

August 2024

Passionist News Notes

St Paul of the Cross Province



For 100 Years Passionists at St Ann's in Scranton have a Novena to St Ann - *The Grandmother of Jesus*



St. Ann's Solemn Novena

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Day	Birthdays
4	BONEY, Vincent
6	GREENE, Michael
10	WARD, Mark
14	FRECHETTE, Richard
14	DOUGHERTY, Charles
20	CHENOT, Paul
21	JOERGER, Robert
22	SKORKA, Terence

Celebrating 100 years of devotion — St. Ann's Solemn Novena

The Solemn Novena to St. Ann has transcended wars, the Great Depression and even a global pandemic, serving as a permanent respite for the region's faithful to honor St. Ann and bask in their spirituality on the grounds of St. Ann's Shrine Basilica.

"Our country has become more and more secularized over the course of years, but I suspect that in our area, we've been able to hold on a little bit more firmly to devotion and to our expression of gratitude to God for the blessings that we have," said the Very Rev. Richard Burke, C.P., rector of St. Ann's Monastery and Shrine Basilica. "We seem to be very conscious of it in our area, and that doesn't go away and it gets passed on."

This week, the solemn novena will celebrate its 100th anniversary, commemorating a century of reverence for the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary that started small and quickly grew into a massive religious pilgrimage to West Scranton.

The roots of St. Ann's Solemn Novena date back to 1924, though the tradition took on its more modern form the following July.

On Nov. 3, 1924, the Rev. John Joseph Endler, C.P., began a series of weekly devotions every Monday to honor St. Ann. The young Passionist priest had simply been assigned to lead a handful of laity in prayers, Burke said.

"Then, all of a sudden it blossomed into the solemn novena, and all of a sudden now he had crowds coming every Monday to pray to St. Ann," Burke said. "I think he knew that the devotion to St. Ann was going to remain a constant and would probably grow in the area."

By the spring of 1925, Endler moved the devotions outdoors in a tent to accommodate the crowds and subsequently expanded it into St. Ann's Solemn Novena in July.

That tradition never missed a year, continuing annually on St. Ann's Street from July 17 to July 26, culminating with the Feast of St. Ann on its final day.

'Nothing compares'

To help this year's attendees experience the history of the novena, lifelong parishioners Leo Maxfield, 33, and Anthony Cicco, 20, spent the past four months creating a historical tour in St. Gabriel's room in the lower church.

Using Passionist archives, Maxfield, of Taylor and Cicco, of Scranton tell the story of the novena through a compilation of about 400 pictures and 200 newspaper articles in a series of displays broken down by decade from the 1920s to the modern era, with the oldest piece of memorabilia being a weathered booklet of devotions from the 1928 novena.

"It's been a tremendous gift from God to be able to be a part of this and experience it," said Maxfield, who serves as the novena's usher coordinator. "How do you go anywhere and get anything like this? Nothing compares."

"We want this to scream memories," Cicco added. "That's what this whole thing is really about."

News articles capture the nuance of individual novenas throughout history, whether it was a Passionist priest returning to Scranton from World War II to speak at a 1940s novena or a 2020 clipping about the novena's unprecedented changes to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

The curated photos document the throngs of crowds who packed the basilica grounds throughout the 1900s, former clergy and the overall novena experience across each decade.

Images depicting the crowd sizes in the 1940s and 1950s especially struck Cicco, who is also the novena's sacristy coordinator.

"The crowds in those years are just unbelievable," he said. "The amount of people that were there and that took part in this is just incredible."

The atmosphere and the people make the novena special as they take blankets and sit along the basilica's grassy hillside, Cicco said, adding one of his favorite novena memories was sitting on a blanket with his parents.

“What ordinary church can you go to and do that?” he said.

Maxfield agreed.

“It’s almost like you can reach for something that's greater than yourself,” he said. “It’s almost like a little taste of paradise.”

Burke likens the novena to “sacred socializing” that connects attendees who may not have seen each other since the last novena, often sharing a meal together on the basilica grounds.

“It’s a very positive dimension of sacred socializing that takes place during that time,” he said.

‘St. Ann, pray for us’

To showcase the diversity of the novena, Burke said St. Ann’s created banners inscribed with “St. Ann, pray for us,” in languages used throughout the novena’s history. The languages are: English, Russian, Lithuanian, German, Polish, Spanish, Italian and Slovak.

This year, the novena will have Masses in four languages. Beyond English, the novena will have a Mass in Tamil — an Indian dialect — July 21 at 1 p.m. led by the Rev. Justin Nelson Alphonse, C.P., who is from the Tamil Nadu state of India. A group of Tamil pilgrims will travel to the novena from Washington, D.C., Burke said.

The Rev. Luis Daniel Guivas Gerena, C.P., who is from San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, will be the novena’s other guest Passionist priest.

As a special outreach to the Hispanic-Catholic community, the novena will now hold Masses and novena services in Spanish every night from July 17 to the 25th at 7:30 p.m., Burke said.

Passionists Receive \$1.25 Million for Innovative Preaching Program

New York, NY, May 22, 2024 – Saint Paul’s Benevolent Educational and Missionary Institute (The Passionists) is excited to announce a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., awarded in collaboration with Emmy Award-winning Sunday to Sunday Productions.

This grant supports the establishment of "CALLED: A New Approach to Preaching Education and Practice," an innovative program aimed at transforming preaching education through contemplation, community engagement, and advanced technology.

The grant has been awarded through Lilly Endowment’s Compelling Preaching Initiative, and is set to establish a groundbreaking immersive preaching program aimed at transforming both preachers and lay participants alike.

CALLED is set to revolutionize homiletics education by offering a completely unique educational and formational experience, rooted in spiritual practices, community and skill-building exercises that foster attentiveness and compassion.

CALLED redefines preaching into a shared experience that will enrich the lives of both lay and religious ministers by:

- Inviting practitioners to engage with a preaching curriculum tailored to their individual faith formation and spiritual journey.

- Facilitating a deep immersion in faithful practices and prayer to nourish, renew, and inform the preaching process.

- Integrating workshops, learning modules, retreats, reflective practices, and group learning sessions over a period of eight months.

- Leveraging Los Angeles based HeroBridge’s cutting-edge digital media technology, that will allow members to access the CALLED community through a secure web and mobile-based platform to access highly curated resources, relationship, curriculum and mentorship.

Fr. Jim O’Shea of the The Passionists expressed enthusiasm about the initiative, stating,

"CALLED represents a transformative step forward in how we approach preaching education. By combining contemplative practices with modern methodologies, we aim to empower preachers to authentically connect with their congregations and inspire meaningful spiritual growth."

Fr. John Gribowich, Program Director of CALLED, added,

"This grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. is a testament to the importance of nurturing effective preaching within Christian communities. CALLED will equip participants with the tools and insights necessary to communicate effectively and resonate deeply with listeners."

About the Passionists[The Passionists](#), a 300 year old international congregation of priests and brothers centered on the Passion of Jesus, in partnership with Sunday to Sunday Productions, joins a cohort of 142 organizations receiving grants through the Compelling Preaching Initiative. Reflecting the diversity of Christianity in the United States, these organizations span various denominations and traditions, emphasizing the shared commitment to enhancing preaching excellence.

About Sunday to Sunday Productions

[Sunday to Sunday](#) an Emmy Award winning media ministry in partnership with The Passionists is one of 142 organizations receiving grants through the Compelling Preaching Initiative. Reflecting the diversity of Christianity in the United States, the organizations are affiliated with mainline Protestant, evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox Christian and Pentecostal faith communities. Many of the organizations are rooted in Black church, Hispanic and Asian Christian traditions.

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

[Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) is a private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana. A principal aim of the Endowment's religion grantmaking is to deepen and enrich the lives of Christians in the United States, primarily by seeking out and supporting efforts that enhance the vitality of congregations and strengthen the pastoral and lay leadership of Christian communities. The Endowment also seeks to improve public understanding of diverse religious traditions by supporting fair and accurate portrayals of the role religion plays in the United States and across the globe.

About HeroBridge Media Technology

Founded in 2018, [HeroBridge](#) is a Los Angeles based media technology company specializing in community supportive technology that uses data to build healthy, productive, well connected real world communities. HeroBridge is a subscription media technology that helps organizations create their own safe, scaleable and organized communities around their resources, curriculum and mentorship. Built to resemble familiar social media and learning platforms, subscriber communities access their own white label platform via a private and secure mobile app or secure web platform. Once inside, users can curate, generate and immerse in their own media, resources, and curriculum to reach goals and support each other in highly meaningful ways.

Fr. James Barry, C.P. Died July 12, 2024

Dear Passionist Friends, Associates, Brothers and Fathers,

Please note the information included below concerning the death of Fr. James Barry, C.P.

Arrangements:

Wake: Friday, July 12, 2024, 5pm – 8pm

Immaculate Conception Monastery Chapel, Jamaica, New York

Mass of Christian Burial: Saturday, July 13, 2024, 10:30am

Immaculate Conception Monastery Choir, Jamaica, New York

Interment: Immediately following Mass



Reverend James Barry, C.P.

Born: April 10, 1940, New York, New York

First Profession: August 15, 1962, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Final Profession: August 15, 1965, Jamaica, New York

Ordination: May 30, 1969, Union City, New Jersey

Died: July 9, 2024, Jamaica, New York

In Christ Crucified and Risen,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. Barry" or similar, written in a cursive style.

Obituary of Father James Barry, C.P.

Father James Barry, a Passionist priest of the St. Paul of the Cross Province of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, died at the Passionist Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, New York on July 9, 2024. He was 84 years of age at the time of his death, born on April 10, 1940. A native of Bronx, New York, Father Barry was the son of the late Norbert Michael Barry and Clare McGarvey Barry. In addition to the members of his Congregation, Father Barry leaves his sisters Patricia Kelleher and Clare Marie Stile, beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends and colleagues. He attended high school at St. Agnes Academy in Rockville Centre, New York from 1954-1958. He then entered the Passionist novitiate, proclaimed on August 15, 1962 his First Vows as a Passionist and his Final Vows on August 15, 1965. He then obtained in 1965 a Bachelor of Art in Philosophy. From 1965-1969, Father Barry continued his formation studies at St. Michael's Passionist Seminary in Union City, New Jersey.

Father Barry was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1969 in Union City, New Jersey by Most Reverend Edgerton B. Clarke, D.D. He then began his Passionist ministry as a priest culminating in his last formal ministerial assignment as Chaplain at Lutheran General Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. From 2016 until his death, Fr. Barry continued to share his priestly gifts in the spirit of St. Paul of the Cross as an engaged and active member of the Immaculate Conception Monastery Community. Over the years Fr. Barry's ministry included presence, leadership, and outreach to a vast number of groups and individuals through parish and retreat ministry at St. Gabriel's Youth Center in Shelter Island, New York, St. Michael and St. Joseph Church in Union City, New Jersey and St. Gabriel Parish in Brighton, Massachusetts; marriage and personal pastoral counseling; teaching high school in Bronx, New York; Community leadership as Rector at Our Lady of Sorrows Passionist Monastery in West Springfield, Massachusetts, as Director of Formation in Worcester, Massachusetts, and as Local Vocation Director and Vicar at Our Lady of the Isle in Shelter Island, New York; Passionist preaching ministry throughout the Province of St. Paul of the Cross, charismatic and chaplaincy ministry in Chicago, Illinois.

Father Barry shared his pastoral, social service, and educational leadership through his committed membership on many commissions, boards, and Church Societies including the Province Education Committee, Province Mission Preaching Board, Province Infirmary Board, Archdiocesan LGBTQ+ Outreach, and as a Board Director for Charlesview Housing (President), Equinox Cancer Hospice (Member), and Jeanine Schultz School (Member), Catholic Campus Ministry Association, Commonwealth Tenants Association, Confraternity of the Passion, National Catholic Chaplains Association, Inner Healing Arts Association, Appalachian Mountain Hiking Association, Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Metropolitan Clergy Association, and Catholic Chaplains Association.

Father Barry published articles in the Chronicle of the Confraternity of the Passion and two taped educational series entitled, "Stress and How to Deal with It" and "Depression and How to Deal with It".

Wake Services will be held at Immaculate Conception Monastery Choir, 86- 45 Edgerton Blvd. Jamaica, New York on Friday, July 12, 2024 from 5pm to 8pm. A Mass of the Resurrection will then be held on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at 10:30am at Immaculate Conception Parish Lower Church, 86-45 Edgerton Blvd, Jamaica, New York. Immediately after the Mass his body will be interred at Immaculate Conception Monastery Cemetery in Jamaica, New York.

Brother Augustine Paul Lowe, C.P. died , July 29, 2024,

Dear Passionist Friends, Associates, Brothers and Fathers,

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Brother Augustine Paul Lowe, C.P. died today, July 29, 2024, while he was receiving short-term physical rehabilitation care at the Meadow Park Rehabilitation Center. He was residing at the Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, New York.

Wake: Sunday, August 11, 2024, 5pm – 8pm

Immaculate Conception Monastery Chapel, Jamaica, New York

Mass of the Resurrection: Monday, August 12, 2024, 10:30am

Immaculate Conception Monastery Chapel, Jamaica, New York

Interment: Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 10:30am

Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 412 Tinkham Road,
Springfield, Massachusetts 01129



Brother Augustine Paul Lowe, C.P.

Born: February 11, 1942, Holyoke, Massachusetts

First Profession: March 4, 1962, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Final Profession: March 4, 1965, West Hartford, Connecticut

Died: July 29, 2024, Jamaica, New York

In Christ Crucified and Risen,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. O'Malley".

Obituary of Brother Augustine Paul Lowe, C.P.

Brother Augustine Paul Lowe, a Passionist brother of the St. Paul of the Cross Province of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, died on July 29, 2024 while receiving physical rehabilitation care at the Meadow Park Rehabilitation Center in Fresh Meadows, New York. He resided at the Passionist Immaculate Conception Monastery in Jamaica, New York. He was 82 years of age at the time of his death, born on February 11, 1942. Born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Brother Lowe was the son of the late James Lowe and Evelyn Kelly Lowe and the brother of the late Richard Lowe. In addition to the members of his Congregation, Brother Lowe leaves his brother James Lowe of South Hadley, Massachusetts and his sister Virginia Costello and her husband John of Sundance, Wyoming. Brother Lowe was also uncle to two nieces – Heather and Kelly and uncle to four nephews – Benjamin, Josh, Jeffrey, and Ryan. He is great uncle to James and Grace Dulude.

Brother Lowe attended high school at Holyoke Catholic from 1956-1960. He then entered the Passionist novitiate in the Junior Brothers Program in 1962. He proclaimed on March 4, 1962 his First Vows as a Passionist and his Final Vows on March 4, 1965.

His initial two years of Passionist ministry between 1965 and 1967 were as the Infirmarian at Our Lady of Sorrows Passionist Monastery and Retreat Center in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Brother Lowe's administrative skills benefited his religious community throughout the years as he fulfilled the duties of Receptionist and Administrative Assistant from 1967 to 2013. He ministered in Union City, New Jersey; North Palm Beach, Florida; Baltimore, Maryland; West Springfield, Massachusetts; Jamaica, New York; West Hartford, Connecticut; and Orlando, Florida. Of particular note is his many years of ministry to the people of the Diocese of Orlando, Florida as Administrative Assistant to the now deceased Bishop Norbert Dorsey, C.P. In 2013 he joined the Community at Our Lady of Florida in North Palm Beach, Florida and was an active member of the Community there until his move in 2023 to the Passionist Monastery of the Immaculate Conception in Jamaica, New York.

Wake Services from Martin Gleason Funeral Home will be held at Immaculate Conception Monastery Chapel, 86-45 Edgerton Blvd. Jamaica, New York on Sunday, August 11, 2024 from 5pm to 8pm. A Mass of the Resurrection will then be held on Monday, August 12, 2024 at 10:30am at Immaculate Conception Parish Chapel, 86-45 Edgerton Blvd, Jamaica, New York. Burial services will be held at 10:30am on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 412 Tinkham Road, Springfield, Massachusetts.

PASSONIST FAMILY

FORMATION eLEARNING - 2024-25

Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross Provinces

ANNOUNCEMENT & REGISTRATION

September 12, 2024 **Jessica Coblentz, PhD**, Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and Theology, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Mental Health and a Christian Response

October 10, 2024 **Steven Milles, PhD**, is Professor of Public Theology and Director of The Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

November 14, 2024 **Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ, PhD**, is Distinguished Professor Emerita of Theology at Fordham University in New York City.

Come, Let Us Consider God and the Earth

January 9, 2025 **Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, PhD**, is Professor of Theological Ethics and Consecrated Life at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

February 13, 2025 **Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA, PhD**, is Distinguished Professor Emerita of Old Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago

March 13, 2025 **Fr. Robin Ryan, CP, PhD**, is Full Professor of Systematic Theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and Director of the Master of Arts in Theology program.

Becoming a Person of Prayer

Sessions are on second Thursday 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 the new series <https://passionistshcp.wildapricot.org/event-5779307>

You will need to be registered (one time only) to receive Zoom link for each presentation. Contact Fr. Don Webber, CP, at learning@passionist.org if you have any questions.

May the Passion of Jesus Christ Be Always in Our Hearts