



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Mandeville
P.O. Box 8,
Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies
Tel: (876) 962-1269

**DECREEE OF APPROVAL OF GENERAL CHAPTER DECISIONS OF
THE MISSION SOCIETY OF MANDEVILLE**

Following the General Chapter of the Mission Society of Mandeville held last July, I would like to congratulate Msgr. Michael Palud on his re-election as Prior General of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, or as they are commonly known, *The Mission Society of Mandeville*. I was happy that the Saint Paul of the Cross Province was able to supply Father Victor Hoagland, C.P. who presided the General Chapter upon recommendation of the Superior General of the Congregation of the Passion, the Most Rev. Ottaviano d'Egidio, C.P. and the Provincial of the Saint Paul of the Cross Province, the Very Rev. Joseph Jones, C.P.

I understand that this was the first General Chapter since the foundation and establishment of the Mission Society by Bishop Boyle in 2001. After these seven years, what growth you have witnessed. I wish to thank you for your hard work as members of our wider "Passionist Family" in this Diocese of Mandeville and at the Passionist Retreat House.

I understand that in reviewing the life of your Institute since the time of the Foundation, you have tried to streamline your apostolate, your prayer-book and your Community life in keeping with the Passionist tradition. I also understand that, following the Decrees of Bishop Bennett and the *General Decree of Encouragement* of the Bishops of this Country, defining you as the first "*passionist-inspired*" Society of Apostolic Life, you manifested the decision at your Chapter that your formal title be faithful to these decrees making such changes in your Statutes to reflect this reality.

I, by means of this Decree:

1. confirm that while you will be habitually referred to as the *Mission Society of Mandeville*, your "long title" or "**canonical title**" will be "*The Mission Society of the Passion and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*" rather than "Missionary Society of the Immaculate Heart of Mary" thus giving a *passionist-inspired spirit* to your canonical existence.
2. Taking into consideration the letter of the Vicar General of the Congregation of the Passion, the Very Rev. Father Dennis Travers (November 22, 2008) communicated to whereby the General Council of the Passionist Congregation expressed that although "...the Mission Society of Mandeville does share with us a foundation in Paulicrucian

spirituality”, “...it [is] appropriate and indeed necessary that the Mission Society have its own symbols” ;

Taking into consideration the fact that the Mission Society, to respond to this letter, has decided to use symbols that would not lend themselves to confusion with the *Passionist Heart* (the Passionist Sign), and serve as clear distinctions between the Passionist Congregation and our Diocesan Society of Apostolic Life;

Taking also in consideration the symbol adopted is that of the Unity Cross embroidered on the habit, a symbol already sanctioned by the Statutes of the Mission Society by my predecessors;

Taking into consideration the suggestion of the Superior General of the Passionist Congregation, the Most Rev. Ottaviano d’Egidio, C.P. that the Unity Cross also be worn, not only on the passionist-inspired habit but also on the Rosary instead of the cross of the *Mater Dolorosa* which is proper to the Passionist Congregation to create unity in symbols;

I hereby approve the use of a black choral habit with the proper distinctive of the Unity Cross on the habit and rosary **to replace** the white “benedictine cut” habit which did not adequately reflect your reality. I furthermore also approve all those changes in your Statutes presented by the General Chapter to become normative for your Institute and promulgate the “passionist-inspired rule”.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Saint Paul of the Cross, the two principal Patrons of your Society of Apostolic Life, guide and protect you as you continue serving the missions “ad vitam” in this Region of the World. Given in Mandeville, on this Solemn Feast of Saint Joseph, Titular Feast of the Church, March 19, 2009 bearing our signature and seal and that of our Chancellor.

Most Rev. Neil Tiedemann, CP
Bishop of Mandeville

Dennis Hendriks
Chancellor