

# Bread Broken & Shared

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

## A New Look

What is this NEWSLETTER “*Bread Broken & Shared*” which you hold in your hands? We have adopted a completely new look, so maybe you are surprised. This is the Newsletter of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – Province of Saint Ann.

Some of you have been receiving this vehicle of communication for many years, maybe since its inception. Others are receiving it for the first time. Whether you are a veteran reader of our Newsletter, or whether you are gazing at it for the very first time, we want to say WELCOME! We are happy to have you among our readers and friends of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

It was many years ago, in fact, I think during the time that Fr. Jack Dowling, SSS was provincial superior, that the Newsletter had its beginning. In 1987 when we started publishing the Newsletter its target audience was the priests and brothers of the Congregation. During the time that Fr. Anthony Schueller, SSS was provincial, he broadened the scope and the Newsletter was sent to associates and partners in ministry. Finally, since Fr. Norman Pelletier, SSS has been the provincial superior, the Newsletter has further broadened its scope and was sent to all of those who collaborated in some way with the Congregation’s mission in the USA.

With this issue, we are adopting a new name for our Newsletter – “*Bread Broken & Shared*” – which has obvious allusions to the Eucharist itself which is the center of the life of Blessed Sacrament religious. We are also sending the Newsletter for the first time to faithful benefactors of the Congregation who are interested in Saint Ann’s Shrine in Cleveland and the ministry of the Congregation at that Shrine. We have a special article on the Shrine.

We hope that you find our Newsletter interesting and will continue to read each issue. We are planning on five issues a year. We hope that through its pages you will come to know the ministry of the Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation as well as the spirit and charism which we have inherited from Saint Peter Julian Eymard, our Founder.

We are grateful to all of those who throughout the history of this Newsletter have attempted to communicate who we are as a religious Congregation to God’s people. In particular, we want to thank Mrs. Jill Mayo who for the last several years has been responsible for the Newsletter and its production.

If you have someone who would like to receive the Newsletter, just let us know. Happy Reading!

## Who We Are

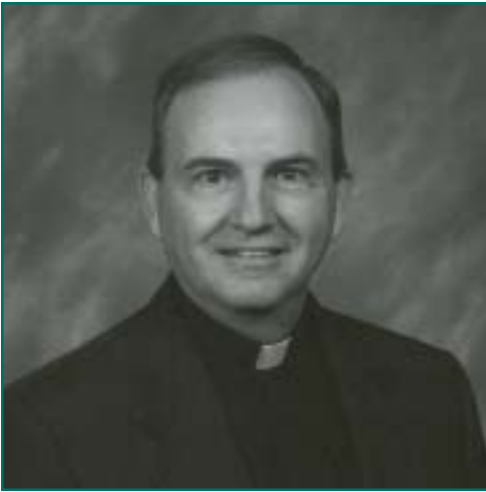
“Following in the footsteps of St. Peter Julian Eymard, our mission is to respond to the hungers of the human family with the riches of God’s love manifested in the Eucharist.”  
*Rule of Life 3*

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.



# From the Provincial Superior...



*Norman B. Pelletier, SSS  
Provincial Superior*

Our regular readers will have obviously noted the change of title of the former *Newsletter* that you are presently reading. The new heading ***Bread Broken & Shared*** is inspired by the wonderful eucharistic mystery to which the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is dedicated. For our new readers, we hope you too will be interested in receiving this bi-monthly newsletter from the Province of Saint Ann of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. We sure would like to share our story with all of you.

Part of that story, you will read in this issue, is about the joyful fiftieth anniversary of Brother Gerard Hickey, and the personal histories of our preaching missionaries from India, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines. However, our story, like yours, is not always a happy one. You will also read of the passing of Father John Dowling.

Father Jack, as we liked to call him, was a remarkable individual (we still have quite a few of them in the community) who touched the lives of many of us while we were still in seminary. He patiently taught us philosophy when we preferred to think of sports. As spiritual director of the seminarians he kept us focused on our goal when we often got discouraged. Later, when he was elected the Provincial Superior he inspired us by his fidelity and sense of eucharistic mission. Father Jack was a gift to us from God and now he has returned to God.

Each one of you, too, are a gift to us from God and we thank God every day for your interest in our eucharistic mission, your love of Saint Ann (to whom our Province is dedicated), and for your constant support and prayers. May God keep you in his care.

## *Bread Broken & Shared*

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*Photographs in this issue courtesy of:*

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**CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

5384 Wilson Mills Road  
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*Religious Communities in Florida,  
 New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Texas*

*Bread Broken & Shared is inspired  
 by the wonderful eucharistic mystery  
 to which the Congregation of the  
 Blessed Sacrament is dedicated.*

**News from the Provinciate:** In August, we welcomed two new faces to our staff at the Provinciate: Susan Work and Robert Vejdovec. Susan will be the secretary to Father Provincial with its many duties and responsibilities, and Robert will take on the tasks of bookkeeping and accounting in the Provincial Business Office. We are pleased to welcome both Susan and Robert to our staff.

## Day of the Eucharist

Saint Jean Baptiste Church and the Blessed Sacrament Community at Saint Jean's sponsored a **Day of the Eucharist** on Saturday, April 23, for the Manhattan East Vicariate, comprised of approximately 30 Catholic parishes on the east side of New York City.

The format of the day was modeled on that made popular by the Life in the Eucharist Seminar International Congresses in the 1990s. This gave participants a wide variety of experiences and underscored the riches and diversity of the Eucharist.

The day opened with Morning Prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, presided over by the Episcopal Vicar, Monsignor Thomas Modugno, the pastor of neighboring Saint Monica's Church. The first of two keynote addresses followed, "At Table with Jesus." Sister Carol Parry, a member of the Sisters of Saint Ursula of Tours, spoke on meals in Jesus' ministry, especially those found in Luke's Gospel. In her remarks, Sister Carol acknowledged the ground-breaking work done in this field by Father Eugene LaVerdiere, who was among those in attendance. Sister Carol is a biblical scholar on the staff of the famed Marble Collegiate Church, New York City.

A series of workshops was then offered. Many of these were repeated in the afternoon as well, giving participants an opportunity to explore specific topics related to the Eucharist and family, the Scriptures, liturgy, prayer, social justice, ecumenism, etc.

The afternoon began with *Eucharist Song*, a brief concert of original compositions by Father Robert Rousseau. Among these was a new work, *Take Off Your Shoes*. Featured with Father Bob were Gayla Morgan, soprano, and Michael Effenberger, pianist, both members of the Saint Jean Baptiste music ministry.

Father J-Glenn Murray, S.J., director of the Office of Pastoral Liturgy of the Diocese of Cleveland, delivered the second keynote address, "Remaining with Jesus." Father Murray, who is a very animated presenter, spoke of different moments in the church's liturgy and how these are meant to transform and empower us not only for worship but for living and extending the Eucharistic mystery into daily life and a passionate pursuit of justice.

The day ended where all Eucharistic worship and living starts — at the table of the Lord. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, papal nuncio and head of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, presided and preached at the closing Mass. Coming so soon after the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of a successor, the archbishop emphasized the centrality of the Eucharist in the late Holy Father's writings and preaching and the critical importance of the Eucharist for Catholics throughout the centuries.

This event was part of the New York Vicariate's observance of the Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by Pope John Paul last October.

by Anthony Schueller, SSS



# Congregation Ministers at Saint Ann's Shrine

A longtime ministry of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers has been the operation of Saint Ann's Shrine. The first Shrine of Saint Ann was established at the Church of Saint Jean Baptiste in 1892. A second Shrine of Saint Ann was established in Cleveland, Ohio in 1985 when the Fathers and Brothers moved their national headquarters from New York to Cleveland.

A Religious Congregation is normally divided into "provinces" or administrative units. Each of these provinces, although a member in the larger Congregation, handles things on a local basis. The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is composed of 14 provinces around the world and each one has its own patron saint. Our United States Province, headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio has Saint Ann as its Patroness (or patron saint). Therefore, we are called the Province of St. Ann of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

This is also the reason why the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is associated with the Shrine of Saint Ann.



St. Ann is the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandmother of Jesus. The Feast Day of Saint Ann and Saint Joachim is celebrated every July 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a special day for Saint Ann's Shrine as well as all of the Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation.

Let us review the history of Saint Ann's Shrine in the United States.... In May 1892, Pope Leo XIII sent a relic (a part or fragment of the body of a saint) of Saint Ann to the famous shrine of Beaupré in Canada. On its way to Canada, the bearer of the precious relic stopped in New York City at the church of Saint Jean Baptiste. The relic was exposed in the church and suddenly, the sick were cured, the blind and lame healed! For three weeks, the crowds gathered at St. Jean Baptiste Church from every part of the country.

On the day of the departure to the Shrine of Saint Ann in Canada, the relic was carried out through the crowded church amid cries "Goodbye, Good Saint Ann! Come back soon!" Because of the extreme devotion to Saint Ann, the



*Fr. Michael Noreika, SSS  
Spiritual Director of Saint Ann's Shrine*

*Continued on back cover...*

# A Half Century of Religious Dedication

This year, Bro. Gerard Hickey, SSS, celebrates 50 years of religious commitment in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Bro. Gerard is a native of Kingston, New York — nestled in the scenic Hudson River Valley. Son of the late Thomas and Frances Hickey (Cybolski), he was a member of Immaculate Conception Church, graduate of Kingston High School (class of 1951) and attended Cathedral College in New York City where he became acquainted with the Blessed Sacrament Community. After discernment, he was accepted into the community in Barre, Massachusetts, taking his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on September 8, 1955.



*Bro. Gerard Hickey, SSS*

Bro. Gerard served in many diverse capacities over his years of ministry – he cooked for many years in various houses of formation including Eymard Seminary in Hyde Park, New York, Blessed Sacrament Seminary in Waupaca, Wisconsin and Blessed Sacrament Seminary in Cleveland, Ohio.

His ministry took him to Old Town, Maine where he did parish visitation and was president of the Ostomy Association of Eastern Maine for two and a half years. He completed a course in Hospice at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Bangor, Maine.

After the parish in Maine was returned to the Diocese, Bro. Gerard was assigned to St. Jean Baptiste Church in New York City where he held the posts of superior, treasurer, provincial consultor and hospital chaplain at Lenox Hill Hospital for six years.

Bro. Gerard spent time in the communities of the Congregation in Albuquerque, NM; Chicago, IL; and at present resides at the provincial headquarters in Cleveland, OH where he is the assistant treasurer.

Life has not always been easy for Bro. Gerard as he suffered from health concerns – Crohn’s disease and other complications which led to a permanent ileostomy in 1978. Gerard has been a difficult person to keep down, and he always bounced back, sometimes even more energetic than before. If you want to see his eyes light up magically, just offer him a delicious dessert — he’ll be your friend for life.

The Congregation, and in particular the Province of Saint Ann, is most grateful for Gerard’s life of dedication and generosity – especially his many years in the kitchen. We pray that he might continue to serve God joyfully. At 70 plus years, he is still going strong – may the Lord bless you, Bro. Gerard, for many more happy years!

## Focus on Vocations

Jesus told His Disciples, “I came to serve, not to be served.” A vocation is a call to serve. It is a profession, an urge, a predisposition to undertake a certain kind of work. It is a choice for which you are particularly suited. The central question is, “How best can I serve my God and others?”

If you feel a calling to married life, there are many Church ministries from which to choose. Many are in need of your service, as a deacon, a Eucharistic minister, a visitor to the sick and aged, or an usher. Whatever you choose, do something that serves others.

When you do this, you are serving God. If you feel a calling to priesthood or religious life, ask questions and talk to priests or religious. They know that surviving isn’t enough. They can help you come to know your vocation or career, or even your own true self. Above all, start with prayer. Whatever your vocation, if you are good at what you do, it is a gift from God. Only through prayer will you be able to recognize what vocation gift He wants to give to you. (*Serra Club*)

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

# In Memory

## FATHER JOHN F. DOWLING, SSS

The following article is the text of the homily given at the funeral Mass for Fr. John Dowling, SSS celebrated in St. Paschal Baylon Church on May 28, 2005 by Father Roger Bourgeois, SSS, Superior of the Cleveland community and Vicar Provincial of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the United States.

*I have finished the race – I have kept the faith!  
The crown of righteousness awaits me. (2 Timothy 4:7)*

For 52 years as a professed religious and for 46 years as a priest of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, right up to 8:05 last Monday evening (May 23, 2005), Jack Dowling ran his race, he kept faith in his Lord, Jesus Christ, and offered his final breath as the gift of his life back to God. I was there, together with Father Jack Slattery, Brother Martin Hayes and Father George Evans – we witnessed the end of a life lived to honor and adore Jesus in his sacramental body and to foster the growth of Christ's mystical body the Church. Now, the crown of righteousness is deservedly his. Jack now sees the face of God! Congratulations, Jack!

Jack died of two major blood diseases, one that attacks the bone marrow and one that produces too much iron in the blood. This compromised his immune system making him susceptible to many symptoms, including pneumonia, and so weakened him leading to his death.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading today, St. Paul charges his friend and companion in ministry Timothy to proclaim the Word – put up with hardship, perform the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry whether convenient or inconvenient. Jack's priestly ministry was primarily that - *to proclaim the Word*. Jack was a lifetime inquirer, student and teacher. Jack was into the Scriptures, philosophy and theology. He earned a PhD in clinical psychology from Kent State University and a double PhD in theology from the University of Chicago as recently as two years ago. Jack was a deep thinker, a contemplative kind of person, quiet and unassuming, yet blessed with a keen sense of humor, a listening ear and a loving heart that embraced all the people he met.

Unlike Samuel in the first reading today who was slow to understand how God calls us, Jack always wanted to be a priest. And thanks to his sister Dolores who joined the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Jack, a contemplative at heart, looked for a male congregation devoted to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Thus did he and I meet as postulants in Barre, Massachusetts back in 1950 – two young men seeking to become priests in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

I was ordained one year ahead of Jack because he went to teach one year in the minor seminary in Hyde Park, New York. When I was ordained, the provincial superior sent me off to do missionary work in the Philippine Islands. But when Jack became a priest, the Provincial wisely sent him off to the Angelicum in Rome to earn a Masters degree in philosophy. He was already marked as a future teacher. How enlightened the Provincial was! Jack was good in philosophy and later returned to teach this subject in the major seminary on Euclid Avenue for seven years and to lecture also at John Carroll University. During this time, one of Jack's students was our presider today, Bishop Roger Gries of the Benedictine Order. To honor Jack and the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament who helped to educate him, the Bishop graciously agreed to join us this morning.

Delving into philosophy so intensely didn't completely satisfy Jack's concept of what a priest should be and do. So, with permission, he worked also in the inner city of Cleveland as part of Catholic Charities and the Cuyahoga County Welfare Department helping abused and neglected children. His ministry expanded even more to being as-

*Continued on next page...*

sistant chaplain to a local Newman Club, leading discussion groups, and working as a part time chaplain in a hospital. Thus Jack began to live another facet of the Eucharistic charism of the Congregation by doing social work for the poor as an extension of the full meaning of Eucharist.

Blessed with a grant, Jack studied clinical psychology focusing on Pain Management, and achieved a PhD degree from Kent State University in 1979. He continued post-graduate work at the University of North Dakota, and then returned to Cleveland to be the Program director/psychologist in the Pain Management program at St. Luke's Hospital.

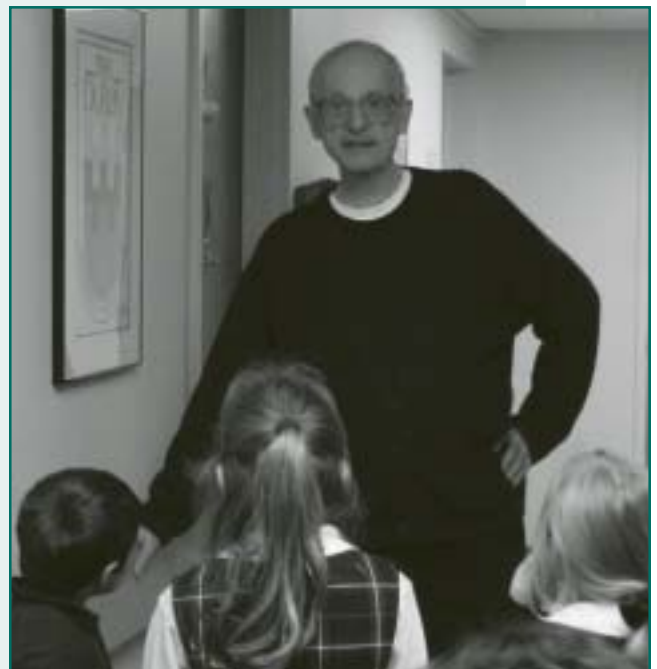
I said earlier that Jack always wanted to be a priest. Well during this period of his life, he did begin to struggle with his vocation and took a leave of absence to clarify the future direction of his life. But to his credit and spirituality, he, like Samuel, kept hearing his name being called by God and so he reinvested himself in his priesthood and his attachment to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Shortly after his return to Cleveland, Jack was elected as vicar provincial and later became provincial superior for six years, succeeding Donald Pelotte who became Bishop of Gallup, New Mexico. Jack's leadership qualities were recognized by the membership and his quiet but efficient ways guided the province during this period.

But his inquisitive mind and contemplative nature reasserted itself again, and Jack entered a Doctoral Program in Theology at the University of Chicago. He actually graduated two summers ago and wrote a well received dissertation entitled: "The Eucharist and Temporality". It's literally a very heavy book, weight-wise and intelligence-wise. I couldn't begin to tell you what the thesis is all about. It reflects the depth of Jack's intelligence and the perseverance of his efforts to study and write about yet another facet of the mystery of the Eucharist.

During his years in Chicago, he counseled and was the spiritual director of our theology students, including for a time, our own Fr. Tom Smithson. Already however, Jack's blood diseases were attacking his body. He came to Cleveland two years ago as semi-retired, yet he offered

Sunday Eucharist for almost a year at St. Margaret of Hungary parish, and once a week for several months at Alter Care in Mayfield Village. As a member of the Community here, Jack was always at morning and evening prayer, was faithful to his adoration hour, participated in the Eucharist daily, never complained about his increasing pain and doctor visits and willingly went to Regina Health Center three months ago when he needed full nursing care. Like St. Paul wrote about himself in the letter to Timothy read today – *"I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me."*

Thank you Jack for your priesthood and for being a brother to all the members of the Congregation. We will miss your gentle ways and subtle humor, your quaint laugh and your penetrating remarks. Go in peace to the special place God has prepared for you in the kingdom, and pray for us Jack, that we like you and Samuel may continue to say every day, *"speak Lord for your servant is listening."*



*Students from St. Paschal Baylon are listening attentively to Fr. Jack as they tour the Blessed Sacrament House.*

## Meet our Missionaries

As has been the practice for the past several years, the Province of St. Ann again this year has invited SSS religious from some of our mission provinces and regions to participate in the annual Missionary Co-operative Program in many Archdioceses/Dioceses of the United States. This year, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament has been invited to visit 17 Archdioceses/Dioceses throughout the United States — from Maine to California. In all, a total of more than 55 parishes will hear the message of the missionaries of the Congregation and special collections will be taken up for our mission causes. Significant funds are generated each year through the mission appeals and we are most grateful to the generous American faithful who give so freely of their financial resources to the SSS to support mission causes.

This year our foreign missionaries come from the Philippine Islands, India and Sri Lanka. In addition to these, some of our own SSS religious in the United States will be taking to the road and helping to accomplish all of the mission assignments. We would like to introduce you to our missionaries in this issue of the Newsletter and also ask you to remember the work of the Church throughout the world in your prayers.

From the Philippines, we are privileged to welcome Fr. Michael Timbol, SSS, Fr. Paterno Labasano, SSS, and Fr. Joel Lasutaz, SSS. Sri Lanka is represented this year by Fr. Ignatius Saverimuttu, SSS, and preaching for the Region of



*left to right: Fr. Paterno Labasano, SSS,  
Fr. Michael Timbol, SSS, and Fr. Joel Lasutaz, SSS*

India is Fr. Salvador Gomes-Coutinho, SSS. Together with our own SSS religious in the U.S.A., these men will spread mission awareness and the work of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament around the world to many Catholic parishes from coast to coast in the U.S.A.

You probably recall that, even in your own parish, a missionary priest, sister or brother from a missionary Congregation or Diocese has come to your parish each summer. And who knows, you might be lucky enough to meet one of our SSS missionaries in your parish! If you are interested in helping our missionaries, you can send any contributions to the Mission Office at 5384 Wilson Mills Road, Cleveland, OH 44143. Do remember, however, to pray for the success of our missionaries and for the mission of the Church throughout the world.

### **Fr. Michael Arceo Timbol, SSS**

Fr. Michael “Mikey” Timbol is a native of Concepcion Tarlac (2 hours north of Manila). He was born on May 8, 1964 to Juanito Timbol and Teresita Arceo. He is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Far Eastern University, Manila, in 1986. Fr. Mikey entered the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament 3 months after his graduation from college. After 10 years in formation, he was ordained priest on May 4, 1996 in his hometown.

Fr. Mikey’s first assignment was in Cagayan de Oro city in Mindanao as the Recollection and Retreat Master of 2 colleges near the community. After a year, he was transferred in Davao (South of Mindanao) as assistant Postulant Director, treasurer for both the community and the parish and as an anchorman for the parish’s weekly radio program entitled “The Banquet of the Lord”. He was assigned in 1999 to be chaplain of 5 colleges in central Manila.

At present, Fr. Mikey is the National Vocation Director for the Congregation in the Philippines, a ministry which he has been engaged in for 4 years now. Through his efforts, the Philippine province has 14 scholastics, 25 novices and 20 postulants this year.

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**Fr. Paterno B. Labasano, SSS**



*left to right: Fr. Michael, Fr. Joel, and Fr. Paterno*

Fr. Paterno B. Labasano, SSS, was born to Cornelio Labasano and Emiliana Bacolod Labasano on February 28, 1967, in Daram, Western Samar, Philippines. He grew up in Davao del Norte, one of the provinces of the big island of Mindanao in the South of the country.

Fr. Pat, as his friends call him, is the fourth child of seven, four girls and three boys. He finished his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1989 and then worked for four years. Fr. Pat always has the desire to give himself to others. So it does not come as a surprise that at a very young age, he dreamt of becoming a priest. His love for the Eucharist started in his early years. After finishing college and while working, Fr. Pat had second thoughts about pursuing his dream of becoming a priest. Since his family was so poor, his parents and brothers and sisters expected much help from him. He had to work to be able to send his four younger siblings to college. Fr. Pat trusted in God and said, “When God

calls, He will surely find a way. He will make miracles. He never stops.”

It was by accident in 1987 that Fr. Pat came to know the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. As a working student in an archdiocesan college in Davao City (a city in southern Mindanao), some of his friends kept trying to convince him to join a Sunday meeting of their vocation club — the vocation club of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Giving in to strong peer pressure, he finally agreed and went to the church where the meeting was. The Eucharist had already begun when he entered the church. Fr. Pat says that from the moment he entered the church, he was engulfed by a religious experience. He found himself in a very solemn celebration which he had never experienced before. And as the Body and Blood of Christ was elevated during the Eucharistic Doxology, he felt as if he was also lifted up by the Spirit. He felt the Spirit of God overshadow him. This marked the beginning of his frequent attendance of Masses at Assumption Church and his membership in the Blessed Sacrament Vocation Club (BSVC).

Fr. Pat joined the Congregation as a postulant in 1993, made his perpetual profession in 2001. After nine years in formation, he was ordained on September 21, 2002 (Feast of St. Matthew). Right after his ordination, he was assigned to a shrine in Tacloban City (one of the provinces in the Visayas archipelago) for six months. He was then transferred to Cagayan de Oro City in Mindanao as an assistant chaplain of a university and at the same time chaplain for a couple of months. When he returns to the Philippines, Fr. Pat will take on a new assignment as the Assistant Postulant Director of 20 postulants.

Fr. Pat is very fulfilled and happy in his vocation. He feels that God has blessed him and his family so much. He realized that when he accepted Jesus’ invitation to be his co-worker in spreading God’s Kingdom on earth, he would have to give up certain things in life. But he feels that he has received much more in return. Fr. Pat says that what he has received surely outweighs, by far, what he gave up. Fr. Pat lives by the motto, “*Jesus is not as interested in our past as He is in our future. He is not so much interested in our liabilities as He is in our possibilities. He is not so much interested in our ability as He is in our availability.*”

Fr. Pat hopes that his experience of mission appeals would be an opportunity for him not only to make new friends but also to touch peoples’ lives and lead them to Jesus our Eucharistic King.

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## *Meet our Missionaries*

### **Fr. Joel Ruben Lasutaz, SSS**

Born to Daniel Lasutaz and Leodegaria Ruben in March 31, 1970, Fr. Joel hails from Ozamiz City, which is located in the northwestern part of Mindanao in the Philippine Islands. He is the eldest of 2 sisters and 1 brother.

At the advice of his mother he took up Bachelor of Science in Nursing and graduated in 1990. He obtained his professional license as a registered nurse in the same year. Being the eldest, his parents' plan for him was to work in the USA as a nurse to financially help out the family. But God's plan was different. It was when he joined the Blessed Sacrament Vocation Club in 1988 that he felt God's call. At first, his parents did not permit him to enter the seminary, so he worked as a clinical instructor in the College of Nursing at Misamis University from which he graduated. After one year, on March 31, 1992, his parents gave him the best birthday gift ever: he was permitted to start his priestly and religious formation in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. Joel made his perpetual profession of religious vows on February 17, 2001 in Sri Lanka and was ordained a priest in December 1 of the same year. He was first assigned in Santa Cruz Church in Manila as a parish treasurer. In 2003, he was assigned to the scholasticate at Eymard Formation Center in Quezon City as a Pastoral Director. A year later he was given an additional assignment as a school chaplain of the high school of La Salle Green Hills, which is run by



*Fr. Ignatius Saverimuttu, SSS*

the Brothers of Christian Schools. When Fr. Joel returns to the Philippines after his mission appeals is the USA, he will be assigned as a chaplain of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Cagayan de Oro City in northern Mindanao. In addition to his regular responsibilities, Fr. Joel has been the Director of the Mass Media Apostolate since his ordination.

Fr. Joel might not be working as a nurse in the USA as his parents had planned, but he is here, as planned by God, to help nourish the missionary spirit of faithful throughout the USA through his participation in the Mission Cooperative Program.

### **Fr. Ignatius Saverimuttu, SSS**

Fr. Ignatius Saverimuttu is from the tiny tear-drop shaped island of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean. The 20 million people of Sri Lanka are composed of three main ethnic groups: Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims. Fr. Ignatius tells us that his country is abundantly blessed by God with many natural resources but often wrongly handled by its people. The society is also torn apart by 22 years of ethnic war, social, economic and religious upheaval. Sri Lanka is predominantly a Buddhist country. Christians are just a tiny minority.

Fr. Ignatius was born in the Eastern Province of the country in 1944 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, one of two boys in the family. He lost his father when he was five years old. His mother was only 25 years old at the time and had a hard time bringing up two boys. The parish church was very close to his home, so he and his brother would attend daily Mass with their mother and while serving at the altar, he had a desire to be a priest.

Fr. Ignatius was invited during one of the pastoral visits of the bishop to his parish to enter the minor seminary to become a priest. The parish priest, Rev. Fr. Alexander, helped Fr. Ignatius to enter the minor seminary. Since his education was limited to a village school, he had trouble with the studies in the college and he eventually left the minor seminary. After this he attended a catechetical course in India and began teaching. However, he still had the desire to become a religious. He expressed his desire to his former parish priest who said that he knew the Blessed Sacrament

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*Eymard...  
In His Own Words*

*Have confidence in prayer.  
It is the unfailing power  
which God has given us.  
By means of it you will obtain  
the salvation of the dear souls whom  
God has given you and all our loved ones.  
"Ask and you shall receive," Our Lord said.  
Be yourself with the good Lord.*

*From a letter written on January 4, 1864 to:  
Mme. Mathilde Giraud-Jordan*

Fathers in Colombo and encouraged him to consider joining the order. Fr. Ignatius visited them and stayed three days in the community. He was impressed by their brotherly love for one another which flowed from the Eucharist, so he joined the order in 1972. Ignatius served as a religious brother for fifteen years, then after four years of theology in the National Seminary of Ampitiya, he was ordained a priest on August 3, 1991. Fr. Ignatius says that often he marvels at how God worked in his life to make him a priest in the Blessed Sacrament Congregation

As an SSS priest, Fr. Ignatius has served as a co-pastor in Matala for a period of four years, three years as a leader of the community in SSS motherhouse in Colombo and a year as the member of the Community. He also worked with Fr. Justin as an Aspirants' Director and four years. Last October, he was asked to be spiritual director in the novitiate.

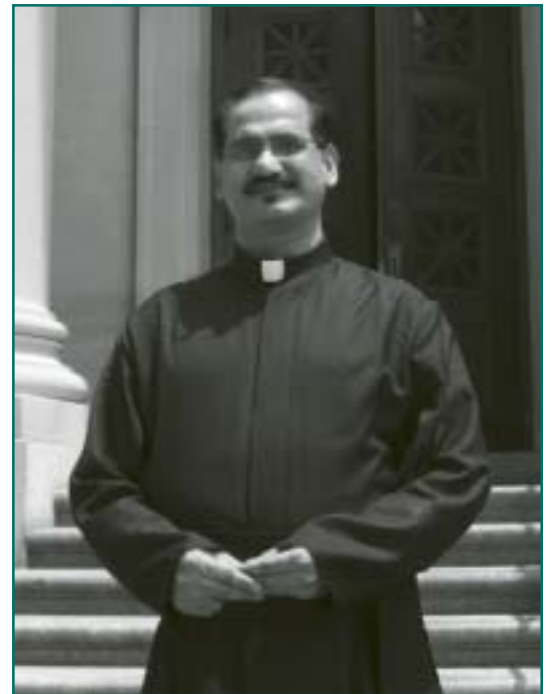
Fr. Ignatius is grateful for the opportunity to preach for the mission in the USA this summer, and thanks the Province of Saint Ann for this opportunity.

**Fr. Salvador Gomes-Coutinho, SSS**

Father Salvador is presently the superior of the Blessed Sacrament Community in Bombay, India, this community is affectionately referred to as the "mother house" of the Congregation in India. His roots and upbringing in Goa, India (formerly a colony of Portugal), Father Salvador hails from a loving and caring family. After he completed his studies in field of science, he joined the Blessed Sacrament community in 1982 and after his novitiate and seminary studies, he was ordained a priest in 1989. After his ordination, he was commissioned by the leadership of the Region to open a religious community in Goa in 1994. As a parish priest, he was responsible for building a large church, and strengthened the community life in a remote area of India called Bachanni. Father Salvador was then at the formation community for three years (2001-2004) and is now currently in Bombay.

Growing up in such a loving and caring family nurtured and provided the foundation for his religious commitment. He feels that it was his family that provided the first seminary training that he received. Father Salvador is fond of relating that "The Eucharist is always the only way, whether one is successful or being tried during challenging times". He says that this was his mother's dying advice to him. Father Salvador's personal motto is "Eucharist is passion, Eucharist is inspiration, Eucharist is celebration."

Throughout his stay in the USA Father Salvador will be preaching for the SSS mission in India in the Archdioceses of New York, Philadelphia and Hartford as well as the dioceses of Rockville Centre and Portland, Maine.



*Fr. Salvador Gomes-Coutinho, SSS*

# A Legacy for Tomorrow

## Everyone Needs a Will

Every adult should have a carefully planned Will as the basis of his or her estate plan regardless of the value of assets accumulated. A Will is necessary even if other planning arrangements, such as a Living Trust or jointly titled property, are in place.

A valid Will is a legally binding document that can help guarantee your objectives at death – your legacy – will be honored. A Will is a document written and executed in accordance with formalities prescribed by state law. It is, therefore, recommended that you secure the assistance of a competent attorney licensed in the state where you reside.

Your Will is one of the most important documents you will ever sign. It is by means of your Will you are able to:

- Distribute assets accumulated during your lifetime.
- Contribute to the financial security of your heirs and beneficiaries.
- Benefit causes and charities you hold in esteem.
- Memorialize yourself and other loved ones.
- Minimize taxes your estate will owe.
- Maximize the assets your beneficiaries will receive.

## Intestacy – What Happens If You Don't Have a Will

In the absence of a valid Will, a court-appointed administrator will collect your property and distribute it to relatives designated by state law without regard to wishes you may have expressed during your lifetime. If no relatives are identified, the state may lay claim to your estate assets.

Intestacy laws vary greatly from state to state. The following examples demonstrate the general principles of intestate distribution.

Assume you are married and die without a Will. Under the variety of state intestacy laws, any of the following is possible, depending on where you reside at the time of your death:

- One-third of your property will be given to your spouse with the balance divided equally among the children. Depending upon the size of your estate, your spouse may be left dependent upon your children regardless of their ages.
- If you do not have children, you would probably expect estate assets to be distributed to your spouse. But without a Will, he or she might receive only part of the assets. Other portions might go to your parents or to your brothers and sisters.
- Your spouse might not be granted ownership of your assets at all, but receive only the use and benefit of them (in some cases only a third of the assets). The surviving spouse would be left powerless to choose the beneficiaries of the remainder of the estate at his or her death.
- If you are the surviving family member, you might wish to select a friend or charity, such as the **Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament**, to receive all or part of your estate. Your estate gift will never be given to a non-relative or to a charity without it being formally designated in a Will or Trust document.
- If you are the surviving family member, at your death a court-appointed administrator will search for your next of kin. Distant relatives with whom you have had no significant relationship may receive assets from your estate. Worse yet, if relatives cannot be identified, your estate will become the property of the state.

*Continued on next page...*

### A Will Is the Best Way . . .

You may have questions about your or other family members' needs for a Will in light of certain arrangements or conditions. Following are examples of some of the most common misconceptions regarding the need for a formally written Will.

***“Most of my assets, such as my Certificates of Deposit, are jointly owned or have Payable on Death (POD) designation. I don’t need a Will.”***

You still need a Will and so does the other joint owner(s). Jointly-owned property passes automatically to the survivor(s) of the arrangement. But how can the joint owners predict which of them will be the first to die? The survivor of the arrangement may not be capable of making a Will at the point the property is received. Therefore, a timely written Will is necessary to carry out the true wishes of each owner.

***“My husband already has a Will. I don’t need one.”***

As a married woman, you need a Will even if you have few or no assets presently in your name. Your husband may die first and leave his assets to you. Then, if you should die without having a Will, state intestacy laws will determine your beneficiaries. A carefully planned Will, drafted with good tax and legal advice, is important for every married woman.

***“I live in a community property state.”***

In community property states, everything earned or acquired by either spouse after marriage is usually considered community property – that is, owned equally by each spouse. Making a Will is a practical way for each spouse to designate how his or her one-half community property is to be distributed.

### Keeping Your Will Up to Date

Your Will is a vitally important tool only to the extent that it expresses your current objectives, your current circumstances, and the current status of your beneficiaries.

Review your Will every year to be sure it’s up to date. Has a beneficiary died? Has the size or nature of your estate changed? Is your executor still living and qualified? Have the needs of any of your beneficiaries changed? Have there been any changes in your own objectives or obligations?

Your attorney can help you change your Will by adding a codicil to clarify, alter, add to, take from or eliminate any of the provisions of your Will. Remember that a codicil must be executed with the same formality as an entire Will.



A codicil is a way to amend your Will in minor ways, but should not be used for major or complex changes. If the latter is desired, a newly written document is preferable. Remember to revoke your previously written Will. This is accomplished by clearly stating in the new document that all Wills previously executed by you are revoked.

As you plan or change your Will, we hope that you will consider including the **Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, 5384 Wilson Mills Road, Cleveland, OH 44143**. Your bequest of any size or type helps us to spread the Kingdom of God on earth through our ministry of evangelizing among the hungry, the sick, and the homeless.

We invite you to discuss with us any conditions, contingencies or restrictions you may desire to place upon your bequest to us. Indeed, we may be able to suggest special purposes for your bequest that will add greatly to your own sense of personal satisfaction.

Please contact the Provincial Treasurer at 1-440-442-6725; or write the Provincial Treasurer at 5384 Wilson Mills Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44143. Many thanks for considering leaving a legacy to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

## Birthdays

### September

- 04 1942 Rev. John Keenan
- 06 1948 Rev. Thomas Wiese
- 21 1923 Rev. Julian Rousseau
- 22 1949 Rev. James Hayes
- 27 1942 Br. Arthur Mella

### October

- 27 1932 Rev. Edward Roberts
- 28 1933 Br. Gerard Hickey
- 29 1935 Rev. Mario Marzocchi
- 29 1942 Br. Allen Boeckman

## In Loving Memory

### September

- 09 1974 Rev. Leopold St.-Hilaire
- 11 1959 Rev. Alphonse Ouimet
- 19 1937 Rev. Louis Tardif
- 19 1983 Rev. Antonin Dumont
- 22 1982 Rev. Leo Bourque
- 23 1964 Rev. John Graham
- 24 1978 Rev. Adrien Maheu
- 25 1971 Br. George Lemoyne
- 25 1975 Rev. Adrian Hebert
- 27 1980 Br. Noel Canuel
- 28 1991 Rev. Normand MacPherson

### October

- 05 1988 Rev. Arthur Maheu
- 05 1999 Br. Mark Proulx
- 14 1989 Rev. Thomas Kenette
- 15 1991 Br. Narcisse Barette
- 17 1956 Rev. Wenceslaus Giasson
- 17 1999 Rev. Thomas Waldie
- 18 1945 Rev. Auguste Pelletier
- 20 1953 Rev. Emile Poirier
- 24 1996 Br. Raymond Lussier
- 26 1946 Br. Charles Caron
- 27 2003 Rev. Frederick Roberge
- 31 1974 Rev. Francis Brennan
- 31 2003 Rev. Lionel Lavigne

## Community News:

After many years of faithful service to the Congregation at its provincial offices in Cleveland, Ohio, we bid our farewell to **Mrs. Jill Mayoock** who literally was the “voice of the Congregation”. Among Jill’s duties were receptionist at the provincial offices, secretary to the Provincial Superior, editor of the Province Newsletter and the general operation of the province’s offices on a day to day basis. All of the members of the Province have come to know and love Jill for her kind words, pleasant manner and cheery disposition. It is no doubt that we will miss her much and know that she will never be replaced. Jill’s decision to return to her profession of nursing at the Cleveland Clinic was not an easy one, but we are sure that our loss will be Cleveland Clinic’s gain. Much success in your new ministry, Jill, and be assured of our gratitude for all that you have done for the Congregation in the USA.

The **Clown Ministry** at Saint Paschal Baylon Parish in Cleveland, OH is continuing to spread its effect. On a regular basis the “clowns” of the parish minister to the homeless of the city of Cleveland. Through this ministry, it is the hope of **Deacon Joseph Bourgeois, SSS** to help young people become more aware of social justice issues. The clowns not only serve lunch to the homeless, but also perform after. Deacon Joe nicknamed the ministry Catholic Parish Relief or CPR which has proved to be a way for many folks at St. Paschal Baylon to be involved, not just the clowns. Calling themselves clown helpers, parishioners assist by purchasing and donating the food. Others prepare the food, deliver it and serve the meals. Parishioners also bring clothing, toys and personal items for anyone who needs them.

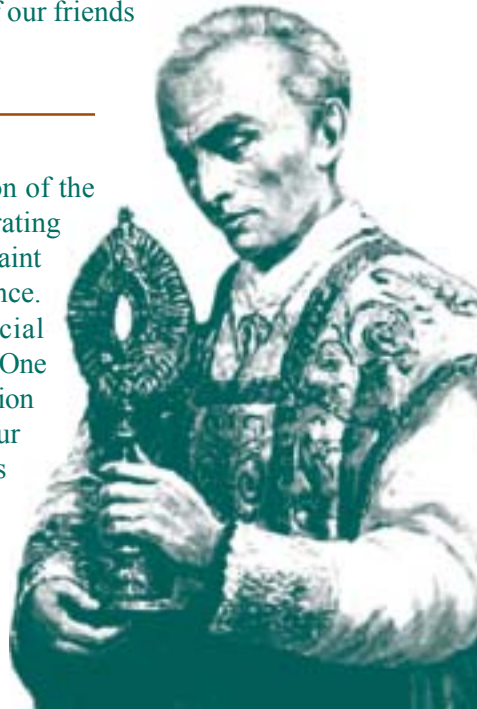
The Religious at **Saint Jean Baptiste** hosted a *Come and See Retreat* May 20-22, 2005. Daniel Clarke, a 22 year old from Copague, New York, joined the Blessed Sacrament Religious on Friday evening for dinner and spent time with them socially throughout the weekend; he shared his experiences, and enjoyed moments of quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Because Daniel was the only retreatant, the retreat schedule was modified and included an abbreviated view of Father Eymard’s life by **Brother Michael Perez, SSS** and **Father Bob Rousseau, SSS** introduced the Mission and Apostolate to him. He spent time with the novices and a visit to the city on Saturday night included dinner. Daniel is a Liberal Arts major from a community college and will be entering Malloy College in the fall to continue his studies in Philosophy. He is also looking into another Congregation, but appears to be interested in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. He departed on Sunday with a special closeness to Father Eymard and will continue contact with the SSS. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues his discernment journey.

Jim Owens, a lawyer, in Albuquerque, and Rich Lister, drug researcher, from Plymouth, MI, joined the Community at **Saint Charles Borromeo** for the *Come and See* Weekend here in Albuquerque. These men were joined by 4 women who came to a similar “Come and See” weekend with the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They were also accompanied by the parish Vocation Committee that sponsored the luncheon and were in prayer during the entire weekend. **Father John Thomas Lane, SSS** gave an orientation and history of the SSS in the archdiocese of Santa Fe. **Father Joseph Thai Tran, SSS** gave an overview of eucharistic spirituality. **Brother Peter Mahady, SSS** gave an overview of religious life as a brother, since both Rich and Jim are interested in religious life as a brother. Each person shared his story and reflected on the vocation packets prepared by Joann Lentine. The weekend ended with the parish picnic.

The next *Come and See Retreat* is scheduled in Holiday, Florida, October 7-9th... consider inviting a young man to the retreat – there are still openings!

**You are always in our prayers.** We remind all of those who receive this Newsletter that you are remembered daily in the prayers of the Fathers and Brothers of the Blessed Sacrament. You are in the special prayers of our aged and retired Fathers and Brothers who are at Regina Health Center. We want to thank our men at Regina – **Father Raymond Dubois, Father Jack Slattery, Father Roger Pageot, Father Walter Riendeau, Father George Evans and Brother Martin Hayes** – for their prayers for all of our friends and benefactors.

In the year 2006, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrating **150 years** since its foundation by Saint Peter Julian Eymard in Paris, France. We are looking forward to special events during this anniversary year. One event that is being planned is a reunion of all former SSS students from our seminaries, novitiate, etc. as well as former SSS. If you have any ideas for this or would like to help, contact Tom Wiese, SSS in the Communications’ Office. Watch the Newsletter for special celebrations and events.



## Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Feast Day - August 2

The founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is Saint Peter Julian Eymard. He was born in 1811 in La Mure, in the south of France, and is known as the “Apostle of the Eucharist.”

Peter Julian Eymard’s family consisted of 10 children and 1 adopted sister, but sadly, eight of the children died very young.

Throughout his life, Peter Julian was fascinated by the presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. When he was only four years old, Peter Julian loved to go exploring. Sometimes he would go to Church all by himself. He liked to climb behind the altar because Jesus was there. He would tell his sister, “I am very close to Jesus and I am listening to him!”

When Peter Julian was young, he would help his father in his business as an oil presser, but he was a passionate Christian and his heart was set on a religious vocation. At the age of 23, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Grenoble, France.

Peter Julian had an intense devotion to Mary, the Mother of God and at the age of 28, he became a member of the Marist Congregation by professing the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

After overcoming many obstacles, conflicts, financial troubles, and physical exhaustion, Father Eymard received approval to begin the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament at the age of 45. The first Blessed Sacrament community was opened in Paris in 1856.

The Blessed Sacrament Congregation’s initials, S.S.S., are Latin for *Societas Sanctissimi Sacramenti*, which translates in English to *Society of the Blessed Sacrament*.

**Congregation Ministers at Saint Ann's Shrine** ...Continued from page 4

relic was divided and a portion of it was returned to St. Jean Baptiste Church on July 15, 1892. The first annual novena in honor of Saint Ann began on July 17, 1892 and has continued every year since.

In 1900, eight years after the relic first came to New York City, Archbishop Corrigan invited the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament to come from Montreal to administer the French-speaking parish of St. Jean Baptiste. It has become a center of Eucharistic devotion for the whole country and it was the beginning of the Blessed Sacrament Community in the United States. In 1931, the Congregation in the United States became known as the Province of Saint Ann.

In 1985 a portion of the relic from the Church of St. Jean Baptiste was brought to Cleveland, Ohio where a Shrine to Saint Ann was established. The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament administers this Shrine, spreading devotion to Good Saint Ann and funding the ministries of the Fathers and Brothers of the Blessed Sacrament. Each year a Triduum (3 days of prayer and intercession) are celebrated at the Shrine of Saint Ann in Cleveland, Ohio. The spiritual director at the Cleveland Shrine is Fr. Michael P. Noreika, SSS.



*Prayer to Saint Ann*

*Glorious Saint Ann,  
filled with compassion  
for those who invoke you,  
and with love for those who suffer,  
I cast myself at your feet  
and humbly beg you  
to take my petition  
under your special protection.*

*Good Saint Ann,  
Mother of Our Lady,  
pray to her for me  
and obtain my request.  
Amen.*

*Bread Broken & Shared*

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OF THE  
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