

# Bread Broken & Shared

A Newsletter for friends of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament of the Province of Saint Ann



## Provincial Chapter XXII

**Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center  
Houston, Texas  
February 19-24, 2006**

A week of intensive and faith-filled meetings, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Chapter of the Province of Saint Ann of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament brought together SSS religious and lay partners to move into the future. The theme of the Chapter was “Sharing the Flame: Eucharist the Passion that Drives Us”. The agenda was a full one, the brotherhood experienced was unforgettable. SSS religious and laity from New Mexico to New York gathered for prayer, discussion, setting of priorities and moving into the future as “apostles of the Eucharist” in imitation of their saintly Founder, Peter Julian Eymard. The election of the new provincial team for the next four years took place during the Chapter and this team is charged with carrying out the decisions made.

In this issue of *Bread Broken & Shared* there are two articles that speak about the Provincial Chapter, that of Father Norman Pelletier, Provincial, and the reflection of Nancy MacRoberts, lay associate and secretary of the Chapter.

The Provincial Chapter is but a peak moment in our journey of faith, much like the journey of the two Emmaus disciples. We continue to journey with the Lord and hope to entice many others to walk with us and discover who the Lord is in the “breaking of the bread.” ❖



▲ Provincial Council: [l-r] Dana Pelotte, SSS, Michael Arkins, SSS, Norman Pelletier, SSS, William Young, SSS, Paul Bernier, SSS

### *Inside This Issue*

- 2 Provincial Superior
- 3 Glimpse of Provincial Chapter
- 4 Community News
- 5 On The Road Again
- 6 Our SSS Pastors
- 10 Deus Caritas Est
- 12 After All These Years
- 14 St. Ann's Shrine

# From Our Provincial Superior...

Norman B. Pelletier, SSS

The Blessed Sacrament religious of the Province of St. Ann have just finished a week of meetings in Houston, Texas. This meeting is called a Provincial Chapter. It involves all the priests, deacons and brothers of the USA Province (St. Ann) who meet like this every four years to discuss the important issues facing us and to program the next four years. It is also at this time that we elect our leadership for those four years. For the members of our religious community, this is a very special time to recommit ourselves and to celebrate our vocation to proclaim the Eucharist as the center of Christian life. These meetings always fill us with renewed hope and energy.

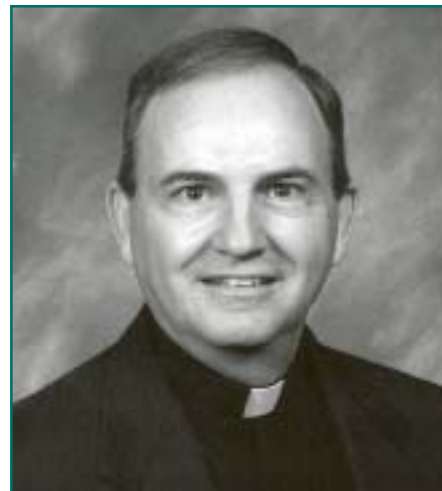
This hope and energy is what we would like to share with you, our friends and readers. At this Houston meeting, however, we were very conscious that our numbers are dwindling and one would start to ask about why we are still hopeful. We are very much aware that our hope is founded on God's word to be faithful to his promises, and not on our own efforts. We realize, too, that as we look at Jesus in the Gospels, numbers are not the sole measure of success. If we had to single out one of the most significant issues for us today, whether in religious life or not, I suspect that many people would reply that quality of life would be at the top of the list or very near.

When we speak of quality of life we are making a statement about our values, about what we hold dear. Without having to make a list of everything that is significant in our lives,

we could probably agree that much of what that list would contain would have to do with how we relate to each other, to our world and to our God. How these relationships are expressed, described and symbolized constitutes a large part of what we call culture. Some of us may not have a very deep understanding of all that is involved in the making and sustaining of a particular culture, nevertheless we surely have heard enough about how the word is used in our magazines and television programs. We hear about pop culture, youth culture, European culture, Chinese culture, and also about the culture of death and the culture of life.

There is among this long list of various "cultures" what we have come to know and appreciate as our Catholic culture. This Catholic culture constitutes the very fabric of our identity as Catholic Christians. It is here that we discover that we are a people of hope. In the next issues of *Bread Broken and Shared* I will explore with you some perspectives on one dimension of our Catholic culture. That dimension I like to call our **Eucharistic Culture**. It forms part of the larger Catholic culture yet it can be helpful to consider how our Catholic eucharistic spirituality is expressed and symbolized. Our eucharistic culture will speak to us about how we live our hope and channel our energies. As Catholic Christians we are a eucharistic people ready to celebrate our gifts and eager to share them selflessly with our neighbors.

*To be continued...*



*We Invite You....*

All SSS, Former SSS, one-time SSS seminarians, and novices from Barre, MA; Cleveland, OH; Hyde Park, NY; Suffern, NY; and Waupaca, WI.

*To the SSS  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion*

**Where:** Provincial Headquarters  
– Cleveland, Ohio

**When:** August 4-5, 2006

- ◆ Friday evening: Welcoming snack and social.
- ◆ Saturday: Get together and acquaint ourselves, including a special program about the SSS today.
- ◆ Saturday evening: Eucharist followed by dinner.

If you are interested in coming, send us a note by mail or email. If you know someone who might want to join us, let us know so that we can contact them.

# *A Glimpse of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Chapter*

Nancy MacRoberts

*In addition to being asked to be one of the 5 lay observer-participants in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Chapter of the Province of Saint Ann of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Nancy MacRoberts very graciously accepted to be the secretary for the week-long meeting in Houston, Texas. The Province is grateful to her for her dedication and Eucharistic spirit and is happy that she is one of our generous lay collaborators who help us bring the spirit and charism of St. Peter Julian Eymard to the world. What follows are some reflections that Nancy offers on having experienced the meeting of about 40 SSS religious from around the country held in February 2006.*



On the lot next door to our home, a really grand new house is being built. It began as a vision of the architect and many talented craftsmen will be needed to make it a reality. Now the foundation, the very basis for a sound and lasting structure is in progress. Soon the framers will arrive to be followed by plumbers, masons, “rockers”, roofers, electricians and as they work, the very design and structure of the house will be brought into being. All along the way, the couple who will live in this house, whose dream home it will be, have come by each day to check on its progress and on the quality of work being done. Before this year is out, we will have new life, new activity, right next door.

What in the world has this to do with what I experienced with the Blessed Sacrament Congregation in their 22<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Chapter that took place in Houston, Texas?



At the Provincial Assembly late in 2005, plans were made for the Provincial Chapter, just as the plans and drawings for the new house were developed. Just as we here in Houston have watched the beginnings of the new house, so was I privileged to witness and even participate in the planning stage in California at the Assembly. At the end of that meeting, I was approached and asked to assist with the secretarial duties thereby becoming one of the “craftsmen” in its realization.



▲► SSS Chapter participants

As I look back on the process of the Chapter, I see the analogy even better. No one person made the plans, but together there was designed a sound foundation and construction has begun. No one person will construct the walls that will form the rooms within the Congregation but instead, many hands with varied talents will successfully complete the plans, fulfilling the dream. As always there will have to be adjustments made along the way; a compromise here and there, a budget

*Continued on next page...*

*A Glimpse...Continued from previous page*

problem, or perhaps an opportunity will arise that was not planned for. As the years pass, many will watch with anticipation the progress of the architect and the builders.

It was truly an exhilarating experience for me to be with the members of St. Ann's Province, during this special time together. To watch you interact, to see you sharing your hopes and dreams for the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, to be about the business of building your future was rewarding in ways that are difficult to put into words. My reactions were both physical and emotional – physical because I was so intent on doing a good job for you and emotional because I care so deeply for each of you.

As Mother Theresa said, *"We can do no great things – only small things with great love."* Thank you for giving me the opportunity to return to you in a small way, some of what you have given me with great love. ✘

# Community News

## Bro. Allen Boeckman, SSS Named Graduate of the Year

During Catholic Schools Week 2006, St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Jordan, Minnesota named Brother Allen Boeckman a Distinguished Graduate of the School. Brother Allen graduated in 1957. The award states that it was being given to Brother Allen "for outstanding personal and professional achievements." It continued that he "is an example of how Catholic schools educate people to take leadership roles in their community and beyond." In addition to his present responsibilities of treasurer of the Cleveland community of the Congregation, he has taught in high school and was a religious education director. Bro. Allen was honored recently and presented with the award in his hometown of Jordan, Minnesota. Congratulations, Brother Allen!



## R.I.P. – Mary Lundeen

In March 2006 the beloved mother of Joanne Stenger of our Provincial Business Office died. Joanne, in addition to her responsibilities with the Congregation, has taken care of her mother for the last few years. We offer our sympathies and condolences to the Stenger family and the Lundeen family on the loss of someone who has been so dear to them. May Mary rest in peace and may her soul and all of the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

## Prayer to St. Peter Julian Eymard

Feast Day - August 2

*Gracious God of our ancestors, you led Peter Julian Eymard, like Jacob in times past, on a journey of faith. Under the guidance of your gentle Spirit, Peter Julian discovered the gift of love in the Eucharist which your son Jesus offered for the hungers of humanity. Grant that we may celebrate this mystery worthily, adore it profoundly, and proclaim it prophetically for your greater glory. Amen.*

### Change of Address

If you plan on moving, please let us know in advance so that we can update our records with your new address. This way you will not miss a single issue of *Bread Broken & Shared*.

### Help Us Find Readers!

You can help us by sending us names and addresses of relatives or friends who might like to read the GOOD NEWS of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. We are happy to send *Bread Broken & Shared* to anyone who is interested.

# On The Road Again

## Toward First Profession of Vows

Anthony J. Marshall and John Christman

As the two novices of the Province of Saint Ann – Anthony J. Marshall and John Christman – move into the final stage of formation prior to their first profession of religious vows, they share with our readers the “journey” that they have been on over the last several months.



Willie Nelson’s famous song, *On the Road Again*, has lyrics that the two novices of the Province of St. Ann can certainly appreciate: “*On the road again/Just can’t wait to get on the road again ¼ Like a band of gypsies we go down the highway .... we’re the best of friends.*”

The travel log of Brothers John Christman and Anthony Marshall is full of tales of their time spent in the local Blessed Sacrament communities around the United States: Texas, Florida, and Ohio. The second year of novitiate included opportunities to get to know the religious communities in various parts of the country before they were asked to consider making a commitment. In early November 2005, the two novices returned to New York City from three months on the road. After their Southwest experience in New Mexico/Arizona and the Navajo Nation. Bro. John experienced life in the Houston, Texas parish of Corpus Christi while Bro. Anthony went to the “Sunshine State” and the local SSS Community in Holiday, Florida. In early February 2006, after spending three months back at the novitiate in New York, where John and Anthony taught at St. Jean Baptiste High School, the two road warriors boarded planes once again and switched locations: John to Florida and Anthony to Houston.

In Houston, Anthony helped prepare for the Provincial Chapter, working on the worship program for the Chapter

and other projects with the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing. He also experienced parish pastoral ministry at Corpus Christi Parish with the pastor Father Dana Pelotte, SSS who invited Anthony to sit in on various meetings, including one with a young couple preparing for their wedding.

John also witnessed firsthand the busy and fulfilling life of parish ministry at St. Vincent de Paul in Holiday, Florida. A major project which he worked on was the redesign of the parish bulletin. John then left the palm trees of sunny Florida for Houston and the Provincial Chapter.

In Houston, both novices were chauffeurs taking their fellow religious from the airport to the retreat center where the Chapter was held. They also assisted with various tasks leading up to and throughout the Chapter.

The season of Lent found the novices at the parish of St. Paschal Baylon in Cleveland, Ohio. There they worked on the province web site ([www.blessedsacrament.com](http://www.blessedsacrament.com)), helped with the planning of a special commemorative book for the Congregation’s sesquicentennial

beginning this month. Each Friday, the novices had a class focusing on our Founder, St. Peter Julian Eymard taught by their illustrious novice master. They also participated in the life of St. Paschal’s Parish and shared with various staff and community members

One piece of good news that they received during their time in Cleveland, was that they both were accepted by the Provincial and his council to profess first vows on August 2, 2006 in Cleveland. As a result of this news, the novices began applying to Catholic Theological Union in Chicago where they will begin their theological studies in the Fall 2006.

We ask you to remember both Bro. John and Bro. Anthony as they prepare for their initial profession of the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Also, we encourage you to please pray for more vocations to the consecrated life and priesthood for our Province.

We pray, too, that our novices may continue safely as they travel *on the road again* to wherever the Lord may lead them. ❖

## Our SSS Pastors and Parishes

*This issue of Bread Broken & Shared will focus on two of our SSS parishes and pastors — the Parish of St. Jean Baptiste in New York City and the Parish of Corpus Christi in Houston, Texas. The parochial realities are diverse and the pastoral challenges many.*

### **St. Jean Baptiste Parish – New York, New York Father Anthony Schueller, SSS – Pastor**

Saint Jean Baptiste Church was founded in 1882 to serve the French Canadian population of the Yorkville neighborhood of New York. New York City is actually a city of neighborhoods. Today, the Upper East Side is one of the most affluent areas in the country. The previous immigrant communities (French, Irish, Italian, etc.) have largely moved out of the area. Saint Jean's (as parishioners and visitors fondly call the parish) attracts people from the immediate area but also from throughout Greater New York as well as visitors from around the globe. It has always been known both as a vibrant parish and as a center of Eucharistic life and prayer for the Archdiocese. Significant emphasis is placed on the liturgy, music, prayer, and faith formation.

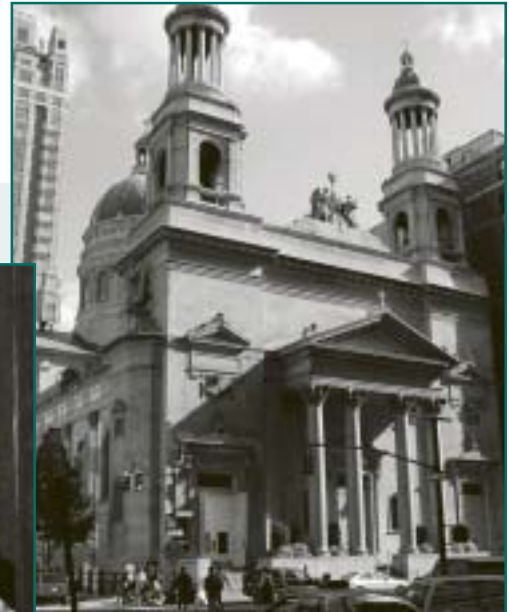


Attached to the parish is a high school which serves 420 young women, mostly the daughters of recent immigrants to the United States. They come from four of the city's five boroughs.

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament came to the already existing Church of St. Jean Baptiste in the year 1900 from Quebec, Canada. For well over 100 years now, St. Jean's has been a center of Eucharistic activity and worship. For a long portion of the history of the Province of Saint Ann, St. Jean's was also the location of the provincial offices of the Congregation in the United States. Many vocations to the Congregation as well as other congregations and the diocesan priesthood and religious life have been nourished and fostered in the parish church.

Presently, the Parish's Mission Statement underscores the place of the Eucharist (in all of its dimensions) in the life and mission of the parish. A year ago, the Parish Pastoral Council identified the following priorities: (1) community-building; (2) communications, and (3) evangelization and ecumenical outreach.

Father Anthony Schueller, SSS came to Saint Jean's, after several months of sabbatical at Saint Martin de Porres Church in Taylorsville, Utah. Prior to this



sabbatical time, Father Schueller had served the Province of Saint Ann as its provincial superior for almost seven years. Many of you will remember him from his monthly articles in the province newsletter as well as his articles and editorials in the province's magazine of eucharistic spirituality, *Emmanuel*. A native of Belgium, Wisconsin, Fr. Tony attended the Congregation's minor seminary in Waupaca, Wisconsin and the Congregation's novitiate and scholasticate. Since his ordination in 1977, Fr. Schueller has served in many capacities and pastoral situations, among them Saint Charles Parish in Albuquerque, NM; St. Paschal Baylon Parish in Cleveland, OH; and Sacred Heart Parish and St. Martin de Porres

*Continued on next page...*

*Our SSS Pastors and Parishes...Continued from previous page*

Parish in Salt Lake City, UT. He has used his gifts in the formation programs of the province as well as in provincial administration.

When asked about his most significant experiences at St. Jean Baptiste, Fr. Schueller said, *“Of all of the blessings that come from ministry, the one I cherish the most is coming in contact with so many wonderful people at different moments in their faith journey. They inspire me. Perhaps the greatest challenge is working with people to identify their own gifts and unleash them for the service of the church and its mission.”*

In closing his remarks about his ministry in New York at St. Jean Baptiste, Fr. Tony said, *“My dream is to see Saint Jean’s continue to be a welcoming place, a place of prayer and good liturgy, a place that brings people closer to Christ, each other, and the neighborhood and city around us.”* St. Jean’s parish is sure fortunate to have such a kind, conscientious and carrying pastor in the person of Fr. Anthony Schueller, SSS.

**Corpus Christi Parish – Houston, Texas**  
**Father Dana G. Pelotte, SSS – Pastor**



From New York City, number one in population in the United States, we move to Houston, Texas, the fourth largest metropolitan area in the USA. The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament began its ministry at Corpus Christi Parish in 1987, just about 20 years ago. Since that time, the Congregation and the faithful of the parish have grown closer and closer.

Corpus Christi is a very diverse community encompassing various cultures: Anglo, Hispanic, Indian, and

Filipino. The parish has approximately 1200 families with a parish population that varies widely (young and old). In addition, the parish also has a sizable elderly population who have been loyal members for most of the parish’s 50 years.

Many who have visited the parish over the years say that they find it a very welcoming parish. Unlike some of the neighboring parishes, Corpus Christi is not large – not small either – but small enough to provide a home-like spirit. The parish continue to attract new parishioners who are impressed by its friendliness and inspiring celebrations of the Eucharist.

In June 2003 Father Dana Pelotte, SSS was asked to move from his responsibilities as pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Salt Lake City, Utah to minister to the people of Corpus Christi parish in Houston. He gladly accepted

## Who We Are

*“Following in the footsteps of St. Peter Julian Eymard, our mission is to respond to the hungers of the human family with the riches of God’s love manifested in the Eucharist.”*  
*Rule of Life 3*

Conscious of our call to bear prophetic witness to the Eucharist, we commit ourselves to the renewal of Church and society through this sacrament, especially by:

- ◆ gathering communities characterized by hospitality, reconciliation, and service;
- ◆ celebrating the Eucharist as the source and summit of the life of the Church;
- ◆ associating others with our prayer;
- ◆ giving personal witness to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist;
- ◆ sharing our Eucharistic mission with others in full collaboration.



*Continued on next page...*

*Our SSS Pastors and Parishes...Continued from previous page*

the change and especially welcomed the warm Houston weather, as well as the warm and welcoming parishioners of Corpus Christi.

Although approaching the age of social security, Fr. Dana is a “young” priest, having been ordained in 1999 after serving in the Congregation for many years as a religious brother using especially his expertise in the area of finances and administration. And recently because of this financial background the Provincial Chapter of the Congregation elected him to be the Provincial Treasurer, the one who oversees all of the finances of the Congregation in the United States. Another attestation to his financial acumen is that he was invited to be a member of the International Finance Commission of the Congregation.

Fr. Dana says: *“As pastor, what occupies my time most is the administration of the parish. Certainly a great amount of time is spent tending to the spiritual life of the parish (Masses, penance services, funerals, weddings, administering the sacraments within the parish and outside as well – hospitals). However, the administration side of this pastoral position is most time consuming, that is, attending meetings, overseeing financial concerns and maintenance concerns and a ton of other things which I need not mention.”*

Fr. Pelotte has a parish staff who advises him on the day to day issues that he seeks advice on along with a Pastoral Council, Education Council, Liturgy Committee, Finance Committee, Maintenance and Stewardship Committee, Vocation Committee, and



▲► *Corpus Christi Church*

Bereavement Committee. Fr. Dana says that he has numerous teams that assist him and offer him advice not only on the parish level but the school level as well. It is a team approach.

When asked what he finds most rewarding in his ministry at Corpus Christi, Fr. Dana answered, *“For me, it’s working with the families who are highly involved in the parish and school. One common goal – one parish – parish and school as one large unit ministering to parishioners and school children. Also, I enjoy funerals, for me it is a moment when great catechesis can take place through homilies and wonderful liturgies. People have often said that they have been touched deeply by our most welcoming parish and the liturgies.”*

Fr. Dana Pelotte related that the most challenging part of his ministry is reaching out to the large Hispanic community in the parish. He said: *“Since I don’t speak their language, it’s difficult to attend to their*



*personal needs (spiritual and otherwise) in a deep way. The communication issue is a problem for me since I want to help them so much and I just can’t since I don’t know their language. Bridging the English-speaking and Hispanic communities is a great challenge as well.”*

In closing Fr. Dana shared with us a story of the response of his parishioners to Hurricane Katrina: *“I think that most recently our parish responded so very well to the Katrina evacuees who were transported to Houston and ended up in the Houston Astrodome which is within parish boundaries. Our people did a wonderful job helping in any way they could – providing food,*

*Continued on next page...*

*Our SSS Pastors and Parishes...Continued  
from previous page*

*clothing, and financial resources to assist those in great need. In fact, our collection for the refugees – requested by the Archdiocese – coming unannounced – ended up with an amount that blew our minds: \$20,000. Even the Archdiocese was impressed by the generosity of our people.”*

Corpus Christi is an alive and wonderful parish and continues to grow day by day. Fr. Dana feels that he has been blessed to be pastor in Houston, Texas and knows that Corpus Christi will continue to grow and be a place where people feel at home, a place that provides an inspiring experience of the presence of Christ in the “Body of Christ” – Corpus Christi. ☩



**Few Places Remaining...Register Now!**

For more information and an informative brochure on the pilgrimage  
**IN THE FOOTSTEPS  
OF ST. PETER JULIAN EYMARD**  
call or write to:  
The Center for Eucharistic  
Evangelizing  
9900 Stella Link Road  
Houston, Texas 77025  
Tel: 713-661-3958  
Fax: 713-662-2014  
E-mail: [cee@hal-pc.org](mailto:cee@hal-pc.org)

## In Celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament

(including Paris, Chartres, Lyon, Taizé, Ars, Grenoble, La Mure d'Isère, the Marian Shrines of LaSalette, Notre Dame de Fourvière, Notre Dame du Laus and Notre Dame de l'Osier, and more)

*In the Footsteps of  
St. Peter Julian Eymard*

### A Pilgrimage to France September 18-October 1, 2006

**\$2,495.00/person**

(round trip to Paris from Liberty International Airport in Newark, NJ; double occupancy)

sponsored by

**The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament**

and

**The Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing**

Houston, Texas

under the direction of

**Fr. Norman B. Pelletier, sss**

(Author of the biography of St. Peter Julian Eymard, *Tomorrow Will Be Too Late*)



*The 2004 Pilgrimage group with Fr. Pelletier.*

The year 2006 celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris, France by St. Peter Julian Eymard. Our pilgrimage will take us to the places important in St. Peter Julian Eymard's life and ministry – in a sense we will walk in his footsteps. Through the expert guidance and reflections of Fr. Norman Pelletier (former Superior General of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and presently Provincial Superior of the Congregation in the U.S.A.) we will learn of Fr. Eymard's journey of faith and visit the places that inspired him most, including several Marian shrines where his vocation was nurtured and his inspiration received to found a Congregation dedicated to the total Eucharistic Mystery.

A deposit of \$500.00 will hold your place on this inspiring pilgrimage. Call today!

# *A Look at Deus Caritas Est of Benedict XVI*

Paul J. Bernier, SSS

Father Paul J. Bernier, SSS is a priest of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament who has a wide experience. He is an educator on the high school level, college level and graduate level. He was academic dean of Mary Hill School of Theology in Quezon City, Philippines. Presently, Fr. Paul is the editor of *Emmanuel Magazine*, a bi-monthly review of eucharistic spirituality published by the Congregation. Fr. Paul is a member of the Cleveland community of the Province of Saint Ann.



*Pope Benedict XVI*  
(photo courtesy of Osservatore Romano)

Pope Benedict XVI issued an encyclical entitled *Deus Caritas Est* (God is love) March 8, 2006. I immediately went and downloaded it from the Internet and read it all. I found that the translation was fluid, and the content well thought out, persuasive, and a joy to read.

This encyclical letter of the Holy Father came as a surprise to many. Since the pope had been the chief doctrinal person in the Vatican for almost 20 years under Pope John Paul II, it was thought that maybe his first encyclical would be a disciplinary one enforcing particular issues. Instead, this first encyclical letter of Benedict XVI is almost a lyrical exposition on the nature of love. The pope tells Catholics that all love, including erotic love, is a gift from God. To be worthy of the name, however, all love must be purified from self-seeking so that it can reach *agape*, a self-giving love, of which Jesus is the chief exemplar. And for us in the Church, the pope reminds us that true love, *agape*, must flow into service of one's neighbor, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. This is the basis for Catholic charitable work.

The heart of the first section is that *eros*, or human sexual love, is a good and gift from God. It must, however, be transformed through "*a path of ascent, renunciation, purification and healing*" into *agape*, meaning the complete gift of oneself for another.

It seems that the second part draws on material previously circulated for a draft encyclical under John Paul II about church-run charitable works. In it, Pope Benedict argues that charitable works are as essential to the Church's life as liturgy and the sacraments. While the Church is obligated to work for social justice as a whole, the pope said, its members must never neglect individual acts of charity. These flow from our understanding of God and what he has done for us in Christ.

The Holy Father also reflects on the relationship between Church and State, supporting

the autonomy of each. "*We do not need a state which regulates and controls everything,*" Benedict writes, "*but a state which, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, generously acknowledges and supports initiatives arising from the different social forces and combines spontaneity with closeness to those in need.*"

To give one example of this distinction, the encyclical states that "*A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church,*" where politics is "*the sphere of the autonomous use of reason.*" The role of the Church is to "*bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good,*" not to "*impose on those who do not share the faith ways of thinking and modes of conduct proper to faith.*"

Despite the fact that the encyclical relies basically on reason, and does not

*Continued on next page...*

*A Look...Continued from previous page*

simply lay down an argument based on the authority of the Church, it is addressed to the Catholic world, and not to all people of good will, as other social encyclicals have done. Perhaps this is because, as Pope Benedict declares in the encyclical, *“Those who practice charity in the church’s name will never seek to impose the church’s faith upon others.”*

However, the Church has always insisted that faith is inherently reasonable. In moral questions, for example, we have held that natural law (based on reason) should be the basis of moral decisions. That implies that a reasonable faith will become a prime source of knowledge about this world in which we live. In this sense, therefore, its teaching should apply to all, believers and non-believers alike.

I encourage everyone to read this encyclical of our Holy Father. It will give us much to reflect on, stimulate growth in the life of Christ. ✕

## *Bread Broken & Shared*

*Bread Broken & Shared* Newsletter is published five times a year by the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Province of Saint Ann, for family, friends and benefactors.

### Contact information:

Phone: (440) 442-6311  
 Fax: (440) 442-4752  
 Editor: Thomas A. Wiese, SSS  
 Design: Kay Vincent  
 Email: [ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net)  
 Website: [www.blessedsacrament.com](http://www.blessedsacrament.com)

*Photographs in this issue courtesy of:*

John Christman, NSSS; Roger Bourgeois, SSS

**CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
 5384 Wilson Mills Road  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44143

*Religious Communities in  
 Florida, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Texas*



## **Quote from Encyclical Deus Caritas Est**

The Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God (*kerygma-martyria*), celebrating the sacraments (*leitourgia*), and exercising the ministry of charity (*diakonia*). These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.

The Church is God’s family in the world. In this family no one ought to go without the necessities of life. Yet at the same time *caritas-agape* extends beyond the frontiers of the Church. (# 25)

## **A Word of Thanks to our Partners in Ministry**

Many of you discovered the envelope inserted in the middle of *Bread Broken & Shared* and sent a generous donation to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. We are most grateful for making it possible for our priests and brothers to continue their ministry. Your gift, whether large or small, helps you to actually share in the ministry of the Congregation in the USA. You are remembered daily in the prayer intentions of the priests and brothers of the Congregation.

## *In Loving Memory*

### *May*

07	1986	Rev. Henry Foley
07	2004	Bro. Ignatius Montgomery
09	1944	Bro. Claude-Hudon Beaulieu
13	1985	Rev. Ralph Lavigne
15	1996	Rev. Jose Barandiaran
23	1975	Rev. Peter Goulet
23	2005	Rev. John Dowling
25	1912	Bro. Leonardus Routhier
25	1975	Bro. Anthony Nolan
26	1974	Rev. Normand Audette
29	1994	Bro. James Lent

### *June*

02	2004	Rev. Normand Falardeau
03	1999	Bro. Thomas Morrissey
07	1933	Rev. Calixtus LeBlanc
07	1984	Rev. Joseph Nearon
13	1968	Rev. Omer Goulet
23	1991	Rev. Rosario Morin
24	1979	Bro. Ovid (Alexius) Poirier

### *July*

01	1980	Bro. Joseph Lamontagne
03	1922	Bro. Armandus Mathieu
04	1988	Rev. Alfred Trudeau
11	1940	Bro. Henricus Gatien
13	1967	Rev. Omer Hebert
13	1981	Bro. Richard Leclerc
16	1983	Rev. Jules Simoneau
18	1984	Rev. Lionel Dorais
19	1914	Bro. Theodorus Bellavance
20	1964	Rev. Daniel Sullivan
22	1993	Bro. Paul Omer Gaudreau
23	2000	Rev. Donald Brouillard
25	1983	Rev. John O’Brien
26	1978	Bro. Maxime Béliveau
28	1914	Bro. Patricius Murphy

### *August*

10	1938	Rev. Roland Amyot
10	1938	Bro. Normand Richard
12	1996	Rev. Maurice Prefontaine
20	1994	Rev. Joseph Bernier
22	1994	Rev. Francis Costa
23	1965	Rev. Leo Rousseau
23	1971	Bro. Andre Bernard
23	1992	Rev. Eugene Laroche
23	1993	Rev. Jean-Marie Bauchet
24	1921	Rev. Arthur Letellier
26	1961	Rev. Alfred Vey
28	1934	Rev. Ludger Lachance
31	1958	Bro. Nazaire Bergeron

# After All These Years

Brother Anthony Marshall, nSSS

In this issue of *Bread Broken & Shared* we introduce you to two SSS religious who have worked behind the scenes for years as parish sacristans. Their work is not always noticed or appreciated, but they help to make things function properly and contribute to the prayerful atmosphere of our churches. We introduce you to Brother Thomas Mella, SSS and Brother Austin Coleman, SSS.

## Brother Thomas Mella, SSS St. Andrew's Parish – New York, NY

*"Jesus is there in the Eucharist do we have to look any further?"*

That is how Br. Thomas Mella, SSS, 63, of the St. Andrew's Blessed Sacrament Community in New York City described the joyful vision that St. Peter Julian Eymard had in founding his Congregation.

*"I was invited to a perpetual profession in Barre, MA,"* he said, describing how he first fell in love with the Congregation. *"The Eucharist is the center."*

Br. Tom, who has been a religious for 41 years, was born in Brooklyn, NY and has called Lower Manhattan his home for some time now. He's no stranger to being on the move. His father was in the U.S. Navy, and the Mella family once lived on a Navy base in Texas for three years. In religious life, too, Br. Tom has traveled across the country to the Southwest and Midwest, before heading home to the East Coast.

*"Whatever I've done, whether in Chicago, Albuquerque, or Cleveland, I did it to inspire the people,"* he said in reference to his ministry as



sacristan, *"not for self, but for the glory of God."*

Since his days as a novice, Br. Thomas has been involved in the ministry of sacristan at his many assignments. As he describes it, the sacristan's main task is to enhance the church through art, decorations, and in various other ways in harmony with the different liturgical seasons.

*"Being a sacristan is something I always wanted to do,"* he said, *"since I was a kid."* It was as a young boy that Br. Mella got his start as sacristan. He helped decorate a home altar, which his father bought, with candles and flowers as he maintained the decorations in his



family sanctuary. In Catholic grade school, the nuns asked him to decorate the bulletin boards, and assist during Mass.

Not all Br. Thomas' time is spent in Church or sacristy. He is an avid fan of opera, especially Italian opera and some of the great sopranos of the past.

Br. Thomas Mella is appreciated for his dedication and fidelity and can always be seen in the Church or sacristy at St. Andrew's Church. If you're in the area, stop in and say "hello"!

*Continued on next page...*

*After All..Continued from previous page*

## **Brother Austin Coleman, SSS St. Jean Baptiste Parish – New York, NY**

The Province of St. Ann is blessed to have had a number of its religious serve in the capacity of sacristan over the years. Just a little over seven miles north from the community of St. Andrew, or a 15 minute subway ride, is the Province of Saint Ann's first religious foundation in the USA – the Church of St. Jean Baptiste. It is there at St. Jeans, as the locals refer to it, where Br. Austin Coleman, SSS, 74, ministers today as sacristan

*"I've been a circulation manager, porter, receptionist for over 20 years,"* he said, *"sometimes multi-tasking."* Br. Austin is not only the sacristan for St. Jeans, but he is also the local community treasurer and works as a pastoral associate in the parish.

*"I like being a sacristan best of all,"* he said one Saturday morning over an Irish breakfast. One should not be surprised that Br. Austin indulges in such a morning meal since his birthplace is Cork City, Ireland. He's been in the U.S.A. for fifty years, and he came over as a youthful novice seeking to enter the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament!

*"I never imagined spending the majority of my life here; I have no regrets,"* he said as the check came for the fine meal. *"Like the Irish missionaries, I came simply out of obedience."*

In addition to being known for a beautiful worship space and a quiet oasis of prayer in midtown Manhattan,



*"I've enjoyed every minute of it,"* he said referring to his 49 years as a Blessed Sacrament Religious, *"all of my moments were high...it's been wonderful."* ✕

New York, "the city that never sleeps," St. Jean Baptiste Church has been identified with St. Ann's Shrine ever since a relic of the grandmother of Jesus was brought there by a visiting priest, Monsignor Marquis, within a few years of the parish's founding in 1882.

The Congregation has continued to foster this devotion to St. Ann through weekly prayers and veneration of the relic, and the great novena to St. Ann every July. As sacristan, Br. Austin is largely responsible for the success of the Shrine, its beauty and prayerfulness, and the wonderful annual novena which draws thousands of people.

Originally attracted by a small advertisement in local Catholic newspaper, Br. Austin – who always knew he wanted to be a religious brother – went to investigate the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and was received with open arms.



### *Focus on Vocations*

In the Old Testament, Samuel was awakened from sleep by the voice of God calling his name. In the New Testament, Paul was knocked off his horse. Does God call in this way today? Usually not. One seminarian describes his experience of call: "I was very involved in my parish doing youth ministry and teaching C.C.D. and I was happy with that. But for some reason it wasn't enough. I had a nagging feeling that I wanted to do *more* for people." Do you feel you may be called to priesthood, sisterhood, or brotherhood? (Serra Club)

*For more information, please contact the Vocation Office at (440) 442-7243 or by email at [sssvocations@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sssvocations@sbcglobal.net).*

# Saint Ann's Shrine



# Meet Our Staff



**Sue Flannery**

For several years already Sue Flannery has been working fulfilling orders for the devotees of Saint Ann's Shrine. In the last couple of years, with Cynthia Troha as the development director and director of Saint Ann's Shrine, Sue took on new responsibilities and became very proficient in using the computer and entering donations and orders into the Shrine's database. Sue herself said that this is phenomenal since until a few years ago she didn't even know how to turn a computer on! Sue considers Saint Ann's Shrine a wonderful place to work, with great people and she hopes to be part of the team for many years to come.

When asked, Sue said that what she liked most about her work at Saint Ann's was talking with our devotees and donors and helping them with scheduling intentions for Masses, prayer requests and other needs. She relates that she is inspired by the most devoted group of people who attend Mass and pray the rosary everyday at the Shrine of Saint Ann.

Sue is happily married to her high school sweetheart, Denis for 32 years.

*Continued on next page...*

## St. Ann's Crown Society Members: In Memoriam

By remembering Saint Ann's Shrine in their will, these deceased donors have left a thoughtful, loving, and caring gift which will have a lasting effect in carrying on Saint Ann's mission of drawing people to her grandson Jesus in the Eucharist.

Membership in the Crown Society entitles you to share in the benefits of daily prayers, Masses and adoration hours of the priests and brothers of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. You will also receive a beautiful replica of Saint Ann's Crown pictured here.

If you are interested in joining the **Saint Ann Crown Society**, please contact Saint Ann's Shrine at 440-449-2700 and ask for the Director, Mrs. Cynthia L. Troha, who can answer any questions you may have.

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mary Margaret Aaron     | Hope J. Gross               |
| Mildred K. Bandolyai    | Dr. Mary Ann Hackett Wilder |
| Helen Barberio          | Winifred K. Hosty           |
| Emily Bednarek          | Rose E. Knorr               |
| Roger & Agnes B. Berger | Sylvia K. Luckner           |
| Louis B. Blazic         | Anna A. Lukanish            |
| M/M Frank X. Braun      | Ines T. Mangano             |
| Margaret M. Brown       | Josephine Marines           |
| Edith R. Brysch         | Genevieve M. McAuliffe      |
| Margaret J. Cahill      | Edward J. McGuire           |
| Marjorie Cahill         | Rose V. McLaughlin          |
| Mayme Canfield          | Margaret Madonna Murry      |
| Joseph S. Chernic       | Anthony Patrick             |
| Margaret C. Connell     | Angeline Petrillo           |
| William M. Connor       | Patricia Nettie Pinto       |
| Winston F. Cook         | Emma M. Pitsch              |
| Nicholas D'Aromando     | Rosalie Ann Ranger          |
| Ann M. Dawson           | Catherine M. Reilly         |
| Irene A. Dougherty      | Rev. Clifford A. Riede      |
| Hugh J. Falvey          | Harvey H. Robbe             |
| Raquel Felipe           | Melvin P. Schneider         |
| Sadie H. Flegl          | John B. Sharkey             |
| Catherine C. Flynn      | Mabel Maxine Spellman       |
| Henry S. Galus          | Bertha L. Stahlschmidt      |
| America Garcia          | Mary Alice Sujkowski        |
| Evelyn H. Giefer        | Frank and Anna Vater        |
| James A. Grady          | Mary Wescoat                |
| Marie M. Grissett       | Milo B. Young, jr.          |
|                         | Peter G. Zak                |



*St. Ann's..Continued from previous page*

Their only son, Patrick and his wife Katie are newlyweds and just bought their first home in the area. When not busy with her many responsibilities at Saint Ann's Shrine, Sue enjoys reading and traveling, especially taking cruises with her husband.

Saint Ann's Shrine is lucky to have dedicated associates like Sue Flannery - people who are filled with faith in Jesus Christ and believe in the powerful intercession of Saint Ann. We are grateful to Sue and all of the associates of Saint Ann's Shrine for helping the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament continue this important outreach ministry.

### Patricia A. Hrusch

Patricia A. Hrusch began her involvement at Saint Ann's Shrine in October 2005. Although a quiet, gentle, smiling lady with a sweet personality, she possesses great faith. She did not have another job when she quit her previous job at the Key Bank Corporation in Cleveland but trusted that the Lord would lead and guide her.



As she explains, *"I left my job praying and in faith that God had another plan for me. How fortunate that His plan for me was to join the Saint Ann's Shrine staff as a data entry clerk. I enjoy working in this special ministry. Everyone here is so friendly and helpful. I also enjoy the contact I have with our devotees of Saint Ann and our generous donors on the phone and through the mail! I have learned so much from them and their devotion to Saint Ann."*

Patty graduated from Lorain High School in Lorain, Ohio and attended the Oberlin School of Commerce where she received a two year certificate in business.

Patty and Brent, her husband of 9 years, belong to St. Paschal Baylon Parish where the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament minister. She has been actively involved in the Life in the Eucharist (LITE) program as a team member. This program is an outreach ministry of the Congregation to share with laity the tremendous power of the Eucharist for daily living. The program is presented by laity for laity.

In addition to her ministry at Saint Ann's Shrine and the Life in the Eucharist program, Patty enjoys fishing and attending sports events with her husband and spending her spare time with her sisters and their children.

We are very fortunate to have this special "angel" working for us at Saint Ann's Shrine. ❖

## Blessed Sacrament Mass Association

Did you ever wonder what gift you might give to a friend or relative that was hard to buy for? Why not consider our Mass Association. Your loved one will share in Masses for a whole year.

For a donation of your choice, you will receive a beautiful card that you can send to your friend or relative and they will be remembered in a weekly Mass celebrated here in Cleveland at the Shrine of Saint Ann.

All you have to do is request Mass Association cards in advance. When you decide to use one of the cards, simply fill out the name of the person you want to enroll in the Association, and send it back to us. It's so simple – you just send your donation when you use a card. When you need more cards, just let us know and we'll be happy to send them to you.

For more information about the Blessed Sacrament Mass Association, write to:

**Saint Ann's Shrine**  
**5384 Wilson Mills Road**  
**Cleveland, OH 44143**

Telephone: 440-449-2700

Email:

[saintannorders@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saintannorders@sbcglobal.net)

Website:

[www.st-ann-shrine.org](http://www.st-ann-shrine.org)



*Mark your calendar for the SSS 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion*

**Where:** Provincial Headquarters – Cleveland, Ohio  
(Highland Heights)

**When:** August 4-5, 2006

**Who:** All SSS, Former SSS, one-time SSS  
seminarians, and novices from Barre, MA;  
Cleveland, OH; Hyde Park, NY; Suffern, NY;  
and Waupaca, WI.

*150<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Reunion  
Cleveland Ohio*



Help us locate SSS alumni by sending us names and addresses of former classmates with whom you may still be acquainted to: [ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net).

We start on Friday evening with a welcoming snack and social. All day Saturday we will have time to get together and reacquaint ourselves. There will be a special program about the SSS today. The day will end with Saturday evening Eucharist followed by dinner.

*If you are interested in coming, send us a note by mail or email. If you know someone who might want to join us, let us know so that we can contact them.*

*If you have a question, concern or idea about your newsletter, let us know...*

*Please change the label and send it back to us, or contact the Provincial Office.*

*Received more than one copy*

*Address correction*

*Please remove my name*

*Deceased*

*Bread Broken & Shared*

**CONGREGATION  
OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

5384 Wilson Mills Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44143

(440) 442-6311

[www.blessedsacrament.com](http://www.blessedsacrament.com)



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CLEVELAND, OH  
PERMIT NO. 2004

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**