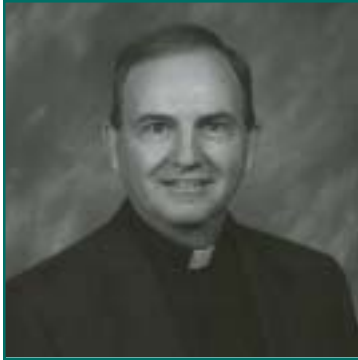


# Bread Broken & Shared

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

## From Our Provincial Superior...



*Norman B. Pelletier, SSS*

This summer it was my great privilege to attend, along with Paul Bernier and Gary LaVerdiere, the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter (Meeting) of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. This meeting is held every six years and includes all the Major Superiors and Delegates from each of the Provinces and Regions of the Congregation. The representation reached from Western Europe all the way to Asia and Australia with Africa and North and South America included. The variety of participants reflected the vastness of our Congregation's presence in the world. It mirrors the rich patrimony our founder, St. Peter Julian Eymard, left the Church.

This meeting was held in Lyon, France, because St. Peter Julian spent many years of his life in that Southern French city in the 1840's and 1850's. Another reason we gathered there was that 2006 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our religious congregation in 1856. Many of the roots of our eucharistic charism sprung

from the time St. Peter Julian spent in Lyon and the surrounding region.

As we look to 2006 and the historic event of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our establishment we want you, our readers, to join us in thanking God for the religious Congregation that has been given as a wonderful gift to the Church. The mission of the Congregation, to continually call attention to the Eucharist as the center of Christian life, can continue to be a powerful source of spiritual energy for our parishes and for all Christian communities. The mission will survive and flourish in an atmosphere of gratitude and reconciliation. We already know that the word *Eucharist* means thanksgiving in Greek, but our task is to translate not the word but the reality and the truth of this great eucharistic mystery into everyday life. In spite of all the troubles we face in our personal lives, in our families, in our communities, in our nation and around the globe there is still much to be thankful for. When we worship at Eucharist we proclaim that sense of gratitude and express our readiness to forgive even though we know that it might not happen soon.

We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers as we prepare for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We would love to have you join us in some way or other. We will keep you informed of what we are planning. In the meantime keep us, too, in your thoughts and prayers that we remain faithful to our calling as sons of St. Peter Julian Eymard, Apostle of the Eucharist.



*Fr. Eymard's "Calvary" in LaMure d'Isère, France*

# General Chapter Musings

by Paul J. Bernier, SSS



Paul J. Bernier, SSS

One of the more interesting things that happened to me this year was my attendance at the General Chapter of our Congregation. These “Chapters” are a regular part of the life of every religious congregation, and are held at every level. Each community and province has periodic meetings to regulate the life of the community, and to try to insure maximum fidelity to its Rule of Life and mission. Communities might have meetings every week or every month. Provinces, with delegates from all the communities, have them every three or four years.

Meetings with delegates from all the provinces and regions — the *General Chapter* — are held less frequently — in our case only every six years. These chapters are the highest law-making body of the Congregation. The Superior General and Consultors elected at every chapter are tasked with carrying out whatever legislation and directions set by each chapter.

Our General Chapter was held in France this time, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our foundation there in 1856. It was an educational experience in a variety of ways, especially for me, as this was the first time that I had ever been a delegate to a General Chapter.

The fact that it was held in France made it particularly attractive, as it enabled the chapter planners to factor in three days

when we visited some of the sites associated with our Founder, Saint Peter Julian Eymard. Among these, we visited La Mure, where Fr. Eymard was born, saw where he was ordained and celebrated his first Mass, where he was first assigned as a priest, and where he was pastor prior to his becoming a Marist — one of the most beautiful and scenic places I have ever seen. And, of course, the Chapter was held in Lyon, where he spent many years of his Marist life. In many ways, this was like a mini-retreat during the



Saint Peter Julian Eymard's Family Home and Birthplace, LaMure d'Isère, France



Gary LaVerdiere, SSS

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*Eucharistic Celebration at the General Chapter*

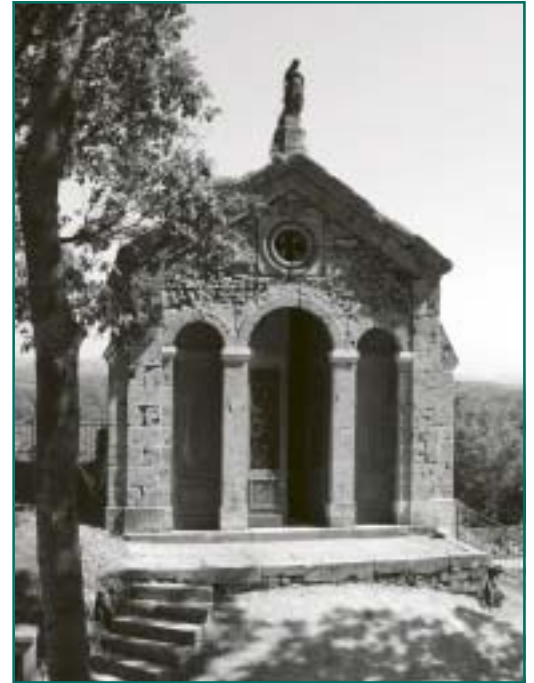
Chapter, as being able to see and pray in places where Fr. Eymard lived, and where he deepened the grace of his vocation throughout his life was a profoundly moving experience for me.

Aside from the one afternoon we had free, however, there was almost no time to visit Lyon and vicinity — especially for those who were on a committee, as I was (we often worked till 10:00 PM).

The Chapter itself was held in the former seminary of the Assumptionist congregation. It was a lovely place on the outskirts of the city, and the weather cooperated the whole three weeks that we were there by giving us mild temperatures and an utter lack of rain. The food service was excellent (has anyone ever had a bad meal in France?), and Fr. Mario Pedretti’s skill on piano and organ helped make the liturgies a real joy.

To facilitate communication during the Chapter, there were three translators on hand, and the chapter room was fitted with earphones and microphones enabling the participants to listen in French, English, or Spanish. They did a great job, and their absence was felt in committee meetings. In my committee, for example, I had some who did not understand French, and others who did not know much English, and I had to try translating back and forth so that we could all understand each other and get our work done.

*General Chapter photographs by Gary LaVerdiere, SSS*



*Chapel at St. Romans*



*Fr. Eymard's Parish Church in LaMure d'Isère*

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*Celebration of the Eucharist during the Chapter*

The committee that had planned the chapter was quite thorough, and had specific tasks assigned for each day. This was good. However, it did not leave room or time for topics to be suggested from the floor. I think it would take people who have had the experience of several chapters to be aware of the dynamics of meetings like these, and know how to influence the agenda.

For me, the two most positive things that happened were the erection of new provinces (in Sri Lanka and India). When there is so much talk and experience of diminishment in numbers and increasing age in the western world, it was heartening to see the emergence of young provinces where there was vitality and growth. Along with this, I really appreciated meeting religious from all over the world, most of whom I had never met before. This was as impor-

tant as any of the work done at the chapter. It helped me to be aware of the situation in other parts of the world, and to see the dedication of our religious there. It is so easy to be so taken up with the situation in one's own country that we can ignore or be ignorant of what is happening in other place in the world. It also helped me to reinforce the realization that we are a world-wide brotherhood, and to put faces on names that I had heard before without ever meeting the people who bore them.

I would have wished that we could have spent more time on realistic planning for the future, especially in the western world, where we are suffering a real shortage of numbers. However, the experience of fraternity, as well as the sincerity of the men who were gathered there, made the experience a worthwhile one for me, and inspired me to rededicate myself to the eucharistic vocation that is ours.



*General Chapter Session*



*General Chapter Meeting*

# *In the Footsteps of St. Peter Julian Eymard*

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

2006 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris, France. In celebration of this momentous event, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the United States with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio will be sponsoring a religious pilgrimage to France and will visit the places associated with the Congregation and the life of St. Peter Julian Eymard, Apostle of the Eucharist and Founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

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.

The Pilgrimage will begin and end in Paris. The pilgrimage is scheduled to leave the USA on September 18<sup>th</sup> and return on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Seats will be limited and given on a first come first serve basis. The cost of the trip will include round-trip airfare from Liberty International Airport in Newark, NJ, all breakfasts, some dinners and double occupancy.

*If you are interested in such a pilgrimage to celebrate with the Congregation on their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary contact us for more information:*



### *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: Joann Lentine  
 Email: [ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net)  
 Website: [www.blessedsacrament.com](http://www.blessedsacrament.com)



#### *Photographs in this issue courtesy of:*

Joseph Bourgeois, SSS; John Christman, NSSS;  
 Gary LaVerdiere, SSS; Anthony Marshall, NSSS

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

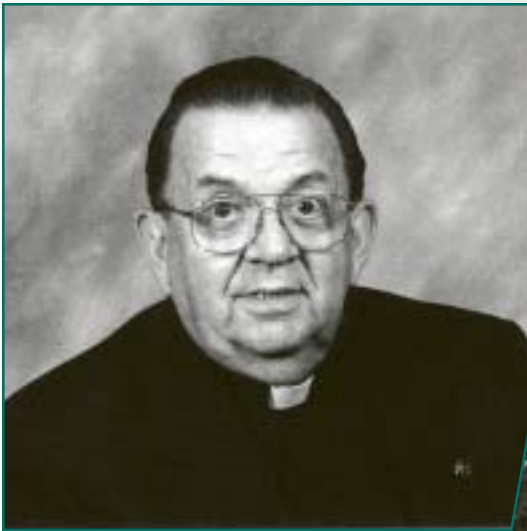
*Religious Communities in Florida,  
 New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Texas*

**Director of Communications**  
**Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**5384 Wilson Mills Road**  
**Cleveland, OH 44143**  
**Telephone: 440-442-6311**  
**Email: [ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net)**

# Deacon With A Clown Ministry

## DEACON JOSEPH BOURGEOIS, SSS

*Excerpts reprinted from Deacon Digest (Sept/Oct 2005)*



*Deacon Joseph Bourgeois, SSS*

When Deacon Joseph Bourgeois, S.S.S., of the Blessed Sacrament speaks about himself and his great desire to share God's love with others, he usually begins with the following passage from the Gospel of Luke:

*“As he [Jesus] continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met [him]. They stood a distance from him and raised their voice, saying: ‘Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!’ And when he saw them, he said, ‘Go show yourselves to the priests.’ As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply: Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?’ Then he said to him, ‘Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.’”*

The reason he chooses this passage soon becomes evident as he shares his story. Joseph Bourgeois was born into a conservative, French-Canadian Catholic parish, into a good

family from Massachusetts where church was part of everyday life. This upbringing had him in the same school, surrounded by the same parish family, for many years. His brother felt called to church ministry and was ordained a priest, currently ministering as pastor of a parish in the Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts. One of his sisters is a former religious, and the other is married, with children and grandchildren.



*Deacon Joe as “Yappy the Clown”*

In 1954, Joe entered Eymard Seminary in Hyde Park, New York and found that his vocation was to be a religious brother. In the early years of his ministry, he assisted his local community as cook and caretaker of infirm religious. This care of the sick seemed to be a spark for him as he began to visit nursing homes while in Hyde Park, New York, and soon became chaplain at St. Francis and Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Twenty years into his life of ministry as a religious brother, his provincial superior approached him to see if he had a desire and interest to be a permanent deacon in the province. He prayerfully decided to pursue this vocation, and after 3 years of training at the Redemptorist Seminary, he was ordained a permanent deacon in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York by the late Terence Cardinal Cook on February 11, 1978 - the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes.

He furthered his studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago by getting a certification in death and dying as well as a certification in counseling and chaplaincy. He came out of his training eager to work in a hospital and put this training

to good use. He was hoping to go to Albuquerque, New Mexico, but received a call from the acting pastor in New York to see if he would be willing and able to go to New York for a couple of weeks because the current chaplain for Lenox Hill Hospital (which is close to the S.S.S. community there) was ill and could not continue his duties.

He traveled to New York City, all the way questioning his choice, only to discover that God had other plans for him. He arrived and introduced himself to the hospital CEO and gave him a brief recap of his training experience. The CEO was very excited about the focus of Joe's training because it had been his goal to start a hospice-type floor for patients with cancer. At that point in time, Joe felt that the final piece of the puzzle of his life had fallen into place, and he then worked on establishing a relationship with the hospital staff. He was very excited in his ministry and truly felt God's calling to be there.

After two weeks, Joe went home for his vacation, returning to Lenox Hill Hospital on a Sunday night, and found that the CEO was holding a special meeting of all doctors, nurses, social workers, and chaplains - he was excited, assuming a warm welcome was coming. He soon discovered that the meeting was held behind closed doors with security outside. The CEO told the hospital staff about a new disease - AIDS - and the reason why the meeting was held in secret was because it was felt that it would prevent a public panic if the staff kept the knowledge of this new disease among themselves - after all, there was no treatment or cure for AIDS at this point in time. The staff was given the choice of working with these patients, exposing themselves to this deadly disease, or of not caring for these patients. He found his inhibitions raising, and a hesitation developing.

The hospital chaplains were instructed that they did not have to go into the rooms of AIDS patients if they chose not to. Joe's initial reaction was that these people were *different* and he should not go into their rooms. This went on for awhile - he spoke to them from the door of their rooms, as all of the chaplains did, but Joe soon sensed that the staff was treating him differently than they initially had, and were, in fact, quite cold to him.

One day as he was looking in on a patient from the door and praying for him, the nurse who was inside the room caring for the patient held up a bracelet she was wearing and showed him the "WWJD" (What Would Jesus Do) inscribed on it.

What a revelation! He realized that these patients were like the lepers of Jesus' day and Jesus had gone to those lepers, those suffering what was considered to be a punishment from God. Joe put the isolation gown on and went in to care for those patients from that day on - he prayed with them, fed them, and held them when they died.

One night a patient died in his arms, and as he walked home, dressed in his clericals, past a couple of bars, he heard someone telling him to "get a life!" The thought occurred to him that he indeed had a life, one directed by God.

Another AIDS patient, named Pat, was a professional clown who had contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. She asked Joe to continue her clown ministry, and upon her death, her father gave Joe a picture of Emmett Kelly. Pat had written at the bottom of the picture: "You shared with me in sadness, now share in my joy."

Deacon Joe has ministered in many ways during his religious life. After serving at Lenox Hill Hospital, he was transferred to Houston, Texas, by his religious congregation, and again ministered in the

## 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 back cover...*

# Pastoral Experience Among Native Americans

by John Christman, NSSS and Anthony Marshall, NSSS

Following their vacations at home with their families, our two novices, John Christmas and Anthony Marshall ventured out to Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Blessed Sacrament administered parish of Saint Charles Borromeo.

In Albuquerque, Anthony and John spoke at all of the Masses one weekend on behalf of the educational needs of the Province and a special collection was taken. This is a yearly collection in all of the SSS parishes in the USA, approved by the local dioceses. They also helped the parish staff to prepare for the upcoming school year by hosting a teacher appreciation dinner in the rectory courtyard. Bro. Peter Mahady, local treasurer and plant manager, and John were the chefs preparing cuisine common to the Southwest, while Anthony helped to set up the courtyard.

Following their stay in the Albuquerque SSS community, John and Anthony set off accompanied by their novice master, Bro. Michael Angeles Perez, to the Navajo Nation and the Diocese of Gallup. The Bishop of Gallup, the Most Rev. Donald E. Pelotte, is a member of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and had invited the two novices to his diocese for their pastoral exposure. The Diocese of Gallup encompasses portions of the states of Arizona and New Mexico and includes the Navajo Nation, among other tribal



*Anthony Marshall, NSSS; Fr. Blane Grein, OFM, Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Chinle, Arizona; John Christman, NSSS*

lands. It was the Bishop's idea to send the novices to Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Chinle, AZ. The Franciscan Friars were the hosts for John and Anthony's immersion experience.

On their first full-day in Chinle, and they went to work right away! Br. Patrick, OFM, and John and Anthony traveled to the local hospital to pick up the body of a premature baby boy for burial in the cemetery. Needless to say, that experience of burying the dead was a first for both novices.

Throughout their time in Chinle, John and Anthony helped the parish staff with various projects. One such project was assisting Father Blane Grein, OFM, the pastor, and his staff to prepare for the parish's centennial celebration to be held later this year. John created a poster to be displayed in the diocesan Cathedral for the celebration, while Anthony made a pamphlet describing the parish church and Navajo symbols used therein. Both novices worked on a worship aid for the centennial liturgy. On Sunday evenings, the novices helped with bingo as either a game or concession stand seller.



*John and Anthony working on parish projects*

*Continued on next page...*



*Anthony rides in the back of the parish truck on the way to a parishioner's sheep camp*



*Standing in a "window rock" in Chinle, Arizona*

In addition to working with the parish staff in various other ministries, praying with numerous families, assisting in funerals and liturgies, John and Anthony did manage to visit some of the local scenery: Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, the Navajo Nation Annual Fair, the Four Corners Monument, and Buffalo Pass. On one afternoon, the novices had a discussion with a sociology professor at Diné College, who answered their questions about Navajo culture, ritual, and outlook on life.



*John cleans the "Old Stone Church" in preparation for a yard sale*

At the end of the month, before returning to Albuquerque and the local SSS Community, the novices were invited to Bishop Pelotte's residence to share their month-long experiences with him, and they gave a theological reflection on their time in Chinle. The experiences of the Navajo Nation will certainly assist them in their future ministry as priests and religious in the Congregation. Inculturation of Catholic liturgy and life is not just confined to a reservation, but it is also a reality for the Church in all of the USA and universally.

## *Focus on Vocations*

Holiness is a challenge for us all, whatever our specific vocation. 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. *(Serra Club)*

For more information on vocations to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, please contact the Vocation Office at (440) 442-7243 or by email at [sssvocations@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sssvocations@sbcglobal.net).

# Ernest's Ecumenical Corner

by Ernest R. Falardeau, SSS

*Blessed Sacrament Father Ernest Falardeau is totally dedicated to the cause of ecumenism – dialogue and cooperation among Christian churches. He has dedicated much of his life and ministry to working in the field. We include in this issue of our Newsletter a recent reflection.*

## Christian Church (Disciples)

It is now two and a half years since I arrived in New York and I have yet to visit many churches in my first effort to visit at least one church of each Christian denomination. A number of these churches are a short walking distance from our own SSS parish of St. Jean Baptiste. My most recent visit was to Park Avenue Christian Church located on Park Avenue at East 85<sup>th</sup> Street. The congregation is part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

I first learned about the Disciples in New Mexico. Dr. Wallace Ford, who was Executive Secretary of the New Mexico Conference of Churches, was one of the ecumenical colleagues I got to know best during my years in the Southwest. He is a very dedicated ecumenist who served New Mexico Conference of Churches for eighteen years. We are very good friends and came to appreciate each other and what we were able to do together for Christian unity.

## A Bit of History

Unlike many of the dialogue partners of the Catholic Church, the Christian Church (Disciples) did not stem from the Reformation. Indeed Thomas Campbell and his son Alexander were Presbyterians who did not want to establish a denomination. They wanted to reform Presbyterians and bring them back to the fundamental views of John Calvin, especially his understanding and practice of the Eucharistic Celebration (Lord's Supper). The divisions within the Presbyterian Church and indeed among all Christians was something the Campbells saw as a scandal. Unwillingness to allow a sharing of the Eucharist by baptized Christians was particularly harmful in their eyes.

One of the outstanding members of the Christian Church (Disciples) whom I met along the way and came to admire greatly is Dr. Paul Crow, who was president of the Disciples for many years. Paul was able to convince the Vatican that a dialogue with the Disciples would be profitable and instructive. It would raise issues that are independent and beyond the age-old questions connected with the Reformation and its struggles. It would focus particularly on what the church needs to be today for Gospel witness. Paul is one of many Disciples who are professional ecumenists. His church gives Christian unity very high priority as did its founders.

## Park Avenue Christian Church

Park Avenue Christian is an impressive gothic building in our fashionable uptown neighborhood. It is just north of St. Ignatius Catholic Church at Park Avenue and East 84<sup>th</sup> Street, and a few steps from Park Avenue Methodist Church at Park Avenue and East 86<sup>th</sup> Street. The Pastor of Park Avenue Christian is the Reverend James R. "Bo" Crowe. He is a graduate of southern universities and seminaries and is a teacher and a preacher who loves to study the parables.

We had a lovely conversation about our family, backgrounds and our concerns about our neighborhood. We spoke of the coalition of parishes in Upper East Side Manhattan that pray and work together for common projects, especially for the poor and homeless. Reverend Crowe is a learned man whom I already consider a friend and colleague. I look forward to working with him and his congregation in the coming months.



Ernest R. Falardeau, SSS

## *Litany of the Eucharist*

“... The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world . . . My flesh is food indeed and my Blood is drink indeed . . .” (*John 6:52-56*)

*My Lord and my God!*

“... Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my Body which will be given up for you . . . This is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting Covenant . . .” (*Roman Missal*)

*My Lord and my God!*

“... The cup of blessing that we bless – Is it not the sharing of the Blood of Christ? And the bread that we break – Is it not the partaking of the Body of the Lord? . . .” (*1 Corinthians 10:16*)

*My Lord and my God!*

“... [Heretics] abstain from the Eucharist . . . because they do not believe that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who suffered for our sins and who the Father in his bounty raised up again.” (*Saint Ignatius of Antioch*)

*My Lord and my God!*

“... We do not receive these as ordinary food or ordinary drink; but as by the Word of God, Jesus our savior. He was made flesh and had both flesh and blood for our salvation. [This Eucharist] has been blessed by the word of prayer instituted by Him, and from it our flesh and blood by assimilation are nourished. This, we are taught, is both the flesh and blood of Jesus Incarnate.” (*Saint Justin Martyr*)

*My Lord and my God!*

“... The seeming bread is not bread, though sensible to taste, but the Body of Christ; and the seeming wine is not wine, though the taste would have it so, but the Blood of Christ.” (*Saint Cyril of Jerusalem*)

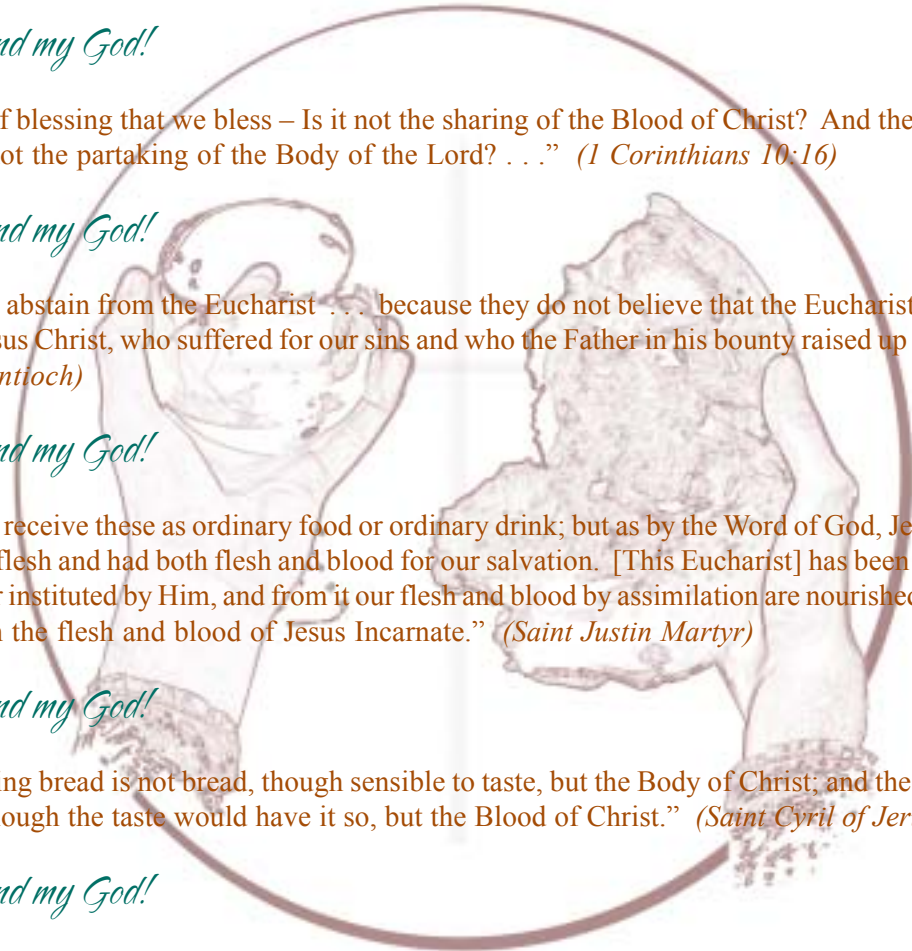
*My Lord and my God!*

“... How many now, say, ‘I would wish to see his form, his shape, his clothes, his shoes?’ Lo! You do see him, you touch him, you eat him. And you indeed desire to see his clothes, but he gives himself to you, not to see only, but also to touch and eat and receive within you. . .” (*St. John Chrysostom*)

*My Lord and my God!*

“... Sight, touch, taste are each three deceived; hearing alone safely is believed . . .” (*St. Thomas Aquinas*)

*My Lord and my God!*



## *150 Years of History*

- 1811 Birth of the Founder, Peter Julian Eymard in LaMure d'Isère, France
- 1834 Presbyteral ordination for the Diocese of Grenoble, France
- 1839 Enters the Society of Mary (Marists)
- 1856 Founded the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris, France
- 1866 First foundation outside of France in Brussels, Belgium
- 1868 Death of the Founder at 57 years of age
- 1882 General House established at San Claudio, Rome
- 1890 First foundation outside of Europe – Montreal, Canada
- 1895 Definitive approval of the *Constitutions of the Blessed Sacrament*
- 1900 First foundation in the USA – St. Jean Baptiste Church, New York City
- 1903 First foundation in Latin America – Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1910 First foundation in Eastern Europe – Brno, Czech Republic
- 1925 Beatification of Peter Julian Eymard by Pope Pius XI
- 1929 First foundation in Oceania – Melbourne, Australia
- 1931 Congregation divided into Provinces
- 1946 First SSS in Africa – Mozambique
- 1953 First foundation in Africa – Kitega, Burundi
- 1955 First foundation in Asia – Santa Cruz Church, Manila, Philippines
- 1962 Canonization of St. Peter Julian Eymard by Pope John XXIII
- 1984 Church approval of the Rule of Life
- 1995 The liturgical feast of St. Peter Julian is approved for August 2<sup>nd</sup> and inserted into the Calendar of the Universal Church
- 2005 33<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter in Lyon, France
- 2006 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Congregation



# Charitable Giving at the End of the Year

*The end of the year will soon be upon us, and it is an ideal time to think of charitable giving. Why not consider a charitable gift to The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament to help its priests and brothers continue to proclaim the Good News of the Eucharist?*

## Great Savings for Acting Now

Your charitable giving is something that is totally within your control. Each year, as the end of the year approaches Americans around the USA take advantage of making charitable gifts which will afford them with tax incentives that have been provided for by our tax laws.

If you can complete your charitable gift by December 31<sup>st</sup> not only will you enjoy the satisfaction of giving while increasing your tax refund or reducing any taxes that you would owe next April, but you will also be able to afford financing for the ministries of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

## What To Give?

- **Cash.** Most charitable gifts are made in cash and checks. If you make a cash gift, you can eliminate tax on up to 50% of your adjusted gross income.
- **Securities.** Another way of giving is to make gifts of stocks, bonds and/or mutual funds. In making this type of gift, you should consider what you originally paid for the securities in relation to what they are actually worth today. If securities have **grown** in value, it is most helpful to transfer them to a charity rather than sell them. This is one way to avoid paying capital gains taxes. If you have securities that have lost value since you acquired them, you can make a gift of all or part of the cash proceeds.
- **Other assets.** If you are over the age of 59½ you might think of contributing your IRA. In making a gift like this it is possible that these funds will never be subject to income tax. Real estate can also make a good charitable gift.

In thinking of End of the Year Giving, we simply ask that you keep the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in mind. **For more information, or to make a charitable gift this year, contact the Provincial Business Office of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament at (440) 442-6725 or [ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssscommunications@sbcglobal.net). Be sure that the Lord will reward you for your generosity.**

## 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.

## 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.*

## Birthdays

### November

- 05 1935 Rev. Ralph Roberts
- 06 1938 Rev. Bernard Camiré
- 14 1928 Rev. Ernest Falardeau
- 23 1937 Rev. Paul Bernier
- 29 1926 Rev. Roger Pageot

### December

- 25 1935 Rev. Joachim Viet-Chau
- 27 1921 Br. Edmund Hardy
- 29 1937 Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald

## In Loving Memory

### November

- 03 1955 Rev. William Fox
- 05 1991 Rev. Emile Hebert
- 07 1924 Br. Alphonse Charest
- 11 1979 Rev. Dosithee Bérard
- 22 1963 Rev. Albert Décelles
- 23 1903 Rev. Josephus Landry
- 25 1980 Rev. Lionel Tourigny
- 25 1993 Rev. Hérve Thibault
- 26 1962 Br. William Vallaster
- 29 1969 Rev. Edgar Bédard
- 30 1951 Rev. Joseph Legacé

### December

- 01 1920 Rev. François Jean
- 01 1982 Rev. Joseph Lamontagne
- 02 1999 Rev. Patrick Fenton
- 04 1981 Rev. Adolphe Bilodeau
- 06 1981 Br. Joseph Morin
- 16 1986 Rev. Raymond Robitaille
- 17 1963 Rev. Henri Lachance
- 17 1981 Rev. Raymond Fleurant
- 20 1960 Br. Placide Morel
- 21 1989 Rev. Arthur Godin
- 22 1949 Br. Alphonse Bonneau
- 22 1953 Rev. George Légère
- 22 1995 Rev. John Paul Choquette
- 23 1992 Rev. Lionel Vashon
- 24 1995 Br. Victor Coté
- 26 1912 Rev. Louis Estevenon
- 28 1993 Rev. Charles Charest

## Community News:

### Provincial Office Restructuring and Library Renovation

Over the summer, the provincial offices were restructured to provide more convenient office space for Fr. Provincial, the province secretary, the director of communications and the personnel of the Provincial Business Office. In addition, the former seminary library was dismantled and the ample space was subdivided into 5 rooms. The provincialate will have gained a couple of meeting rooms for province meetings. In addition, there will be a heritage room that gives an overview of the life of the Province of Saint Ann over the last more than 100 years; a special room will be dedicated to our Founder, Saint Peter Julian Eymard; and finally there will be much needed storage for the archives of the provincialate and business office.

### Province in Assembly

All of the priests and brothers of the Province of Saint Ann who choose to attend the Province Assembly will meet in Burlingame, CA in early November 2005. This meeting is in preparation for the Provincial Chapter in early 2006. There will be discussions as to the direction of the province, and the use of our resources. Please remember all of the priests and brothers as they gather for The Assembly.

### Rest in Peace – Ronald Kabelac

We want to offer our sympathies to the family of Ronald Kabelac from Parma, Ohio on his recent death. Ron was a member of the Congregation for a few years. Most recently he worked at Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio before he succumbed to cancer. May his soul rest in peace!

### Golden Anniversary – Fr. Gerald Dorais

A former member of the Congregation, Fr. Gerald Dorais of the Diocese of Worcester, MA recently celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. For the last 27 years, Fr. Dorais has been the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fitchburg, MA. Wanting to show appreciation for his early years with the Congregation, he has asked that a member of the Congregation give the homily at his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Fr. Paul Bernier, SSS represented the Congregation at the celebration and delivered the homily.

### Discernment Night

St. Vincent de Paul Church in Holiday, Florida welcomed one young man to a night of discernment on October 7th. Jon Robus joined the SSS Community for dinner, discussion, and the sharing of their charism and ministries with the Congregation. Please keep Jon in your prayers as he continues to discern God's will in his life.

## Saint Ann's Shrine:



*Cynthia Troha, Fr. Michael Noreika, Carol Horn*

### Meet our Devotees . . .

My devotion to St. Ann began when I was 9 year old. Thirty years later, I discovered that miracles *do* happen at St. Ann's Shrine.

At 87, as my mother was having a heart attack at home, I cried out to St. Ann to help us. The

paramedics came in record time. Mom was fitted with a pacemaker at 87, and was able to continue to live a healthy and productive life for 9 more years. In October of 1999, at 95 and suffering from congestive heart failure she received the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. I again prayed to St. Ann to intercede for us to grant our family a little more time to say goodbye. Kneeling by her side, praying the Hail Mary over her (Hospice indicated she was unconscious and had only hours to live), when my mother's voice suddenly sounded, finishing the prayer with Holy Mary, Mother of God (she had a profound devotion to our Blessed Mother).

When Hospice called the next morning to give their condolences, they were astounded to learn that my mother was very alive, sitting up in bed, and joking with the family. I was able to take a leave of absence for the next 5 months to care for her. My mom lived for my birthday but passed away on March 12, 2000 only after she said her final goodbyes to all the family and her friends.

My mother's final request and last words to me were: put the little statue of the Blessed Virgin in my hands before I die and remember to keep praying to St. Ann. I continue to come to Saint Ann's Shrine and seek the help that I need. On two important occasions in my life Saint Ann was there for me – I am sure that she will never abandon me when I am in need.

*Carole Horn, Lyndhurst, OH*

### 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.

## 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 card, 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)



## Deacon With A Clown Ministry

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local hospital, continuing his special ministry to AIDS patients. While doing this, he attended the Barnum and Bailey School [for clown training] and soon encouraged many physicians, nurses, and hospital staff to join him in establishing a clown ministry at St. Joseph Hospital.



*Deacon Joe as "Santa Claus" feeds the homeless with members of the Clown Ministry*

In 1999, Joe was assigned to St. Paschal Baylon Parish in Cleveland, where he is busy with parish activities and where he continues his clown ministry. This ministry has blossomed into a clown ministry that is in high demand in the local community - visits to nursing homes, participating in parades, and other community events fill up the clowns' schedules, as those present benefit from the generous love of Christ that the clowns are happy to share.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of his clown ministry is filling some of the many needs of the poor and homeless. Every fourth Saturday of the month, with the help of the Clown Helpers (those who do not want to be clowns, but who want to help the homeless and needy). On Friday nights, this deacon clown can be found feeding, clothing and caring for about 250 individuals living on the street who are in need of a smile, a blanket and God's love.

*"You shared with me in sadness,  
now share in my joy."*

*Have a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year*

*Bread Broken & Shared*

**CONGREGATION  
OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

5384 Wilson Mills Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44143

(440) 442-6311



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