



St. Paul's Monastery News

Vol. 3, Issue 2

Christmas Message from Fr. Richard

The holiday season is a time that lifts our spirits and hearts. The mystery of God's great love and gift to us in Jesus is expressed in many ways. One of my favorite songs of this time is Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*. Jesus is truly the joy of this season.

At Christians we have a duty to act upon this. To paraphrase one writer, "where Joy is apparent, we should enjoy it. Where Joy is hidden, we should unveil it. Where Joy is

defaced, we should restore it. Where there is no Joy at all, we should create it." What better way to celebrate this Christmastime than to bring the true joy of this season, Jesus, to our brothers and sisters and to our world. May the many blessings of our Infant Savior be with you and your loved ones filling your hearts and homes.

V. Rev. Richard Nalepa, C.P.



Monastery Christmas Crèche

Our Beloved Br. Joe Holzer Dies



Brother Joseph laid to rest

The Pittsburgh Community of St. Paul of the Cross bid farewell to Brother Joseph Holzer on October 7, 2004. The blue clear sky was laced with soft white clouds. Warm streams of sunlight fell upon us as we gathered at the graveside. How fitting that Brother Joe be laid to rest in his hometown! He was born in the Mount Oliver section of Pittsburgh—a short distance from the Monastery where he was professed. On this bittersweet day fifty-nine years later again we gather, the loved ones and friends of Brother Joe, to pay tribute for his life given in love to us. We will remember him for all the simple little yet significant kindnesses. Always Brother Joe had time for people. He never walked away from you when you were talking and he remembered everything you said. If you needed prayers he would pray faithfully for your intentions. If you had a death in the family Brother Joe was there. Whatever your crisis he would be there. His presence in the monastery will be sorely missed because he *knew* us. My nickname for him was Captain of the Guard. He gave the orders and we followed. Until he went to the nursing home his day would start at 3 am. The church must be opened, the candles readied, the altar set up. He was a small man but he cast a giant shadow of love.

—Judith Haseleu, CP Associate

Fr. Ed, 50 Years a Passionist

On October 16, 2004, Fr. Edwin Moran of our Monastery Community celebrated his 50th Anniversary of his Profession of religious vows, marking him fifty years a Passionist. We celebrated a festive Mass in the Monastery Church, with friends and congregation invited to a luncheon afterwards in our Retreat Center Dining Room. Congratulations Fr. Ed, and may the Lord bring you safely to your 50th Priestly Ordination Anniversary in seven years time.

As part of his celebration Fr. Ed spent a month in Rome at the world headquarters of the Passionists at the Monastery of Sts. John and Paul. Fr. Ed took part in a month-long



Fr. Richard Nalepa, Fr. Ed, Fr. Gerald Laba

workshop/retreat studying the life of the founder of the Passionists, St. Paul of the Cross.

Fund Raiser Luncheon

On October 10th, 2004, the Monastery Auxiliary hosted a Fund and Fun Raising Luncheon at South Hills Country Club. Doors opened at 11 AM complete with a Chinese Auction, offering beautiful baskets of various prizes. The Country Club served a fine lunch, followed by entertainment. Over 200 women and men attended the luncheon which helped raise money for the priests and brothers of our beloved Monastery. Our thanks to the wonderful members of the Monastery Auxiliary who worked so hard to make this occasion a success.

New Director of Music Ministry and Organist

St. Paul's Monastery is happy to welcome Mr. Charles Wilson as our new Director of Music Ministry and Organist. Mr. Wilson is a native of Wheeling, West Virginia. He has been involved in Church Music for thirty years, and is presently working toward a Masters of Music in Sacred Music at Duquesne University.



Charles Wilson

Your Offering

- ❖ Enclosed you will find an envelope... Your Gift will help pay for the printing and mailing of this Newsletter, and for our ministries here. Thank you for your generosity.
- ❖ Remember St. Paul of the Cross Monastery in your will and help us to continue our ministries here.

Visit St. Paul's on the web at:
www.catholic-church.org/stpaulsmonastery

Confraternity of the Passion

On Sunday, November 14th, at St. Paul's 10 AM Eucharist, we enrolled 2 new members into our Confraternity of the Passion. Dr. Sal Mascari, Confraternity of the Passion Director, welcomed them into the Confraternity. Fr. John McMillan, C.P., Confraternity Spiritual Director, clothed the new members in the Passionist Scapula.

The Confraternity of the Passion is a prayerful union of men and women dedicated in a special way to the Passion of Jesus. It follows in the spirit, values, and charism of the beloved founder of the Passionists, St. Paul of the Cross (1694–1775).

For further information call Dr. Sal Mascari at the Retreat Center at 412-381-7676.



Fr. John McMillan and Dr. Sal Mascari

(left) Mark and Glen Reis, new members, with Fr. John and Dr. Sal



Fr. Philip Keane, SS, PhD, addresses the participants

Passionist Province Study Day

Once or twice a year the Eastern Province of the Passionists, the Province to which St. Paul of the Cross Monastery belongs, sponsors special study days for its members to attend. Usually these are in the New York area. However, every couple of years St. Paul's Monastery hosts one of these study days. This November, about 30 Passionists and some of their friends and employees attended a study day entitled Contemporary Issues in Catholic Health Care Ethics. Rev. Philip Keane, SS, who teaches Moral Theology at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, gave the lectures and fielded questions after each lecture. He dealt with such topics as Genetics, Abortion, In-Vitro Fertilization, Death, End-of-Life Care, CPR, and Artificial Nutrition and Hydration. It is very important that we know what our Catholic Church teaches on these critical health care issues. Passionists from West Virginia, Baltimore, New York, and Bedford, Pa., attended the study day.

Poem on Prayer

I got up quite early one morning
And rushed right into the day.
I had so much to accomplish
I took no time out to pray.

The problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came every task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered;
He said: "Why, you didn't ask!"

I saw naught of joy or beauty;
The day sped on gray and bleak.

I asked: "Why won't the Lord show me?"
He said: "But you didn't seek!"

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently, lovingly chided,
"My child, why didn't you knock?"

I woke up quite early this morning
And paused ere entering the day.
There was so much to accomplish
I had to take time to pray. Amen.

Anonymous



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