

Dear Parishioners, Friends, and Visitors to the Cathedral,

Saint Paul of the Cross was born in northern Italy in AD 1694, the second of sixteen children (only six survived to adulthood). His parents were very devout Catholics and instilled a strong religious upbringing in their children. As a child, Paul went to daily Mass, taught catechism to other children, and spent much time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. At the age of nineteen, he received an even deeper call to conversion through the writings of Saint Francis de Sales. Paul responded to this call within his heart by adopting an even more austere life of prayer and penance.



In AD 1714 (in the hopes of giving his life for the faith) Paul joined the Venetian Army to go off and fight the Turks. However, he was discharged a year later, as he came to discover that God had another purpose for his life in mind. Returning to his home, Paul once again took up a life of austerity, devoted to prayer and penance. He refused an offer of marriage, as well as a sizable inheritance that was left to him by a priest uncle (keeping only the priest's breviary for himself).

It was AD 1720, that through prayer, Paul came to know how God wanted him to serve – by founding a religious congregation dedicated to the Passion of Christ. He also saw in a vision what the habit of this religious congregation was to look like. After consulting with his spiritual director, the Bishop of Alessandria, he was vested in the black tunic emblazoned with the emblem of our Lord's Passion and went bareheaded and barefoot to a tiny cell where he began to live a life dedicated to the passion of Christ and drawn up the rule of life for this new community. In addition to the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, Passionists (as they have come to be called) also take a fourth vow to spread devotion to Christ's passion.

One of the religious challenges that people faced at this time in Italy was that some had come to view the Lord Jesus Christ as a nice moral teacher (like some kind of guru who could teach a way of life), but not as one around whom every passion, desire, and drive of our life should be centered, in imitation of His immense love that was demonstrated by His passion. To combat this, Paul and his newly formed congregation would preach passionately about the love of God and spread devotion to the Lord's Passion.

Paul opened the first Passionist monastery in AD 1737, but lost many of the initial novices because of the severity of the Rule. His first attempt to receive approbation from Rome for his newly founded religious order was not successful, but eventually he did receive official recognition in AD 1741 and he was elected the first superior general of his order (against his will) at the first general chapter held in AD 1747, a position which he held until his death.

Paul and the members of his order were in high demand as they spread throughout Italy preaching missions, and Paul himself became one of the greatest preachers of his day, able to move even the most hardened sinners to tears with his words. He also showed great compassion for the poor and the sick. Saint Paul of the Cross was untiring in his labors to witness to the love of God by spreading devotion to the passion of Christ. He died in AD 1775 at the age of 80, spending himself in the service of his apostolic labors, having been the instrument of countless conversions.

Father Sean Ralph



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District Gatherings with Bp. Perez

Our new Bishop, Nelson Perez is looking forward to meeting the priests and people of our Diocese. With this in mind, we will celebrate Mass with Bishop Perez on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at St. Stanislaus Church: 3649 East 65th Street, in Cleveland, at 7:00 pm. Afterwards, everyone is invited to a reception that will follow in the Social Center where there will be an opportunity to meet and greet the Bishop. This event is being held for the parishes of the Cleveland Southeast and Central East Districts, so we hope that you will join us for the celebration. We look forward to seeing you on October 18..

World Mission Sunday



is a day set aside by Pope Pius XI in 1926 for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. For more than 50 years, the Diocese of Cleveland has staffed and supported a mission presence in the Central American country of El Salvador. Since 1964, the Cleveland Latin American Mission (CLAM) has shared the good news of the gospel in El Salvador because of your prayerful and financial support. Next week, **Oct. 22/23**, on World Mission Sunday, continue to pray for and support the missionary work of pastoral service, education, health care, and community outreach that the Church is providing. Please be generous.

The Knights of Columbus

are conducting a parish – wide membership drive over the next two weeks. There will be an Open House and informational meeting in the lower sacristy on Sunday, October 29th, after the 10:30 am Mass. All Catholic men age 18 years and older, along with their families, are invited and encouraged to attend, and find out the advantages the Knights of Columbus have to offer you and our parish.

