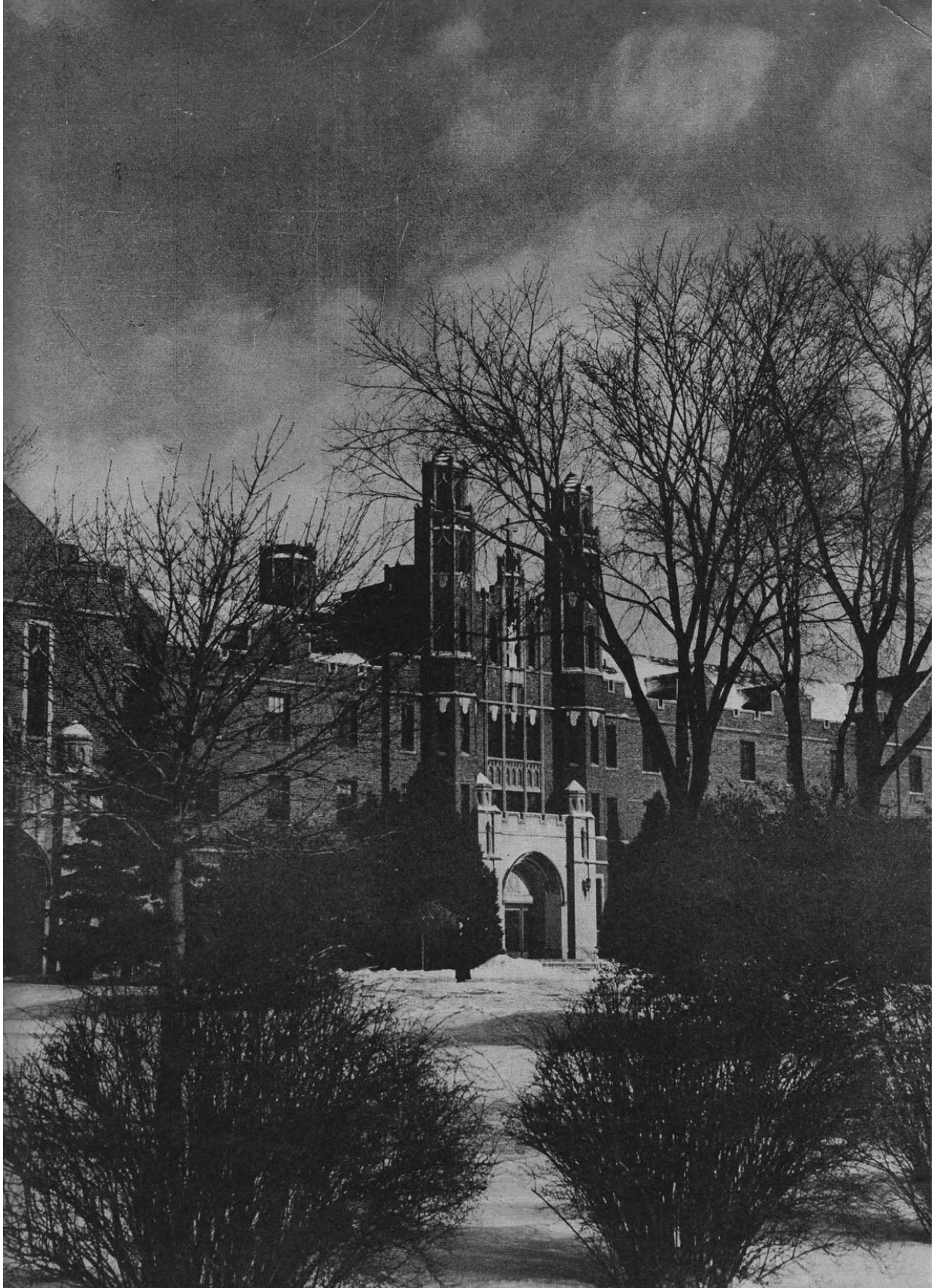


# PASSIONISTS







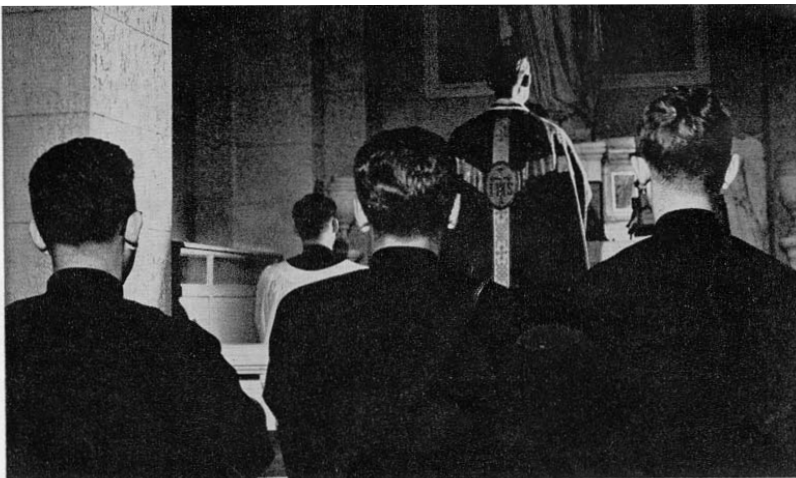
A PASSIONIST EAGERLY WELCOMES one willing to share Christ's work redeeming the world.

# THE PASSIONIST LIFE

Who are the Passionists? They are religious priests and brothers who make up one of the modern communities in the Church today. They live a life devoted to the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ. They try to do all in their power to appreciate His sufferings and to bring others to appreciate and benefit from them. They were founded a little over two hundred years ago by St. Paul of the Cross to live in spirit on Calvary. From this fact they receive their name "Passionists." For this purpose they take a special vow to promote devotion to Our Lord's Sacred Passion.

The Passionist life is lived inside the monastery in prayer and silence and study, and outside the monastery in the work of preaching Christ Crucified especially through missions and retreats. It is a life devoted to personal sanctification and the salvation of souls. Over 800 men in America have answered Christ's call to be Passionists but the need is still great. The following pages show what such a life means in great detail.

← A PASSIONIST MONASTERY stands strong in the world as a home for Passionist religious.



A PASSIONIST SAYS MASS, uniting his own life with the perfect sacrifice of Christ. Here is the center and source of strength for a Passionist day.



A PASSIONIST PRAYS privately to identify himself more with Christ in his sufferings and then share the power of His Passion with others.

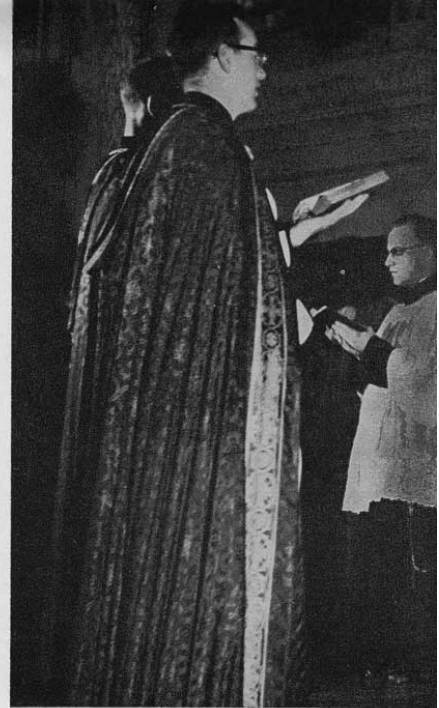
A PASSIONIST SINGS the Divine Office, to offer God the praise of the world and ask God's blessing on the world.





RELIGIOUS FILING DOWN STAIRS answer the bell to assemble for meals.

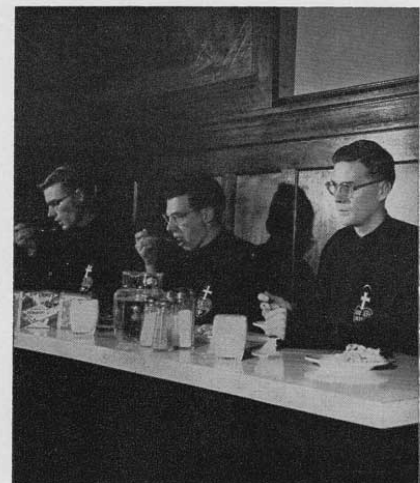
PREPARING THE REFECTORY for meals is a task of a lay-brother.



VESPERS SOLEMNLY CHANTED BY THE

## A FULL HOME-

At home in the monastery the Passionist leads a well-balanced life of prayer, study, recreation, and rest. The Divine Office is chanted in choir, Mass and time for private meditation round out the prayer of the day. The religious move about, eat, and study in silence. A time for talking together is given at noon and in the evening. All that is valuable of



EATING IN SILENCE while someone reads, refreshes the soul as well as the body.

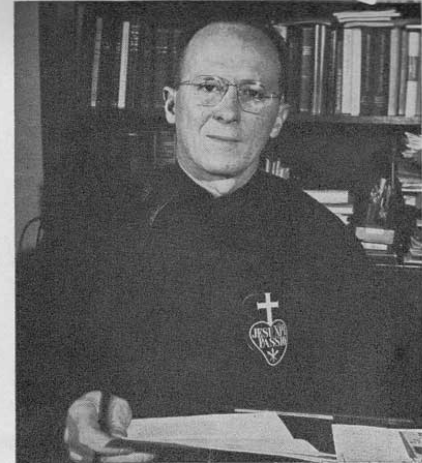


RELIGIOUS ADD EXTERNAL SPLENDOR TO THE PRAISE OF GOD.

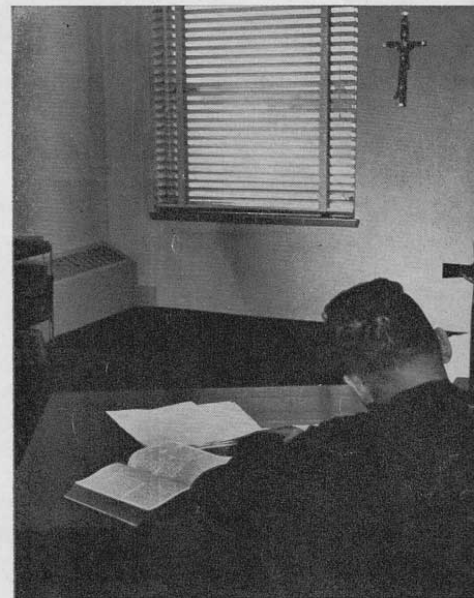
## LIFE FOR THE PASSIONIST

the ancient monastic practices has been preserved for the benefit of the modern-day religious. The great feasts of the Church are celebrated with special solemnity in all their liturgical richness. The fasts of the Church and special fasts of Rule are offered

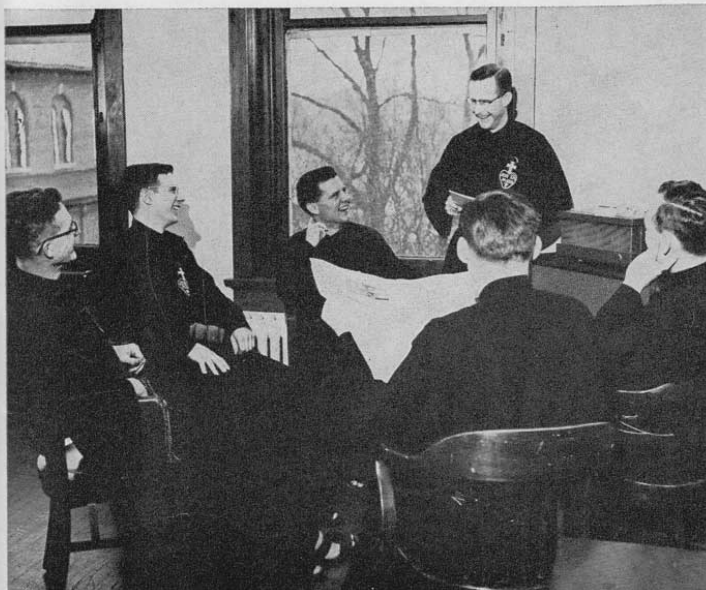
for the good of soul and body. The superior of the monastery is called father rector. He has the job of providing for the welfare of the community and appointing the religious to various types of work that need to be done. He stands in the place of Our Lord.



FATHER SUPERIOR, the head of the community, plans for its welfare in his room.

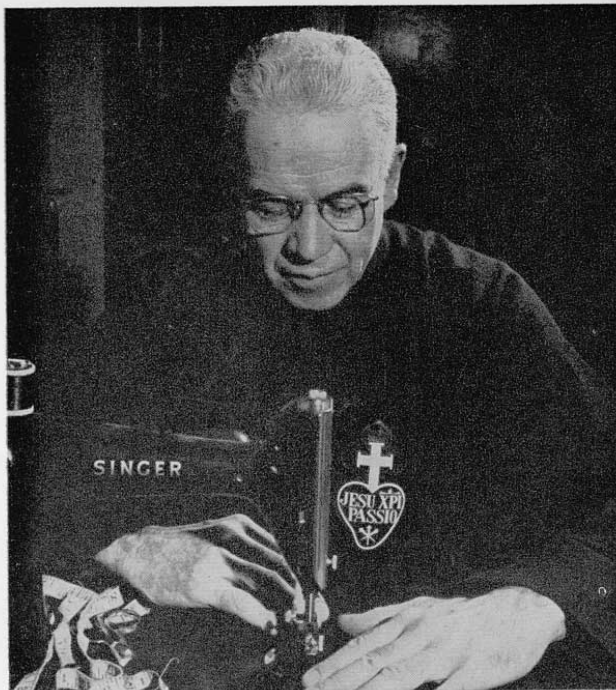


STUDYING IN THE CELL is an important means for learning Christ better and giving Him to others.

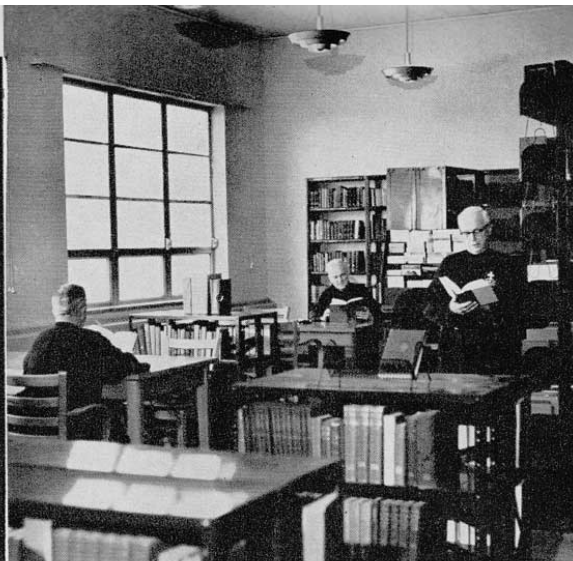


YOUNG AND OLD EXCHANGE IDEAS in community life made up of men of all ages.

RELAXING at recreation is a part of the balanced day of the religious.



BROTHER TAILOR, at the sewing machine, makes and cares for the clothes of the community.

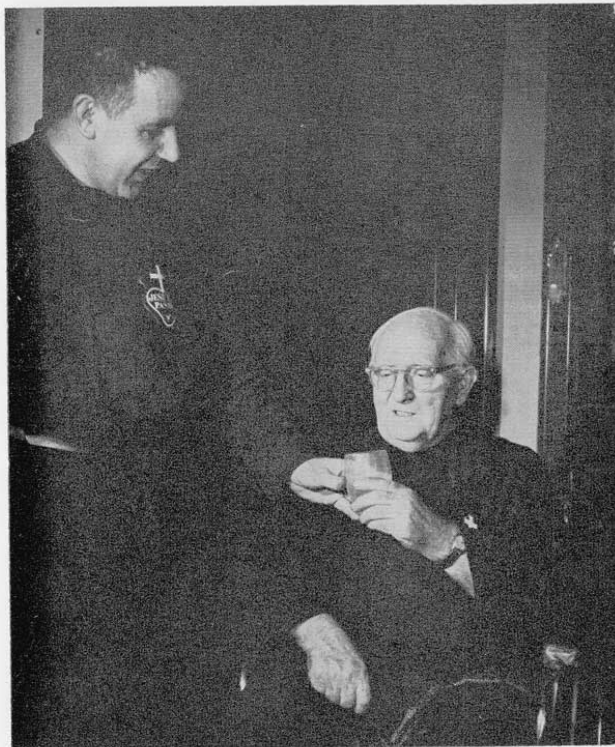


LIBRARY, full of the wisdom of the ages, is constantly at the service of the religious.

## PRIESTS AND BROTHERS ALL WORK TOGETHER FOR GOD

While the priests spend hours of their Passionist day in study, Passionist lay-brothers are spending hours making the monastery a real home. They are men who are not ordained priests but want to devote their lives to Christ's sufferings. They take the same vows as Passionist priests but fulfill their vow to promote devotion to Christ's Passion in their prayer and work. They work as cook and tailor and nurse for the sick. They take care of the boiler in the winter and the lawn in the summer. Their work is often hard and hidden from the eyes of men, but they are rich and full of merit in the eyes of Christ whom they serve so loyally. The lay-brothers free the priests for more direct work for souls. With them a monastery is blessed; without them the monastery would be incomplete.

SOLITARY WALK is a period of physical and mental relaxation in the everyday life of the Passionist. →

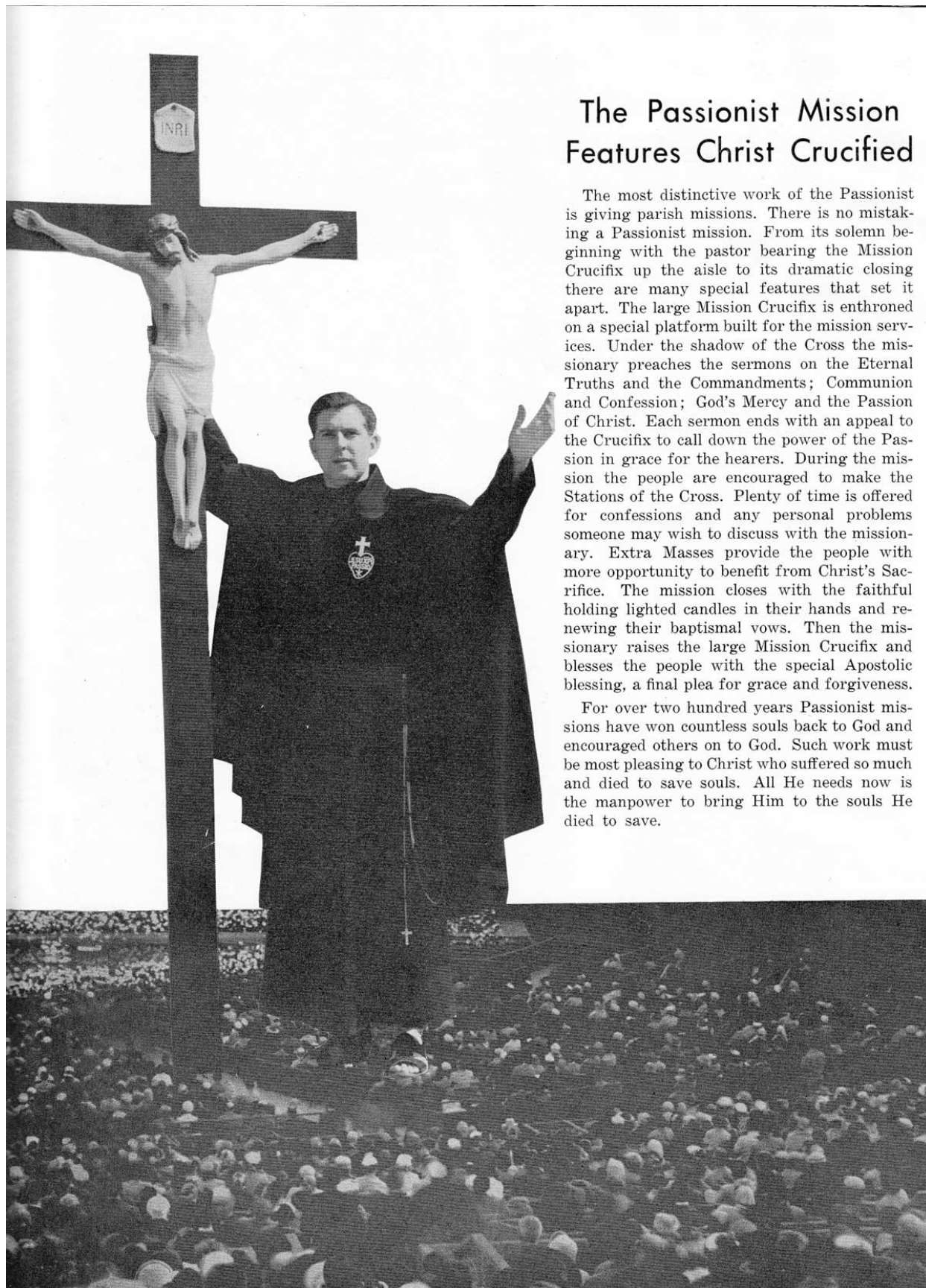


BROTHER INFIRMARIAN cheerfully offers refreshment to an infirm member of the community.

BROTHER COOK prepares wholesome meals for Passionist religious.





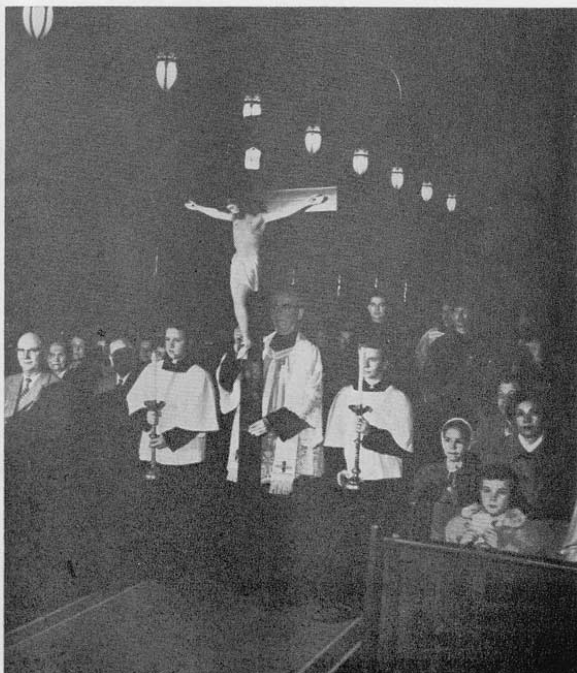


## The Passionist Mission Features Christ Crucified

The most distinctive work of the Passionist is giving parish missions. There is no mistaking a Passionist mission. From its solemn beginning with the pastor bearing the Mission Crucifix up the aisle to its dramatic closing there are many special features that set it apart. The large Mission Crucifix is enthroned on a special platform built for the mission services. Under the shadow of the Cross the missionary preaches the sermons on the Eternal Truths and the Commandments; Communion and Confession; God's Mercy and the Passion of Christ. Each sermon ends with an appeal to the Crucifix to call down the power of the Passion in grace for the hearers. During the mission the people are encouraged to make the Stations of the Cross. Plenty of time is offered for confessions and any personal problems someone may wish to discuss with the missionary. Extra Masses provide the people with more opportunity to benefit from Christ's Sacrifice. The mission closes with the faithful holding lighted candles in their hands and renewing their baptismal vows. Then the missionary raises the large Mission Crucifix and blesses the people with the special Apostolic blessing, a final plea for grace and forgiveness.

For over two hundred years Passionist missions have won countless souls back to God and encouraged others on to God. Such work must be most pleasing to Christ who suffered so much and died to save souls. All He needs now is the manpower to bring Him to the souls He died to save.





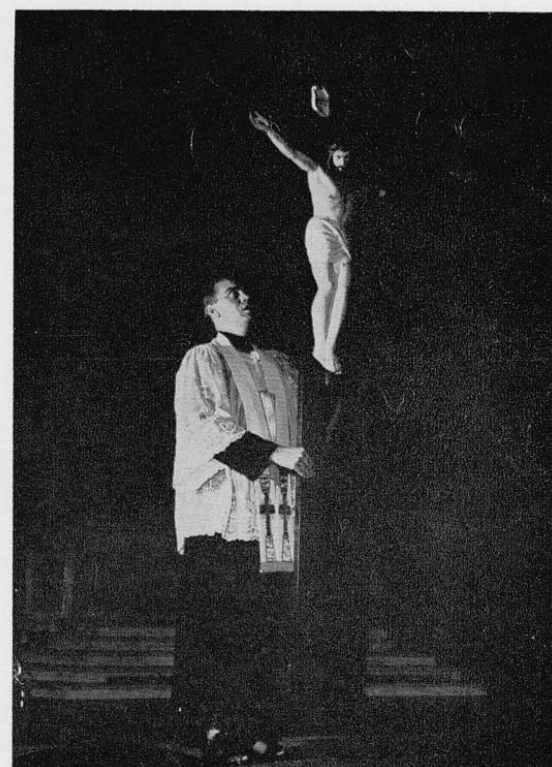
SOLEMN ENTRANCE with the Mission Crucifix opens a Passionist mission. The pastor carries the Crucifix accompanied by two servers and followed by the missionaries.



PLANTING THE CRUCIFIX on the platform just before the opening talk sets the theme for the mission. The sight of the Crucifix reminds the people of the meaning of the mission.



APPEAL TO THE CRUCIFIX is the fitting conclusion of the mission sermon.



FINAL BLESSING with the Mission Crucifix begs God's special grace on the people.



PREACHING CLOSED RETREATS is another form of action for Christ a Passionist engages in.



OUTDOOR STATIONS made by the men under the leadership of a priest are an important part of a Passionist retreat.

## PASSIONIST WORK VARIES

Another most important activity is preaching retreats. Some of the monasteries have lay-retreat houses, where on week ends laymen come for prayer and reflection. These periods are called "The Fifty Golden Hours" for during them the men have a chance to know God and themselves better, and check up on their lives. Here again the meaning of the Cross for each individual life is set forth by the Passionist who is giving the retreat. Conducting a retreat offers many opportunities to spread devotion to Christ's Passion.

PRIVATE CONSULTATION in the retreatant's own room is a valuable part of the priest's work during a closed retreat.



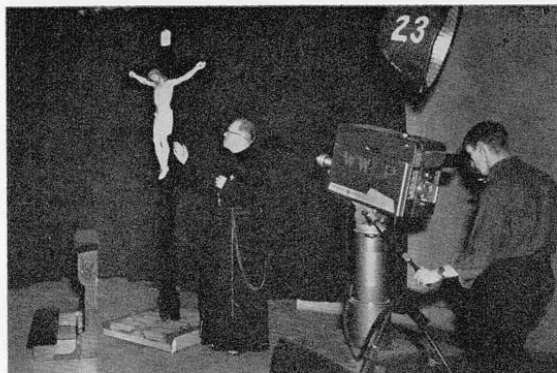


GIVING HIGH SCHOOL RETREATS is another important work of the Passionist missionary, as he helps young people see Christ's place in their life.

In high schools and colleges too you will find Passionists, as well as in other fields of missionary work. In the south the Passionists work among the Negroes with flourishing missions. Each year many children are instructed and adults are received into the Church.

A special foreign mission is Japan. There Passionist missionaries who have learned the language give missions and retreats and work to form a Japanese section of the order. There are other foreign missions in the Philippines and the Bahamas.

Radio broadcasting and television are other modern forms of the apostolate. A special program "The Hour of the Crucified" has become famous all over the world for the excellence of its production and the timeliness of its message.



TV AND RADIO bring the message of Christ's love to millions in a wonderful new way, making it truly "The Hour of the Crucified."



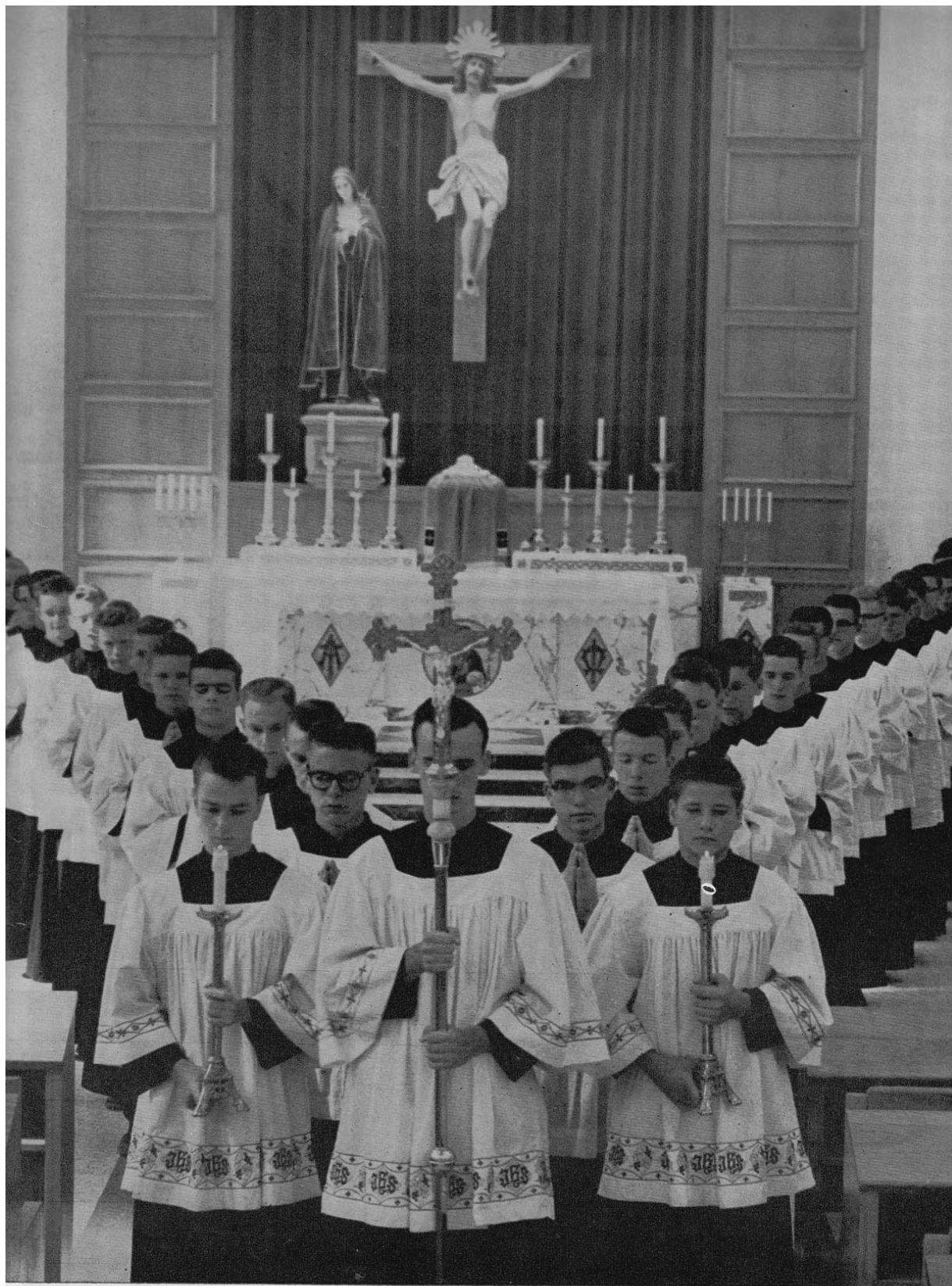
MISSIONARY WORK WITH THE NEGROES in Alabama is another means of spreading devotion to Christ's Passion.



A PASSIONIST IN JAPAN works for the souls for whom Christ died.

A JAPANESE FAMILY LISTENS to learn the meaning of the Sign; to know what is over the heart and in the heart of the Passionist missionary.





IN SOLEMN PROCESSION behind the Cross young Passionist seminarians march to take their place with His Sorrowful Mother before Our Lord at the foot of the Cross.



THE MOTTO behind the statue of our Lady and Child shows the purpose of the preparation.



A WELCOME TO THOSE WILLING to prepare to be Passionists is given by father superior.

## THE MAKING OF A PASSIONIST

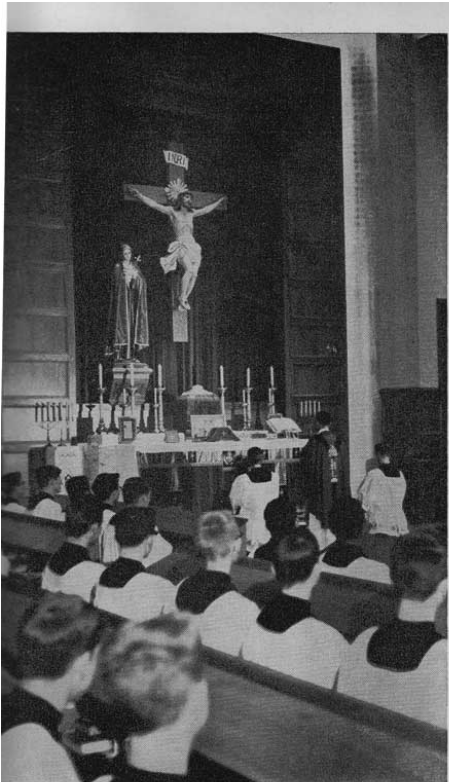
Long years of training go into the making of a Passionist. That is why a Preparatory Seminary is so important, so that any time a young man feels a desire to try he may have the best help possible. The Preparatory Seminary is the place where the training of the future Passionist begins. Here four years of high school and two years of college foster the physical, mental, and spiritual growth necessary for the Passionist life. A young man may enter any time during high school or college or even afterwards. The time to enter is when God gives the vocation. The place to enter is the Preparatory Seminary.



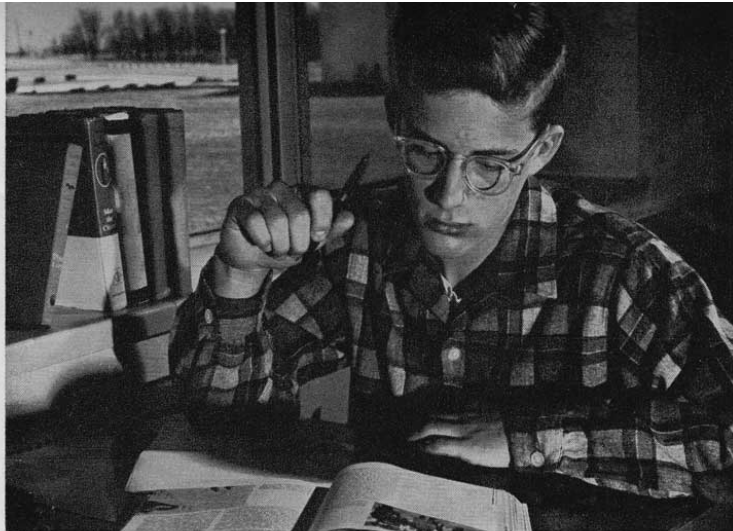
A PRIVATE TALK with father director helps a young man adjust to the life of a Passionist seminarian.



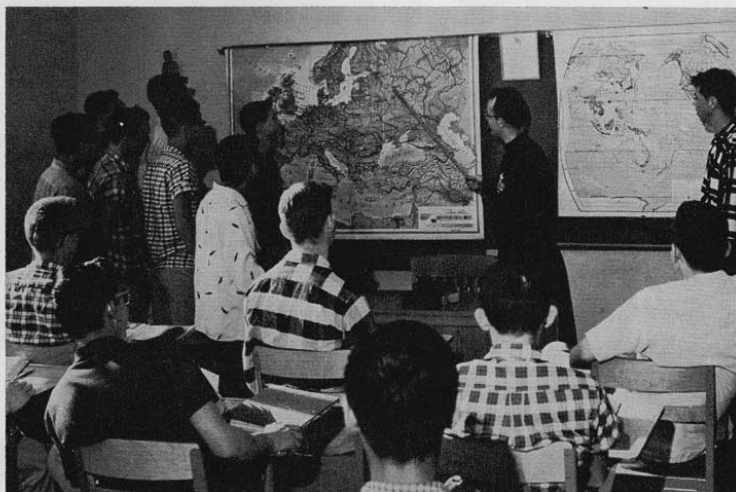
AIR VIEW OF THE SEMINARY dedicated to the Mother of Good Counsel. The chapel in the center is flanked by the high-school section on the right, the college section on the left and the monastery behind. Swimming pool, tennis courts, ball field and a portion of the 800 acres are shown.



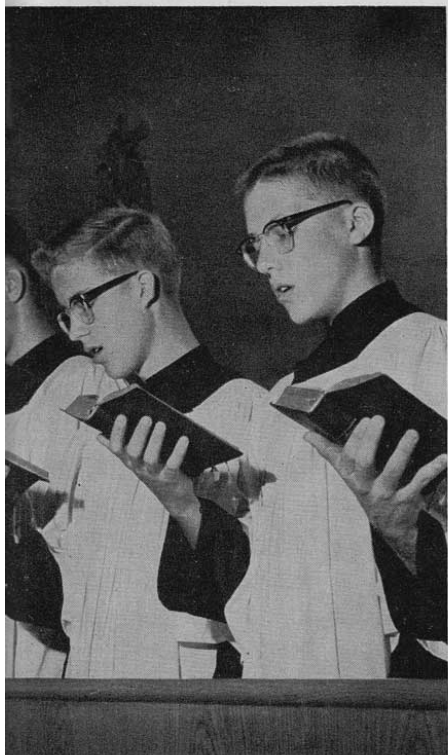
MORNING MASS begins each day with Christ for the seminarian. Christ comes in Communion to help in the work of preparation.



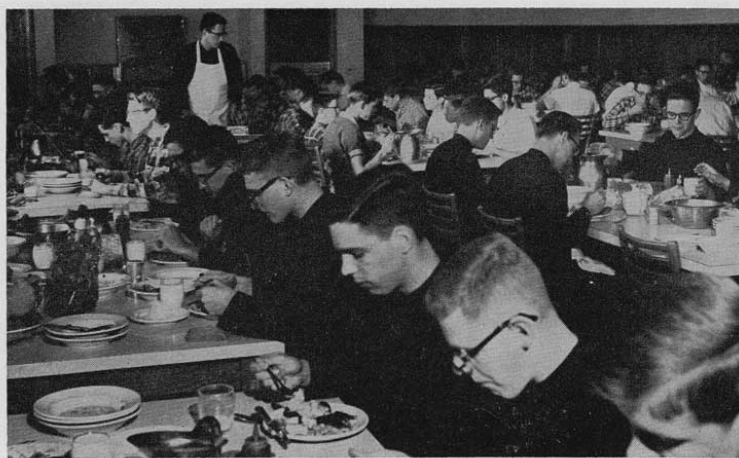
PRIVATE STUDY plays its part in training a future priest by helping him gain necessary knowledge.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY prepares the seminarian to know more about the world in which he is to live and work as a Passionist missionary.



CHANTING THE DIVINE OFFICE gives the seminarian a better appreciation of the Church's liturgy.



DINING HALL (refectory) has its vital role in nourishing the strength of the growing youth.



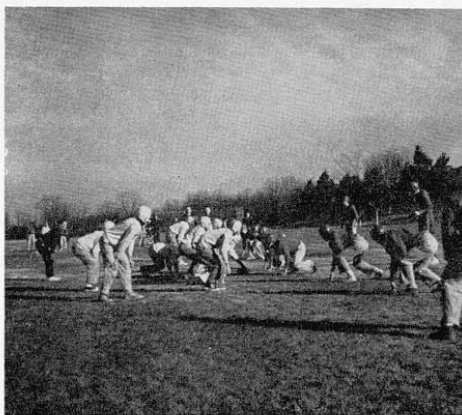
STUDENTS AROUND A PIANO sing during a period of relaxation.

## THE STUDENT'S DAY

Daily Mass and a part of the Divine Office as well as time for private prayer are provided to form the future Passionist in a spirit of prayer. There are courses in religion, Latin, English, history Greek, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and music. Play too, takes its place in the student's day. Here the student gradually learns the Passionist routine. In the morning after Mass and breakfast there is time for a walk outside. Then follows morning classes, part of the Divine Office and lunch. After the meal there is more study and class. Then the recess and time for a ball game or a swim. Divine Office is chanted again before supper, and study and recreation take up the time till night prayers. It is a full and happy day.



BASEBALL finds its place at the Prep each Spring and Autumn.



FOOTBALL takes over in the Fall as the favorite sport.



BASKETBALL in the gym is the indoor sport of winter.

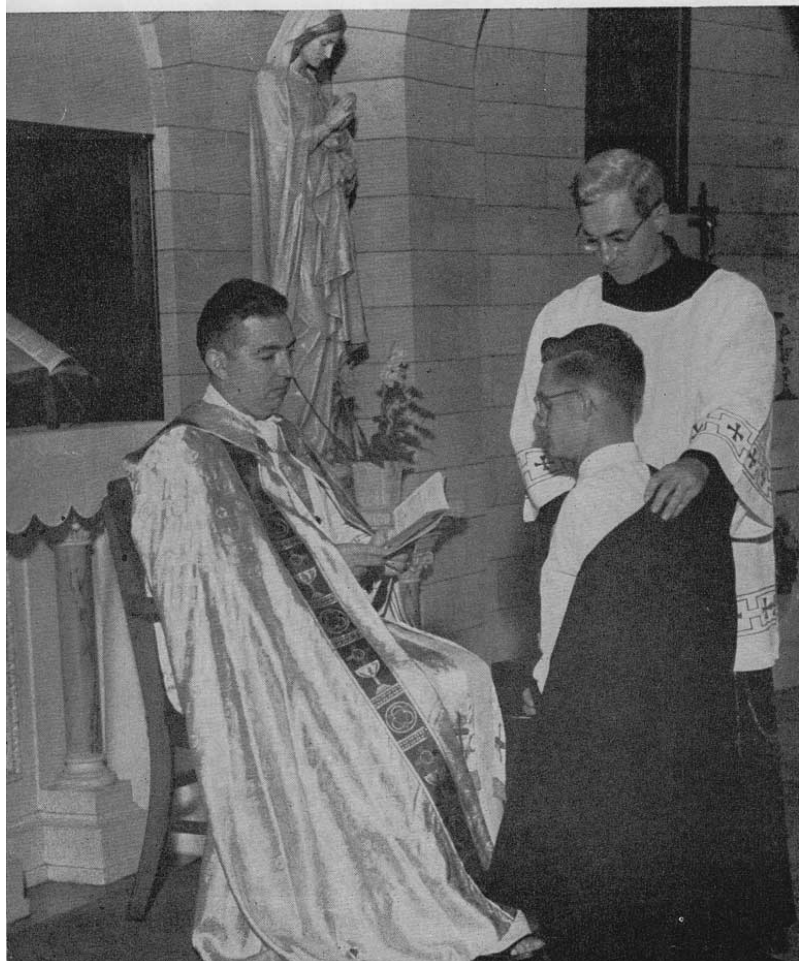
← SWIMMING gives a refreshing relief to study and play at the Prep.



MEETING THE POSTULANT at the door of the Novitiate the master of novices gives him a cheerful welcome as he enters the door that leads to the fullness of the Passionist life.

# NOVICES AND VOWS

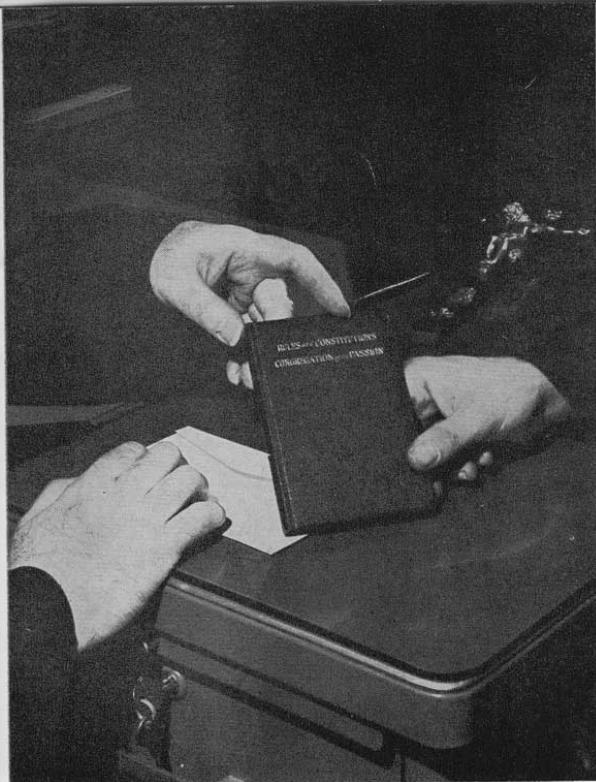
After the years at the Preparatory Seminary are completed another step is taken on the way to becoming a Passionist by entering the Novitiate. The Novitiate is a year's trial of the real Passionist life, living as the Rule directs. More time is given to prayer. The whole Divine Office is chanted. Other community exercises are followed, and the desire and ability to follow such a vocation is tested. At the completion of the year temporary vows of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Devotion to the Passion are taken in a deeply moving ceremony. The temporary vows last for three years after which vows for life are taken.



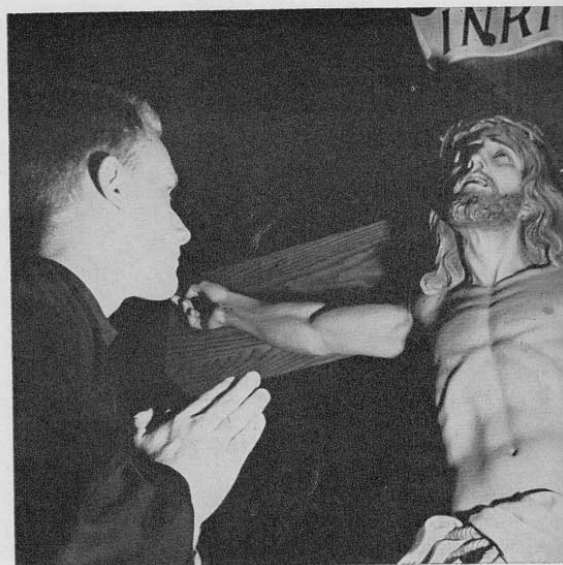
WALKING WITH THE MASTER OF NOVICES the Novices relax in the open air.

THE CLOTHING CEREMONY takes place as the secular coat is removed and the Passionist habit received, a symbol of putting off the world and putting on Christ.



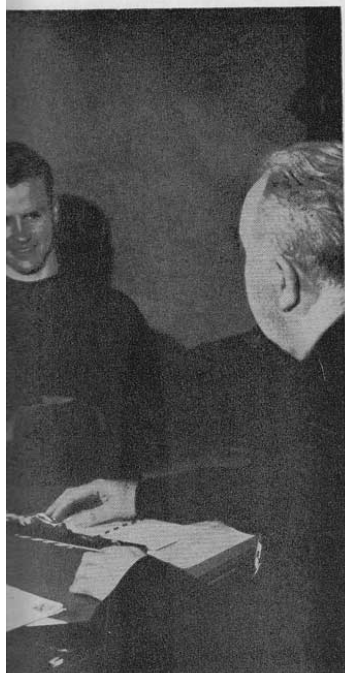


PRESENTING THE RULES the master offers the guiding norms to a perfect religious life.

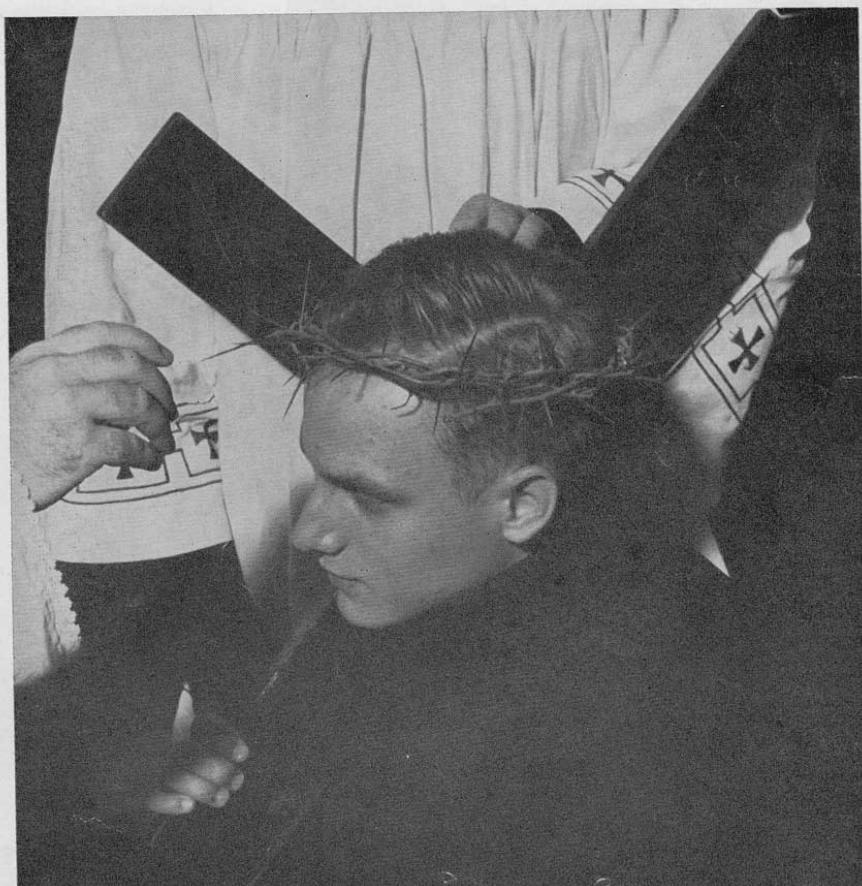


PRAYING BEFORE A CRUCIFIX, the new Passionist begs help and holiness in his life and work.

PROFESSION AS A PASSIONIST takes place with external signs of interior dedication to Christ's Passion.

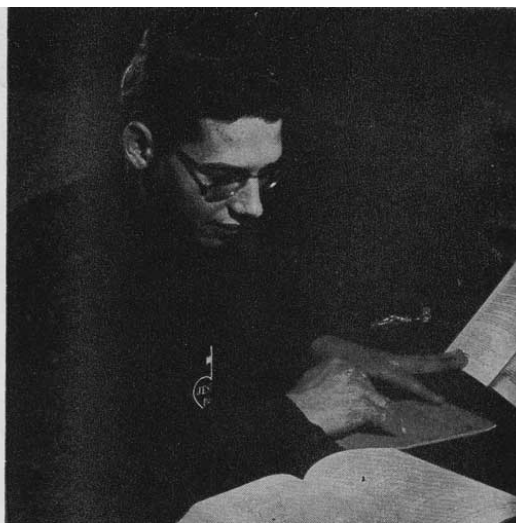


KNEELING BEFORE THE MASTER, the novice receives help to deepen his appreciation of the Passionist life.





ARRIVAL OF NEWLY PROFESSED STUDENTS at another monastery where they will begin the more specialized studies of philosophy and theology on their way to becoming Passionist priests.

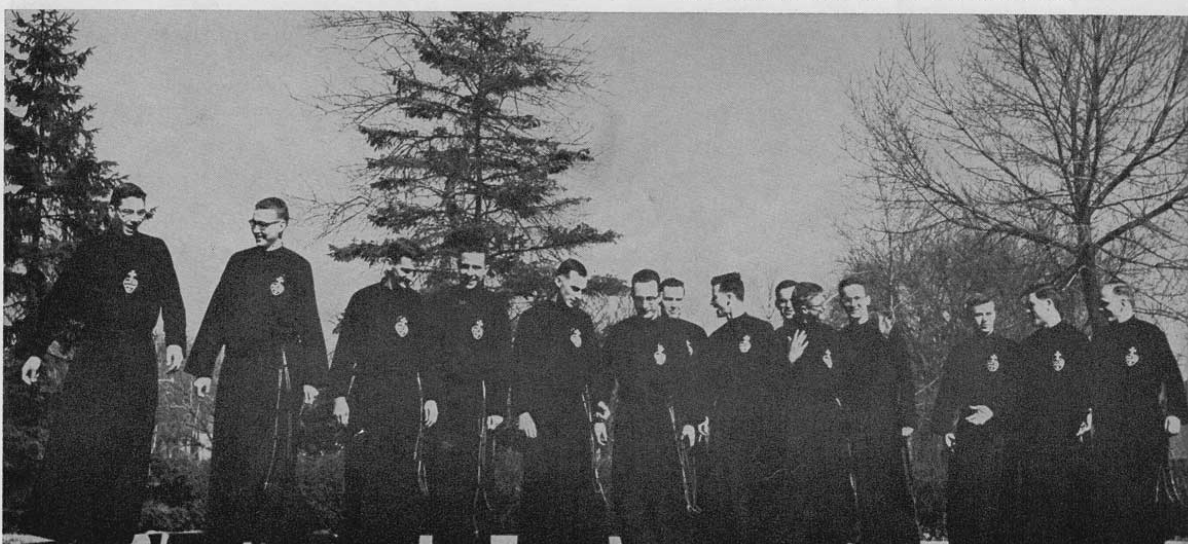


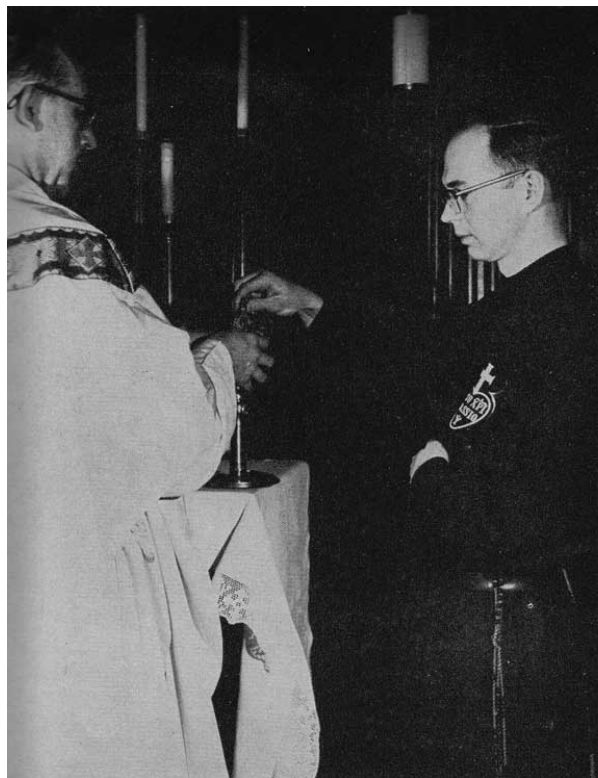
STUDY in the midst of a monastic atmosphere enables the student to grow in the knowledge of God's Word and Work. The years of study open the student's minds to the riches of reality, human and divine.

## STUDENT LIFE

As soon as the temporary vows are taken once again student life begins, this time as a Passionist. There are three years of studying philosophy. Other subjects such as modern history and English and public speaking and special courses on the Passion are included to prepare the student to be more capable as a Passionist priest. At the end of the three years final profession for life is made. Then follow four years of theology. Here also other subjects are added including the study of Sacred Scripture, canon law, church history, and public speaking. Walking and talking as well as sports find their place in the physical and mental development of the student. Throughout all student life comes a deepening union with Christ on the Cross through the Mass and sacraments and private prayer.

STUDENTS WALKING AND TALKING share their problems and solutions, their insights and aspirations.





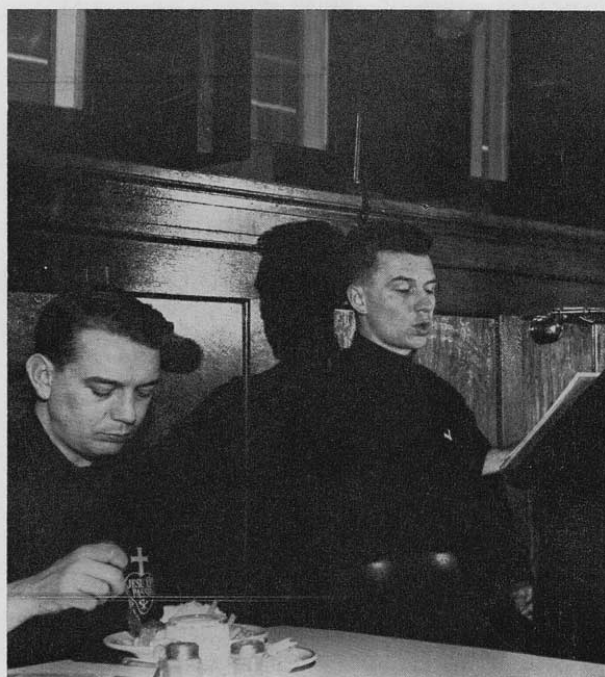
**SERVING MASS**, a student constantly comes close to the Sacrifice he will one day offer.



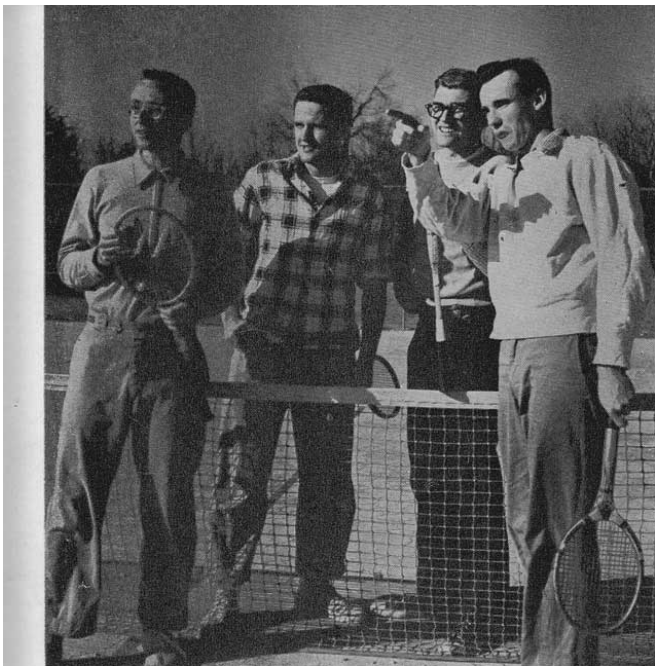
**RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**, Christ comes again and again personally to help the student in his preparation to be another Christ.



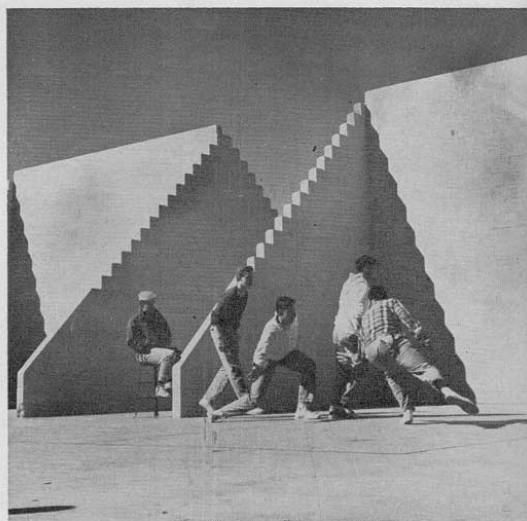
**CLASSROOM WORK** plays its part in training the student to think and speak correctly of God and man.



**READING IN THE REFECTORY** or dining room, spiritual food for thought is provided along with the meal.



TENNIS finds its enthusiasts among the students. Sports like these find their place in the physical and mental development of a student, as well as a means of relaxation.



HANDBALL is one of the fastest and most challenging of the sports engaged in.

SITTING IN THE EVENING the students rest and joke over the day's events.





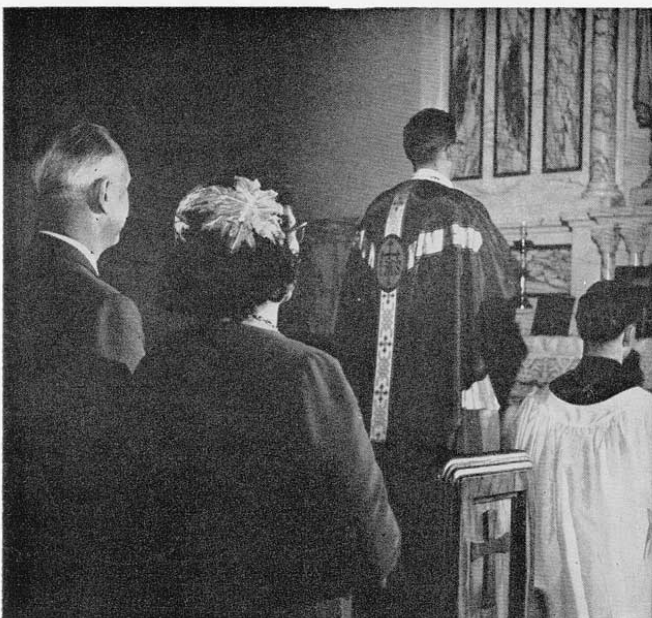
THE CHALICE WITH THE PATEN AND HOST are a symbol of the priesthood which is the goal of the student's training.

## A PASSIONIST PRIEST

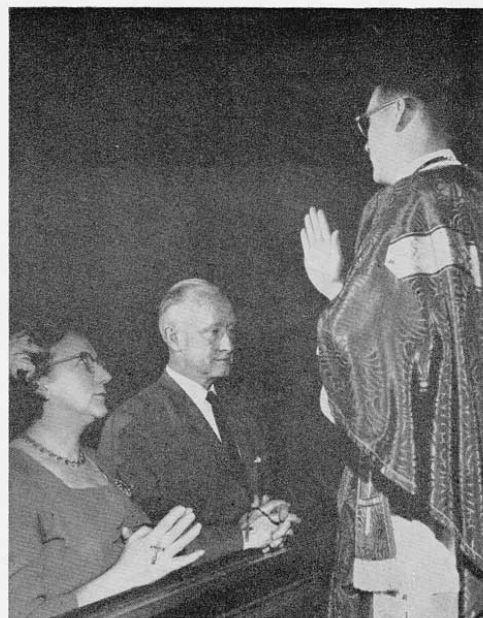
The years of preparation are finally completed. How long they seem in anticipation, yet how fast they seem to have gone by. Day by day he has grown to know and love his Passionist community. Day by day he has tried to learn what he could and do what he could to be prepared for the Passionist priesthood and its great work of saving souls. When he is ordained he offers what he has and begs Christ's help for what he has not. That Christ should call him and want him and use him in His work of saving souls will always remain a deep mystery of God's Providence; but that Christ has made him a Passionist priest forever will be a wonderful reality.



ORDINATION as a Passionist priest takes place as the bishop calls down the power of the Holy Spirit to give a share in the priesthood of Christ.



THE FIRST MASS the priest offers at the altar with his parents attending is a great occasion for those who have cooperated so generously in offering their son.

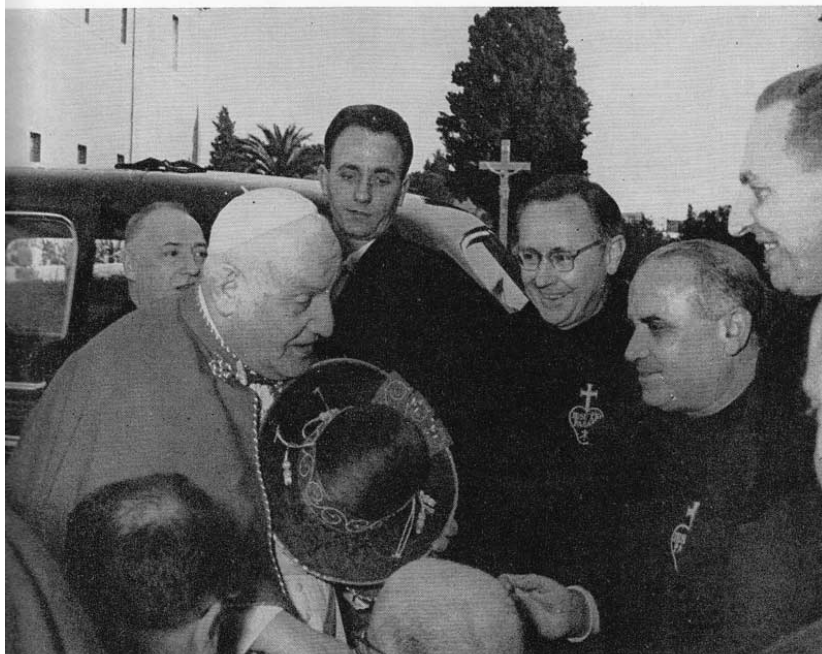


BLESSING HIS PARENTS the newly ordained priest feels a deep joy in being able to call down God's grace on those who have given him so much.

# PASSIONIST HISTORY



ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS the Founder of the Passionists worked to give the Church a loyal group of apostles.



POPE JOHN XXIII greets the modern-day followers of St. Paul of the Cross in their monastery, Rome.

SAINT PAUL of the CROSS, Founder of the Passionists, was a man with one idea. The idea was given him in vision by Our Sorrowful Mother. She told him to gather together a group of holy men who would mourn and preach to the world the Passion and Death of Christ. Saint Paul's life is the epic story of a lover of the Crucified, consumed with the burning purpose of founding a society of religious who would live and preach the Passion of Christ.

Saint Paul was born Paul Francis Danie, January 3, 1694, in Ovida, Italy.

On November 22, 1720, at the age of 26, Paul was clothed in the habit of the Passion (shown him in a vision by Our Sorrowful Mother) by Monsignor Gattinara, of blessed memory, in the bishop's chapel in Alessandria. This dates the founding of the Passionist Congregation.

In the solitude of a storeroom under the tower of the Church of St. Charles, Castellazzo, Paul wrote the Holy Rule of the Congregation during a 40-day retreat following his vestition.

With holy simplicity, Paul journeyed to Rome seeking Papal approval. He was ignominiously expelled from the Vatican by an attendant. Paul blamed his unworthiness and straightway made a fourth vow to promote devotion to the Passion. A few years later, Pope Benedict XIII permitted Paul and his companions to follow the Passionist way of life and in 1727 ordained Paul to the priesthood in St. Peter's, Rome. Pope Benedict XIV in 1741 put the stamp of approval on the Rule of the Passionists.

Paul became a saint by living the heavenly-inspired Rule he wrote. Following the pattern of Christ's hidden life, he retired, together with his brother, Venerable John Baptist, his first novice, to the solitude of Monte Argentario, the "Cradle of the Congregation." There, by prayer and penance and poverty, his personal holiness soared to such a height that heaven bestowed upon Paul the sublime grade of mystical union.

# AND SAINTS

He preached uncounted missions throughout Italy for over half a century; he was known as the "holy missionary of Rome." He preached retreats to clergy, cardinals and popes.

Saint Paul of the Cross, the man with one idea, lived to see his dream come true. He became an apostle of Christ Crucified and the founder of the Congregation of the Passion. He had established 12 monasteries in Italy; founded the Passionist Nuns, and before his death, was negotiating with the Holy See concerning Passionist Foundations in foreign countries. The negotiations, begun by St. Paul and continued by his successors, have brought Passionist missionaries into 33 countries in the world.

Saint Paul of the Cross died October 18, 1775, in the Monastery of SS. John and Paul, Rome. During his last sickness, Pope Pius VI visited him and personally handed the dying octogenarian the solemn confirmation of his Holy Rule. At his death Our Blessed Mother visited him and took him with her to heaven.

Saint Paul of the Cross was canonized by Pope Pius IX in 1867. His Feast Day is celebrated by the Church Universal on April 28. His statue is enthroned in St. Peter's, Rome.

**SAINT GABRIEL** of the **SORROWFUL VIRGIN** was born March 1, 1838, at Assisi. He was called Francis Possenti and was baptized at the same font where St. Francis of Assisi had been centuries before.

As he grew older he showed himself a leader. He was vivacious and popular with his companions both boys and girls. And he enjoyed their special attention. He became more fastidious in his clothes and more regular in his attendance at parties and the theater.

Francis reached the peak of his social prestige on the day of his graduation from the Jesuit college of Spoleto. He was the center of attention and had been chosen for

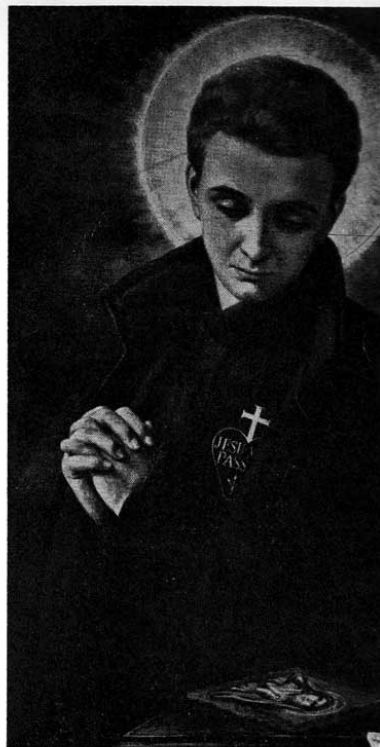
the graduation address. A great future was predicted for him, but no one except his father knew the future he had chosen: he would leave the next day to enter the Passionist novitiate.

In honor of our Lady his patroness he took his new religious name: St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin. He wanted to be a priest but after only five and a half years as a Passionist he died. The power for sanctity in the Passionist religious life is seen in the fact that nothing extraordinary was seen in him except his extraordinary fidelity to his vocation.

Gabriel died on February 27, 1862, when only twenty-five years old. His cause was soon introduced and in 1896 he was declared Venerable. In 1908 he was solemnly beatified by Pope St. Pius X. Finally on May 12, 1920, he was canonized by Pope Benedict XV. The Church celebrates his feast on February 27.

Another canonized Saint of the Passionist Order is St. Vincent Mary Strambi. He was born in 1745 and at the age of 23 entered the Novitiate after being already ordained as a diocesan priest.

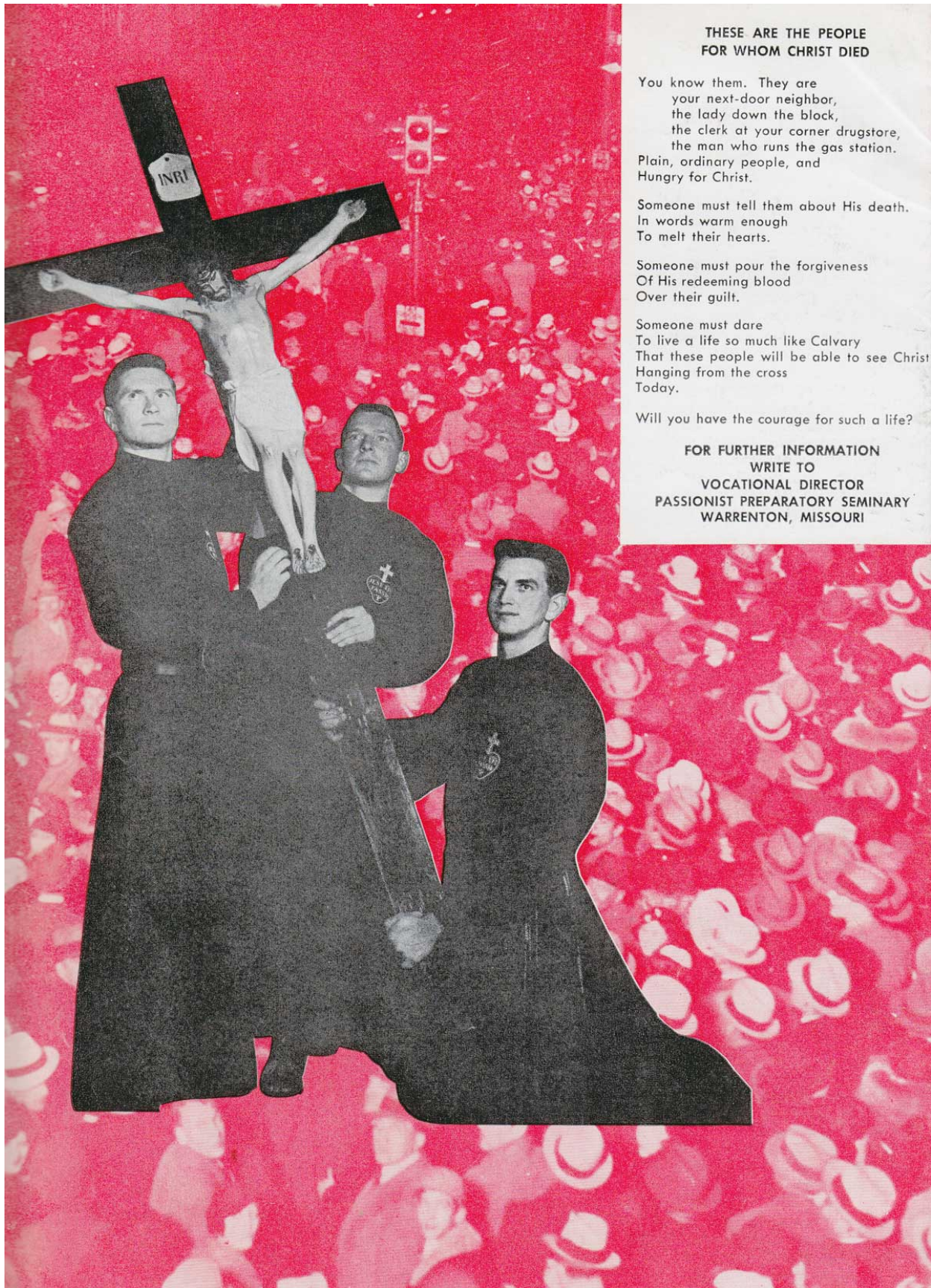
After he had taken his vows he was an active missionary until 1773 when he was called to Rome to teach theology. There he was present at the death of St. Paul of the Cross who recommended the Congregation to him on the occasion. In 1801 he was appointed by the Holy Father as bishop of Macerata and Tolentino. He continued to wear the Passionist habit and live the life as far as possible. In 1808 he was exiled from his own diocese as the forces of Napoleon overran Italy and not until 1814 was he allowed back. In 1823 he finally resigned his bishopric and was asked to live at the Quirinal as one of Pope Leo XII's consultants. The following year he offered his own life that the pope's might be spared. The pope recovered from a very serious illness and a few days later St. Vincent Strambi died. He was beatified in 1925 and canonized June 11, 1950.



ST. GABRIEL OF OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER reached holiness by living a Passionist life.



THE CANONIZATION OF ST. VINCENT STRAMBI, a Passionist, is the occasion of a celebration in Rome in 1950.



**THESE ARE THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM CHRIST DIED**

You know them. They are  
your next-door neighbor,  
the lady down the block,  
the clerk at your corner drugstore,  
the man who runs the gas station.  
Plain, ordinary people, and  
Hungry for Christ.

Someone must tell them about His death.  
In words warm enough  
To melt their hearts.

Someone must pour the forgiveness  
Of His redeeming blood  
Over their guilt.

Someone must dare  
To live a life so much like Calvary  
That these people will be able to see Christ  
Hanging from the cross  
Today.

Will you have the courage for such a life?

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
WRITE TO  
VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR  
PASSIONIST PREPARATORY SEMINARY  
WARRENTON, MISSOURI**