

# Passionist News Notes

## St Paul of the Cross Province



June 2022

### The 51st Provincial Chapter Conference May 22-26

The Passionists of St Paul of the Cross Province (Eastern USA, Canada, Jamaica WI, Haiti and Puerto Rico) re-elected Fr. James O'Shea, CP as Superior Provincial, and elected his Council: Fr. James Price, CP as 1st Consultor, Fr. Enzo DelBrocco, CP, Fr. Anibal Rodriguez, CP, and Fr. William Murphy, CP. Congratulations to them and wishing the best in their endeavor for the coming 4 years the new council with Most Reverend Fr Joaquim Regó, CP, Superior General



Enzo DelBrocco, James Price, James O'Shea, Joaquim Regó Anibal Rodriguez, William Murphy,

June	Ordination
2	LEE, John Michael
	YOUNGBERG, Vincent
	CASHMAN, John
	PICCININI, Claudio
3	MCCANN, Thomas
	LABA, Gerald
	MURPHY, William
	RYAN, Robin
6	CONNOR, John
	BECK, Edward
	HAVEY, Lee
9	PRICE, James
12	CINQUEGRANI, David
13	DAUGHERTY, Patrick
	MAGUIRE, William
14	O'SHEA, James
15	GEINZER, Patrick
16	NSONGOLO, Gaston
18	SHORTER, Melvin
	FAGAN, Paul
	CLEARY, Christopher
19	CUSACK, Paul
	WALSH, Theodore
	HOAGLAND, Victor
23	OMOLO, Gilbert
25	ROWE, Michael
28	RECANA, Brando
29	AVILES MERCADO, Javier Montalvo
30	MONTANEZ LOPEZ, Jose Ramon

June	Birthday
2	HOAGLAND, Victor
6	CARBONNEAU, Robert
	MUTHENGI, John
9	BRISLIN, Thomas
12	DI FIORE, Leo
16	HALL, Edward
18	PABON, Jonathan Emanuel
22	SHORTER, Melvin
25	MORAN, Edwin

# Letter from Provincial about upcoming Chapter

May 11, 2022

Dear Capitulars, Brothers, Associates and Colleagues,

At the very beginnings of our Congregation, Paul of the Cross was developing a set of mission principles that guided the establishment of the community. Martin Bialis in his work, *The Mysticism of the Passion in St. Paul of the Cross*, writes of Paul's clear sense of priorities as the fledging congregation began to take shape. For the first 15 years of the communities' life and mission, Paul intentionally focused on the area surrounding Monte Argentario - the region of the Maremma – an area of grinding poverty, social chaos and, at the same time, experiencing a church in crisis due to the ignorance of the local clergy. It was this area that caught Paul's attention and called him to focus his efforts, and those of his companions. It was in the Maremma, where the Passionists shared the struggle of the people and, with them, created new and more effective methods to find new life in the Crucified One.

In Sacred Revelation, as well, Mission Principles and preferential focus have clearly driven the actions of God. The God of the Jewish scriptures could have chosen to stand with any group; however, the Divine Creator chose to be in solidarity with the beaten down slaves suffocating under the oppression of the Pharaoh. In the Christian scriptures, God, through Jesus, clearly chose to proclaim good news to the poor, liberty to prisoners, sight for the blind, and new hope for the oppressed. Jesus was clearly crucified for his life stance and his first principles for mission.

At our Pre-Chapter in January, I spoke about naming our mission principles for our Province as we enter our next phase of congregational being. I proposed three such 'mission principles' to guide us into the future. These principles were not 'invented' but are the very substance of our Charism that has emerged throughout these past three hundred years.

The three Principles, preceded by the inspirations of our Founder, are:

*Paul of the Cross was a mystic who desired to bring others to the experience of the Divine.*

**1.As Passionists, we will facilitate others to connect to the Divine through prayer and contemplation.**

*Paul of the Cross saw the name of Jesus written on the foreheads of the poor.*

**2.As Passionists, we will stand in solidarity with the 'Crucified of Today' in individual and corporate ministries.**

*Paul of the Cross listened to the 'sermon preached by the flowers, the tress, the sky, the sun and the whole world'.*

**3.As Passionists, we will listen to the 'Cry of the Earth' and respond to the challenge of Laudato Si.**

I would ask that as individuals and as communities, we might prayerfully consider these principles in preparation for the Chapter. At this 51st Chapter, we will present these principles, not for a vote, but for affirmation -that we might emerge from this Chapter having collectively voiced our assent to the ever-emerging Charism we have been gifted with for the service of the church and the world.

In JXP,



Father Jim O'Shea, CP  
Provincial

## The 51st Provincial Chapter Conference May 22-26

The 51st Provincial Chapter Conference is being held the week of May 22-26 at Thomas Berry Place in Jamaica, NY. Over 100 Passionist community members are coming together to address a myriad of key themes and issues for this Province.



## Final Profession for Fr. Curtis Kidd, C.P and Cristian Joel Martinez Montalvo, C.P.

May 23rd was a very special and most joyous day for the Passionist family at Immaculate Conception Church in Jamaica, New York. Most Rev. Joachim Rego, C.P. (Superior General of the Congregation of the Passion) was the Presiding Celebrant of the Eucharistic Liturgy Celebrating the Rite of Profession as Passionists for Curtis (Our Lady of Sorrows) Kidd, C.P. and Cristian Joel (Of the Crucified Love) Martinez Montalvo, C.P.



Most Rev. Joachim Rego, C.P. with Fr. Curtis Kidd, C.P and Cristian Joel Martinez Montalvo, C.P.



Fr. Curtis Kidd, C.P and Cristian Joel Martinez Montalvo, C.P.

# Father Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D. to be a 2022 Summer Affiliated Research Fellow.



Office of the Provincial

## THE PASSIONISTS

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May 10, 2022

Greetings to my fellow Passionists, Associates and Friends,

I am pleased to announce that The Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at Boston College has awarded Father Rob Carbonneau, C.P., Ph.D. to be a 2022 Summer Affiliated Research Fellow. The Summer 2022 program runs from the beginning of June until the end of August.

In 2012 The Ricci Institute, which recently relocated to Boston College from The University of San Francisco (USF), and St. Paul of the Cross Province entered a relationship to digitize the entire Passionist China Collection (PCC): 10,000 photos and 60,000 documents. This was completed at the USF Ricci Institute in 2015. During this project, Rob represented the academic interests of the Passionists in the completion of this task.

In his capacity as a 2022 Summer Affiliated Research Fellow, Rob will be an academic mentor for Dr. Lang Wang from China. She will be one of the visiting postdoctoral Fellows this summer. Her intent is to use the PCC for her research; she specifically applied to come to The Ricci Institute to study the Passionists contribution to the missionary endeavor in China. Rob will also assist and enliven the research and cultural experience of the thirteen international summer scholars in 2022. He will advise and mentor emerging scholars who wish to use the PCC and understand Christianity in twentieth-century China. Finally, he will assist The Ricci Institute as it develops ongoing program outreach at Boston College.

Rob Carbonneau will reside at the Assumptionist Center, 330 Market St, Brighton, MA 02135

His email is [robcarb@cprov.org](mailto:robcarb@cprov.org); cell phone: 443-986-3834.

The Passionist Historical Archives website is [www.passionistarchives.org](http://www.passionistarchives.org)

In JXP,

Very Reverend James O'Shea, CP  
Provincial

## Death Notice for Fr. Jack Douglas, C.P.

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Associates, and Friends,

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Fr. Jack Douglas, C.P. died on Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

**Arrangements for his wake and funeral are as follows:**

**Wake:** Monday, May 2, 2022, 7:00pm, Immaculate Conception Monastery, Public Chapel

**Funeral:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9:30am, Immaculate Conception Parish Church

**Burial:** Immaculate Conception Monastery Cemetery, Jamaica, New York



**Rev. John (Jack) Douglas, C.P.**

**Born:** January 2, 1948 – Seattle, WA

**First Profession:** August 14, 1977 – Hartford, CT

**Final Profession:** September 7, 1980 – Jamaica, NY

**Ordination:** May 14, 1981 – Jamaica, NY

In Christ Crucified and Risen,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Douglas'.

## HOMILY – FR. BONAVENTURE MOCCIA, C.P. APRIL 21, 2022

Portion of Homily by Fr. John Powers, C.P.

Fr. Robert Joerger, C.P. also Preached

Liturgical Readings – Book of Wisdom, 3:1-6, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Letter of Timothy 4:3-8, and Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

### Fr. John Powers:

A few days ago, after Father Bonaventure Moccia, C.P. died, Dan Flynn, our Province Pastoral Minister, came round to let me know that Father Bonnie, as I will call him, had asked that Fr. Bob Joerger C.P., an ordination classmate, that Father Bonnie wanted both Fr. Bob and I to preach the homily at his funeral liturgy.

I don't remember ever hearing of two priests preaching together at a funeral liturgy.... But then if it's true that two heads can be better than one, then Fr. Bob and I will try to honor Fr. Bonnie's request. A few minutes for me at the start and then a few minutes for Fr. Bob.

Some six or so years ago, I was asked by another elder-wise member of our Jamaica Community, someone in a mighty battle for life, if I would preach at his funeral. His name was Fr. Stephen.

To his question, I simply asked, "do you want me to preach at your funeral?"

"Yes," he said.

"I answered with another question, "what would you want me to say?"

To quote his answer, Fr. Stephen said, "tell them, if they knew me, no words are necessary. If they didn't know me, no words are adequate."

It was right after Fr. Stephen's funeral liturgy that Fr. Bonnie, whose funeral mass we celebrate today, caught up with me and asked me to repeat what Fr. Stephen had asked me to do.

"Tell them," Fr. Stephen had said, "if you knew me," (Fr. Stephen) "no words are necessary. If you didn't know me, no words are adequate."

Fr. Bonnie, then said two things. First, he leveled a small criticism for my reading the quote way too fast. But then he quickly added, "but use that quote at my funeral."

In the fifty or so years I've known Father Bonnie, I've always thought of him as "a Pastor."

It's what he was when I first met him. He as the Pastor of Saint Gabriel's Parish in Brighton Massachusetts, located just across the driveway from our Passionist Monastery on the hill, just up from Saint Elizabeth Hospital, and on the edge of a large, low-income housing project, very much like the one my family and I lived in when I was young.

In all the years I've known Fr. Bonnie, I still think of him as the Pastor of St. Gabriel's. He seemed to love being Pastor; wandering, wondering, and working with the people he served every day.

I can testify that this Pastor and Passionist continued to share his experience, strength and hope when he moved from being Pastor of St. Gabriel's Parish in Boston Massachusetts, to take up a new ministry; to be the director of our seminary residence when I, Fr. Bob, and so many others were preparing to vow ourselves to the Passionist Life. In a very real way, Fr. Bonnie took up the roll our resident Pastor to those of us studying to become Passionists Priests or Brothers.

I can honestly say that, it has been an honor to have the opportunity of serve alongside remarkable and pastorally inclined Passionists like Father Bonaventure.

Today we celebrate a life well lived, the life of a Passionate Pastor, a wise guide for those who might feel trapped, a gentle but challenging confessor who knew, at times, that he too needed to seek forgiveness.

Truly, we can celebrate today, that our brother, Father Bonaventure Moccia, C.P. was called to serve the Lord as a Passionate Pastor. He answered the call and served with passion.

We pray now, for our brother Bonaventure, the he may rest in the Peace of God he served with passion.

## Fr. Bob Joerger:

As John said, Father Bonaventure asked for both of us to preach at his funeral Mass...a homily, not a eulogy...and nothing long and drawn out. He forever remained our initial formation director!

We have probably already failed him...how do you preach the Gospel without touching the very real human lives of those who have journeyed with you, and who in many ways have mentored you with seasoned wisdom? That wisdom often comes in the rough and tumble of life, of fierce commitments, of regrets and accomplishments, of triumphs and failures, sometimes, as with Bonnie, into a ripe old age.

I don't want to lionize him...I liked him the way he was, relatable. God knows there were times he could be ever so slightly negative, and just a teeny bit critical. But he was feisty; like the Apostle Paul he "fought the good fight to the end", a product of his Pelham Bay, Bronx upbringing, one of 7 growing up in an ethnic enclave of working class New York Catholic families, a small kid on a crowded street who had to punch up, learning from the Brothers, studying on the stoop. As soon as I met him as a college student I identified with him. He became a father figure to me, a mentor in the Passionist way of life.

I last saw Bonnie on Palm Sunday morning. He had declined significantly from the previous week. I shared with his sister Dorothy who is listening to us now in Florida on a speaker phone, that Bonnie - her brother Angelo - was doing what many dying people do in the last days of their lives...calling out to his mother. He was having his own sacred conversation. Maybe he needed to be comforted, as we all do in our different passages through life. He was always in charge; then he chose to surrender. Sometimes significant people who mentor you in life also teach you how to die.

As John mentioned he was our director in Worcester, 19 college students living in a house built for a family of 7. It was a new model of formation and I guess not everybody was enthused about this move away from the monastic model. We were just college students. We had no idea about the politics of it all. Bonaventure was strict, tough in a tender way. We were to cook for ourselves, clean the house, manage our own finances, get ourselves back and forth to class. And learn the singular Passionist values of common life and generous hospitality. He told us over and over, almost like a mantra: "You do not join religious life so that you can be taken care of." And using the last piece of toilet paper and leaving it empty is a clear sign that you do not have a vocation to religious life. There are some lessons you never forget.

Before the word was ever popular, he took us to the margins...to the projects in Brighton where he had been pastor. He knew everyone. The AA guys from Brighton often came to the residence in Worcester to tell us their stories. I was assigned to work at Our Lady of the Way, a halfway house for indigent alcoholics in downtown Worcester. But he also let me work weekends as a bartender in Leitrum's Pub. Bonnie saw no conflict of interest. I was just helping earn my tuition. He treated us as men. He refused to infantilize us.

That he was chosen to be Guestmaster at Saints John and Paul was no surprise. He loved everything Italian and was fluent in the language. Most of all he was convinced that while any of us can be eloquent preachers of words, and some of us compassionate confessors, people know Passionists best by the extravagance of their hospitality. I was sent for a rest in Rome after I became exhausted by the work in Shelter Island. I was humiliated that I wasn't able to do it all, that somehow I had failed. Like a father he met me at the airport and took me in. We walked everywhere, all the little streets he knew by heart. He knew every worker at Saints John and Paul, every homeless person at the gate, every waiter at all the local restaurants. He knew the names of their wives and kids. I knew Rome was home for him because he never stopped complaining about everything. I came to know that was how he expressed love.

The measure of the man and his love for the Congregation evidenced itself even in the way he helped me write letters in Italian to the General or the Vatican when I was Provincial. He told me never to forget that we are an Italian Congregation...begin every letter with huge amounts of grandiose praise, kick them lightly in the second paragraph, and give them into the hands of the Madonna in the third. Then, kissing the purple, tell them you are obedient. It worked every time! What better way to end than by giving Bonaventure now into the hands of the Madonna...Rest in Peace, Bonnie. You have run the race.