

From the Foot of the Cross



The Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery in the Diocese of Owensboro KY

Fall 2008

Be captivated by His love...



Saint Paul of the Cross used to describe the Passionist vocation in terms of growing ever more aware of the love with which Jesus laid down His life on the cross for us.

To discover this love is to be captivated by it. To discover this love is to be drawn to make the gift of one's own life to Christ and to others for His sake, in a giving of ourselves that knows no limits.

Right from the beginning of their formation, Saint Paul of the Cross would encourage the postulants to consider how Christ gave Himself for each one personally. Paul also impressed on the new candidate that most people live their entire lives completely unmindful of Christ's personal, saving love for them.

Paul taught new members to let themselves be penetrated to the depths of their souls by Christ's love, and to make a radical and unconditional response to it.

~ cf Fr. Fabiano Giorgini, C.P.

Fr. Fabiano, a great supporter of the Passionist Nuns, worked tirelessly in revising our Rule after Vatican II. Fondly referred to as "the Second Founder" he entered into his eternal reward on April 28, 2008 ~ formerly the feast of St. Paul of the Cross! May he find his joy in the Bosom of the Trinity and may he intercede for us.

and make a radical response!

"The Cross reveals that we find ourselves only by giving our lives away, receiving God's love as an unmerited gift and working to draw all men and women into the beauty of that love and the light of the truth which alone brings salvation to the world. By embracing the Lord's call to follow him in chastity, poverty and obedience, you have begun a journey of radical discipleship which will make you signs of contradiction (cf. Lk 2:34) to many of your contemporaries. Model your lives daily on the Lord's own loving self-oblation in obedience to the will of the Father. You will then discover the freedom and joy which can draw others to the Love which lies beyond all other loves as their source and their ultimate fulfillment."

- Pope Benedict XVI to seminarians and novices - Sydney, Australia, July 19, 2008

Dear Young People, let me now ask you a question...

What will **you** leave to the next generation? Are you building your lives on firm foundations, building something that will endure? Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects him in the name of a falsely-conceived freedom?

How are you using the gifts you have been given, the power which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you?... "What difference will you make?..."

Do not be afraid to say 'yes' to Jesus, to find your joy in doing his will, giving yourself completely to the pursuit of holiness, and using all your talents in the service of others!"

~ Pope Benedict at World Youth Day 2008



Pope Benedict XVI greets the participants of World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia



Postulants Shannon & Sharon and Sr. Mary Andrea
Follow their journey at www.passionistnuns.org/blog/



Shannon's brothers, **Wesley** and **Brian**, try on Passion signs. Future Passionists? Not pictured are her parents, **Mark** and **Karen Schoppe**, and brother **Matthew** who were looking on.



Anna, Liz, Sharon and Meg shortly before **Sharon** entered the cloister. Parents, **Dr. Doug** and **Karen Miller** had their hands full raising their 12 children. The group above are the four youngest, fondly dubbed "the Little Women." A brother **David** is studying for the priesthood in the diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Eucharistic & Marian Devotion



Devotion to the Holy Eucharist, the living memorial of Our Lord's sacred Passion, and loving devotion to Our Blessed Mother, are two major aspects of Passionist spirituality. In the photo above, our chaplain, Fr. Ray Clark, assisted by Msgr. Bernard Powers, and servers Christopher Hayden, seminarian Julio Barrera and Daniel Best, leads us in prayer at one of the outdoor altars during our annual Corpus Christi procession.

During our annual May procession, the community honors Our Lady at one of our outdoor images of the Blessed Virgin. Sharon was chosen by lot to crown the image of Our Mother of Sorrows in chapel at the end of the May procession.



Passionists Together in the Mission



The month of July was filled with reminders of our call to be "the missionary heart of the Church", and to be "the apostolic ventures" by means of our hidden lives of prayer and sacrifice (from the Vatican document, *Verbi Sponsa*)

We welcomed our long-time friend, **Bro. James Heeb, SVD**, who made a silent, private retreat. Having served for many years in Cuba, he is now missioned in Bay St. Louis, MS.

Although we do not have a photo to share of Bro. Jim, we have a photo taken during the retreat and general chapter of the Passionist community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Founded in 2001 by a Passionist brother, **M. Boyle**, this community has an international membership with members in Canada, the U.S., Brazil, Holland and Jamaica. The five founders are four priests and a brother who will be continuing his studies for the priesthood. Since their foundation 7 years ago, this fledgling community has grown among its ranks 3 new priests, including a former Anglican Fr. and a native Jamaican. As our newsletter was ready for the printer, we received news that a young man from England has joined this community, bringing the membership to 10.

Based in Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies they bring the love of the Gospel to Mandeville through their work in parishes, a school and an orphanage, and preaching retreats. The Prior General, **Msgr. Michael Palud**, is in Mandeville diocese as vicar general. Above left photo: **Fr. Chuc**, a priest of Pittsburgh, PA, receives the holy habit and officially joins the community.



During their time here **Fr. Samuel**, **Bro. Brad** and **Fr. Joe** used their musical talents to bring beauty to our liturgy. Fr. Joe's mouth organ sounded like a violin when he played for communion meditations.



Passionist Missionaries l to r: **Msgr. Michael Palud**, Prior General, **Fr. Joseph Smith**, **Bro. Felipe Nunes de Silva**, **Fr. Anthony Aarons**, **Fr. Joe Burgess**

Missionary Heart of the Church

to remain prayerfully in the soul and leaven of sacrifice. (References are

to, into our midst as he from Ghana, Africa, Bro. Jim

do post here photos of the Mission Society of the parish, **Most Rev. Paul** currently spanning the priesthood in Rome. The society has expanded to receive a Franciscan priest who is a we received the good community, bringing their

of Christ to the poor of an orphanage, and by , has also served the k, formerly a diocesan their community.



The missionaries take a break during the chapter. They were hard at work revising their rule of life in the light of the charism of St. Paul of the Cross, the founder of the Passionists. As far as we know, the Mission Society is the newest branch of the worldwide Passionist family of men and women who share our spirituality.

SOCIETY OF THE I M-



Fr. Samuel Alloggia, Fr. Roland Dessine, Fr. Chuck Baptiste, Bro. Brad, Fr. Raymond Sorin and facilitator Fr. Victor Hoagland, C.P.



Passionist **Fr. Victor Hoagland**, of the eastern province, presided during the missionaries' chapter. Father spreads the love of Christ Crucified through the communications media. His DVD's and books can be obtained through <http://crossplace.com/store/index/html>

Generously Feeding the Hungry!

Mary Lou Payne & granddaughter Michaela



To aid them in keeping an atmosphere of recollection during their retreat the missionaries at their meals in silence.



Sr. Mary Andrea's parents Dave and Carol Jean Niehaus



Christie Swanson



How much food does it take to feed 9 missionaries for 10 days?

Thanks to our generous Oblates and friends, the missionaries had plenty of good home cooking to eat! God reward everyone who helped, those pictured here, as well as F r. Ray Clark, John & Shirley Howard, Elmer & Marcella Schepers, Maura & Marty Millay, Mary Oberst, Suzanne Rose, Barbara Hodskins, Kathy Stiff, John Paul, Beverly & Michael Smith, and Gene & Margaret Boehmann. *And we can't forget our employees Debbie*

Paula Morris and Dotty Edge

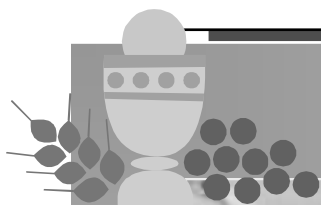


Pat James, Martha Kauffeld, Betty Gail Armendarez, June Hayden



Bill and Joy Bach

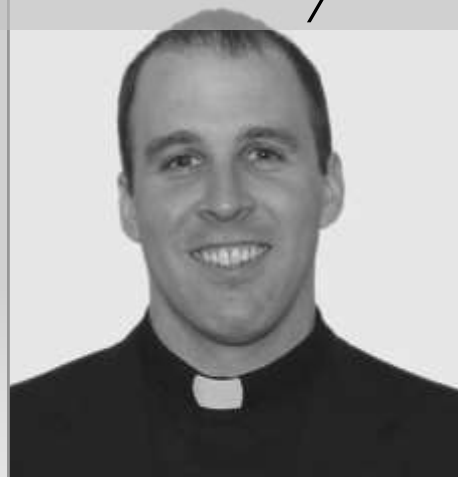




Congratulations to all our newly ordained priests!



Fr. Robert Lampitt of the diocese of Peoria, IL, made many retreats here during his college and seminary years.



Fr. Matt Lowry of the diocese of Phoenix, AZ, also made many private retreats here while studying at St. Meinrad.

Now that they are ordained we hope they will soon come again and offer Holy Mass for

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ORDINATION



Passionist Father Sebastian MacDonald, visiting us on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Congratulations, Father!

MAY THE LORD



We are so grateful to Helming Bros. Inc. of Jasper IN for refurbishing our statue of Saint Joseph. This statue, donated in 1953 by Mr. V.J. Steele, Sr. and family, and has been cherished by our community ever since. Pictured here are Bob Gehlhausen and his son River. Bob did a beautiful job staining the statue. It looks like new! Thank you to Helming Brothers Inc.!

Have you had your yearly retreat?

Contact us at retreats@passionistnuns.org or call (270) 233-4571

Visit our on-line gift shop and our vocation blog at www.passionistnuns.org

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May the Lord reward all who have shared their summer produce with us!



Sanctifying our daily work: "Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being. Do it for the Lord rather than for men, since you know full well that you will receive an inheritance from him as your reward. Be slaves of Christ the Lord." (Colossians 3:23-24)

And from the letters of St. Paul of the Cross: "Interior recollection in your work is necessary, and frequently make acts of love of God. Do your work in peace, without haste, and take every task as your last, and do it with perfection out of pure love for God. Stay in church, I mean your interior church."

Dear Relatives and Friends,

The summer—with its crop of fruits and vegetables—is quickly passing into eternity. May the swiftly passing days remind us that each moment is precious and can be lived with love for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Know that you and your loved ones remain ever in the prayer of our hearts, as we live our contemplative life with its simple tasks, its prayers, joys and sufferings. We ask you to pray for us also.

I thank you once again for the faith you show in the value of Passionist contemplative life by your support, both financial and spiritual. May God Himself be your great reward!

With gratitude in Him,

*Mother Catherine Marie, C.P.
and the Passionist Nuns*