



February 17, 2022

Dearest Neighbors,

I am very saddened to share with you news of an injustice against the future of our ministry work here at the Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center in Sierra Madre.

For nearly 100 years in Sierra Madre, the Passionists have held retreats and Mass at our retreat center. We have ministered to thousands in recovery groups, educational groups and other organizations that use our facilities and enjoy our tranquil grounds. Most recently, we have used our kitchen to provide thousands of meals to those in need during the current pandemic.

A proposed ballot initiative in Sierra Madre would unjustly cancel Mater Dolorosa's property rights and subject our entire facility to a new City law making it almost impossible to make improvements to our facilities. As examples, we could not expand our kitchen and meals ministry to feed more of those who need a meal or add onto our buildings if more people wish to attend our retreats and programs.

For almost 100 years, the Passionists at Mater Dolorosa have dedicated their lives in serving the Sierra Madre community. Personally, Father Bruno, Father Clemente, Brother John, and I are deeply hurt by this initiative. Its passage would not just threaten our beloved Mater Dolorosa and its ministries, it would also impact the funds needed for the future healthcare and retirement of our fellow Passionist fathers and brothers.

Please visit www.ProtectMaterDolorosa.com for more details and help us stop this injustice to Mater Dolorosa, and to the people we serve.



God bless you,

Fr. Michael Higgins C.P.
Passionists of Holy Cross Province

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