

## SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS

*Founder of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ and  
of the Passionist Nuns*

### Solemnity

Saint Paul of the Cross (Paul Daneo) was born in Ovada (Italy) on 3 January 1694. In 1720 he took the religious habit devoting himself to asceticism and the apostolate. He was ordained a priest by Benedict XIII in 1727. Discerning that the sins of humanity were the result of the forgetfulness of God's love manifested in Jesus crucified, he preached that the Passion of Jesus "the greatest and most overwhelming work of divine love ... the miracle of miracles of God ... a sea of love and sorrow," is the most effective remedy. He was guided by our Lady who appeared to him dressed in the Passionist Habit, and who also showed him the Sign of the new Congregation. Paul, along with his brother Giovanni Battista, founded the Institute of the Passionists. In the century of the enlightenment and of the deification of reason, he pointed out the way of salvation through the weakness and folly of the Cross.

In 1737, on Monte Argentario (Grosseto), he opened the first house of the Congregation. In 1741 Pope Benedict XIV approved the Rule with a rescript and again in 1746 with a Pontifical Brief. In 1769 Clement XIV, who had a great affection for Paul, approved the Institute. In 1771, after much suffering, Paul joyfully received news of the inauguration of the first Passionist monastery for cloistered nuns in the city of Tarquinia (Viterbo, Italy). In 1773 he opened the Retreat of Saints John and Paul on the Caelian Hill in Rome, the gift of Clement XIV, who was a protector and incomparable benefactor of the Congregation. In 1775 he rejoiced in the final approbation of the Rule by Pius VI.

Despite having an episode of mystical marriage in his youth, Paul experienced heartbreaking spiritual dryness for about fifty years. He lived through many difficult trials that resulted in him being called "the prince of the desolate". He realized perfectly his desire to "be crucified with Jesus". And he, the Mystic of the Crucified, became the one who was mystically crucified. Paul was distinguished by an extraordinary love of poverty, solitude and penance. He was a revered Superior General of the Institute until the end of his life. He was greatly loved by various Popes. A tireless apostle, he derived wisdom and strength from the open wounds of Christ for his life and apostolate. He is considered "one of the greatest spiritual directors of all time". Paul guided many people to live in a spirit of naked faith, totally embracing the divine will, and dying mystically to themselves in order to be reborn in God.

He was favored with experiences of ecstasy and other supernatural gifts and is considered "the greatest Mystic of the eighteenth century". For purposes of spiritual direction and the government of the Congregation he wrote more than 50 thousand letters, only a minimal number of which still exist. He died in Rome on 18 October 1775. He was declared a Saint on 29 June 1867. The spiritual movement sparked by Paul has gradually expanded and today, various institutes of consecrated life and committed laity live his spirituality and venerate him with the tender love of children.

**Entrance Antiphon** Follow the way of love, even as Christ loved you.  
He gave himself for us as an offering  
to God, a gift of pleasing fragrance. (Eph 5:2)  
or:

I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live now is not my own;  
Christ is living in me. I still live my human life,  
but it is a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved me  
and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:19-20)

**COLLECT**

**Lord God,  
you gave our father, Saint Paul of the Cross,  
a wonderful spirit of love  
in preaching Christ Crucified.  
By his prayers and example,  
may we gain souls for Christ  
through the power of his Passion  
and share with them  
the grace of his paschal mystery.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son  
who lives and reign with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.**

**Profession of Faith**

**PRAYER OVER  
THE OFFERINGS**

**Lord,  
accept the gifts we offer you  
on this Solemnity of Saint Paul of the  
Cross.  
May we stand before you  
as a living sacrifice,  
holy and pleasing in your sight.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

## **PREFACE**

**The Lord be with you.**

**And with your spirit.**

**Lift up your hearts.**

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**It is right and just.**

**Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you  
thanks**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**You showed the wonders of your power  
in raising up Saint Paul of the Cross  
to keep alive the memory  
of Christ's Passion.**

**As he contemplated  
the supreme love of your Son for us,  
you gave him mystical insight and  
wisdom  
and special gifts of grace.**

**You marked him out  
by his spirit of penance,  
by his love of poverty,  
and by his desire for prayer and solitude.**

**You made him a spiritual guide  
and a preacher of the gospel.**

**As he proclaimed the rich harvest of  
salvation,**

**his words and example brought back to you  
countless sinners who had strayed from you  
and kept before the eyes of your people  
the Passion of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven,  
we proclaim your glory  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Communion Antiphon**

I determined that while I was with you, I would speak of nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1Cor. 2:2)

**PRAYER AFTER  
COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus,  
we have received your wonderful sacrament,  
the ever-present sign of your infinite love.  
Through the prayers and example  
of Saint Paul of the Cross,  
may we proclaim your death  
in word and deed.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**SOLEMN BLESSING  
PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

God made our father, Saint Paul of the Cross,  
an outstanding witness of love  
for Christ Crucified.  
May he inspire you  
by the example of Saint Paul  
so that you may be seen more and more  
as true disciples of Christ.

**R. Amen.**

You have celebrated today  
the joyful solemnity of  
Saint Paul of the Cross.  
May his loving prayers bring you  
the spirit of perseverance  
throughout your lives.

**R. Amen.**

And after the trials  
of this present life,  
may you join our father, Saint Paul of the Cross,  
in the glory of our home in heaven.

**R. Amen.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**