

PASSIONIST COMPANIONS

Ceremony of Commitment Resource Sheet

Province of the Holy Spirit – Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

CEREMONY OF COMMITMENT

These resources are offered by the Province Charism Team to those who feel drawn by God to make a commitment as a Passionist Companion.

A Song

Gathering

The Ceremony of Commitment begins by praying the antiphon recited by Passionists since the time of St. Paul of the Cross -

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bend in heaven, on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

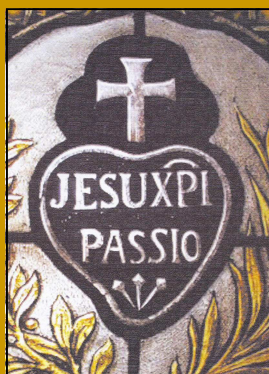
Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, the mystery of your cross is at the centre of our lives. Help us to follow you with a Passionist Heart and to proclaim in all that we do or say your sufferings as the overwhelming sign of God's love for our world.

Amen.

Statement of Intention

The Leader of the Ceremony could share with those gathered the purpose of the event, or those committing themselves could speak of what draws them to make their commitment as Passionist Companions.



Suggested Scripture Readings

1 Peter 2:20-24

Christ suffered for you and left you an example

Isaiah 53:1-12

By his stripes we were healed

Phil 2:6-11

He emptied himself

Luke 23:50-24:6

He is not here, he is risen

Matthew 16:21-27

It is necessary for the Son of Man to suffer greatly

Matthew 11:25-30

Come to Me all you who are weary



A reading from the writings of St. Paul of the Cross

Taken from the Preface to the Original Passionist Rule written by St. Paul of the Cross in 1720

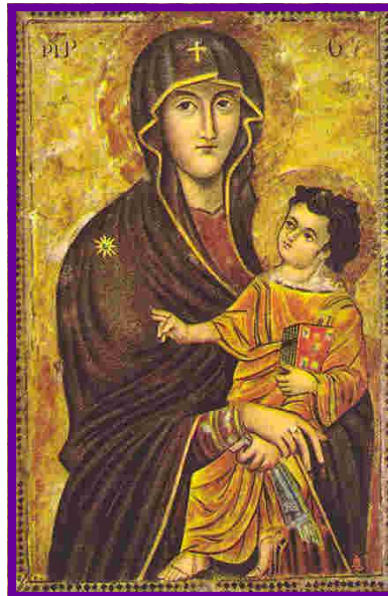
“This last summer (I do not remember the day or the month because I did not write it down but I do know it was the grain harvest time) on a certain weekday in the Capuchin church in Castellazzo, I received Holy Communion with a deep sense of unworthiness. I remember that I was deeply recollected as if I were at prayer. When I came to a street corner to turn towards home, I was raised up in God in the deepest recollection, with complete forgetfulness of all else and with great interior peace. At that moment I saw myself clothed in a long black garment with a white cross on my breast, and below the cross the holy name of Jesus was written in white letters. At the same time I heard these words spoken to me, “This signifies how pure and spotless that heart should be which must bear the holy name of Jesus graven upon it.” Shortly afterwards I saw in spirit the tunic presented to me with the holy name of Jesus and the cross all in white, but the tunic was black. I pressed it joyfully to my heart.”

Letters of St. Paul of the Cross, Volume I 1720-1747, p. 4

Short Homily or Reflection

Giving and Receiving of the Passionist Sign

(Name) receive the Passionist Sign. May you bear the holy name of Jesus engraven upon your heart and so proclaim Christ Crucified to the world in the spirit of St. Paul of the Cross.



Salus Populi Romani
Basilica of St. Mary Major, Rome

Prayer of association before the Icon of Mary

Loving God, through the intercession of Mary, before whose image Paul of the Cross was drawn to dedicate his life to proclaim the Passion of Jesus and to gather companions to do the same, I, (Name), publically associate myself as a Passionist Companion within the Province of the Holy Spirit. I commit myself for the next twelve months to endeavour to live the Passionist Charism and to experience more deeply the power and wisdom of the Cross. Amen.

May the Passion of Jesus be always in our hearts.

Final Blessing

O Lord Jesus, stretch your wounded hands in blessing over us,
to heal and to restore,
and to draw us to yourself and to one another in love. Amen.



St. Paul of the Cross
1694-1775

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Passionist Companions
P.O. Box 12
Marrickville, 1475
Australia

PRAYER TO ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

St. Paul of the Cross,
our father and brother,
as we stand with you before the Cross of Christ
may our minds, our hearts and our lives
be overwhelmed by the love shown there for us.
As you followed the example of Jesus Crucified
may we too be emptied of all things
but the desire to do God's will
and so keep alive the memory
of the Passion and Death
of Jesus Christ our only hope.
Amen.

A PASSIONIST HEART

A life giving gift,
our Charism
- experiencing the Passion of Jesus –
draws us into the Heart of God.
It enables us to be who we are,
and is the foundation of all that we do.
For it is by entering into the pain and suffering of Jesus
that we are strengthened to enter into our pain and suffering,
and so we are able to stand with others in theirs.
Although the Passion of Jesus
offers no hope without the Resurrection,
this Resurrection Hope cannot be experienced
unless first we are willing to stay with the suffering.
When God is discovered in the ordinariness of life,
the Charism and inspiration given to St. Paul of the Cross remain alive.
The Spirituality flowing from the Charism
enables us to enter into relationships
that may not otherwise be humanly possible.
It thus creates and is sustained by a sense of community
and expresses itself in empathy, depth of prayer,
down to earthness and a willingness to be vulnerable.

www.passionists.com