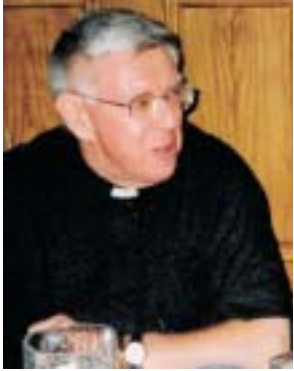




St. Paul's Monastery News

Vol. 2, Issue 2



It was around this time last year that we were preparing to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the Passionists coming to North America. It was a year of many wonderful events that we, and I'm sure you also, remember and will treasure. It is hard to believe the Passionists community has been serving the Diocese of Pittsburgh and all the people for 151 years. During this past year we at various meetings have made a firm commitment, that while many changes will be going on in the Church in the United States, we will continue our ministry and service to the people of Pittsburgh and all who come seeking God's help.

Christmas Wishes

As the holy days of Advent, Christmas/Epiphany approach, they give us a chance again to open our hearts to the bounteous blessings from our Loving God. As we gather with our faith community and our families and friends during these days, may our spirits be nourished by the unfolding mystery of Salvation in God present with us.

On behalf of all the priests and brothers of St. Paul's Monastery, may the wondrous gifts of peace, joy and grace from that stable in Bethlehem, some two thousand years ago, flood in the coming days into your heart and home.

V. Rev. Richard Nalepa, C.P.
Rector



Local Passionists...

The Passionists at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery are doing well, thank the Lord. Fr. John McMillan celebrated his 80th birthday in early October – we threw him a surprise birthday luncheon!

Br. Mathew Krawchyk finally recovered from a shoulder operation which took 6 weeks to heal before he was able begin physical therapy. Frs. Dan, Edwin, Timothy and William continue their steady ministry.

Fr. Mike Salvagna is busy with the Province's TV ministry in New York and Scranton. Br. Leo works hard in the Passionist Overseas Mission office, raising money for our overseas missions. Frs. Tom Bonacci and Joe Sedley work hard in the Retreat Center. And Frs. Richard and Donald continue their local ministry and their service to the Monastery as local superior and assistant superior, respectively.

Please keep all of these good men in your prayers.

(top) A surprise birthday party for Fr. John McMillan, 80 years young!



(bottom) Local Passionists at their community meeting



Vr. Rev. Terence Kristofak, Provincial

Provincial Visitation

This past September our Provincial, Fr. Terence Kristofak, conducted his Visitation to our Pittsburgh Monastery Passionist Community. The Provincial is the superior in charge of our Eastern United States Province, which consists of Passionist communities from North Palm Beach to Boston, with missions in Jamaica, West Indies, Honduras and Haiti. During his four year term the Provincial conducts a Visitation of each community. One of his four consultants conducts a Pastoral Visit during these same four years. The purpose of these visits is to meet with the local Passionists, inquiring how the priests and brothers are doing, and discussing the community policies, goals and prayer life. An important part of the Provincial's service to the Province is pastoral concern and oversight of the Passionists of the Province, maintaining a healthy and prayerful spirit among the men.

On his visit the Provincial also interviewed the lay executive board of the Retreat Center and the Lay Associates of the Monastery. We are blessed to be pastorally served by our Provincial.

Your legacy/your will can help the Passionists. Please remember St. Paul of the Cross Monastery. God bless you.

St. Paul's Food Bank Upgrade

Recently we received a Grant from Pittsburgh's Birmingham Foundation to refurbish our Food Bank. The Birmingham Foundation funds projects which serve local Pittsburgh neighborhood needs. We were able to get new shelving, do wall and electrical repair, and even purchase two much needed refrigerators. We thank the Birmingham Foundation for helping us to continue our tradition of helping the needy in our midst.

New shelving, refrigerators and freshly painted walls at St. Paul's Food Bank.





Br. Joe came to the Monastery Auxiliary Fund Raiser. Here he picks the winning ticket.

Br. Joe Holzer is doing very well at the Vincentian Home in the North Hills. He is loved by the staff and residents there, as he was here at the Monastery. Br. Joe visits the Monastery – he’s no stranger here. He also loves to receive visitors at the Vincentian Home. We’re happy that he has fit in so well at his new home.

Monastery Auxiliary Fund Raiser

The Monastery Auxiliary is a wonderful group of men and women who help support the Passionists of St. Paul’s. In early October they organize and run a Chinese Auction, along with a luncheon and entertainment at South Hills Country Club.

Around the end of the year they sell a Calendar Lottery. The monies raised from such funding efforts helps the Passionists pay their bills. We are most appreciative of their efforts and care for our men at St. Paul’s Monastery.



Patty Elstner, Auxiliary President, enjoys the afternoon.



The Pittsburgh Banjo Club entertained the 200 guests.

A Story.... Good Luck, Bad Luck

There is a Chinese story of an old farmer who had an old horse for tilling his fields. One day the horse escaped into the hills and when the farmer’s neighbors sympathized with the old man over his bad luck, the farmer replied, “Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?” A week later the horse returned with a herd of wild horses from the hills and this time the neighbors congratulated the farmer on his good luck. His reply was, “Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?” Then, when the farmer’s son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone thought this was very bad luck.

Not the farmer, whose only reaction was, “Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?” Some weeks later the army marched into the village and conscripted every able-bodied youth they found there. When they saw the farmer’s son with his broken leg they let him off. Now that was good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?

Everything that seems on the surface to be an evil may be a good in disguise. And everything that seems good on the surface may really be an evil. So we are wise when we leave it to God to decide what is good luck and what bad, and thank God that all things turn out for good with those who love God.



Your Offering

Enclosed in this Newsletter you will find an envelope with our address on it. Any contribution you make to us will help defray the cost of this Newsletter which is now mailed to over 3,000 households. Thank you for your generosity.

Visit St. Paul’s on the web at:

[www.catholic-church.org/
stpaulsmonastery](http://www.catholic-church.org/stpaulsmonastery)



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