys and feedback modules to encourage and develop consensus among alumni.

Passionist Companions

- After four years of planning, the pilot version of the Passionist Companions initiative was introduced during the 2022 reunion. The purpose of the Passionist Companions is to form faith sharing communities that meet virtually each month to pray together, to share, to study the spiritual life and to participate in on-going formation with special emphasis on the spirit of the Passionist Charism. Participants will have opportunities for socializing and celebrating Passionist feast days, as well as volunteering to serve at Passionist retreat centers, Passionist parishes, schools and its Mission Outreach.

CrossRoads Newsletter/Alumni Website

- Published 10 issues of CrossRoads, the alumni association's periodic newsletter, to build community and share the energy and the charism with each other.
- Updated various pages in the alumni section of the Province website.
- Created and maintained a directory of biographies of living and deceased, vowed and lay Passionist alumni on the alumni website.

Mission Advancement

- Conducted two mission advancement projects:
 - *2021 Fr. Hugo's Food Ministry in Haiti.* Financial gifts were made via a virtual bike tour of Haiti. A total of \$20,010 was sent to Fr. Hugo Esparza-Perez, C.P., to support families in desperate need of food.
 - *2022 Colegio Guadalupe in Mexico.* Financial gifts, refurbished computers plus school desks and chairs were donated by the alumni to assist the Passionist Sisters in repairing hurricane damage to their grade school in Agua Prieta, Mexico. A total of \$19,730 was shared for the Sisters' ministry to educate and protect young children from the dangers on the US/Mexican border. Initiatives included a virtual bike tour from San Diego, CA, to Agua Prieta and a Super Bowl 'split-the-pot' pool.
- Gifted a total of \$8,613 to the local Passionist communities and selected initiatives from the surplus registration income and additional gifts from our in-person reunions.
- A current working group is close to proposing a systemic mission advancement community as an “action-oriented community of Passionist alumni and companions supporting specific Passionist mission programs serving the poor of Jesus.”

Relationship with Holy Cross Province

- Support of Province initiatives:
 - Contributed articles for the OME plus interviews and articles for the Province magazine.
 - Provided ongoing contributions to the Daily Scripture Reflections on the Province website.
 - Participated in the Passionist Way committee, the Laudato Sí committee and contributed to the Inclusion and Diversity efforts in the Province.

- Led the 2022 Advent Evening of Recollection.
- Contributed reflections for Advent and Lent meditations.
- Participated in Province Assemblies, e-learning sessions, and committee meetings.
- Provided financial support to Province life and ministries.
- Some alumni directly work with the Province Vocation Director.
- Involvement and leadership in local Community of Passionist Partners group
- Support from the Provincial Office:
 - Awarded Honorary Alumni designations to Claire Smith and Phil Jackson in appreciation of their ongoing contributions to the alumni association.
 - Design and implementation of alumni pages on the Province website.
 - Graphics support including CrossRoads newsletter design plus reunion registration and photography.
 - Use of Jotform event registration and survey software.
 - Access to Province facilities for gatherings.
 - Use of a Zoom account for the Passionist Companions meetings.
- ***What are the challenges the Alumni Council is facing?***
 - Our primary challenges are that we are an aging group (2022 reunion attendees averaged 74 years) and, given the few students in formation, our membership will decrease (absent adding as members those who never were in formation.)
 - A related concern is that as the needs of our Alumni members change, how should we evolve to meet those needs.
 - We encourage more participation of vowed alumni members (who are enthusiastically welcomed), especially at our reunions. There is enormous goodwill for them.

What are the future hopes for the Alumni Council?

- We are very excited for the future of the Passionist Companions and hope that this initiative grows into a vibrant element within the Passionist Family.
- We want to maintain current relationships and discover new connections within the Passionist Family of Holy Cross Province.
- We are planning to sponsor periodic alumni retreats at the Province retreat centers. We want to complete our 3-year planning process to assure that we are being relevant to our alumni membership and meeting their social and spiritual needs.

We, the formation alumni of Holy Cross Province, are proud to be contributing members of the Passionist Family. May God abundantly bless the 2023 Provincial Chapter.

PROVINCE VOCATION MINISTRY
John Schork, C.P. – Vocation Director



- **Basic Description of “Vocation Director”:**

There is no basic written description of “vocation director”. My assignment letter of July 15, 2019, was based on various conversations with the Provincial, Fr. Joe Moons, C.P. He primarily encouraged promoting vowed vocations, as well as lay vocations to the Passionist Family, which I have understood as a general outreach through our various ministries, the Formation Alumni group, the Development outreach, Community of Passionist Partners, etc.

The handbook, *Vocation and Admission Policies and Practices For Becoming a Vowed Passionist* (updated edition of September 2020), pg. 5, states the Vocation Director as responsible for the Province Vocation Office, which includes: (a) organizing and supporting the vocation ministry of the Province; (b) supporting all those who assist the Province Vocation Office; (c) working with Province personnel in promoting and developing vocation ministry; (d) initiating Province-wide vocation programming; and (e) paying particular attention to minority vocations, cultural awareness among Province vocation ministers.

- **Areas of Achievement / Success:**

- Response to / interacting with the 150+ inquiries received via various means (internet, in-person events, referrals by vocation team members). To date, no inquirers have requested entry into residency.
- Updated much of our digital and print vocation media, especially our web site.
- Promoted vocation awareness in various aspects of Province life: the assigned “vocation team”, our retreat centers and parishes, our itinerant preachers, our Passionist Formation Alumni, with the active CPP groups (Nashville and Houston).
- In September 2020 updated and expanded the handbook, *Vocation and Admission Policies and Practices for Becoming a Vowed Passionist*, with Provincial Council review and approval.
- Collaboration of Vocation Ministry with the Province Communications and Development Offices has been very important. Of special note: the vocation promotion “event” of November 2022, by the Development Office.
- Increasing involvement of our Passionist Formation Alumni in vowed vocation promotion by their prayer and local promotion activities.
- Networking with national and local vocation ministers (National Religious Vocation Conference [NRVC], various Arch/diocesan groups, etc.). By involvement in programs and with other vocation directors, we learned from others and shared our Passionist experience, even being highlighted in a few publications.
- The Provincial has formed an active vowed / lay “vocation committee” to promote the Passionist Family in general, including men and women who are lay and vowed.

Creativity and insight are being generated for new approaches to public relations, welcoming and Charism / vocation efforts.

- Some additional restricted funds for vowed vocation ministry have been generated by our Province Development Office.

- **The Challenges Being / To Be Faced:**
 - Looking at our Province history: The Province has 5 vowed vocations in the last 18 years that have persevered. This is an ongoing challenge of vocation promotion and initial formation, like other men's communities.
 - The impact of COVID-19 on general Church participation, and thus vowed vocation promotion by means of in-person vocational programs. In-person has suffered; electronic communication has much improved and has proven helpful.
 - A consideration of the witness / attraction of our vowed Passionist life. The *2020 NRVC Study of Religious Life Today* highlighted in detail the importance in vocation discernment of (a) spirituality / charism; (b) style of community life; (c) common liturgical and devotional prayer; (d) example and welcome of members; and (e) ministries – all in that order of importance. How are we coming across?
 - Aging of current vowed members (in The Province, 10 of 36 vowed under age 70); multiple levels of ministries / “multiple hats” – especially for current vocation team members. Challenge of time and energy.
 - Outreach to Hispanic and Asian cultures for vocation promotion.
 - Continued development and use of social media for vocation awareness.

- **Hopes / Future Projects for the Vocation Office:**
 - Building upon the ideas generated by the current “vocation committee”.
 - Increased focused outreach to vocation promotion in our retreat centers, parishes, in our mass media and by our itinerant preachers. Encourage active vocation promotion committees / activities at the institutions we serve.
 - Wider / enhanced use of social media.
 - In-person and/or online vocation programs, such as “Come and See”, regular discernment conversations, “Vocation Voices” / personal stories, etc. Resources are available to us via the NRVC.
 - Increased Province outreach to youth and young adults.
 - Possibly a younger full-time vocation director with fewer involvements in other ministries.
 - Greater collaboration with the vocational efforts of St. Paul of the Cross Province, and with the Passionist Nuns and Sisters.
 - An office location in the Midwest of the Province, with minimal part-time administrative and organizational assistance.

- A day-long Province “program” to focus on vocation awareness and promotion, preferably in-person.
- An openness to the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit!