

Dear Parishioners and Friends of 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 in mind for his life. 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 in 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 to draw 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



The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
1007 Superior Ave. E • Cleveland OH 44114-2582
<http://SaintJohnCathedral.com> • 216-771-6666



**Synod
2021-2023**
**“For a
Synodal
Church:
Communion,
Participation,
Mission”**

Bishop Malesic will celebrate an Opening Liturgy for the Synod **this Sunday, October 17, at 10:30 am (which will be streamed instead of the usual 8:00 am Mass)** at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. This will kick off the diocesan phase of the three-year synodal journey of consultations and discernment, culminating with the Assembly of Bishops in October 2023 in Rome.

A leadership team has been formed to prepare for and implement the synodal process within the diocese. Through the end of the year, all baptized Catholics will be invited participate in this process of listening, dreaming, and discerning God's call for the Church amid the present signs of the times. The diocesan discernment will culminate in a “Pre-Synodal Meeting” early next year. For more information go to:

< dioceseofcleveland.org/synod >

Cleveland Marathon Navigation

Next Sunday, October 24, the Marathon & Half Marathon races will be taking place throughout Cleveland, starting at 7:00 am, and expect to be finished by 2:00 pm. While we are not directly on the new route, please see the traffic advisories below:

- **The East Shoreway will be blocked at the East 9th Street exit.**
- **The entire West Shoreway will be blocked.**
- From the east, plan to exit the Innerbelt at Superior Avenue.
- **Main surface streets from the west will be blocked** at West 25th, Huron, & Ontario (including the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge).
- **Detroit & Superior will be closed from West 25th to Public Square.**
- From the west: **Exit I-90 at East 9th Street.** The Innerbelt exit at Ontario may be blocked.
- Course maps and details can be found on the website: < clevelandmarathon.com >.