



St. Paul's Monastery News

Vol. 2, Issue 1

New Passionist Associate Program

The Passionist Associate Program brings together individuals, both men and women, who in a spirit of mutuality, bond themselves more closely with the mission and the spirituality of the Congregation of the Passion. This mutuality recognizes that both professed Passionists and Passionist Associates contribute to the Passionist Mission in the world today.

Those desiring to participate more fully in the life of the faith community and share their

individual gifts and talents in the context of the Passionist Charism and Mission may be selected as Associate candidates. After at least a two-year period of discernment, orientation, formal acceptance, and formation a covenant is made between the Passionist Associate and the local Passionist Community.

On the Feast Day of St. Paul of the Cross, October 20, 2002 the first class of Passionist Associates made their covenant with the local community in Pittsburgh.



Fr. Don Ware with first covenanted Associates in Pittsburgh

Local Passionist News...Comings and Goings

Br. Joe Goes to Vincentian

Br. Joe Holzer, long time member of St. Paul of the Cross Monastery Community, has moved to Vincentian Nursing Home in the North Hills. Our beloved Br. Joe could be seen frequently in the Monastery Church, taking care of the candles in St. Gabriel's Chapel, or serving at Mass. Health issues became a factor. Br. Joe has settled wonderfully into his new home at Vincentian. His health has improved, his smile and sense of humor have returned, and he enjoys coming back to the Monastery for community celebrations. If you want to drop him a line here is his new address:

Br. Joseph Holzer, C.P.
Vincentian Nursing Home, Room 134,
111 Perrymont Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Welcome Fr. Thomas Bonacci and Fr. Joseph Sedley

St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center has welcomed two Passionists onto the retreat team this past year. Both are native Pittsburghers. Fr. Tom Bonacci comes as the new Retreat Director, taking Fr. Mike Salvagna's place. Fr. Tom lived in the Pittsburgh Passionist community in the 80's. Besides being the Retreat Director, he also works part time at Carlo College's chaplaincy office and teaches Theology. It's good to have



Welcome back, Br. Matt!

him back. This is Fr. Joe's first assignment in his home town. Fr. Joe's background includes ministry in Passionist retreat centers, parishes, and the Passionist formation program. He is a welcome addition to the retreat team.

Welcome Back Fr. Michael Salvagno

Fr. Mike has returned from his well earned sabbatical which he spent studying Judaism and Islam at Chicago Theological Union School. As a member of the Passionist Monastery Community Fr. Mike continues his preaching ministry and his ecumenical work in the Pittsburgh area, along with work in the Passionist TV ministries in New York City, and Scranton, PA. It's good to have Fr. Mike back with us in Pittsburgh.

Welcome Back Br. Mathew Krawchyk

Br. Matt returns to the Pittsburgh Passionists after being in our Florida Community for the past three years. Br. Matt is a Pittsburgh native, and during the late 80's and thru the 90's he was a very popular member of the Pittsburgh Monastery. His many Pittsburgh friends and our Passionist community are happy that Br. Matt has returned.

Fr. Anthony Neri Moves to the Passionist West Hartford Community

Our much loved Fr. Tony has moved to our Passionist West Hartford Community. Fr. Tony lived there back in the 70's. The 30 Passionists in West Hartford have made Fr. Tony feel right at home again. He sends his love to all of his Pittsburgh friends. You can write him at:

Rev. Anthony Neri, C.P.
Holy Family Monastery
303 Tunxis Rd.
W. Hartford, CT 06107

Farewell to Fr. Paul

Fr. Paul will leave the Pittsburgh Passionist Retreat Center at the end of August to take up residence at our Passionist House of Prayer



Farewell, Fr. Tony

in Bedford, PA. Fr. Paul has been an energetic part of the Retreat Team for the past four years. We hope he visits us often from his new residence in Bedford.

The Year in Review...Summer '02 - Spring '03

Our past year has been a busy year for the Passionists in Pittsburgh. Fr. Richard Nalepa arrived as the new local superior and has spent these months settling into his new role, which includes leadership of the local Passionists, coordinating the Passionist ministries in the Monastery Church and the Pittsburgh diocese, and being liason with the Passionist Province.

Fr. Don Ware, assistant superior, has had a very busy Lent preaching Parish Missions/Renewals in several local parishes, including a very successful first time Parish Renewal in the Episcopal Parish St. Thomas in the Fields in Gibsonia, PA. Fr. Don also directs the Passionist Associate Program at the Monastery. (See article in this Newsletter on Passionist Associates.)

continued...

Enclosed you will find an envelope. Your contribution will help fund the cost of this Monastery News and help support our ministry here at St. Paul's. Thank you for any help you can give.

The Year in Review continued...

The other Passionist priests in the house include Frs. John McMillan, Tim Fitzgerald, William Davin, Edwin Moran. These wonderful Passionists daily carry out the house ministries of celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, doing spiritual direction, and hearing Fifth Steps - all while living and praying together in the daily setting of Passionist community life. Add to this mix Br. Leo DiFiore who continues his ministry of

raising funds for the Passionist Overseas Missions.

The Pittsburgh Passionist Monastery continues to be a spiritual oasis in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the local South Side Community as it has been for the past 150 years.

Welcome to Tom Donley and Walt Wroblewski new coordinators at St. Paul's Food Bank.



The Mystery of Suffering



God lays God's seed on our heart
The heart must be broken
Then the seed enters
And takes root
Grows and flourishes

This is a mystery... the mystery of suffering. Some people seem to be almost destroyed by suffering. Other people run from suffering, while others

anesthetize themselves with drugs or drink. And yet suffering enters all our lives and tests us, some seemingly more than others. Some people are purified by suffering, others grow in courage and patience, compassion and caring.

It seems that all hearts are broken sooner or later... In the meantime, God awaits us. God never forces entry into our hearts. But as our hearts are broken, the seed of God's love can enter, and that seed can then take

root and grow in the midst of the brokenness, with its balm of healing. Our hearts are changed. We are changed.

There is something mysterious and wondrous here. I've seen it in a number of people. I've seen it in the lives of many people in AA. Miracles still happen. Suffering does not destroy. God still lives. That's the message of the Cross and the Resurrection.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

St. Paul's Celebrates 150 Years



(top left) Bishop Donald Wuerl joins Passionists from around their Eastern Province to celebrate 150 years of Passionist presence in our country, beginning here in Pittsburgh in 1852.

(bottom left) Fr. Richard Nalepa, local superior of Passionists in Pittsburgh is joined by his sister Mary Ann.

(top center) Over 375 Passionists, friends, and benefactors attend the 150th Anniversary Mass in the Monastery Church.

(top right) Many lay friends and benefactors join the luncheon honoring The Passionists 150th Anniversary

Your Legacy—Your Will Can Help the Passionists

When you write your will, you have an opportunity to provide help for those who have meant so much to you in your lifetime.

Please remember St. Paul of the Cross Monastery. God bless you!

Visit St. Paul's on the web at:

www.catholic-church.org/stpaulsmonastery



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Return Service Requested

