

January 2024

Passionist News Notes

St. Paul of the Cross Province



Have a Blessed Christmas



Fr. David Cinquegrani, C.P.
Director, Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center

[VIDEO](#)



Day	Passionists
9	CLEARY, Christopher
10	GEINZER, Patrick
27	AVILES MERCADO, Javier Montalvo

48 Insane Hours in Haiti - 1 month ago



VIDEO

Haiti, and it's people **NEED** your Prayers

St Luke Foundation and Fr. Rick **NEED** your Prayers & your Support



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An Advent Message from Fr Rick

Dear Family and Friends,

Advent, robed in purple, holds up before us the heaviness of pain.
Advent, robed in rose, holds up before us the yearning for Eternal Peace.
Purple is the heavy darkness of life under gang rule in Haiti.

Rose lights up the small victories over gang rule, like making it through another day, or freeing someone vulnerable from humiliating bondage.

Purple dominated last week's celebrations of the "Day of Disabled Persons", when I was summoned by a notorious gang leader to meet him in the scrublands for "something urgent."

I imagined some stressful scenarios. and I was uneasy for reasons too numerous to mention.
As we drove off road, once again the power of the rosary kept me centered.

We were instructed to stop in an isolated area, and his heavily armed vehicle raced up to mine on the dusty unpaved road, in intimidating fashion.

Although worried, I stood to meet the car with my chest out, my arms crossed and my face set like flint in his direction. I was as ready as I could be for "something urgent."

The door opened, and to my surprise the gang leader was not even in the vehicle.
Instead, two men blind from birth were helped out of the car, and were led to me.
Out of fear, they live together with ten other blind people in one house, since Port-au-Prince has become so terribly dangerous.

They explained to me they were evicted from the house for inability to pay another years rent, and they had heard this gang leader speak on the radio about "Viv Ansam," which kind of means "all for one and one for all."

They decided to find him, and ask him to pay their rent.
With their white canes, they walked into these scrublands, heavily controlled by gangs.

The walked slowly and confidently into the place where the police cannot enter, where army tanks avoid, where even angels dare to tread.

Arriving at the compound of "the godfather," they asked for his help.
Totally astounded, he had them sit down, offered something to eat, and listened intently to their story.

He said he could help them by putting them in the hands of someone who could help them.
And there I was down the road, and he was right, and the clouds changed from purple to rose,

A bad man turned a good deed for people who claim they cannot to see, and yet who have never lost sight of hope.

They live together in fear, and yet faced a notorious criminal with courage and the words, "we heard your good words, and we believe you will help us."

The disabilities in this story vanished for a moment, both moral and physical.
The bandits and the blind were suddenly out of their habitual roles, and light broke in through the cracks.

The Scriptures are full of such surprises, and most of these stories are about an ascent from pain.

The pain of things that happen to us because life is life.

The pain inflicted on us by the cruelty of other people.

The pain of our self loathing which becomes habitual.

The pain of suffering the consequence of our destructive choices.

The pain that leaves us empty of meaning, as we ask over and over again why is this happening?

Personal suffering can also be part of the heavier darkness of the pain of a whole Nation, where atrocities are rampant and in flagrant violation of human rights.

The list of nations and communities in torment today is not a short list.

You are probably aware, there will be no Christmas in Bethlehem itself this year, for reasons that are tragic.

The Advent lessons on pain continue:

Enduring pain can be dangerous and destructive.

Enduring pain can be creative, leading the heart into the merciful Governance of God, who is

"Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."(Isaiah 9:6)

The Advent Liturgies propose that the dark clouds of pain are similar to the darkness over the waters in Genesis, out of which God created life, beauty, goodness and truth.

We are invited to bear the darkest suffering with the fiercest hope.

The iPhone can't do this for you.

There is no App for it.

The starting point is to accept the reality of your spiritual nature,
and with openness to Grace,
to discover (not define) who God is
and how God is working in your life.

The people of Haiti are living a very dark phase of history.

The gangs and their criminal sponsors accumulate their fortunes by stealing relentlessly from the people and from public institutions, and accumulate their power by keeping guns pointed and everyone terrorized.

The prophet Daniel astutely describes the abomination of power based on corruption, violence and destruction.

He interprets the dream of an enemy king, who has a vision of a massive, terrifying statue.

The head is gold, the chest and arms are silver, the thighs are bronze, the legs are iron,
and the feet are made of cheap clay.

The gangs in Haiti forge their power and impose a menacing presence by the "gold, silver, and bronze" of their ransoms and extortions, and violent crimes against humanity.

Their iron weapons slaughter the rich and the poor alike, they force kidnapped victims into hell holes and exact ransoms that bring families to their financial ruin.

They force tens of thousands of internal refugees, some of them the poorest people on earth, to flee from their homes, time and time again, in sheer terror. Many run from them to their death.

Gang rule destroys all social fabric, all economy, all civilized ways of living.

As the king looks in fear at the abomination, an invisible hand throws a stone at the feet of the statue.
The clay breaks to pieces, the precious metals of the powerful body crash to the ground,
and the smashed bits are blown away like dead leaves without a trace of anything to be found.

Then, the stone thrown by the invisible hand becomes a great mountain, and fills the earth.

Who will throw that stone?

If the "who, when and which stone" are not guided by God, we will just be adding to the barrenness and rubble.
There will be no great and holy mountain after the blow. Only more destruction.

For most of us, our vocation, is not to deal the definitive apocalyptic blow to evil.

We are to manage the "in between" times, according to the blueprint of the Kingdom Jesus taught and lived.

We are to bear darkness as that befalls us with courage and hope, and move the darkness toward light.

We are to seek the most humanitarian and civilized ways to effect justice, reconciliation, peace and wellbeing.

It's a huge job, and we are, after all, just clay.

But rather than becoming the clay feet of huge but impressive falseness,
we can be moulded by the Potter's hand into useful vessels to God's glory,
as we are spun around and around on the difficult wheel of life.

Have a slow read of the Book of Wisdom, Chapter 17.

God really understands.

The luminous work of God continues unimpeded, with or without us,
but God wants it to be with us, by bringing light to darkness and being agents of hope.

Our own work here continues also, but greatly impeded.

But our commitment does not waver, and the fruit of our work is not small.

"As they pass through the bitter valley, they make it a place of springs." (Ps 84:6)

I wish for you and your families the practical wisdom of this Holy Season,
and every blessing at Christmas and in the New Year.

As always, we thank you for generous donations, which are real lifelines for people in anguish.

Fr Rick Frechette CP DO

Port au Prince, Haiti

December 10, 2023

Daniel Cadet CP, from Haiti, is in Formation in Jamaica NY



Office of the Provincial

THE PASSIONISTS

86-45 Edgerton Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432

Phone: 929.419.7500 ThePassionists.org

December 21, 2023

A people who walked in darkness, has seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2

Dear Brothers, Associates and Colleagues,

As the province mourns the loss of **Paul Chenot, CP**, and so much of the world walks in thick darkness, we are heartened to welcome **Daniel Cadet, CP** to New York to begin his English studies. As you know, Daniel has been attempting to secure a student visa from Haiti for the past year. Due to the ever-deteriorating situation in Haiti, this has proven next to impossible. The ultimately successful attainment of the visa was through much hard work and persistent networking.

I want to thank **Rick Frechette, CP** for indefatigably looking for a way to make this happen, networking with every possible relationship to finally prevail. I also want to recognize, as well, the commitment of **Jim Price, CP** to this process. Jim has also been Daniel's formation director, meeting with him weekly by Zoom to keep him connected to the Province and to encourage him in the difficult days. Together with Jim, **Lucy Guzman**, his assistant, has worked tirelessly to supply documents to Haiti and to coordinate with St. John's University in New York. We are all grateful for such an excellent effort on behalf of Daniel and his continuing formation in the Province.

As Daniel arrives in New York on Saturday, he leaves behind the intense pain and struggle of his people. With Rick as his mentor, Daniel has done heroic ministry in the most horrific of circumstances. Their witness is a brilliant light in the dogged darkness. They inspire us wherever we are and whatever ministry we undertake, to be bearers of the light especially to this most pained in our circles.

This Christmas we remember the people of Haiti who have suffered far too much and we pray for Rick and his team that they might receive the closeness of God promised in Bethlehem. May we all experience a blessed Christmas and may we continue to work for peace and justice.

In JXP

Father Jim O'Shea, CP
Provincial

Interfaith Peace Project

Fr Thomas Bonacci, CP Founder

<https://www.interfaithpeaceprojectlegacy.org/>



The logo for the Interfaith Peace Project is centered on a dark blue background. It features a circular arrangement of various religious symbols: a Star of David, a crescent moon and star, a Khanda, a cross, an Om symbol, a hand, a pentagram, a wheel, and a Shinto torii gate. The central text reads "Creating Peace Through Interfaith Understanding". Four key values are highlighted with diamond symbols: "Peace" at the top, "Dialogue" on the right, "Understanding" at the bottom, and "Cooperation" on the left. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: "Top of Page" (with a solid circle), "Welcome" (with an open circle), "Explore" (with an open circle), and "Contact" (with an open circle).

Fr. Paul Chenot C.P died, December 19, 2023

Dear Passionist Friends, Associates, Brothers and Fathers,

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Fr. Paul Chenot, C.P. died today, December 19, 2023 at the Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, New York.

Arrangements for his wake and funeral to be determined:



Rev. Paul Chenot, C.P.

Born: August 20, 1944, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

First Profession: August 15, 1965, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Final Profession: August 15, 1968, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Ordination: May 26, 1972, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

In Christ Crucified and Risen,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "O.M.", written in a cursive style.

Obituary for Reverend Father Paul A. Chenot, C.P.

Obituary for Reverend Father Paul A. Chenot, C.P. Father Paul Chenot, a Passionist priest, of the St. Paul of the Cross Province of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, died peacefully at the Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, New York in the early morning of December 19, 2023. Born on August 20, 1944, he was 79 years of age at the time of his death.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Anthony Joseph (AJ) Chenot and the late Grace Dillon Chenot. In addition to his brothers in religious life, Fr. Paul leaves his two sisters, Eileen Chenot and Gay Donovan. He also leaves his beloved nieces and nephews Kathleen, Meghan, Timothy, Kevin and Dillon.

Father Chenot graduated from South Hills Catholic High School in 1962. He then entered the Passionist Preparatory Seminary in Dunkirk, New York in 1962. From 1965 to 1968 he completed collegiate studies at St. Ann's Monastery in Scranton, Pennsylvania and in Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, New York. In 1970 he completed graduate studies at St. John's University achieving a degree as a Master of Theology and then in 1971 completed further graduate studies at St. Michael's Monastery in Union City, New Jersey.

Fr. Paul's first profession of vows to consecrated life with the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ was in 1965 at Saint Paul of the Cross Monastery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He became fully professed in 1968 and, in 1972, was ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1972 by Bishop Reginald Arliss, a Passionist bishop, at Saint Paul of the Cross Monastery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Father Chenot began his priestly ministry at St. Joseph's parish in Baltimore, Maryland serving there from 1972 to 1975. He then assumed a chaplaincy ministry at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center in Queens, New York between 1975 and 1978. In 1978 he became Rector of Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, New York exercising senior leadership there until 1986. He then ministered from 1986 to 1988 on behalf of youth at the St. Gabriel's Retreat Center in Shelter Island, New York.

Simultaneous to these ministries in the late 1970's and 1980's, Fr. Paul also ministered as Chaplain at the Dominican Commercial High School in Jamaica, Queens. From 1988 to 1990 he was part of the retreat team at Cardinal Spellman Retreat Center in Riverdale, New York. Fr. Paul had a particular commitment to ministry with those living with psychiatric needs. In 1990, he returned as Chaplain to Creedmoor Psychiatric Center continuing there for almost 30 years until retiring due to health concerns.

A beloved fan of the music group Grateful Dead, Fr. Paul found much wisdom in particularly favorite songs such as "Ripple" and "Eyes of the World".

Eyes of the World - Garcia-Hunter

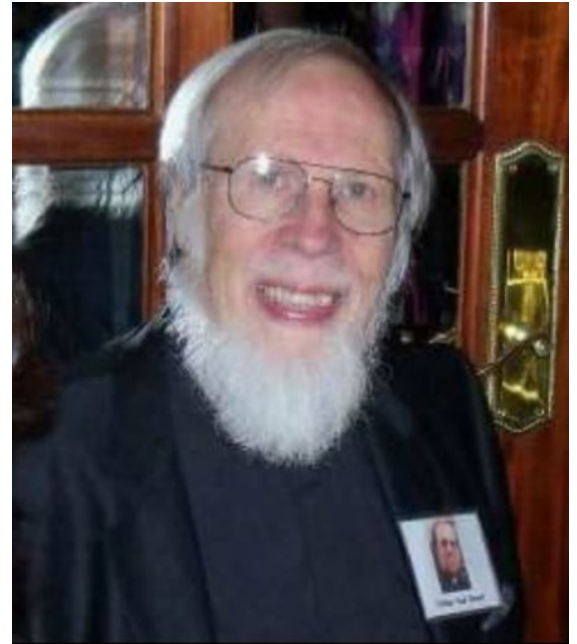
Wake up to find out that you are the eyes of the world. The heart has its beaches, its homeland, and thoughts of its own. Wake now, discover that you are the song that the morning brings, But the heart has its seasons, it's evenings and songs of its own.

Ripple - Hunter-Garcia

Reach out your hand if your cup be empty If your cup is full, may it be again. Let it be known there is a fountain That was not made by the hands of men.

Some Facebook Posts for Fr Paul Chenot

Today, the world lost a TRUE ANGEL ON EARTH, [Paul Chenot](#) ...and to all of us who adored him... "Father Paul". He passed away peacefully 😊. Father Paul was the chaplain at our high school, Dominican Commercial, but he was WAY MORE THAN THAT. He was a true friend to all of us...lending support from our teen years all the way through adulthood. When Father Paul heard of my Dad's passing, he drove up to Westchester. I turned around and he was there! When my Mom passed 4 years ago, he said the prayers at my Mom's wake. Luckily, we saw each other over the years, along with my D.C sisters sharing dinners, smiles, and lots of FUNNY STORIES. ARRANGEMENTS ARE PENDING. I will post as soon as I hear. Please say a prayer tonight. We lost a special one. God now has an



We lost a treasure today. Father Paul Chenot was the priest at our high school and a friend and encourager to so many of us throughout the years. When I decided to go to seminary, instead of belittling me like many other religious folks did, he was excited and supportive. He told me many times throughout the years that he was proud of me and my work. Father Paul, I have always been proud of you and your work. You have touched so many with your love, wisdom and gentle nature. You will be missed. Rest in peace and love, my friend ❤️ ❤️

It is with much sadness that my family and I announce the loss of our dear friend Fr. Paul. He took me to my very first Grateful dead concert. Shhhh he also let me smoke in his office at Dominican Commercial High School. He baptized my niece and nephews and facilitated at my mom's funeral service at St. Gregory's in 2019 even with his Oxygen Mask. That's the type of man he was. What he would say about his death is to Keep on Truckin. He was truly one of a kind and touched all of our hearts. For all the bad priests you hear about, he was among the best that you rarely do hear about. Thank you Fr. Paul for being our friend since 1979. He truly loved us all. God Bless and save a spot for me in Paradise. It must be amazing to be up there..... I'm sure you are enjoying talking to Jesus and Jerry Garcia. I enjoyed reading his yearly Christmas Card. Good guy!!!

Devastated to hear of the passing of my high school chaplain, Fr. Paul. A truly wonderful priest who "got us," and was always there to help us, listen, support and encourage. You will be sorely missed; we are grateful for you. May you rest in God's peace ❤️ 🙏

I worked in the Pastoral Services department at Creedmoor with Father Paul for many years. I am sorry to read of his passing. He will be sorely missed. 🙏 RIP Father Paul.

Passionist Family Formation e-Learning 2023-2024

Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross Provinces



JANUARY PRESENTATION & REGISTRATION

January 2024

Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross Provinces will offer the fourth of six presentations for our Passionist Family Formation e-Learning (PFFeL).

Virginia Blass, D.Min., M.A., M. Ed. is an experienced spiritual director, preacher, retreat master, teacher, and author. Her recent book, *Experiencing God's Compassion*, was published in August of 2022 by Paulist Press. She presently resides in New Hampshire.

At the heart of our spiritual journey, we discover God's never-ending desire to draw us into a loving relationship, and invite us to be 'carriers' of God's compassion for others in the reality of our lives. During our gathering, participants will be able to hear heart-felt stories of compassion with inspiring messages from scripture.

January 11, 2024	The Gift and Grace of God's Compassion Virginia Blass - Passionist Preaching Mission - Paul of the Cross Province
February 15, 2024	If You Want Peace, Work for Justice (3rd Thursday of February) Michael Nasello - Director of Passionist Solidarity Network
March 14, 2024	Keeping Memory of the Passion of Jesus Robin Ryan, C.P. - Professor of Theology (CTU)

Sessions are on second Thursday (except February) of the month and scheduled as follows:

7:30 -9:00 PM Eastern Time 5:30 -7:00 PM Mountain Time

6:30 -8:00 PM Central Time 4:30 -6:00 PM Pacific Time

REGISTRATION

Use this link to register for this series: <https://passionistshcp.wildapricot.org/event-5348404>

You will need to be registered (one time only) to receive a Zoom link for each live presentation.