

Bread Broken & Shared

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

200th Anniversary of the
Birth and Baptism of
Saint Peter Julian Eymard



by **Bernard Camiré SSS**

This is the 8th article in a series on The Eucharist and Saint Peter Julian Eymard by Father Bernard Camiré SSS of our parish of Saint Jean Baptiste in New York City. These special articles are in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth and baptism of Saint Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868), the Founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

In his post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Sacrament of Charity*, Pope Benedict said: *“The love that we celebrate in the sacrament [of the Eucharist] is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature, it demands to be shared with all. What the world needs is God’s love; it needs to encounter Christ and to believe in him. The Eucharist is thus the source and summit not only of the Church’s life, but also of her mission; ‘an authentically Eucharistic Church is a missionary Church.’”*

The Eucharist and Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Our Call to Serve

The power of mental association is an interesting thing. When I read those words of Pope Benedict, *“What the world needs is God’s love,”* they remind me of a song that was very popular in the 1960s. It’s the Burt Bacharach hit, *What the World Needs Now Is Love, Sweet Love*. And, here again, the power of association kicks in. When I hear that song, I think of my very first trip to England, in 1967, on the ocean-liner, *The France*. The *“Love sweet love”* song got played

Continued on next page...

Inside This Issue

- 3 As One Who Serves
- 5 Ecumenical Corner
- 7 23rd Provincial Chapter
- 11 Beginning Eucharistic Lives
- 13 Eucharistic Associates
- 15 St. Ann’s Shrine

The Eucharist and Saint Peter Julian...Continued from previous page

with some frequency over the ship's music system in public areas. Recently, I was wondering about the lyrics of that song; the fact is, I had only the vaguest recollection of them. What did the lyricist have in mind in singing the praises of "love, sweet love"? After all, I thought to myself, the song was from the "flower-power," "feelin' groovy" 1960s. Well, with the help of Brother Peter Harley, I discovered that the song, whose lyrics were written by Hal David, came out in 1965 and was made popular by Jackie DeShannon. And I was most pleasantly surprised to see that there was nothing at all objectionable in the lyrics; even Pope Benedict could agree with their message. Yes, *"What the world needs now is love, sweet love. No, not just for some but for everyone."* For Christians, this is a love that necessarily originates in God and takes shape in concern and care for the neighbor, in readiness to serve the neighbor who is, of course, to be found in every human person.

St. Peter Julian Eymard's profound grasp of the Eucharist readily recognized the truth that *"an authentically Eucharistic Church is a missionary Church."* Of the many instances that we could cite to demonstrate his practical expression of that truth, I should like to focus on one in particular. Eymard's second foundation at 66 Rue Faubourg St-Jacques was proximate to a very poor area of Paris. This area, like many other poor areas of Paris at that time, was populated with migrants from rural areas looking for work. The situation of these people was deplorable, not only materially but also spiritually. Many children went unbaptized, and many couples simply cohabitated or married civilly. Since parishes had only limited resources for catechetical instruction and were overwhelmed by the number of migrants, religious ignorance was rampant. This is the situation that St. Eymard saw and experienced first hand on Rue Faubourg St-Jacques. It was a situation into which he threw himself with great apostolic zeal. It was said that some poor areas of Paris were so bad that even the police would not venture into them alone. But Fr. Eymard entered those areas without worry, especially after he became known to the people and recognized as a friend.

St. Peter Julian addressed the material needs of these people with the scant resources at his disposal; but his great concern was the spiritual needs of the people, and especially the young factory workers and beggars. Fr. Eymard described the situation in these words: *"They are barely able to work! These poor children of Paris are hired in factories to earn a few pennies. This helps to buy a little bread for the family and to pay the rent. If there are no jobs in the factory, the child takes a small sack and leaves home to go scavenging the city . . . These poor children carry the signs of want etched on their faces."* *"If only some religious spirit could be found to compensate the misery of their bodily needs. But no! . . . the little worker never goes to church so as to know, to love and to serve God. His parents do not tell him anything about this. They were raised in the same way . . . There is nothing comparable to the poverty and indifference of this part of Paris."*

Faced with such a situation, Fr. Eymard organized an army of catechists, reached out to as many children and adolescents as he could, and gathered them in to give them a systematic instruction in the Catholic faith and to prepare them for First

Communion and Confirmation – and baptized them if that was necessary. Fr. Eymard tackled a truly daunting task, dealing with rough, ill-bred and restless youngsters. But he persevered in the work, right up to the time of his death. By that time, many hundreds of young people had been evangelized and brought to the sacraments of initiation. In a letter of February 1862, St. Peter Julian wrote to a friend: *"Our Work of First Communion of adults is growing. Every year, 150 to 160 have the joy of being prepared for their First Communion; these are the poor rag pickers, the poor children working in factories. There is here a beautiful and attractive mission of the Eucharistic wedding feast."*



A truly Eucharistic life necessarily stirs the mind and the heart to the reality of the world around us.

St. Eymard never tired of teaching, by word and example, that the fruit of a truly Eucharistic life is service to one's neighbor, a readiness to respond to the material and spiritual needs of fellow human beings, especially those most in need. A truly Eucharistic life necessarily stirs the mind and the heart to the reality of the world around us.

When we live deeply and consistently from the Eucharist, we grow steadily in an active love of neighbor. The Eucharist educates us to this love in an always deeper way. Because the Eucharist celebrates Christ's act of sacrificial self-giving for everyone, it shows us what value each person has in God's eyes; it enables us to grow in

Continued on next page...

*The Eucharist and Saint Peter**Julian...Continued from previous page*

awareness of the dignity of each person; and that, in turn, provides the deepest motive for our relationship with our neighbor. What's more, the Eucharist educates us to become particularly sensitive to all human suffering and misery, to all injustice and wrong; and to engage ourselves in the efforts to relieve those afflictions that affect so many people in today's world.

"What this world needs now is love, sweet love" – those words of a pop-tune from the secular world of the 1960s, correctly understood, are very much in line with what Pope Benedict declared when he said, "What the world needs is God's love." At the Last Supper, Jesus entrusted to his Church the sacrament that makes present his love, his love expressed in his self-sacrifice for the salvation of the world. We cannot approach the Eucharistic table without embracing Christ's mission of love for all people. As Pope Benedict put it: "Missionary outreach is . . . an essential part of the Eucharistic form of the Christian life." ✠



A Word of Thanks to our Partners in Ministry

Many of you returned the enclosed response card in with 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.

As One Who Serves

by Anthony J. Marshall SSS

One of our newly-ordained deacons, Anthony Marshall SSS, answers for us the question "What is a Deacon?" During this time of their diaconate, in addition to completing their studies, they will function in the role of deacon at the liturgy. Anthony will be ordained a priest at St. Paschal Baylon

parish in Highland Heights, OH on June 25, 2011 and John Christman, his classmate, will be ordained a priest on June 4, 2011 in his home parish of St. Mary in Menasha, WI. Please continue to pray for them both.



The promise of obedience made by Anthony Marshall sss and John Christman sss

Having heard the summons of Christ Jesus, who, during the course of his Last Supper, rose from the meal and, "poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist," (John 13:5), John Christman and I were ordained to the diaconate by the Most Rev. Enrique Hernandez on November 20, 2010. The ordination liturgy took place in the parish church of SS. Peter & Paul (Blessed Sacrament Parish) where our Scholasticate – house of studies – is located in Chicago's McKinley Park neighborhood. We were surrounded by the love and prayers of our respective families, confreres, friends, and dedicated parishioners.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, an early bishop and martyr, taught that deacons "represent Jesus Christ, just as the bishop has the role of the Father, and the presbyters are like God's council and an apostolic band. You cannot have a Church without these." The role of the deacon is to be the servants of the entire people of God, sharing the love of Christ with others. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, "among other tasks, it is the task of deacons to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the

Continued on next page...

As One Who Serves...Continued from previous page

distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity.”

In exercising our diaconate ministry, John and I are tasked with being especially attentive to the cries of the poor and suffering, especially those in the parish communities where we serve as Blessed Sacrament Religious. While our diaconal ministries are called “transitional,” since we are preparing for priesthood, our Congregation has the privilege of having a deacon whose ministry is permanent. Deacon Joseph Bourgeois SSS serves at our Cleveland parish of St. Paschal Baylon. He is a wonderful example of what it means to be “as one who serves,” (Luke 22:27), especially through his clown ministry and outreach to Cleveland’s poor and homeless.

Following ordination, John was assigned for the Advent and Christmas seasons to Corpus Christi Parish, our Blessed Sacrament parish in Houston, Texas. I traveled to Holiday, Florida and spent the same liturgical seasons at St. Vincent de Paul parish. During the ministry experiences, the advice which another early bishop and martyr, St. Polycarp, gave to deacons came to mind: “Be merciful, diligent, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all.”

Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we strive to serve God’s people as deacons, faithfully following in the footsteps of our Holy Founder St. Peter Julian Eymard. And continue to pray that many more young men will respond to serve in the Church as Blessed Sacrament priests, deacons, and brothers. ✠



▲ Retired Bishop Enrique Hernandez with Anthony and John

▶ Anthony and John with statue of Saint Peter Julian Eymard

▼ [L-R] Fr. Thomas Draga (Cleveland), Anthony Marshall sss, Norman Pelletier (Provincial), John Christman sss



Ernest's Ecumenical Corner

The Coptic Orthodox Church

by Ernest Falardeau SSS

Ernest Falardeau SSS lives Ecumenism! For many years he has dedicated his life and efforts to promoting the unity of Christians. His articles are frequently featured in Bread Broken & Shared. He is committed to promoting this unity in line with the Rule of Life of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament which states: "The celebration leads us to promote unity in all our activities: within our Christian communities, among all confessions that share the same baptism and among all those who are working to unify the world" (Rule of Life, 38).

Among the Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Coptic Church is one of the outstanding. It is the Church of Alexandria, one of the five patriarchal churches and one of the churches founded by the Apostles, according to tradition, by St. Mark, who is its patron. It is predominantly the Church of Egypt, though it has many members from other parts of the world, including Iraq and other countries of the Middle East, as well as in the United States.

The Coptic Orthodox Church meets regularly with other Ancient Orthodox Churches in dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Paul VI and Pope Shenouda III of the Coptic Church signed a Common Declaration on May 10, 1973 expressing the shared faith of Catholics and Copts especially in what concerns belief in Jesus Christ as the incarnate Son of God in language that reflects the Apostolic faith.

The Coptic Church is very proud of its ancient culture and heritage. Its Catechetical School was one of the two outstanding schools of the ancient Christian world, the other being the school of Antioch in Syria. Alexandria was a center of learning, culture and scientific discovery; Antioch was characterized by its exploration of the world of ideas, and other characteristics of the Eastern world. Alexandria was part of the Orthodox tradition though its culture was distinct from Rome and Constantinople and its theological ties with Rome were very deep.

Origen who wrote over 6,000 commentaries of the bible in addition to his famous *Hexapla* had a profound influence on the Alexandrian school and was one of its most creative theologians. Many scholars such as St. Jerome visited the school of Alexandria to exchange ideas and to communicate directly with its scholars. The school of Alexandria was not limited to theological subjects, because science, mathematics and the humanities were also taught there. Among the great Egyptian fathers of the Church was Saint Anthony, the world's first



Christian monk. St. Athanasius was Pope of Alexandria for 46 years from 327 AD to 373 AD. He was the great light of the Council of Nicea in 325. St. Cyril of Alexandria was the leading theologian of the Council of Ephesus in 451 AD.)

During the Arab conquest by Islam, the Coptic Church flourished. This is due in large measure to the fact that the Prophet of Islam had an Egyptian wife, and Mohammed instructed the Muslims to be kind to the Copts.

The Coptic Church was separated from the Church of Rome in the 5th century by the debates at the Council of Chalcedon. The Coptic Church was accused of following the teachings of Eutyches, who believed in monophysitism. This doctrine maintains that the Lord Jesus Christ has only one nature, the divine, not two natures, the human as well as the divine. Copts clearly believe in two natures "human" and "divine" that are united in one "without mingling, without confusion and without alteration" "(from the declaration of faith at the end of the Coptic divine liturgy). These two natures "did not separate for a moment or the twinkling of an eye" (also from the declaration of faith at the end of the Coptic divine liturgy.)

Continued on next page...

Ernest's Ecumenical Corner...Continued from previous page

Catholic-Coptic Common Declaration (May 10, 1973)

In May 1973 Pope Paul VI and Pope of Alexandria Shenouda III signed a Common Declaration expressing together the common faith which Catholics and Copts share. It is a brief document incorporating common faith about God, Jesus Christ, the Church and the Sacraments, as well as traditions that have been preserved in both churches through centuries of history. There is a reconciliation and affirmation of the faith of both churches at the time of the Council of Chalcedon, though the wording of the declaration incorporates contemporary ecumenical understanding.

Pope Shenouda III has been a beacon of light for the Coptic Church and an important leader in the reconciliation of Christian Churches through the ecumenical movement and his participation in the work of the World Council of Churches as well as the Roman Catholic – Oriental Orthodox Dialogue. While Eucharistic sharing is a topic that remains an important consideration for separated Christians, the Coptic Church has not made any special overtures in this direction. It is my sense that such a move will be made jointly with the other Oriental Orthodox Churches. ✠

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.



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@blessedsacrament.com

Website: www.blessedsacrament.com



Photographs in this issue courtesy of:
File Photos

CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

5384 Wilson Mills Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44143

Religious Communities in
Illinois, Florida,
New York, Ohio, Texas

Focus on Vocations

Holiness is a challenge for us all, whatever our specific vocations. We are called to be holy in all aspects of our lives. This is an ongoing process, often slowed by setbacks. When the saints were alive, they did not regard themselves as saints; rather, they knew they were sinners — and they strived to be saints. The process of becoming holy is, even for saints, painful and filled with struggle. Know you are a sinner; strive to be a saint.

For more information, please contact the Vocation Office at (440) 442-7243 or by email at sssvocations@blessedsacrament.com.

www.blessedsacrament.com

23rd Provincial Chapter of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament



We are happy to share with you, this pictorial collage reflecting the events and capturing some of the spirit and enthusiasm of the people who participated in the 23rd Provincial Chapter (meeting) of the religious of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament of the Province of St Ann (USA) along with some invited lay associates. The meeting was held in the Fall of 2010 in Arizona. This (Chapter) meeting occurs only every four years and is an opportunity for us to evaluate our ministries, to plan for the future, celebrate who we are and elect our provincial leadership.



▲ *The new leadership team being blessed by the assembly of SSS religious and associates*

▶ *Our first investiture ceremony of our lay associates*

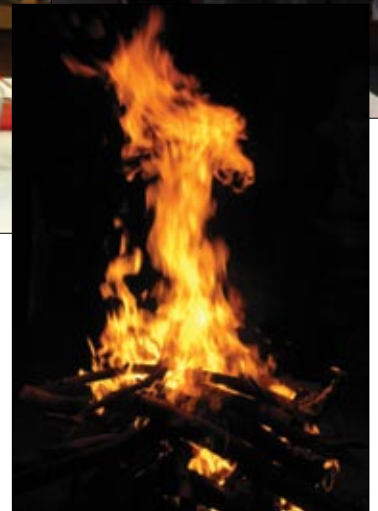




▲ SSS religious attending chapel services

► Father Fiorenzo Salvi sss, Superior General, celebrating the Eucharist

▼ [L-R] Jim Brown, Susan Work, Nancy MacRoberts, Bubba Pizzitola, Patty Pizzitola, Father Fiorenzo Salvi sss, Noreen Hoard, Louise Borgione, Marjorie Zalar, Frank Zalar





◀ Brother Peter Harley sss receiving the office of Acolyte

▼ Father Dennis Ruane sss wondering ... just wondering!



▲ Our two attentive secretaries, Susan Work and Nancy MacRoberts



▲ All of us ... happy it's over, but hesitant to leave the Southwest

◀ The outdoor fire mirroring the theme of our meeting ...to recapture the flame of our vocation

▶ Fr. Provincial (Norman B. Pelletier sss) and Fr. General (Fiorenzo Salvi sss)



▲ A typical Provincial Chapter working session

► The prayer that sustains us... our committed Lay Associates

▼ Father Superior General blessing the SSS medallions



We thank you for your prayers and support that sustained us during our meetings and continues to encourage us to be faithful to our mission of Eucharistic evangelization after the example of our saintly Founder, Peter Julian Eymard.



▲ John Kamas sss leading a Chapter session

◀ Religious and Associates attentive during a Chapter session

Beginning Eucharistic Lives

by John Christman SSS

John Christman SSS was recently ordained a transitional deacon, and now looks forward to his ordination to the priesthood on June 4, 2011 at St. Mary Parish in Menasha, WI. John details some of the journey that he and Anthony Marshall SSS have been on since they entered the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Seven years ago Brother Anthony Marshall sss and I began a unique journey. After much prayer and contemplation we had perceived what we considered to be a vocation to the priesthood. Yet another longing whispered within our hearts. It spoke of a particular spirituality, a particular mission. It spoke of the Eucharist, a mystery so vast, wide and deep that we wished to dedicate our lives to exploring and proclaiming its wonders. That whispering voice in our hearts also spoke of community, an essential element of the Eucharist. We both desired to live out our priestly vocation in a religious community dedicated to the celebration, adoration and proclamation of the Eucharist. All this we discovered in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

And so it was with a mixture of fear and excitement that we set out for Albuquerque, New Mexico in the summer of 2003 to begin an intense discernment of our vocational calling with the Blessed Sacrament community. Through postulancy, novitiate, first vows, theological studies up to the present, we have persevered in our calling and grown

into a close relationship with the Congregation and its Eucharistic mission. So much so, in fact, that Brother Anthony and I found ourselves desiring a lasting commitment to the Congregation. We therefore requested permission to take our perpetual vows and become lifelong members of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. With great joy and gratitude we were accepted by our provincial Father Norman Pelletier sss, his council and the entire province.

In preparation for perpetual vows the Congregation asks that all its candidates take part in a three month program of intense prayer, discernment and preparation. While this can be done in one's own province, for Brother Anthony and I an amazing opportunity arose. We were given the chance to join other English speaking members of the Congregation who were also preparing for their perpetual vows in an international program. Moreover, given the special occasion of Saint Peter Julian Eymard's 200th anniversary of birth, the Congregation had something even more special in mind for us. We were to travel to France and spend the first month of our program visiting the places where Saint Peter Julian Eymard lived, prayed, ministered and brought the Congregation into being.

So in the middle of July we traveled to France and joined six other members of the Congregation preparing for final vows. These Blessed Sacrament scholastics were from Vietnam, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Guided by Eymardian scholars such as Father Manuel Barbiero sss and Father André Guitton sss we discovered the richness of Saint Peter Julian Eymard's spiritual life and Eucharistic vocation. Amidst the many Marian shrines in France we came to value his great Marian devotion. Throughout his numerous writings and letters we perceived his great love for God and Jesus' "gift of self" in the Eucharist. What we had learned from books in the course of our formation we now experienced firsthand and the impact it had on our understanding of Eymard could not be overstated.

From France we traveled to Sri Lanka where our program of preparation



The perpetual vows of John Christman sss and Anthony Marshall sss, pictured with Father General (Fiorenzo Salvi sss) and Father Provincial (Norman Pelletier sss)

Continued on next page...

Beginning Eucharistic Lives...Continued from previous page

continued with a series of classes geared toward re-exploring the content of our Rule of Life in light of our lived experiences and upcoming perpetual profession of vows. Thoughtfully organized and prepared by Father Sunil Rupasinghe sss we were given numerous presentations by differing religious experts. For example, Father Norman Pelletier sss gave an enlightening presentation on the history of the congregation; Father Nilindra Gunsekera sss spoke to us of the vow of obedience as seen through the perspective of the New Testament and Bishop Winston Fernando sss shared with us his reflections on the relationship between the Church and the Congregation. The eight of us listened to these talks with great interest, asking questions and engaging the speakers. In addition to these classes, we were given the chance to discover the land and culture of Sri Lanka. We closed our preparation with a five day silent retreat where we disposed ourselves to the perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

On October 17th, 2010 at St Philip Neri's Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka Brother Anthony and I made our perpetual vows with the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. In the presence of our General Superior, Father Fiorenzo Salvi sss, our Provincial Father Norman and an international gathering of Blessed Sacrament religious, Brother Anthony and I committed ourselves to a thoroughly Eucharistic life in the service of the Church and our fellow religious. It was a characteristically bright and sweltering hot October day in Colombo as we stood in the sanctuary of Saint Philip Neri's Church. Beautiful red and white banners strung from the ceiling slowly swayed to the rhythm of the oscillating fans. The vibrant life of the city could be heard somewhere behind the exuberant songs. And in the midst of all this vivacity and pageantry the eight of us proclaimed our vows with wholehearted conviction. We were welcomed by Father Salvi with a ring and an embrace. Filled with gratitude Brother Anthony and I would like to thank

everyone who has supported us in our religious vocation over the last eight years. Your words, prayers and support have strengthened and encouraged us more than you may realize. We thank God for your presence in our lives. We would especially like to thank the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the Province of Saint Ann for the great care and concern you have shown us throughout our formation. We are honored to join you. ✠



The group of all the SSS religious that prepared for perpetual vows with John and Anthony pictured with Bishop Winston Fernando sss [center] of the Diocese of Badulla, Sri Lanka

In Loving Memory

March

- 06 1913 Bro. Patricius Welsh
- 07 1922 Bro. Adelardus Mathieu
- 09 1979 Rev. Ernest Lussier
- 10 1978 Rev. Aimé Legendre
- 11 1929 Rev. Alfred Pauzé
- 12 1942 Bro. Leander Brodeur
- 14 1982 Rev. Clement Hébert
- 17 2010 Rev. Raymond Dubois
- 18 1985 Bro. Philip Dufour
- 20 1963 Rev. Georges Ladouceur
- 30 1952 Rev. Beat Gmür

April

- 07 1942 Rev. Fernando Gaudet
- 10 1934 Rev. Edward Dwyer
- 10 1991 Bro. Ramon Reyes
- 12 1985 Rev. Emile Berthiaume
- 12 2010 Rev. Peter Cops
- 13 1994 Rev. Patrick Markey
- 13 1998 Rev. John J. Gartner
- 21 1992 Rev. Wilfrid Thibodeau
- 22 2004 Rev. Timothy Mangan
- 25 1947 Rev. Wilfridus Boissonneault
- 27 1991 Rev. Paul Gariepy
- 28 1993 Rev. Aurelius Gariepy

Eucharistic Associates

by Jim Brown

On Thursday, November 11, 2010, an historic event took place. Eight lay women and men associated with the province of Saint Ann of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament expressed their promise to become an “Associate of the Blessed Sacrament” and be inspired by the *Rule of Life for the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament*.



At a special ceremony during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, these women and men joined the newly-formed Association with these words: *“In wishing to live my baptismal consecration according to Saint Peter Julian Eymard’s charism, I want to place the Paschal Mystery at the center of my life, interiorizing it in prayer and sharing with people the life following from it.”*

These eight lay people represented women and men who have over the last 20 years associated themselves with the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament as liturgical ministers, staff people and participants in the Eucharistic Evangelizing ministry of the Congregation called *Life in the Eucharist*.

The participants in the installation ceremony were:

- Parishioners from St. Paschal Baylon Parish in Cleveland, Ohio: Louise Borgione, Marjorie and Frank Zalar.
- Parishioners from Corpus Christi Parish in Houston, Texas: Patty and Bubba Pizzitola, Nancy MacRoberts and Noreen Hoard.
- Susan Work and Jim Brown, who work for the Province.

The idea among the Blessed Sacrament religious of sharing their life and mission with the laity has been for nearly twenty years at the core of Provincial and General Chapters as an integral part of the Eucharistic renewal taking place within the Congregation. This is part of a broader movement in the post-Conciliar Church where religious communities have actively sought ways to involve committed lay persons meaningfully in their life and mission.

From the beginning, Saint Peter Julian Eymard desired to share his charism and Eucharistic mission with the laity. He formed the *Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament*, and left a considerable amount of manuscripts that witness this commitment – which lasted until his death – of defining his proposal of

Eucharistic life for the laity, giving an organization to respond to the various interests and circumstances of the people.

At the 33rd General Chapter in 2005, it was decided that the Congregation needed a clear proposal, at an inspirational and organizational level, for those lay persons who were asking to share the Congregation’s charism and mission as members of a publicly recognized associative membership. A new set of guidelines was formulated for the Aggregation to express a renewed vision of associative life for the laity that takes into consideration a reorientation to the *Rule of Life* of the Congregation. The document was published in 2009 and called *Project of Life* by the Generalate and has been re-titled in the province of St. Ann the *Rule of Life for Associates*. It stems from the long tradition in the Blessed Sacrament family, which, starting from Fr. Eymard, gave life to a “Public Association of lay faithful” called Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, in order to share the Eucharistic mission with the laity. Former expressions of these associative groups were the *Peoples’ Eucharistic League* and the *Guard of Honor*.

In pledging their desire to become a member of the canonically constituted Association, these 8 women and men committed themselves to the following:

- On-going formation and education focused on the Eucharist being at

Continued on next page...

Eucharistic Associates...Continued from previous page

- the center of their lives.
- Putting the celebration of the Eucharist at the center of their spirituality.
- A commitment to the prayer of contemplation and adoration.
- To participate in and pray the Liturgy of the Hours.
- To celebrate the various feasts special to the Congregation, e.g., the feast of St. Peter Julian Eymard on August 2, the day of his baptism on February 5th, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament on May 13, to name a few.
- To share in and participate in the Eucharistic evangelizing mission of the Congregation.

At the close of the ceremony and following a public signing of the "Formula of the Promise," these 8 women and men received from the Superior General of the Congregation, Father Fiorenzo Salvi SSS, a special

medal designed for the induction. On one side is the logo for the Congregation (*the cup and bread within the globe*) and on the other side, a relief of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

The event was truly moving. It brought tears to both inductees and religious who were present. Comments about the ceremony included: *"It was an awesome and unforgettable experience."* *"Simply, thanksgiving!"* *"I felt such joy in finally accomplishing what we so long ago requested!"* *"I was so touched and grateful for being asked."* One couple put it this way: *"It was a validation of a ministry we have participated in for 20 years. It was a truly humbling experience and something we have both worked and prayed for over the course of many years, and look forward to the day that so many other existing associates are inducted into the Association."* And finally, a comment which expresses what many

current "associates" feel: *"We are so thankful and exhilarated to have been chosen by the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament to assist them in their mission of setting the world on fire with the Eucharist."*

As indicated earlier, these women and men represent many other dedicated lay persons throughout the province who have been associated with the Congregation in spirit and ministry over the last twenty years. As one of the newly received Associates said: *"I am eager to share the charism of St. Peter Julian Eymard with my fellow parishioners and others who more deeply live the Eucharist as a way of life, in the hopes that they, too, will find contentment in becoming Lay Associates."* Ceremonies will be planned in the various Blessed Sacrament communities to induct additional women and men into the Eucharistic Association. ✠



[L-R] Jim Brown, Susan Work, Nancy MacRoberts, Bubba Pizzitola, Patty Pizzitola, Father Norman Pelletier sss, Noreen Hoard, Louise Borgione, Marjorie Zalar, Frank Zalar

Saint Ann's Shrine:

Leave a Legacy During this Jubilee Year!

Saint Peter Julian Eymard, founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, left a most wonderful legacy – promoting love of God and devotion to the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. During this 200th Jubilee Year of his birth and baptism, can you imagine what joy he experiences in seeing what “his” Congregation has become over the years? Can you imagine his joy at the work that has been accomplished in spreading the message of God’s love in the Eucharist? Can you imagine his gratefulness for your generosity in helping his Congregation and Saint Ann’s Shrine?

We are sure that he would have loved to personally meet you as much as we have met so many of you, our donors, across the country. Each time we hosted one of our “Thank You Donor Luncheons”, we return to Cleveland more “inspired” and grateful to have spent time and shared a meal with people like you.

Whether it was in Baltimore, Tampa, Cincinnati, Chicago, New York City, Orlando, Las Vegas, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Fort Meyers, Providence, Denver, Phoenix, or Portland, Maine, we have found that you are all so much alike because of your love and devotion to Saint Ann and your belief in the mission of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation.

We are sure you have noticed the words ***“Leave a Legacy ... Remember the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Saint Ann’s Shrine in your Will”*** because it is at the bottom of each of our appeal letters and on the reverse side of our envelopes.

What Legacy will you leave the world?

Wouldn’t it be reassuring to know that you can make a difference and leave a legacy that perpetuates the things that matter most to you? The key is proper estate planning! The problem with estate planning is that most of us don’t want to do it at all. It might seem too complicated and time-consuming. It also involves issues that we’d rather avoid thinking about, like our mortality or our ability to be philanthropic.

For these and other reasons, like procrastination, approximately 70% of Americans die each year without leaving a valid will! Their estates, no matter how large or small, will most likely be distributed by state governments with no guarantee that the people and organizations that they care about will receive any of their property. By choosing to make charitable gifts by bequest, you can significantly increase your control over the use of your assets and decrease the amount of taxes that your estate will have to pay.

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.



You can express your wishes in wills and trusts, but it is also helpful to write out *why* you are making your decisions ... express your values and goals as they relate to your family and wealth. You might even think of your estate plan as a final statement to society about your value system.

As you begin or review your estate plans and reflect on the values that are important to you, we hope that you will consider the roles that the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and Saint Ann’s Shrine play in your life.

Know how grateful we are for all of your past and continued support of Saint Ann Shrine’s and the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament’s missions “to promote devotion to Saint Ann” and “spread devotion to the Eucharist under the inspiration of Saint Peter Julian Eymard”



Saint Eymard... In His Own Words

The Holy Eucharist shall be my heart's center, wherein it shall live and love, find rest and inspiration. Jesus said, "Where your treasure-house is, there your heart is too."

I will have no other treasure beside Thee, good Jesus! My heart shall no longer seek its Best-Beloved; it has found Him. My love shall no more languish far from Thee, now that I know Thy dwelling-place.

Oh, draw me now entirely to Thee, divine Lover, my mind with all its thoughts, my heart with all its desires and affections, my will with all its actions, my body with all its senses, that I may live no longer in myself but in Thee!

Eymard Library: Eucharistic Retreats



Aerial view of the town of La Mure d'Isère where Saint Peter Julian Eymard was born, baptized, raised and died, situated in the foothills of the Alps



Prayer in honor of Saint 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.

Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Apostle of the Eucharist, pray for us!



Saint Eymard's "Calvary" – a special place of meditation and prayer overlooking the city of La Mure d'Isère