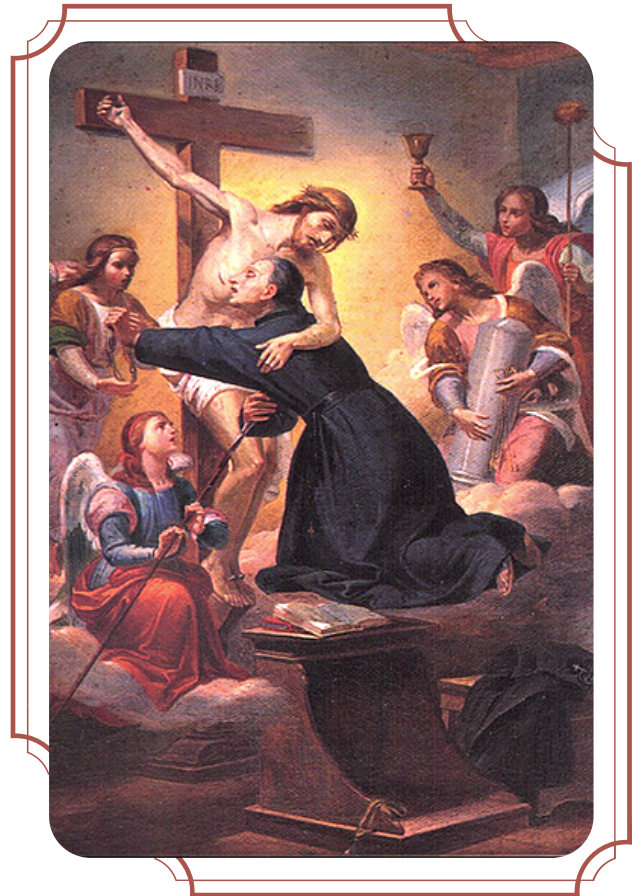


Prot n.2022.102

*Dear Mothers, Sisters, Oblates  
and Women in Formation,*

With all my heart, I send each one of you cordial and prayerful greetings, on behalf of my entire Council, for a holy and joyous celebration of our Holy Founder's feast day. May each of you experience his concern and close presence always with you—he who suffered and prayed so much for the founding of the Passionist Nuns and who even now prays in paradise that we be authentically holy and that our communities may bear abundant fruit for souls!



As we ponder the witness of the life, the teaching on prayer and the mission of St. Paul of the Cross, we cannot help being profoundly moved again and again by the great painting which hangs over the altar of his tomb in the side chapel at Ss. John and Paul's basilica in Rome. This painting portrays Paul's mystical experiences of the Triune Love endlessly flowing from the pierced Heart of the Lamb, the Father's dearly beloved Son, Jesus.

Here, spiritually drinking from the pierced Side of Christ, is where Paul found--and where we will find--"the gift of fidelity and the joy of perseverance." Here is truly where in all of our crosses, joys, pains of soul or body, our community living, and the works of each day, we will always be able to find the strength to be faithful and to persevere in our Passionist vocation until death. Here is the "life blood" that keeps our charism alive, ever regenerating and fruitful. Here we learn to "remain" in Our Lord's love, as He commands us in John 15:9.

I would like to encourage you to read and ponder the theological sections of the Holy See's 2020 document entitled: *The Gift of Fidelity, the Joy of Perseverance*, that bears the subtitle: "Manete in dilectione mea" (Remain in My love). Here I quote #102 of that important document:

“ In the long farewell discourse which Jesus addresses to his disciples...Jesus manifests his will to communicate to them the love of the Father, a love capable of making everything fruitful, ensuring authentic generativity. *His life is so full of the Father’s love that Jesus wants nothing more than to pour it into the disciples’ life.* For this reason in John 15:1-17, he asks his disciples to be rooted in his love, *to immerse themselves in the filial atmosphere of his existence and to live in the incessant exchange of love that exists between him and the Father.* ”

Our blessed founder is a compelling example of a “disciple” who immersed himself in the “filial atmosphere” of the “incessant exchange of love” between the Father and the Son in the self-outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Paul’s oft-repeated counsel to his spiritual directees that they remain with Jesus in the bosom of the Father is a precious grace we Passionists can beg our founder to obtain for us so that in these our calamitous times, no matter what happens in the Church, in our communities and in our own lives, we may truly bear the abundant fruit our Heavenly Father desires of us (cf John 15:8).

So I leave you with these reflections, always praying that each of us may never cease striving to be souls of true interior prayer as Paul wanted for his Nuns, and is so beautifully laid out for us in our Rule and Constitutions which we should study continually. Then our tiny monastic congregation will survive these difficult beginnings. Then, through, with and in Jesus, and in union with Our Mother of Sorrows, we will bear the abundant fruit the Father wants from us. For this, let us pray for each other.

With joyous greetings to each and every one, in the Pierced Heart of Jesus,

*Mother Catherine Marie CP*

On behalf of the members of the General Council

