

Historical Background: *In 1852, at the request of Bishop Michael O'Connor of Pittsburgh, four Passionists arrived in Pittsburgh. By 1853 St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, located on the South Side, above Carson Street, was built. Additions followed in 1855 and 1856 and in later years a retreat house.*

Pittsburgh Passionists and the 1918 Pandemic is as follows:

As a center of devotion and ministry, in 1918 *St. Paul's Monastery Chronicles*, reported how "The State and City Health Officials closed the City Churches, Oct 15, 22 and 29th., because of the Spanish Influenza." Noteworthy was: "This the first time in the history of the Monastery Chapel that its doors were closed for Sunday services. Through God's Mercy, one of Community was afflicted and recovered." P. 263.

Please scroll down to see the archival document. (copyright Passionist Historical Archives)
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Justitimus hunc librum
Tempore Visitationis Canonicarum
Die 24 Nov. 1917

Justitimus ab Inf. J. J. J.
Prosp. Prov.

In the early part of the year 1918, a committee headed by the Right Rev. Bishop Conrin met at the Monastery to discuss ways + means for raising funds to erect a retreat house for laymen. The last Chapter had favored this movement, and sanctioned beginning the work at the most opportune time. Fr. Provincial had appointed Fr. Sebastian J. to take charge in the matter of raising funds. The Bishop at the aforesaid meeting, suggested a Campaign to be carried on in the diocese. Final accomplishment had to be postponed because of the many demands made on the people for presenting the war more than half of the required amount has been collected or subscribed. It is hoped that at no distant date the remainder will be obtained.

The State + City health officials closed the City Churches Oct. 15. 22. 29. because of the Spanish Influenza. This is the first time in the history of the Monastery Chapel that its doors were closed for Sunday services. Through God's mercy, only one of the Community was afflicted and he recovered.