



THE PASSIONISTS

May 2018

Chapel News

Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center



Dear Friends,

At 11:15 a.m. on April 6, 2018, after twenty seven years, four months and six days, I decided to retire from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have worked with those men and women. I spent twelve years in the New York Office, three years in the Scranton Residence Office (RA) and the past 12 years in the West Palm Beach RA.

I believe that I touched many people along the way. I know I have been influential in bringing some individuals back to the Church. I have been honored to celebrate weddings, baptisms and, sorry to say, funerals. I have sat with grieving parents after their child committed suicide.

I was present for the first bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993. I never imagined that in a few short years we would have a second attack.

While in the New York Office I was called to respond to the crash of TWA flight 800, and I was sent to the temporary morgue on the dock. I was also assigned to the main morgue. I helped young agents who had never seen a dead body before come to terms with that experience.

One year we suffered nineteen suicides of law enforcement personnel, made up mostly of NYPD, along with one FBI agent. The NYPD asked to be debriefed with the FBI because they didn't trust their own Employee Assistant Office (EAP). I had to be present.

I also had to respond to family issues on everything from domestic violence to suicides, along with other issues you can only imagine.

And then there was September 11, 2001. I was on Shelter Island at the time of the attack, and was I called in to respond. I saw the best of humanity, and unfortunately, the worst of humanity. I saw good friends die and families crushed. I witnessed great leadership and less than great leaders. The event on 9/11 tore my heart, and there are certain places on the World Trade Center site where I still cry because I remember.

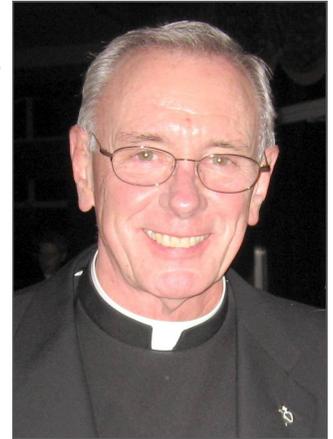
I could go on forever regarding my assignment with the FBI. I enjoyed my time there, but I knew in my heart it was time to call it quits. Please pray for all Law Enforcement personnel, and especially the FBI. They do incredible work to keep us safe.

And please keep the Passionists of St. Paul of the Cross Province in your prayers as we attend our Provincial Chapter in New York this month to select leadership for the next four years.

In Christ's Love,

Fr. Paul

Fr. Paul Wierichs, C.P.



Theme Retreats 2018

“By His Wounds You Are Healed”

May 18 - 21 Women’s Retreat

June 1 - 3 Men’s Retreat

Details at www.ourladyofflorida.org

Special Retreats & Events

May 25-27: Healing Retreat

Led by Fr. Robert Richardson

\$225 See website for details.

Registration & deposit required

June 15-21: Silent Directed Retreat

\$550 See website for details.

Registration & deposit required

July 20-22: Annual Young Adults Retreat (18-35 years old)

Led by Passionists & Peer leaders with the Diocese of Palm Beach

Theme: “By His Wounds You are Healed”

Through the generosity of donors, the cost of this retreat is reduced to \$100.

Registration & deposit required

To register online, visit Our Lady of Florida’s website, click on the Retreats tab and scroll down to Special Retreats. For further assistance, call 561-626-1300. Ext. 117.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

Need some spiritual refreshment?

See what new books may spark your faith journey.



Days of Reflection

Our monthly Days of Reflection are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

June 6: “Praying with Icons”
Presented by Sr. Roberta Popara, O.P.

July: None scheduled

The program runs from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and includes presentations, time for private reflection, opportunity for Confession, a meal and Mass.

The donation for each session is \$40.
Please register prior to each event.



Special Passionist Date to Remember

May 16
Feast of St. Gemma Galgani, Passionist

If you would like to receive a “Spiritual Thought” from Father Paul once in a while, please e-mail your full name to: pwierichs@cprov.org

All of our publications and newsletters can be found at our Internet home: www.ourladyofflorida.org

Contributions to our Chapel Box are greatly appreciated.