



Latest Happenings In the Diocese: *The Passionists: 60 years of Service to Jamaica*

It was on April 1, 1955, in response to a request for Missionaries for Jamaica, by the then Archbishop of Kingston John J. McEleney S.J. to the Passionist General Superior in Rome, that the Passionists of St. Paul of the Cross Province first arrived in the island sixty years ago. Fr Cormac Shanahan, C.P. and Fr. Callistus Connolly C.P. immediately began Pastoral care of St. Elizabeth's Church and St. Peter Claver Church in Kingston. Fr. Canisius Hazlett C.P, Fr. William Whelan, C.P. and Fr. Anthony Feeherry C.P. came to serve in Mandeville, which became the headquarters for the Regional Superior and the place where all the Passionists gathered for their monthly get-together.

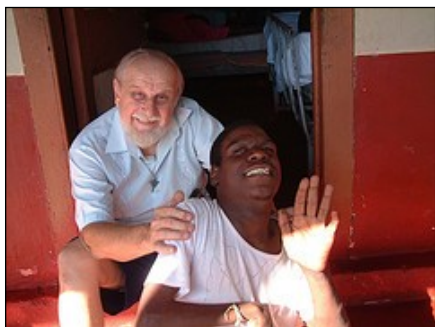


Arrival in Kingston on April 1, 1955. Boat: Evangeline. Left to right: Fr. Callistus Connolly, C.P.; Bishop McEleney, S.J.; unknown; Fr. Denis Tobin, S.J.-Superior of Jesuits; Fr. Anthony Feeherry, C.P.

The Passionists quickly set about restoring and building churches, and opening schools and health clinics in Kingston as well as in what is now the Diocese of Mandeville.

Brother Michael Stomber, C.P. came to Jamaica in 1959 with a mechanical background and was integrally involved in the building of rectories and churches in those early days. He left Jamaica in 1970 and returned in 1990 after serving briefly as a bush pilot for the Bishop of Guyana. Today, at the age of 87, he assists with

Brother Michael Stomber, C.P. shares a light moment with a Manchester Infirmary resident.



the care of infirmity and hospital patients and devotes himself to prayer.

In 1973, Fr. Martin Tooker C.P. became the first Retreat Director of the Mount Calvary Retreat House. Since he could not drive, he spent his first days in Mandeville riding around on a bread delivery truck to get to know the people.

The gracious atmosphere which characterizes the Retreat House is the lasting gift of Fr. Martin. Over the years, Mount Calvary has become known to Jamaicans all over the island as a haven for spiritual renewal.

In 1978, Fr. Thomas Brislin, C.P. took over direction of the Ministry briefly until Fr. Martin once again returned to Mount Calvary in 1980.



L to R: Frs. Callistus Connolly, Cormac Shanahan, Anthony Feeherry, William Whelan

First Passionists in Jamaica WI

Some Buildings Constructed by the early Passionists

St. Croix Church, Santa Cruz
St. Gabriel's Church, Balaclava
St. Theresa's Church & Rectory, Black River
St. Vincent Strambi Church, Bull Savannah
Holy Cross Mission Church, Pratville
Our Lady of Hope Church, Williamsfield
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Porus
Sacred Heart Rectory & Hall, Christiana
St. Joseph Church, Cross Keys
St. Paul of the Cross Cathedral, Mandeville
Our Lady Help of Christians (currently a Senior's Home being used by the Missionaries of Charities)
Mount St. Joseph Catholic High School sixth form block (formerly the location of another school)

Sr. Joanne Fahey, C.P.



In September 1985, the priests invited the Passionist Sisters to come to Jamaica for ministry. Sr. Bernadette Hughes, C.P. thus became the new Director of the Retreat House, bringing her expertise and training in spiritual direction and retreat

Above: Sr. Kathleen Mary Burke, C. P.



ministry. Two other Passionist Sisters, Sr. Joanne Fahey C.P. and Sr. Kathleen Mary Burke C.P. also came to Mandeville for Pastoral and Catechetical ministries. The Sisters built a convent next to the Retreat Centre.

In 1987, Fr. Paul Zilonka, C.P. joined Sr. Bernadette as co-director of Mount Calvary while teaching at the seminary in Kingston. He concluded his ministry in Jamaica and returned to the USA in July 1995.

Gradually, the Passionists began to develop a vocation program, and actively seek local vocations. Bertram Chin was thus ordained on June 30, 1991 becoming the first Jamaican Passionist priest and subsequently the first Jamaican Provincial Vicar. When he passed away in Sept

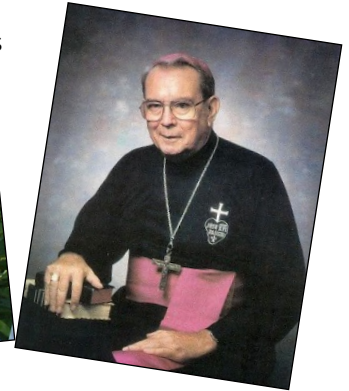


Sr. Bernadette Hughes, C.P., Director of Mount Calvary Retreat House and Sr. Una O'Connor, C.P. former president of the Catholic College of Mandeville.

2003, he had already touched many lives with his brief ministry.



Fr. Bertram Chin, C.P.



Bishop Paul M. Boyle, C.P.

A week after the ordination of Fr. Bertram Chin, C.P., Bishop Paul M. Boyle, C.P. former superior general of the Passionist Congregation, was appointed as the first bishop of the newly created Apostolic Vicariate of Mandeville on July 9, 1991.

In 1993, Sr. Una O'Connor C.P. came to Jamaica to focus on educational ministry in the Diocese. She started an evening college program for eighteen basic school teachers, with the help of a dedicated staff of professional teachers at St. Paul of the Cross School. The small group of committed educators and students was the founding nucleus of the Catholic College of Mandeville.

The College outgrew its space, relocating to Caledonia Road in 2001 and finally to its current Williamsfield campus in 2013. In 2014, Sr. Una retired as president of the College, having overseen its growth and development from its first small class of students to its largest enrollment of approximately 700 students and 80 full and part-time faculty and staff in 2010.

Catholic College of Mandeville, Williamsfield Campus



Passionists who have served Jamaica

Sisters:

Burke CP, Kathleen Mary
Fahey CP, Joanne
Hughes CP, Bernadette
O'Connor CP, Una

Brothers:

Carrol CP, Damian
Lafond CP, Reginald
Stomber CP, Michael

Priests:

Award CP, Richard
Baswekndola CP, Gaston Nsongolo
Bauer CP, Basil
Beaton CP, Ronald Anthony
Bell CP, Brian
Brislin CP, Thomas
Carrigan CP, Joachim
Chin CP, Bertram Thomas
Chirdon CP, Howard
Clark CP, Lucian
Collupy CP, Sebastian
Connolly CP, Callistus
Cuthina CP, Paschal
Devassykutty CP, Benzen
Dignan CP, Paul Joseph
Dougherty CP, Charles
Durkin CP, Gregory
Edwards CP, Brice
Eichmiller CP, Regis
Engle CP, Robert Bede
Feeherry CP, Anthony
Gill CP, Nicholas
Grace CP, Peter
Guzinski CP, Joseph Dunstan
Haslach CP, Stephen
Hazlett CP, Canisius
Hoffman CP, Alexander
Hotz CP, Ernest
Iacovone CP, Angelo
Johnston CP, Ernan
Jones CP, Joseph
Keogh CP, Colgan
Landry CP, Francis
Lareau CP, Earnest (Canisius)
Leary CP, Richard F.
Mansmann CP, Denis
Maye CP, John Baptist
McHugh CP, James
Moore CP, John Patrick (Columba)
Price CP, James
Roberts CP, David
Rowe CP, Michael
Ruttle CP, Paul
Shanahan CP, Cormac
Soucie CP, Richard
Tooker CP, Martin Joseph
Valiaparambil CP, Xavier
Vitacolonna CP, Xavier
Welch CP, Ernest
Whelan CP, William
Wood CP, Simon Paul
Zilonka CP, Paul

Bishops:

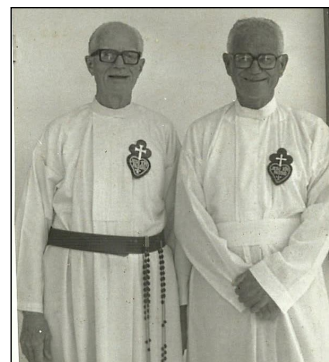
Boyle CP, Paul M., Bishop
Tiedemann CP, Neil, Bishop
List of priests courtesy of Deacon Peter Espeut



Passionist volunteers currently serving in Mandeville: L-R: Michael Lamb, Casey Gerety, Kaitlin Denney, Katherine Meritt, Andrea Carlson, Dan McMahon

Under the direction of Fr. Lucian Clark, C.P. who resides in the USA, the first group of Passionist Volunteers arrived in Jamaica in September 2003. The Volunteers are recent graduates from U.S. Colleges who want to combine Catholic social teaching in a faith-rooted and community based experience. Their early ministry would serve the churches of Stony Hill, outside of Kingston. In 2010, the volunteers moved their focus to The Diocese of Mandeville, providing assistance in the areas of health and education according to their skills and expertise.

Fr. Martin Tooker, C.P. first director of Mount Calvary Retreat House and Fr. Richard O'Leary, C.P.



After the retirement of Bishop Paul Boyle, C.P in July 2004, Bishop Gordon Bennett, S.J. became the 2nd bishop of Mandeville. He retired in August 2006. Bishop Charles Dufour was then named Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese until Bishop Neil Tiedemann, C.P., now the current Bishop, was appointed third Bishop of Mandeville in May 2008 .

Mount Calvary Retreat House in Mandeville



Below: Fr. Paul Zilonka, C.P. former co-Director of the Mount Calvary Retreat House.



In addition to a Passionist Bishop, there are currently six Passionist priests, a Brother, and two Sisters in the Diocese, as well as Fr. Richard Award, C.P. who came to Jamaica in 1985 and spent some time as pastor of St. Paul of the Cross and who now resides and serves in Kingston at St. Elizabeth Church.



Fr. Richard Award, C.P.

Fr. Paul Ruttle, C.P. came to Jamaica in 2008 and became the rector of St. Paul of the Cross Cathedral in Mandeville. Fr. Michael Rowe, C.P. is a Jamaican priest who was ordained in 2011 in Mandeville, and was assigned to the

Retreat Ministry at Mount Calvary Retreat House. He is also involved in St. Paul of the Cross Cathedral.

Most recently, in 2014, Fr. James Price, C.P. came to Jamaica from the USA to head the Evangelization Team in the Diocese, followed some months later by Fr. Paschal Cuthina, C.P., Fr. Benzen Devassykutty, C.P and Fr. Xavier Valiaparambil, C.P from India, who have formed a Passionist House in May Pen. They attend to the Pastoral Care of St. Thomas More Church in May Pen.

The people of Mandeville truly owe a great deal to the Passionists for their immense contribution over the past sixty years. The Passionists will always hold a special place in the hearts of the people as they continue to work together for the glory of God and the continued development of the Diocese of Mandeville and the people of Jamaica.



Churches built by the Passionists—Above: St. Vincent Strambi Catholic Church. Below: St. Paul of the Cross Cathedral.



Some of the Passionists currently serving Jamaica: L-R: Fr. Lucian Clark, C.P., Fr. James Price, C.P., Fr. Benzen Devassykutty, C.P., Brother Michael Stomber, C.P., Fr. Paul Ruttle C.P., Fr. Michael Rowe, C.P., Fr. Paschal Cuthina, C.P., Bishop Neil Tiedemann, C.P., Fr. Xavier Valiaparambil, C.P.