

Holy Cross Retreat



Letter 91

12th November, 2021

Warm greetings,

Mass attendance

We continue to be allowed 66 **fully vaccinated** people at a Mass until November 19th. We hope this number can be doubled from the following week, but we need to wait for confirmation from the Victorian government. It is necessary to book each week with Tim Horlock.

Departures

Four of our Vietnamese brothers who were professed in July, will be returning to Vietnam, next Friday evening. Thắng, Cầu, Toàn and Phúc have been studying online, and for two of them advice was received on Sunday that if they were not back in Saigon ready to attend face-to-face classes by the end of November, their studies for the year would be forfeited.

They will travel through the early hours of Saturday morning and after a week of quarantine in Hanoi they will travel to Saigon and resume classes the next day! We have great admiration for the character and resilience they have shown in the face of the significant adjustments they have had to make because of COVID-19. They have spent nearly 22 months at Holy Cross and are really 'at home' here. Their classmate Trí will remain and complete his English studies and early next year join John at YTU. The men will be at Mass on Sunday morning.

Upcoming events

There will be more details provided but please note

Sunday 28th November

At the 10.30am Mass we will remember deceased relatives and friends
The St Gabriel's Committee is hosting a BYO BBQ. After Mass

Sun 5th December

Chris will celebrate his 40th ordination anniversary.
Drinks and nibbles will be provided at the back of the chapel after 10.30am Mass

Sun 12 December

Luke will celebrate the 9.00am and 10.30am Masses
There will be a BBQ afterwards



You are invited to join us from around the Province
(AUS, NZ, PNG, VN)

for the
2021 Passionist Institute

SAT NOV 20TH 10:00AM - 1:00PM AEDT
SUN NOV 21ST: 1:45PM - 6:00PM AEDT

Each day will begin with prayer, followed by two presentations, as well as two group sharing sessions focussing on how we can best "Renew Our Mission"

SATURDAY ZOOM LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

SUNDAY ZOOM LINK: [CLICK HERE](#)

For more information, contact Gerard Daly
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Passionist 300th Jubilee: 22 November 2020 - 1 January 2022

The Passionist Congregation was born during the 40-day retreat of St. Paul of the Cross, in the church of San Carlo in Castellazzo, Italy. The retreat was preceded by Paul's leaving his family and being clothed as a hermit in a black habit. The vestition ceremony was to have taken place in Alessandria on November 21, 1720, the feast of the Presentation of Mary, but the rite was postponed to Friday, November 22, 1720.



Returning to Castellazzo, where he lived, Paul began his forty-day retreat in the cell of the church of San Carlo on 23 November, in a storeroom off the sacristy. In this period, between December 2nd - 7th 1720, Paul wrote the Rule for the "Poor of Jesus", the first name he thought he would give to the Congregation he intended to found and which later became the Congregation of the Passionists. In his Diary he wrote: *"I was writing as if there was someone dictating to me."* Paul ended his retreat on January 1, 1721. This is why the dates of the Jubilee Year are: November 22, 2020 - January 1, 2022.

Our Jubilee theme is: Renewing our Mission with Gratitude, Prophecy and Hope.



The theme of the Jubilee is:

To remember with humility, the past, giving thanksgiving to the God of love and compassion who blessed us (**Gratitude**).

To read the signs of the times and find new ways to evangelize, through the lens of the Passion of Christ (**Prophecy**)

To discern God's plans and promises of a meaningful future (**Hope**).

Passionists live Apostolic Community life

In our ministry in Holy Spirit Province,, whether it me in our parishes, through the Passionist Family Group Movement, the Passionist Youth Team, the Senta Bilong Helpim and other external ministries or in and around our local communities, we strive to create and build community. Living and promoting community is integral to being a Passionist. Back in 1981 an Italian Passionist living on Monte Argentario, advised me, "Paul of the Cross wanted to be a hermit, but not on his own!" Given that reality and the focus of the Jubilee being to 'renew our mission', our brother Joachim, has expressed the jubilee goal very simply,



"Our community life and our mission cannot be separated: they are two sides of the one coin ... Together they both shape us and give us one identity and authenticity as Passionists. The "who we are" and "what we do" are interconnected and interrelated. "Our involvement in the apostolate flows directly from our life in community" (Const. 67). Therefore I believe that when we speak of "renewing our mission" it is primarily about "renewing ourselves".

The "mission" is given and is clear. However, because our mission flows from "who we are" we must be constantly open to self-renewal which is our response and openness to what God is doing in us for the coming of God's kingdom. It is the ongoing call to conversion and repentance in the mission of the kingdom of God. The renewal of the mission is a natural consequence of the renewal of the missionaries". (Joachim Rego, Passionist General)

We acknowledged the beginning of the Jubilee at Holy Cross, with a ritual on November 22nd, 2020.

As far as we know, Paul of the Cross is the only founder of a religious Congregation who wrote a rule of life before he had any companions to live that life. As mentioned earlier, Paul described that in writing the Rule during the retreat, "I wrote as fluently as if someone was sitting there dictating to me". He was convinced that "The Passion of Jesus was the most overwhelming act of God's love" and that the memory of what Jesus did should be alive and living in our hearts. He wanted companions to share this conviction and to do so by living like the apostles, drawn together by Jesus' presence and engaged in his mission.



To symbolise Paul's founding charism our brother Toàn began working on a large hand. Perhaps he was unconsciously expressing his own desire to be professed and wear the Passionist sign? The hand is strong and open. It is receptive for something not yet in its grasp. This is a reflection of Paul's experience in the room at Castellazzo. He had to wait a long time to achieve his true hope. He did not receive the Passionist sign until 1741 – over twenty years after this founding moment

The hand and sign have been in the Peace Garden in our grounds for twelve months. For the Jubilee celebration, Toàn is relocating it near the chapel entrance with an added water feature. We hope the symbol we speak to us about our call to renew our mission as Passionists.

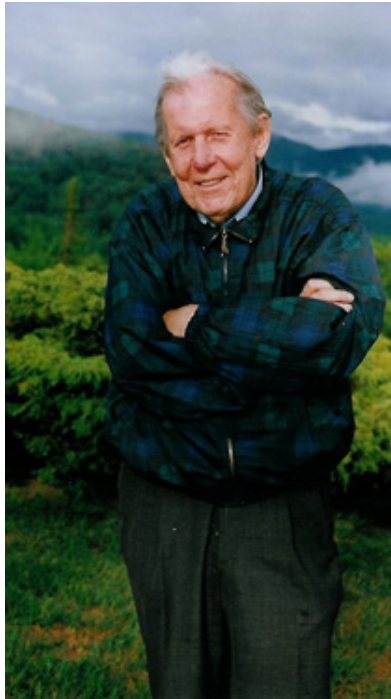


Creation: Hidden miracles

A beautiful 7 minute video

<https://youtu.be/FiZqn6fV-4Y>

Creation 11: Thomas Berry – prophet and Passionist



I had the good fortune to listen to some of American Tom Berry's thought when he addressed a Conference dedicated to Passionist Spirituality and History, in 1981. Although we noted his warnings of impending ecological disaster, sadly, he was too much the prophet before his time for me to pursue his thinking in the ensuing years until a decade ago. In fact, when I hear many climate-change deniers, I think back to those lectures we heard, and regret that I did not listen seriously enough at the time.

Tom Berry died in 2009. He was initially attracted to the Passionist way of life because it had a contemplative dimension. He made his profession of vows in 1935 and was ordained in May 1942. These were the years of the Great Depression and they were followed by the 2nd World War. His religious and academic formation were classical for the time (including philosophy and theology), a life of solitude and a devotional life that centred on the sufferings of Jesus. This contributed to his strong sense of compassion.

Tom also had the good fortune to live in Passionist retreats where there was simplicity, silence and much beauty in the gardens. All of this cultivated Tom's desire to know and ponder deeply, especially during the compulsory solitary walks in the garden, and in his room. He developed a deep yearning to understand the complexities of human culture in history and the role of religion in that history.

Tom was an historian and cultural student. He received his PHD in 1947 and taught history at the preparatory college. He was already tracing ideas across cultures and reading Christopher Dawson, the English historian who viewed history through great epochs. Dawson considered religion to be the most powerful determinant in cultural formation. Understanding this, Tom began to see Providence working in sacred and secular history.

The Passionists began a mission in China in the 1920's and Tom accepted an invitation to work there in 1948 when he was 34 years old. He, along with other missionaries, was expelled the following year. On board ship he met William Theodore de Bary, a scholar in Chinese culture who was greatly influenced by Confucianism. He and De Bary became firm friends and life-long collaborators. As a result, Thomas became influenced by Confucianism, cosmology, humanism and the quest for harmony.

He was an army chaplain in Germany from 1951-1954, after which he returned to the USA. The Passionists were not sure what to do with him! His Provincial suggested he look for a Bishop who might accept him, but he did not want to accept the role of

parish priest, so he declined the offer and began teaching Asian studies in New Jersey and New York.

He became convinced that his message as a preacher needed to be addressed to the general public and not restricted to issues of current interest to the Catholic or Christian communities. He studied Sanskrit and in an early essay spoke of the importance of Hindu, Buddhist, Zen, Taoist and Confusion thought. His fellow Passionists acknowledged that his breadth of learning was astounding, including his knowledge of Asian philosophy and religion, which he believed had a unique contribution to offer human civilization and culture.

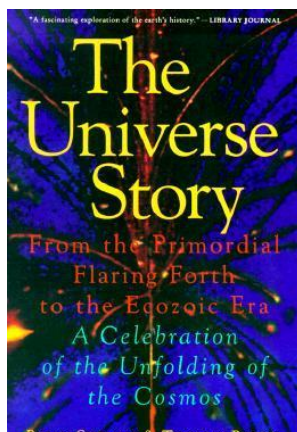


While teaching in Jamaica, New Jersey, from 1954-1966, Tom lived in the beautiful grounds of the Passionist community there, and he continued to live in beautiful surrounds in the Passionist community Riverdale New York from 1966-1994. Here he overlooked the steep cliffs of the Palisades range and the Hudson river. And, he lived in the shadow of a giant old oak tree.

During these years, Tom also exercised 'parlour duty', welcoming all sorts of people who came to see him. People sought him out because he listened to them and because he was a wisdom figure. The Passionist students loved him – especially during the rebellious 1960's. However he felt a sense of rejection –perhaps typical of that experienced by the prophet. He did have Passionist friends he lived with and who enjoyed walking and talking with him in the grounds at Riverdale.

The rank and file Passionists struggled to understand his thought and few realised the significance of his writings. His Passionist vocation shaped his experience and it is a great sign of diversity, that, despite his difference and non-orthodox spirituality and thought, his way of living Passionist life could be recognised as valid.

Tom became convinced that the major concern of contemporary society is the future of the planet and the human role in that future. He was equally convinced that the scientific insights of recent years provided us with a story of the cosmos and the planet earth that can overcome the alienation from the earth that our industrial economies promote. His emphasis became the Passion, not just of Christ, but of the Passion of the earth.



He wrote a ground-breaking book with Professor Brian Swimme. Titled, "The Universe Story". The prophet may not have been recognised during his life time by those who had

the best chance to hear him, but his contribution is clearly recognisable in Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si'.

I will share some of his thinking in the next newsletter and include here just a few quotes from his work.

"The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects"

"To tell the story of anything, you have to tell the story of everything. We can explain nothing if we cannot explain the whole. Our explanation of any part of the universe is integral to our understanding of the universe itself"

The Great Work now, as move into a new millennium, is to vary out the transition from a period of human devastation of the Earth to a period when humans would be present to the planet in a mutually beneficial manner"

"We need a spirituality that emerges out of a reality deeper than ourselves, a spirituality that is as deep as the Earth processes itself, a spirituality born out of the solar system and even out of the heavens beyond the solar system. For it is in the stars that the primordial elements take shape in both their physical and psychic aspects. Out of these elements the solar system and Earth took shape, and out of Earth, ourselves"

Humour

Patient: I'm scared because this is my first operation.

Doctor: I can understand how you feel.

Patient: How?

Doctor: This is my first operation too.

- A guy just threw milk at me..... how dairy?!
- Despite the high cost of living it remains popular.
- I named my iPad Titanic, it's syncing now!
- I have a chicken proof lawn, it's impeccable.
- Huge fight at a seafood restaurant..... Battered fish everywhere!
- I buy my guns from a guy named T-Rex. He's a small arms dealer.
- Do gun manuals have a troubleshooting section?
- If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- Acupuncture: a jab well done.
- A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

Q. What kind of dog doesn't bark? A. A hush puppy.

Q. What is a Ghost's favourite dessert? A. I Scream!

- What if there were no hypothetical questions?
- Is there another word for synonym?

Typed church bulletins

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Notice

Frank and Ann Burke share their birthday -next Tuesday, November 16th. We wish them well.

We remember

We remember: Jacki Tomm, Maree Bartoli, Peter Owen, Bronwyn Burke, Anne Cunningham CP, Richard Gibbs, Brenda Rodrigues, Mary Coburn, Graham Hille, Jim Molan, Sr Stella Gleeson, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Michael O'Callaghan, Mary Hackett, Anne Jenkins, Angelo Vigilante, Pam Gartland, Pam Stretch, (NZ) Patricia Keeghan, Maeve and John Reardon, Leanne Malizia, Pam Grehan, Jim Monaghan, Carmel King, Michael and Mardi Doyle, Kate and Mary Dunn, Ray Sanchez CP, and all who seek or need our prayers.

**I thank my God
every time I
remember you.
In all of my prayers
for all of you,
I always pray with joy.**

Philippians 1:3-4

May you have a good week

Brian

