



The Associate



MAY 2012

Passionist Associates of St Paul of the Cross Province

VOLUME 5

Jamaica Associates

Greetings from Jamaica, New York

Since our Covenanting in Nov of 2011 we have been gathering on a monthly basis for Prayer, Reflection and continued discussions on the Passionist Charism. Fr's Chris, John and Michael have led us in some very lively discussions on various aspects of our faith journey and application to our daily lives.

For our Lenten journey we used Fr Victor Hoagland's book of daily reflections as our base for discussions at our gatherings.

Preston County WV Associates



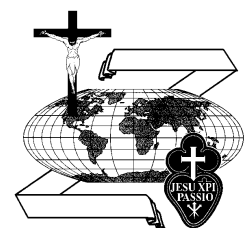
On Sunday, January 29, 2012, the Churches of Preston County held a Recruiting Weekend for all organizations in our Churches. Passionist Associates provided a display and information and attracted some interested parishioners. Welcome potential candidates Carol Wilson, Bill Hyde, Roseann King and Crystal Schneider. Shown in photo are Mary Somerruk and Maryellen Snyder



Preston County Passionist Associates met on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, at the home of Melvin and Maryellen Snyder. Our group enjoyed pizza and a covered-dish dinner. We were all very happy to have Father Donald Ware who spoke to the group on Lectio Divina, meditation, and "Keep Your Eyes On Jesus". Our group shared an Easter Celebration Prayer Service. Shown here are left to right (back row) are Roseann King, Patricia Commodore, Bill Hyde, Judy Mapes Sutton, Maryellen Snyder, Carol Wilson and Mary Somerruk; front row (left to right) Paul Somerruk, Father Donald Ware, Melvin Snyder, Tony Pellegrino.

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Pittsburgh Associates

The Pittsburgh Passionist Associates have been busy over these past few months! We had a wonderful Christmas Party complete with a visit from Santa.



Pittsburgh Associates Enjoying Each Other's Company

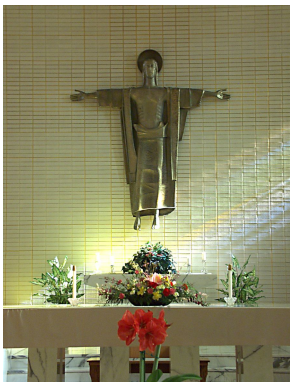
We got the year off to a good start watching a video from Fr. Robert Barron on the 7 Deadly Sins. (This is the same Fr. Robert Barron who does the Catholicism Series on EWTN) He gave a good description of the 7 Deadly Sins by looking at Dante's Inferno.

February's Associate Meeting was spent with Br. Andre' Mathieu, C.P. Br. Andre's "specialty" is grief and bereavement. We read his book called "Jesus Wept" before his visit so we could listen with educated ears and ask appropriate questions. He truly touches hearts with his quiet wisdom and holiness. We were very appreciative. And truth be told would love to have him here in Pittsburgh. . .

The month of March brought us an evening of Prayer, Exposition, homily, quiet time and Benediction with Fr. Michael Salvagna, C.P. The Associates really enjoyed this chance to be together in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Michael is a vibrant speaker and taught us things that we may not have heard before.

One of the things that we as Associates have decided to do is to bring pre-determined food items for our Food Bank. We learned that St. Paul of the Cross Food Bank serves approximately 200 families per month. There are certain food items that they are in need of on a consistent basis. Therefore, each month the Associates will bring that food item to our meeting to be given to the Food Bank.

Calvary Associates



During our recent monthly gatherings, our Associates have been studying and discussing the themes of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) through the lens of Passionist Spirituality. We have used the 2009 edition of Studies on Passionist History and Spirituality by Jesus Maria Aristin, C.P. and viewed portions of a video in-

terview of Fr. Thomas Berry, C.P. on the sacred present in creation.

In April, six of our members were able to attend a Day of Reflection at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT.

Fr. John Baptist Pesce, C.P. led a spirited day for over 70 people as we considered our role in bringing God's holy justice to our time.

Six potential candidates have begun a discernment process to consider becoming Passionist Associates. Should they wish to continue after several months of this process, they will become candidates in the fall and begin a more formal formation program for one year.

Several local Associates are also planning to attend the June "Celebrating Mission" evening at the College of Our Lady of the Elms in Chicopee, MA. This reception supports the work of the Passionist Volunteers International.

St Ann Basilica Shrine Associates



Our Lady of Florida Associates



Passionist Monastery of Our Lady of Florida 1962-2012

On March 10th, 2012, Our Lady of Florida celebrated 50 years of Handing On the Faith with a special day of events with 800 of our closest friends.

The program started with our Golden Jubilee Mass at 11:00am on our outdoor altar. The celebrant for the Mass was Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Also, Most Reverend John Noonan, Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando was in attendance as concelebrant. Our homilist for the Mass was Very Reverend Robert Joerger, C.P., Provincial of the Passionist Province of St. Paul of the Cross. Following Mass, lunch was served outdoors under tents and we had tours and other events.

The Passionists are mindful that four generations have been touched by the presence of the Passionists and the Spiritual Center in South Florida. We know that people beyond our state and even our nation, have found solace here. We are so grateful for your support and care for all that happens here.

The Associates continue to meet each month. We met on Palm Sunday and spent the day for our Lenten Day of Reflection. The day was concluded with the evening meal with the Vowed Passionist in the community.

We are currently in discussion of the future of the Spiritual Center and the ways we will be involved with the retreat team and the retreat programs .

New York (Riverdale) Associates

Our lay Associate Director, Carlos Cruz, announced at our last meeting that he had been elevated to the level of 4th degree knight in the Knights of Columbus. We are very proud of him and also of another of our associates, Nick Goldblatt, who has been a 4th degree knight for several years. Both men are very involved in the charitable works of the church.

This spring we were blessed to have two Passionist speakers come to address our group. Br. Gus visited our group at the beginning of Lent and spoke to us on the topic of "Forgiveness", the forgiveness we need to show others and the forgiveness we need to show ourselves. Br. Gus' talk was a very meaningful way for us to begin the Lenten season. In March, Br. Andre spoke to us about Lent and the spirituality of St. Paul of the Cross. We always enjoy seeing both Br. Gus and Br. Andre. Fr. Paul Fagan is planning to visit us in June and we are looking forward to his visit. Our Passionist Liaison, Carol Albano, arranged for our speakers and we are most grateful!



Carlos Cruz' term as our lay associate director is coming to an end this June. We are prayerfully seeking nominations for a new leader and we will vote in June. Carlos has done a wonderful job leading us through a difficult transition time and we are very grateful to him.

All of the associates groups are in our prayers.

May 10, 2012 Carolyn McCarthy

Carlos Cruz – 4th degree Knights of Columbus – Congratulations!

Greenville NC Associates



News at this time from the Associate Program here at St. Peter's in Greenville, NC is that I held an "informational evening" on the Passionist Associate Program and had 12 people attend. Their questions and interest was very encouraging.

When I held the second meeting five of the original 12 people attended and three others were prevented from attending because of prior commitments. At our meeting in May we will officially begin the two year program for those interested in becoming Passionist Associates.

May God bless this new group and feed their hunger to grow in their understanding of the Lord's invitation to them to understand the depths of His love found in the many facets of our Passionist Charism.

Fr. Edward, C.P.

Greenville, NC Associates
First Covenant Group



Greenville, NC Associates First Covenant Group

