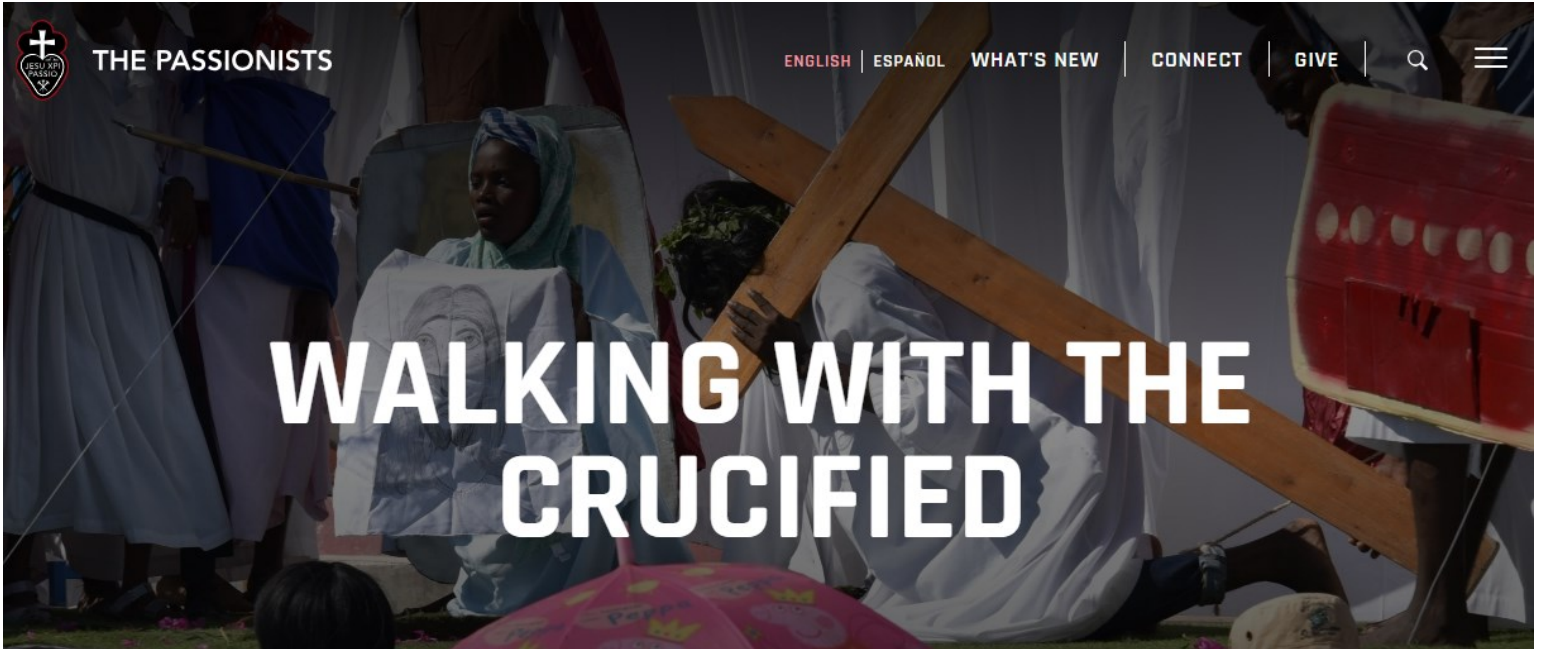


February 2024

Passionist News Notes

St. Paul of the Cross Province



[Website](#)

Passionist Solidarity Network is a collaboration of Passionists from North America and the Caribbean working for social change through direct action, legislative advocacy and education.

Passionists International is an NGO located at the United Nations representing the Passionists in global deliberations regarding international poverty, climate change and human rights.

The Sunday Mass celebrates 50 years of bringing the virtual Eucharist to thousands of people a week – the sick and infirmed, the incarcerated, alienated Catholics and the spiritually searching.

Reconnect @ Thomas Berry Place was founded in Brooklyn to engage young people looking for a positive life change, the program creates social enterprise business to employ youth and teach life skills as well as assisting with next steps in life. Reconnect now resides and is expanding into our Jamaica, NY retreat house located in the Passionist’s Thomas Berry Place in order to deepen the impact on young people’s lives. Here they will not only continue to expand their external business endeavors such as their printing and graphics shop, reopen the Reconnect Bakery but also be part of "fabric" of the renewed retreat house. Here they will tend to the organic and hydroponic gardens, help maintain the house and grounds and be part of live of all retreats. More information will be forthcoming.

Day	Birthday
2	Gaston Nsongolo
7	Terence Kristofak Claudio Piccinini
11	Augustine Lowe
15	Theophane Cooney
17	Moises Rios Ruiz
20	Thomas Bonacci
26	Robin Ryan

Letter regarding those suffering in Gaza and Israel

18 October 2023

Dear friends of the Passionist Solidarity Network:

Greetings and peace to all of you.

As a Passionist Family, we believe that “a deepening awareness of the spirituality of Paul of the Cross leads us to a greater sense of compassion. This compassion begins with solidarity with a suffering world.” (The Passionist Way)

In these days when the fullness of the Paschal Mystery is so present, in our communities and sacred places around the world, it is important to express our solidarity with our brothers and sisters, especially those experiencing the greatest vulnerability. The escalating war in Palestine and Israel gives all of us reason to pause, reflect, and pray deeply for a peace that the human family has yet to realize, but which we believe we all carry within.

Here, we share a reflection, written by Alex Neve, a Canadian human rights activist and director of Amnesty International Canada, shared recently on social media by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada.

“I am not Palestinian, nor Jewish. I have no family in Israel or Gaza, though I have many friends and colleagues who do. These last few days, in Israel and Gaza, are beyond those two worlds alone. It is about humanity. And humanity’s heart breaks. Mine certainly does.”

My heart breaks for those who have lost loved ones in the horrifying attacks unleashed by Hamas, for the [hundreds of] people massacred at the Nova music festival, the hundreds of other Israelis who have been killed, and all those taken hostage.

My heart breaks for the cruel, violent toll of the Gaza blockade, of Israeli apartheid, of imprisoned Palestinian children, illegal settlements, and thousands of Palestinians who have been killed in years of IDF military barages, so many now that it is easy to lose count.

My human rights heart is outraged by the brutality of this Hamas attack, and the years of murder, war crimes, and crimes against humanity that have ripped apart so many Israeli lives and for which there must be accountability.

My human rights heart is outraged by [the news] of a destructive ‘complete siege’ of Gaza, an imprisoned home to 2 million, ½ of whom are children, who have nowhere to flee.

There are many truths in Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank. One truth does not deny another. They are truths that stand alongside each other. They are truths that must be heard and understood equally. These truths are not to be followed by 'but', yet they always are.

It is true that the toll of Palestinian suffering over fifty-plus years has been immeasurably cruel and violent, the means of repression harsh and deliberate, and the insidious apartheid that now governs is an affront to international law.

It is true that Israel, faced with constant threats to the country's existence and its people's very survival, and surrounded by enemies, deserves true safety and lasting peace and security.

It is true that Palestinians live the cruel sting of dispossession and Islamophobia, and Jews the brunt of centuries of dispossession and vicious anti-Semitism. Truths that should unite, not divide.

It is true that a life is a life, a child is a child, a death is a death, and a people is a people. None matter more than others.

The response to horrifying and illegal Hamas attacks cannot lie in horrifying and illegal bombardment of Gaza, leading to more attacks and more bombardment. That is not where truth has its home.

What absolutely must be true is that this cannot continue. That has always been true, but perhaps never truer.

I am not Palestinian, nor Jewish. But [today] I am Palestinian and Jewish. I am every Palestinian who demands freedom and every Jew who demands safety..."

All of us in the Passionist Solidarity Network pray with and for all affected by the horrific and tragic events in Israel and Palestine. We pray and hope for true and lasting peace, one that will uphold the safety and dignity of all persons, especially the innocent. We stand in solidarity and compassion with all who are suffering, in the common humanity we all share.

May the Passion of Christ, the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love, be always in our hearts.

Michael Nasello

On behalf of the Passionist Solidarity Network



Laudato Si' Coming to a Screen Near You!

Join us for the *Passionist Family* Movie Club

Mondays: January 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 2024

Time: 8pm eastern/7pm central/5pm pacific

Looking for a cozy winter activity now that the holidays are over? Join us for the Passionist Family Movie Club. Our first series will be *Laudato Si'* themed. Each week for five weeks, we'll provide a *Laudato Si'* related movie selection (and free streaming location) for you to watch at home along with reflection questions. Then for the next five Mondays, beginning January 15, we'll open a Zoom room for conversation on the movie of the week.

You choose your level of participation, from simply watching the movie to considering the questions at home, to joining others in the Passionist Family on Zoom for post-movie conversation. Join us for one movie or all five!

Your hosts will be Talib and Olivia Huff, from Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center in Citrus Heights, CA and Lissa Romell from the St. Vincent Strambi Community in Chicago.

Register for the Discussion Event

[Register](#)

Passionist Family Formation e-Learning 2023-2024

Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross Provinces



FEBRUARY PRESENTATION & REGISTRATION

February 2024

Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross Provinces offer the fifth of six presentations for our Passionist Family Formation e-Learning (PFFeL). Please note that this presentation will be on the third Thursday of February.

Michael Nasello is the Director of the Passionist SolidarityNetwork, supporting both the provinces of Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross. He is a former Pastoral Associate at St. Gabriel's Passionist Parish in Toronto, ON, and is a Passionist alumnus, having been in formation for a number of years. Before joining the PSN, Michael worked as Director of Education for a Catholic School Board in Ontario, Canada, and has been deeply involved in faith formation and education with parishes and schools, among educational leaders, and within his diocese in Peterborough, Ontario.

February 15, 2024	If You Want Peace, Work for Justice	(3rd Thursday of February)
March 14, 2024	Keeping Memory of the Passion of Jesus	Robin Ryan, C.P. - Professor of Theology (CTU)

Session is on third Thursday of February 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.

Contact Fr. Don Webber, CP, at elarning@passionist.org if you have any questions.

May the Passion of Jesus Christ Be Always in Our Hearts