

# Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

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## HAWAII'S NEWEST RELIGIOUS ORDER OF MEN BRINGS TO THE ISLANDS A STRONG LOVE OF THE EUCHARIST

By Lisa Benoit  
Hawaii Catholic Herald



From left: Fathers Gregorio De Guzman, John Keenan, Brother Melchior (Casteñada) and Father Mark Del Rosario

Every day, starting at 4 p.m., four men of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament join their parishioners in Star of the Sea Church, Waialae-Kahala, for 45 minutes in eucharistic adoration before a gold monstrance.

Blessed Sacrament priests and one Blessed Sacrament brother have opened their daily community morning and evening prayers to the public.

The prayers are a blend of simplicity and solemnity. The men dress in

Since becoming the administrators of the parish on Sept. 1, the three

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## *From the Provincial . . .*



Last month a number of us religious and laity gathered in Florida for an Amplified Provincial Council meeting (APC) which is a special meeting that occurs at irregular intervals specifically to look at serious issues and concerns that face our religious communities. You will read more about this meeting in this issue (cf. page 6). Nevertheless, I want to take this opportunity to highlight some aspects of this gathering that have important implications for the future of our religious communities.

The results of this Florida meeting will serve as material for yet another meeting to be held next year in France. The participants at that meeting will be members of our various provinces from around the world: Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia. In preparation for this extraordinary meeting, we have selected to re-read our present reality in the light of the New Testament image of the Emmaus story. In this account from St. Luke we find two very sad disciples walking from

Jerusalem, after the Passion and Death of Jesus, towards their home. While they discuss the events that have just transpired, a stranger joins them and explains to them the meaning of the events that have saddened them. As they later share a meal, the stranger is revealed to be the risen Jesus. Encouraged, the two disciples return to Jerusalem with joy.

At our Florida meeting, we asked ourselves who *our* companions are on this journey we have undertaken. We identified two major types of companions: our own religious communities and the laity. This leaves us with the task of improving the quality of our community life and of working harder at integrating the laity into our eucharistic culture. At the center of this collective journey is the Eucharist revealed to us as God's love manifested in the breaking of the bread. If we are to return in joy to our jobs, families, ministries, relationships, prayer life, and whatever else which may have saddened us on this earthly journey, must we not allow the power of the eucharistic meal to transform our lives as it did for the two disciples of Emmaus?

Our Holy Father has declared the Year of the Eucharist beginning with the closing of the Eucharistic Congress in Mexico and ending with the Special Synod on the Eucharist, thus running from October 2004 to October 2005. This will be a year of grace for the entire Catholic community, and, we like to think, a year of re-dedication for us Blessed

Sacrament religious and laity. Perhaps we need to "stay at the table" just a while longer in order to deepen our understanding and appreciation for this "food for our journey". Only thereafter can we rise and proclaim what we have seen and heard at the table of plenty. ✚

Norman B. Pelletier, S.S.S.  
Provincial

### **Prayer to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament**

Blessed are you, Mary,  
exalted daughter of Sion!  
You are highly favored  
and full of grace,  
for the spirit of God  
descended upon you.

We magnify the Lord  
and rejoice with you for the gift  
of the Word made flesh,  
bread of life and cup of joy.

Our Lady  
of the Blessed Sacrament,  
our model of prayer in the Cenacle,  
pray for us  
that we may become  
what we receive,  
the body of Christ your Son.  
Amen.

## THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

### October 2004-2005

*During this year, proclaimed “The Year of the Eucharist” by our Holy Father, John Paul II, we offer you some direct quotes from his apostolic letter entitled “Mane nobiscum, Domine” (“Remain with us, Lord”) for your inspiration and meditation.*

The account of the Risen Jesus appearing to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus helps us to focus on a primary aspect of the Eucharistic mystery, one which should always be present in the devotion of the People of God: The Eucharist is a mystery of light!

The two disciples of Emmaus, upon recognizing the Lord, “set out immediately” (cf. Lk 24:33), in order to report what they had seen and heard. Once we have truly met the Risen One by partaking of his body and blood, we cannot keep to ourselves the joy we have experienced. The encounter with Christ, constantly intensified and deepened in the Eucharist, issues in the Church and in every Christian an urgent summons to testimony and



evangelization.

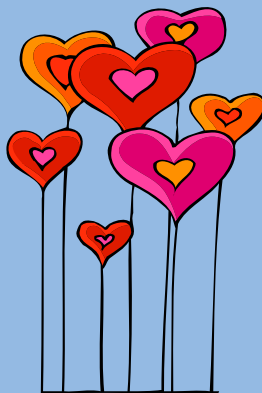
In this Year of the Eucharist, Christians ought to be committed to bearing more forceful witness to God’s presence in the world. We should not be afraid to speak about God and to bear proud witness to our faith. The “culture of the Eucharist” promotes a culture of dialogue, which here finds its strength and nourishment.

May all of you, the Christian faithful, rediscover the gift of the Eucharist as light and strength for your daily lives in the world, in the exercise of your respective professions amid so many different situations. Rediscover this above all in order to experience fully the beauty and the mission of the family. ✚

## BIRTHDAYS

### JANUARY

04 1931 Rev. Joseph Roy  
 12 1921 Br. Thomas Flanagan  
 13 1932 Rev. Dennis Ruane  
 18 1930 Rev. Robert Lussier  
 26 1950 Rev. Robert Rousseau  
 31 1950 Rev. Anthony Schueller



### FEBRUARY

05 1925 Rev. Peter Cops  
*(80 years young)*  
 11 1950 Rev. Robert Stark  
 14 1928 Rev. Andrew Beaudoin  
 27 1928 Rev. George Evans

### MARCH

07 1962 Rev. Scott Haig  
 07 1965 Rev. J.T. Lane  
*(40 years young)*  
 28 1936 Rev. William Young

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**HAWAII'S NEWEST RELIGIOUS ORDER OF MEN BRINGS TO THE ISLANDS A STRONG LOVE OF THE EUCHARIST**

cassocks, the floor-length robes rarely seen on priests nowadays. The psalms are sung to the accompaniment of a single acoustic guitar. Benediction, celebrated with thick clouds of incense, ends with rosary, followed by the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is the newest community of religious men to bring their ministry to Hawaii, replacing at Star of the Sea, the Marist Fathers and Brothers who departed in August after 60 years of service on the islands.

They are, from the order's Philippines province, Father Mark Del Rosario, Father Gregorio De Guzman and Brother Melchior Casteñada and, from the American province, Father John Keenan.

As has every religious order working in Hawaii, the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers will add their own unique charisms and customs to the already diverse island Catholic ohana (household).

Their shared community prayer and eucharistic devotion are a part of that contribution.

As the new pastor, Father Del Rosario, explained, "People are welcome to attend any of the worship."

Their community worship is purposely scheduled to accommodate parishioners and



Fr. John Keenan blesses the congregation with the monstrance containing the Holy Eucharist at evening prayer, Sept. 28, at Star of the Sea Church.

visitors.

About 30 people are at morning Mass and a dozen attend the evening liturgy. Confession is offered daily 15 minutes before the afternoon Mass, or before any Mass upon request.

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*"Hopefully we will be able to share the meaning of the Eucharist more fully with our parishioners and also with the people of Honolulu and Hawaii."*

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"Our hope is to improve the liturgical life of the community," Father Del Rosario said. "Hopefully we will be able to share the meaning of the Eucharist more fully with our parishioners and also with the people of Honolulu and Hawaii."

The Blessed Sacrament community hopes to introduce a program it calls LITES — Life In The Eucharist Seminar.

LITES is a three-day seminar developed in the United States that is now operating internationally.

According to Father Del Rosario, the program helps "inspire people to live out the Eucharist in their parish lives, in their individual lives and in their diocesan lives."

"Our religious and lay people work with local parishes to really focus and accentuate the Eucharist as common worship, as communion, as the reason for the existence of the community," the priest said.

### Still Settling In

Meanwhile, the priests are still settling in. The parish still has a few months more of construction work to endure, though the bulk of it has been completed.

Father Del Rosario hopes everything and everyone will be operating at full capacity by January.

"We ask for everybody's prayers," Father Del Rosario said.

The new pastor realizes that his parishioners are probably going through a more difficult transition than he and his three companions. After all, he pointed out, they have had the Marist Fathers and Brothers for more than 50 years, and Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers for

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**HAWAII'S NEWEST RELIGIOUS ORDER OF  
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less than 50 days.

Nevertheless, he said, “The people are very hospitable, very welcoming.”

The new priests feel that stepping into the Marists’ shoes in Hawaii is providential. Not only was it a Marist priest — St. Peter Julian Eymard — who founded the Blessed Sacrament order, Father Del Rosario said, but it was always his desire to evangelize in Oceania.

A mosaic at the church entrance seems to confirm everything. The image, created years ago, is a symbol of Mary, Star of the Sea — a star hovering over three waves. The waves appear as three fluid S’s, the abbreviation for the Congregation of



Waves forming three S’s, the initials for the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, greet worshippers at the entrance of Star of the Sea Church.

the Blessed Sacrament.

“It is remarkable to see,” said Father Del Rosario. “It is perfectly clear — S.S.S.” ✚

*This article has been reprinted with permission from the Hawaii Catholic Herald, Friday, October 8, 2004. Photos and article courtesy of Lisa Benoit.*

## ***Prayer Requests . . .***



**ALL RELIGIOUS**, especially those who are ill and suffering, that God would bring healing and strength to them.



**FRS. ROBERT CHABOT, SSS, ROBERT ROUSSEAU, SSS, and BR. GARY LaLVERDIERE, SSS**, that God will refresh and renew them during their sabbaticals.



That God would bless the **PROVINCE OF SAINT ANN RELIGIOUS** during their retreat scheduled for the end of January 2005.



For the repose of the soul of Mary Ellen Fitzgerald, sister of **FR. TOM FITZGERALD, SSS**, of San Antonio, who passed away on November 2, 2004. We also ask prayers for the consolation of the Fitzgerald family and friends.

## THE AMPLIFIED PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING

By Tom Wiese, SSS



What a gathering! There were SSS religious from each of the seven USA communities, members of the Provincial Council, representatives of our national ministries, members of the Planning Commission of the Province and 5 selected lay partners. The 26 of us gathered in North Palm Beach, Florida at the Passionist Retreat House (called Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center) for 5 days. There was time for listening, time for speaking, time for sharing, time for evaluating, and time for preparing.

What is an Amplified Provincial Council Meeting? According to the *Rule of Life* #88 of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, “the amplified provincial council, an optional governing body, assures broader representation in the gov-  
Province of St. Ann Newsletter

ernment and animation of the province.” For the religious of the USA this was a new reality, a first. Fr. Norman Pelletier and his [regular] Provincial Council decided to convene this group to look at important questions for the future of the province, especially our parochial commitments, our national ministries and how we are going to meet the challenges of the future given our limited personnel resources and our aging religious. In addition, the group examined and voted to adopt the second draft of the *Ethics in Ministry* document.

The days were full. We gathered at 7 am each morning for morning prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The two daily work sessions ran from 9-12 and 2-5. The workday was brought to a close with

the celebration of the Eucharist. Of course, there was lively sharing at the 3 daily meals. Evenings were free to catch up with one another, or just to relax in the balmy south Florida weather.

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*. . . time for listening,  
time for speaking, time  
for sharing . . .*

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The lay people invited to attend the meeting were Nancy MacRoberts, the lay coordinator of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing in Houston, Texas; Frank Zalar and Louise Borgione who are Life in the Eucharist Team Leaders from

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**THE AMPLIFIED PROVINCIAL COUNCIL  
 MEETING**

Cleveland, Ohio; Cynthia Troha, the Director of Development for the Province of Saint Ann; and Joann Lentine of the Province's Vocation Office. The inclusion of these key lay associates underlined the desire of our religious to continue to work in partnership with the laity in our ministry of Eucharistic evangelizing.

The results of all of the discussions helped the group to arrive at a number of options or priorities for the future of ministry and life in the American province. These priorities will be reviewed at the Provincial Assembly in November 2005 and finally at the Provincial Chapter in February 2006. In addition, the fruit of our sharing and learning and discussing will help Father Provincial and his council to formulate a report on the "State of the Province" which will be presented at the General Chapter in May-June 2005 to be held in Lyon, France, as we look to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Congregation in 2006.

From the initial reactions of the participants, the first Amplified Provincial Council meeting for the Province of Saint Ann was a huge success. We thank all of those who helped to prepare the for meeting, and we especially offer gratitude to God for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit throughout the days of the meeting. ✚



Fr. Norman Pelletier presides at the celebration of the Eucharist on day 2 of the meeting; Fr. JT Lane led the group in music.



Group participants relaxing during a break from the day's activities.

## ANNUAL LITURGY MEETING FOCUSES ON THE ROLE OF THE BISHOP

By John Thomas Lane, SSS



Each year, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), gather in a region of the country to discuss a particular theme of the liturgy. This year, in Orlando, Florida, the FDLC focused on the role of the bishop as chief liturgist, one of his primary roles. When a bishop is ordained, he is charged to be a teacher, administrator, and sanctifier. Bishop Donald Trautman of Erie, PA, and Bishop Robert Lynch of Saint Petersburg, FL, were two of the major keynote speakers who focused on their roles as liturgist, presider, and animator of the diocesan liturgy. (Bishop Lynch is the person who graciously invited the SSS to Holiday, Florida.) Each bishop calls his pastors and parochial vicars to share in this chief role of “sanctifying” or calling all to see that it is Christ, as chief liturgist, who calls all to share in worshipping the Father. This is the primary work of the ordained, to share these saving mysteries and make them the

best form of worship possible – to mirror the heavenly liturgy.

Both speakers had very memorable lines or thoughts to reflect upon. One from Bishop Lynch, explaining to people why we should sing at church: “If God gave you a bad voice, what better place then to give it back to God.” Bishop Trautman commented, as a German descendant, that there should not be 399 paragraphs in the *General Instruction on the Roman Missal*, but an even 400. His suggestion: Pastoral Sensitivity – that’s the goal and rule of all good liturgy.

Of special note, this year the annual award, given to someone who significantly contributes to the liturgical life in the US., was presented to Sr. Kathleen Hughes, RSJC. (She has taught many SSS religious at CTU.) She stressed how she has viewed her role in liturgy, reflecting on past recipients of the award, and the qualities that they brought to liturgy, from social justice to prayer.

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*This is the primary work of the ordained, to share these saving mysteries . . .*

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Current issues or topics in liturgy are always discussed among the members, with the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy and other liturgists and theologians from around the country.

Many commented on the liturgical changes requested by Francis Cardinal Arinze, the prefect for the Congregation of the Divine Worship and the Sacrament. There was an animated response to the far-reaching changes in the liturgy mandated in a document called *Redemptionis Sacramentum* [RS].

Convention delegates were very conscious of the four recent hurricanes in six weeks in Orlando. We witnessed repairs to the airport, our hotel which had lost its roof twice, flooding on the upper four floors, and many gas station and convenience store signs that had been blown down or damaged. These are visible reminders of the tragedy that occurred and our Orlando hosts are still suffering from the weather challenges. Our prayers continue to be needed to support people across the state.

Next year’s convention will focus on “Sacred Time” and be held in Buffalo, New York. I am grateful, as always, to have the opportunity to attend this national liturgy meeting through the support of *Emmanuel Magazine*, Paul Bernier, editor, and the province. If you are interested in the convention, please email me at: <jtlanesss@blessedsacrament.com> or call me at (505) 243-7373. ✝

## ANNIVERSARIES

### ... OF ORDINATION

#### JANUARY

24 1998 Rev. Scott Haig

#### FEBRUARY

11 1978 Deacon Joseph Bourgeois

#### MARCH

19 1975 Rev. Thomas Wiese  
(30 years)  
23 1972 Rev. Joachim Viet-Chau  
25 1950 Rev. René Belanger  
25 1950 Rev. Thomas McKeon  
25 1950 Rev. Edmund Slattery  
29 1952 Rev. Peter Cops

### ... OF PROFESSION

#### JANUARY

None this month

#### FEBRUARY

08 1959 Rev. Ralph Roberts  
11 1964 Br. Gary LaVerdiere  
11 1966 Rev. William Fickel  
27 1954 Br. Edward Kowalski

#### MARCH

19 1965 Br. Arthur Mella  
(40 years)  
19 1965 Br. Michael O'Leary  
(40 years)  
19 1966 Br. Michael Perez

## THE PROOF IS IN THE PICTURES

Over the course of the last year, Fr. Paul Bernier used his free time to build his own kayak. He took the kayak to Cape Cod this past summer during some vacation time with his family, and found that not only could it float, but that it could hold him! Paul wanted to share these photos with all of the unbelievers among us. (We're not sure if he is going to let anyone else try out his kayak!) On another note, Paul traveled to the Philippines to visit friends and former students on the occasion of his 40th anniversary of priestly ordination. Although celebrated earlier, Paul finally found the time to get away for some relaxation and enjoyment. †



Fr. Paul proudly shows off his kayak during its construction.



See, it really floats!

## *In the News . . .*

**Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza**, Bishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, celebrated his 50th year of priestly ministry and 25th year of Episcopal ministry during a 7:30 pm Mass on November 5, 2004, in Reliant Arena. Bishop Fiorenza was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1954, celebrated his Episcopal Ordination on October 25, 1979, and was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston on February 18, 1985. He has been a great source of friendship and support for the SSS who minister at Corpus Christi Church in that diocese since 1990. Roger Bourgeois, SSS, represented the Congregation at this event.

It was recently announced that **Bishop Sofronio Bancud, SSS**, who was installed as Auxiliary Bishop of Cabanatuan (Philippines) on August 15, 2001, will become the [Ordinary] Bishop of the Diocese of Cabanatuan. He became the Apostolic Minister upon the death of the Most Rev. Sofio G. Balce, D.D., in October.

After a fall while visiting relatives and friends in England several months ago, **Br. Edmund Hardy, SSS**, of the Cleveland Community returned home last Wednesday, November 17th from the Greens of Lyndhurst Rehabilitation Center. On the following day, he was admitted to Hillcrest Hospital due to the discovery of acute anemia. They immediately gave him blood and began to investigate the cause of the loss of blood. He soon returned home to Bethany Center and is under the tender, loving care of Chris Detzel, R.N., and the rest of the Cleveland Community.

The faithful of Barkovlje parish in Trieste, Italy, recently gathered to bid farewell to **Fr. Ralph Roberts, SSS**, before he began his new assignment in another part of the Diocese of Trieste. Because of the lack of Slovenian-speaking priests in that diocese, the few that minister there are heavily burdened with pastoral assignments in order to serve the Slovenian faithful in their various locations. In his new assignment, Fr. Ralph will be working with another priest serving four parishes and one mission church.

Three SSS religious will be away from their usual ministries for well-deserved sabbaticals. **Fr. Robert Chabot, SSS**, will be participating in a special program called *Ministering to Ministers*; **Fr. Robert Rousseau, SSS**, will be taking time to write a book about the "New Evangelization"; and **Br. Gary LaVerdiere, SSS**, will be traveling to Australia for a period of rest and reflection.

The Province of Saint Ann is holding a retreat January 31-February 4, 2005, at the San Pedro Center in central Florida. The retreat director is Nathan Mitchell of the University of Notre Dame and the theme will be Eucharistic Spirituality. ✚

## *Please pray for these deceased religious . . .*

### JANUARY

04	1990	Rev. James Feeley
06	1975	Rev. Raymond Tartre
08	1988	Rev. Clarence Loch
08	2003	Rev. William Dahms
10	1917	Br. Télèspore Roy
10	2000	Br. Fernand Duquette
11	1991	Rev. Joseph Ouellette
13	1961	Rev. Hervé Huot
13	1990	Rev. Gerald Dorais
16	1991	Rev. Hector Lemieux
18	1970	Br. Marie-Louis Girard
23	1955	Rev. Alphonse Pelletier

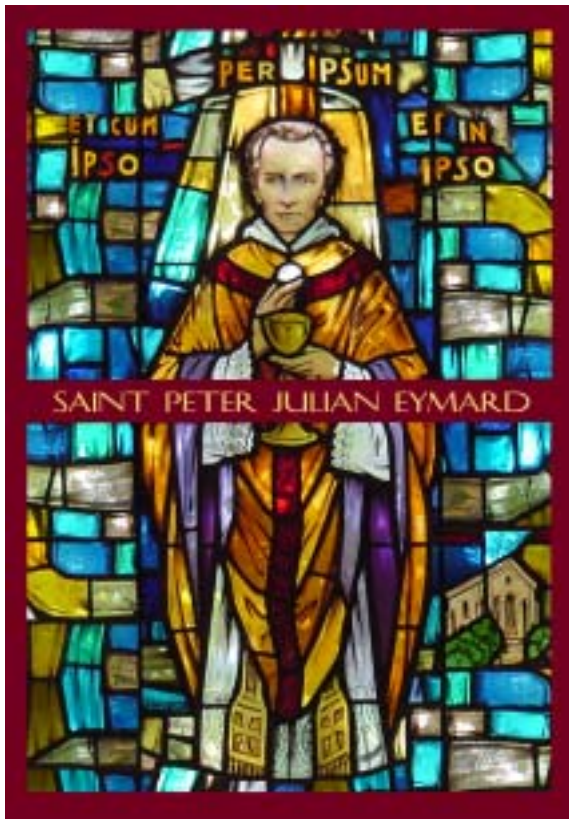
### FEBRUARY

01	1954	Br. Ely Gingras
01	1987	Br. Paschal Frazer
07	1933	Br. Pacific Roy
12	1969	Br. Alphonse Caron
17	1991	Rev. William LaVerdiere
18	1985	Br. Philip DuFour
21	1914	Rev. Louis Pilon
23	1925	Rev. Josaphat Beaudry
24	1984	Br. Paschal Dwyer
27	1942	Rev. Leo Shaienks
27	1984	Rev. Robert Baldoni
27	1999	Rev. William O'Halloran

### MARCH

06	1913	Br. Patricius Welsh
09	1979	Rev. Ernest Lussier
10	1978	Rev. Aimé Legendre
11	1929	Rev. Alfred Pauzé
12	1942	Br. Leander Brodeur
14	1982	Rev. Clement Hébert
20	1963	Rev. Georges Ladouceur
30	1952	Rev. Beat Gmür

## CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH AND BAPTISM OF SAINT PETER JULIAN EYMARD



On February 4, 2005 we celebrate the 194th anniversary of the birth of Peter Julian in the small mountain town of La Mure d'Isère in the foothills of the Alps. St. Peter Julian, founder of the Congregations of the Blessed Sacrament, was more fond, however, of celebrating the day of his Baptism when he first entered into God's life. He was baptized the day following his birth, February 5, 1811 in the Church of La Mure (now referred to as the old church and renamed Saint Peter Julian Eymard Chapel).

As a Congregation, we join in not only remembering these historic dates, but also in recommitting ourselves to the Eucharistic values which he exhibited throughout his life and ministry. We ask that through the intercession of the Apostle of the Eucharist we might be filled with the same fire and zeal to work for the Church.

Our "happy birthday" to Fr. Eymard is the recognition that we continue the work that he began – the work of Eucharistic evangelizing. ✚



Peter Julian Eymard was born on February 4, 1811 in the house on the right which his father was renting. He died in the house to the left, which his father had eventually purchased for the family.



## **Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament**

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*Workshops:*

- *LITE (Life in the Eucharist)*
- *Eucharistic Celebrations,  
Contemplation & Communion*

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## ***SSS News from Around the World . . .***

### **75th Anniversary of Australian Province**

The 75th Anniversary Celebration of the arrival of the SSS in Australia, held on November 1st at the SSS Church of St. Francis in downtown Melbourne, was a wonderful occasion. A special guest from overseas was Norman Pelletier, Provincial of the USA Province, who, along with Archbishop Hart of Melbourne and emeritus Archbishop Little, joined the Eucharistic celebration; many other diocesan clergy were present as well. The St. Francis' Choir sang the Festival Mass and, after the Mass, there were many reunions in the church yard as many former SSS were in attendance. After a short walk to Melbourne Town Hall, festivities continued in the great hall. Four hundred and seventy-eight guests sat down in groups of ten per table. There was superb entertainment from featured artists. The main speaker was Mr. Damien Cash who gave a splendidly informative and entertaining account of the arrival of the SSS. (This talk will be made available in varying formats.) What was very pleasing to see was the seamless participation of clergy and laity, including non-Catholics, which resulted in such successful celebrations!

### **SSS India**

40 years ago, the Australian SSS began the Bombay Foundation at the time of the International Eucharistic Congress on December 3, 1964. This is fittingly the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of the missions. This saint is also the patron saint of the church where our SSS mission began in India, the chapel of St. Francis Xavier, the former summer residence of the Patriarch of Goa. ✚

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