

Bread Broken & Shared

A Publication for friends, benefactors, and Associates of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Province of Saint Ann

USA Province of Saint Ann Welcomes International Religious

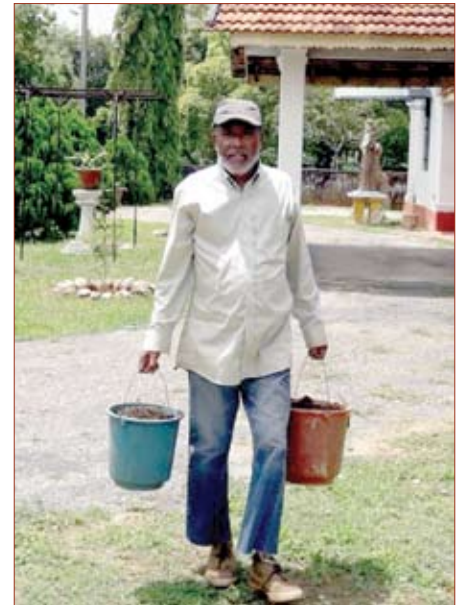
Christian Christopher SSS (Sri Lanka)



I am Father Christian Christopher, the youngest of six children. My homeland is in the North of Sri Lanka, predominantly a Tamil area. As a young adult, I did not recognize evangelization at work. I did acknowledge love, service, community prayer, and faith since I had been an ardent worker in the church, attending all religious services, being an altar server, and participating in a lay association in our home parish. This faith-filled attitude existed as a young adult because of my beautiful and devoted parents, which God blessed me with. After my school,

I moved to Colombo, the capital in the South. I did my advanced studies in Colombo while working to become an accountant. Living in a new city meant finding a new parish for worship. Every day before work, I attended Mass and prayed the Divine Office before the Blessed Sacrament with the priests and brothers of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament at a church near my office. Experiencing this type of prayer life and observing the hospitality of the priests and brothers kindled the existing fire within me to become a priest in that Congregation. I wanted to practice collaborative ministry for God and his people in the local church, which was rich in culture and traditions.

I encountered a priest and expressed my desire to become a priest. Having observed the religious community's life and made my decision, I informed my parents about my newfound vocation of becoming a priest. I was an older vocation and was asked to study philosophy first at the Oblate Seminary in Colombo. I did my novitiate in Bombay, India, then returned to study theology at the National Seminary. I was ordained in August 1983 and assigned to the largest community in Sri Lanka, Colombo. Becoming a priest in the Congregation of the Blessed



Sacrament, inspired by the Holy Scripture and our founder Saint Peter Julian Eymard, I declared that I wanted to be an instrument to draw all people towards the Eucharist through my spiritual, pastoral, and shared life.

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I was a pioneer in the newly-established community and parish in Matale in the Central Province of my country. After five years of my pastoral experiences, I had my ongoing formation. I studied liturgy abroad in Maynooth, Ireland, then returned to minister at St. Philip Neri Church in Colombo. I graduated in a formation course at SAIDE institution, Antipolo, Philippines. I then became the novice master of our region of the Congregation for 12 years. I was then named the pastor of St. Thomas Church in Matale, where I remained for seven years. I then returned to Colombo to work with the aspirants and postulants.

I worked in the Congregation as a Regional vicar for two terms and then as a Provincial vicar for two terms. I traveled to the USA to preach for the missions, ministered at Lenox Hill Hospital as chaplain for nearly three years and lived with the community of Congregation in New York. Then I was asked to return to my native country of Sri Lanka; I taught at the National Seminary in Sri Lanka for seven years. 2014 I returned to the USA to pursue doctoral studies (*Doctor of Ministry*) at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. I am happy to say that I graduated with the province's help. With that qualification, I have taught at Catholic University and the Major Seminary in Sri Lanka.

I am delighted to be a part of the new venture, sharing with SSS religious of other cultures and backgrounds. Once again, I am invited to do the hospital and parish ministries in the USA province. I am glad to do both and looking forward to gathering more experience with the help of the Holy Spirit. I am proud to say the USA province's Fathers and Brothers have accepted me for this mission in their Province. I will be faithful to God, and I will be devoted to my ministry. At this juncture, I thank my provincial Very. Rev. Fr. Justin Chawkan SSS, for giving me this excellent opportunity to work in the Province of Saint Ann (USA).

Dominic Long Hoang Nguyen SSS (Vietnam)

I'm Dominic Long Hoang Nguyen, a Vietnamese religious of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. I was born in 1979 and raised as the last child of Chat Van Nguyen and Yen Thi Hoang, both now deceased. In my childhood, I never thought



I would become a religious. However, God has prepared me for his plans in many ways that I could not recognize. During college, many callings from God and his people continuously urged me to discern a religious vocation. One day, I decided to become an aspirant of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, which I call "my first and last love."

After graduation from college, I started



my life in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. On November 23, 2015, I was ordained to the priesthood, and I continued my assignment as a treasurer of Novitiate in the Holy Vietnamese Martyrs Province for one and a half years. In March 2017, I was assigned as a Parochial Vicar in Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Holiday, Florida. From that time, it's been six years since I have served in this parish as an international missionary. I have experienced many blessings in these years – meeting new faces, learning new languages and different cultures, and recognizing the love and presence of the Eucharist among people. Those blessings have also become my challenges.

Yet I believe that God will be at my side, helping fulfill my assignment as an SSS missionary.

Mark Honesto U del Rosario SSS (Philippines)

I am Father Mark del Rosario, born in the Philippines, the oldest of eight children. Having been from a large family, I love ministering to the family of God and with my Blessed Sacrament Community (SSS).

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I was educated by Dominican Sisters in Elementary and Jesuits in High School. I joined the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in 1972, first as a college student at Our Lady of the Angels Franciscan Seminary (Bachelor's Degree in Comparative Religion and Behavioral Sciences). My formation in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament began during the postulancy, novitiate, and scholasticate of the Congregation and theology at the Regional Major Seminary of Mindanao in the Philippines. My first profession of religious vows was on May 1, 1976, and I was ordained priest on April 19, 1980, by Jaime Cardinal Sin of Manila.

Later I did post-graduate studies with a Master in Biblical Theology – Ateneo de Davao University – Davao City, Philippines. Then formal training as Novice Formator at Emmaus Center for Formative Spirituality in Quezon City, Philippines. Later, I did a Master's degree in Formative Spirituality and Ministry under Father Adrian Van Kaam and Susan Muto at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania. Plus, because of my formation work, I studied at the Christian Institute of Study of Human Sexuality, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago.

I have had many administrative experiences, first within the SSS on our provincial council for twenty years. I was the first Filipino local superior of the Davao Community (in the south of the Philippines) and then the local superior of various other communities of the Congregation. I was devoted to the formation ministry in the Congregation for over eighteen years. I also taught as a Formative Instructor at the Formation Institute for Religious in Davao City, Mary Hill School of Theology in Quezon City, Philippines, and Emmaus Center Institute of Formative Spirituality in Quezon City, Philippines.

For the past seventeen years, I have worked in parish ministry as a “pioneer religious” in establishing the SSS Presence in Manila (1 year), pastor – Star of the Sea Parish in Honolulu (7 years), Parochial Vicar at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Holiday, Florida for (2 years); Saint Jude Thaddeus, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, Philippines (1½ years) and pastor at Mary Help of Christians Parish in Pueblo, Colorado (4 years).

I am a naturalized United States Citizen since December 5, 2005. Now I look forward to being a pastor in San Antonio, Texas, at Saint Joseph Downtown Parish – another chance to be a missionary while still being a member of the province of Our Lady of the Assumption – Philippines; I look forward to serving in this Texas community.

Ravi Earnest Sebastin SSS (India)

I was born in Chennai, Tamil Nādu, Southern India. I was baptized and was ordained to the priesthood at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the replica of Lourdes in France. I did my schooling in and around Chennai. We were four siblings, but I lost two older brothers and now



have a young sister. In addition, I have six nephews and three nieces. From my early childhood, I was motivated by my mother to our devotion, which led me to have a deep interest in entering the priesthood. My parents encouraged me in this choice of my vocation to the priesthood.

I came to know of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament through my parish of Our Lady of Consolation in North Chennai when, in 1986,

Continued on next page...

International Religious...Continued from previous page

Father Anthony Kruz SSS visited the parish on a Vocation Sunday. It was through Father Anthony I decided to join the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in 1987, after which I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in 1988 at the Jesuit Loyola College in Chennai.

In 1990, I began my novitiate in Agashi, Maharashtra, in Central India. In 1992, I had my first profession and joined the Bachelor of Philosophy at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary of the Madras Mylapore Archdiocese in Chennai. 1993 I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Theology at the same Seminary.

In 1998 I made my final commitment to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, and the next day, I was ordained to be a transitional Deacon and started my ministry at St. Anthony's Church in the southern part of Tamil Nadu, Diocese of Kottar. On October 27th 1999, I was ordained to the priesthood at my home parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Chennai.

- Parochial Vicar at St. Anthony's Church at Thundathuvilai, South India (1999)
- Social Mission for the Homeless Children's Prison Ministry in collaboration with the Salesians. (2001-2002)
- Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Perpetual Succor in Chennai, South India (2002-2003)
- Parochial Vicar at St. Anthony's Church, Mumbai, Maharashtra (2003-2004)
- Postulant Director of Blessed Sacrament Community, Chennai (2005-2006)
- Diploma in Social Work, Nirmala Niketan College, Mumbai (2007-2008)
- Pastor of Infant of Jesus Church in Olaikuda, Sivaganagai Diocese (2009-2011)
- Provincial Consultor of Kristu Jyoti Province in India (2009-2012)
- Scholastic Director at Blessed Sacrament Community, Chennai (2012-2014)
- Pastor of St. Anthony's Church, Kamarajapuram, Chennai (2015)
- Provincial Treasurer of Kristu Jyoti Province in India (2016-2018)
- Parochial Vicar at Corpus Christi Parish in Houston, Texas (2018)
- Priest-Chaplain at Memorial Hermann and other hospitals in the Houston Medical Center (2020-2023)
- Parochial Vicar at Saint Jean Baptiste Parish, New York City (2023-present)

31 years of professed life, and 24 years of priesthood life in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.



Joselito "Lito" Hitosis SSS
(Philippines)

I joined the Blessed Sacrament Vocation Club at Santa Cruz Church in Manila in my last year of college. Then through spiritual direction, I decided to apply and enter the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. I began my formation studying philosophy in Davao City, in the South of the Philippines. After which, I finished theological studies in Quezon City, a suburb of Manila. After ten years, the late Cardinal Jaime Sin ordained me to the priesthood in the same church where I responded to the call. Last year I celebrated my 25th Anniversary of Ordination – I felt blessed and can



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From Father Provincial's Perspective

John Thomas J. Lane SSS - Provincial Superior



"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!" We all know this lovely Christmas song, and we have seen it parodied in back-to-school ads in the summer as parents are happy that their children return to the classroom.

For the Province of Saint Ann, two weeks each summer are the "most wonderful time of the year" because we celebrate the special solemnities of our province's patron saint, Saint Ann (*July 26*), and our Congregation's founder, Saint Peter Julian Eymard (*August 2*). We mark

these special days each year with a novena in New York City at our parish Eglise Saint Jean Baptiste (*Roman Catholic Church*) and a Sacred Triduum at our headquarters in suburban Cleveland, Ohio, Saint Paschal Baylon, Highland Heights. For Saint Eymard, we usually have a Triduum from July 31 – August 2. This year, in light of the national Eucharistic revival, our province's Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE) is hosting a Congress you have heard about for almost a year. (*PS – It's time to register to attend!*).

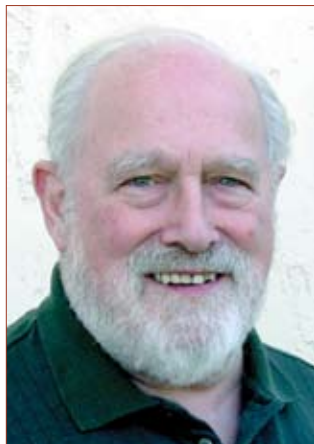
During the three days at our national headquarters, we celebrate with a special homilist this year Father Paul Bernier SSS. Beginning on July 24, we focus on the Blessing of Children because, as any grandmother knows, it's about spoiling – a.k.a blessing – the children and letting them know how special they are. Saint Ann, being the grandmother of Jesus, surely spoiled and loved her grandson and gave him much Hebrew wisdom! During this Mass, we will share a special blessing on our children and give them a Saint Ann medal to give protection and guidance.

On July 25, we celebrate the Anointing of the Sick in the Mass. Saint Ann is well-known for healing and intercession for the sick and ailing. While each day we venerate her relic, this day it is especially appropriate to recognize her presence, for the tradition has it that from the healing waters of the one northeast gate in Jerusalem, where Christ cured the

afflicted, Ann, Joachim, and Mary lived down the street from the healing waters. The powers of Christ continue now in our midst through the sacrament of the sick and the intercession of Good Saint Ann.

Lastly July 26, we complete the solemnity, the highest-ranking liturgical feast in the Church's life. We have a candlelight procession with the Blessed Sacrament to highlight this special night. A grandmother proudly shows off her children: we proudly show off the Risen Eucharistic Christ by the extension of this prayer of the Mass and praise, thank, and glorify God by witnessing this Eucharistic life through this procession with a monstrance containing the sacred host of Christ.

Usually, the following week and July 31 – August 2, we celebrate an Eymard Triduum at our headquarters parish. This year, as mentioned above, we have a Eucharistic Congress on August 4–6 for the Eymardian Family and anyone who wishes to "Renew Your Eucharistic Spirituality," the theme of the Congress. We will have our Blessed Sacrament religious (*priests, brothers, and sister*) and Associates speaking, including myself. We will take aspects of the Eucharist and reflect upon their importance. We celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharist, and even the new auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, Michael G. Woost, present to hail the meaning of the



Father Paul Bernier SSS

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*Provincial's Perspective...Continued
from previous page*

Eucharist in our life. There will also be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to end the event on Sunday, following a gathering of the Associates.

So, summer is no "ordinary time" for us Blessed Sacrament and Eymardian family members. **It's the most wonderful time of the year** for us to enjoy the fruits of Good Saint Ann, our patron, and Saint Peter Julian Eymard, our beloved founder who inspired the development of Eucharistic Congresses so that the Body of Christ could gather with the Body of Christ to live the Eucharistic mystery fully and evangelize the wonders of so great a sacrament to a world in need of nourishment, healing, love, and care. Please join us in person or on our Saint Paschal Baylon, Highland Heights YouTube Channel.

Meanwhile, we are so grateful for you, our benefactors, and know that I keep you in my prayers each day, especially at mealtime. Let's continue to pray for each other. ✠

Elisheba House: A Fruit Flowing from Our Covenant Promise

by Ivonne J. Hernandez

"I wish to live my baptismal consecration according to the charism of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, and I want to place at the center of my life the Paschal Mystery, to contemplate it in prayer, and to share with people the life flowing from it."
(From Covenant Promise of Associates of the Blessed Sacrament)

When my husband Rick and I were discerning whether to join the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, we struggled to grasp how this would look. "Place the Paschal Mystery at the center of your life." The sound of the words entered our ears, but we did not understand. Through grace, we discerned a call to become Lay Associates; we made our covenant promise with the fullness of intent, yet it was not until we were living the promise that the meaning of those words was unveiled. Sometimes, we need a little bit of help to see those things we do not yet understand.

"Show, don't tell." This is what we do at Elisheba House. Founded by three Lay Associates of the Blessed Sacrament (*Ivonne and Rick Hernandez, and Laura Worhacz*), with the support and guidance from Father William Fickel SSS, our mission to "make known the love of God present in the Eucharist" becomes incarnate. What began as a blog to share a preparation to Consecrate to Jesus through Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament has grown into a non-profit 501(c)(3) ministry approved by the

Elisheba House Team, Ivonne Hernandez, Rick Hernandez, and Laura Worhacz, with their materials

A Word of Thanks to our Partners in Ministry

We are most grateful to you for making it possible for our religious to continue their ministry. Your gifts – large or small – help you to share in the ministry of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the USA. You are remembered daily in the Masses and prayers of all our religious.



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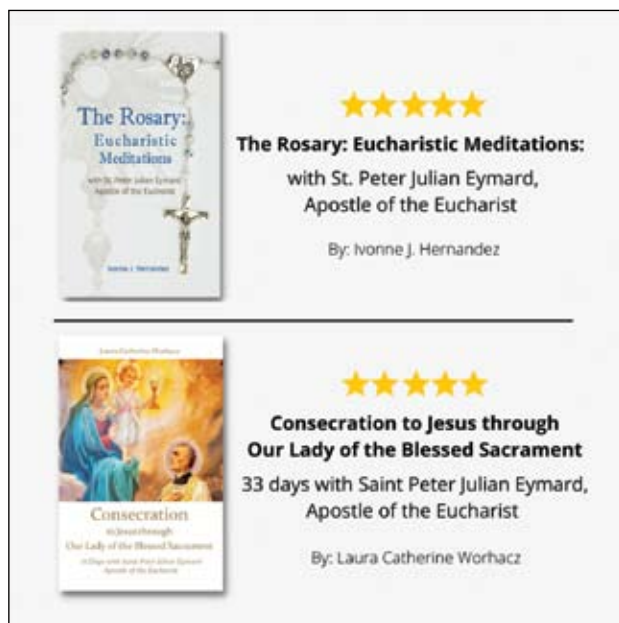
Elisheba House...Continued from previous page

Diocese of St. Petersburg. Through our publishing and outreach programs, including conferences, presentations, and retreats, we share our lives as Associates of the Blessed Sacrament and invite the world to "Come and See."

Consecrated to Jesus through Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, all we do passes through Our Mother's hands, who then perfectly presents it to Jesus for him to multiply. On our website blog, you can find over 300 articles on living a Eucharistic life, concrete examples of how the

love of Christ in the Eucharist manifests in each of our lives. We have published two books: *Consecration to Jesus through Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament* and *The Rosary: Eucharistic Meditations*. These books flow from the teachings of our beloved Saint Peter Julian Eymard and are reaching readers and hearts all over the

Elisheba House Team, Ivonne Hernandez, Rick Hernandez, and Laura Worhacz, with Father William Fickel SSS



Publications of Elisheba House

world. Our retreats have brought many to inquire about becoming Lay Associates, and through our social media outreach, many have heard the name "Eymard" for the first time. It is all grace – it is all Eucharistic life. Our stories help people connect the breadcrumbs of Christ in their own lives.

You can find us online at www.ElishebaHouse.com and on Instagram and Facebook as @ElishebaHouse. We are always looking for ministry partners! Contact us at info@ElishebaHouse.com.



Eucharistic Congress - August 4-6, 2023

by Mary Muehle for the Congress Committee

The Eucharistic Congress is almost here! We are in the process of making last-minute preparations to ensure that this will be a wonderful experience for all. Our thanks go out to the members of the Eucharistic Congress Committee who have been working to bring us all together and to all who have registered. Hopefully, your anticipation is growing as we seek to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist in our personal and communal life. Remember to pray for good weather, safe travel, and enjoying the gardens and grounds at Saint Paschal Baylon Church.

If you haven't registered yet, there is still time! Registration information can be found on the Congregation Website below each Daily Eucharistic Reflection prayer and previous *Bread, Broken & Shared* editions. Register before July 20th to avoid the late fee. Saint Peter Julian Eymard told us that the Eucharist is like a Divine Storehouse filled with every virtue placed in the world that we might all draw from It. We join together in Cleveland August 4-6 so that we might all draw from the riches of the Eucharist and one another! See you there!



*International Religious...Continued
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still feel it.

I had various parish assignments in the Philippines, mainly in Mindanao (*South of the Philippines*). I was also missioned outside our country – like in Uganda in East Africa and the United States. For me, the most inspiring years were spent in Uganda. Most recently, I ministered at Saint Joseph Parish Church in Hilo, Hawaii, called the Big Island. The pandemic severely affected us there, yet I managed to survive and fulfill my missionary tasks.

Like any vocation, life as a missionary priest is not a bed of roses. I always needed to respond to, live through, and overcome challenges. Like anyone else, my mission is to share the gifts and talents God has been good to me. I am grateful, indeed.

I am now in a new place of mission – having moved from Hawaii to Florida. Sounds great! I am currently assisting the Saint Vincent de Paul Church parish in Holiday, Florida. This new community of believers I now belong to will continue to challenge me to deepen my calling and response to my religious and priestly vocation. It is a unique pastoral setting, and I will collaborate with our SSS religious and laity. I feel privileged to be a missionary here in the South of the USA. I hope God will give me many years to serve the Church wherever he calls me. God is good! ✠

Join Us Honoring Saint Ann!

By Scott Gongos
Director of Mission Advancement

Father Paul Bernier SSS, will be our special homilist this year at the Saint Ann Triduum! This year will be my 8th Triduum celebration. All friends of Saint Ann Shrine and the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament are invited together as a community to bolster our faith as we join in the celebration of the Eucharist every evening, and in the prayers to Saint Ann that she intercede with her daughter Mary and her grandson Jesus to foster a renewed appreciation of human life throughout the world. This celebration is such a beautiful way to show our appreciation for God's Love for us! It's a wonderful 3 days of prayer, reflection, and togetherness manifested by the Eucharist! I look forward to it every year. Celebrating with friends, we see at Mass daily at Saint Ann Shrine and those who join us for these three days have been so enjoyable.

In addition to celebrating the Triduum, we are hosting our 4th Annual "Saint Ann and Saint Joachim Giving Day" on Wednesday, July 26th. We are very grateful for your consideration in supporting Saint Ann Shrine in honor of Saint Ann and Saint Joachim's Feast Day! You can make a secure donation on our website: <https://st-ann-shrine.org/>. Thank you so much for your generous support of our endeavor!!

Saint Ann Shrine celebrates daily Mass, Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM (call for Holidays).

See the descriptive flyer on the facing page...

Prayer for Vocations

Loving God and Father, your servant Saint Peter Julian Eymard was captivated by your Son's love revealed to us in the Eucharist and he greatly desired to manifest this love to his contemporaries.

He established a new form of religious life which is nourished by the Eucharist: celebrated, contemplated and enriched with ministries of all kinds.

Through his intercession, call forth many young people who will labor in your Church as priests, deacons, brothers or sisters.

Give us the grace to become like the bread of the Eucharist which is broken for the life of the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



SAINT ANN SHRINE &
CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Celebrate Saint Ann's Feast Day

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday
July 24, 25 & 26, 2023

Saint Paschal Baylon Church

5384 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
Parking Lots South of the Church

This Triduum is the annual three days of prayer leading up to the Solemnity of Saint Ann on July 26th celebrated by the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Ann Shrine in Highland Heights, Ohio. The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is a Roman Catholic religious Congregation of priests, brothers and deacons whose mission is to share the riches of God's love manifested in the Eucharist.



- Day 1 Mass at 6:30pm: Special Blessing for Children
- Day 2 Mass at 6:30pm: Anointing of the Sick
- Day 3 Mass at 6:30pm: Special Candlelight Procession

All three Masses will be celebrated by our new provincial superior,
Very Rev. John Thomas Lane SSS with preaching by Rev. Paul Bernier SSS

All three Masses will include Veneration of the Relic of Saint Ann

All three Masses will be livestreamed on the Saint Ann Shrine Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/stannshrine/>

R.S.V.P. or for more information contact Scott R. Gongos

Director of Mission Advancement
sgongos@blessedsacrament.com
440.449.2700

www.blessedsacrament.com -- www.st-ann-shrine.org

Additionally, a nine-day Novena in honor of Saint Ann is celebrated at Saint Jean Baptiste Church in New York City from July 17 through July 26.

*Contact information for the Novena is:
phone: 212.288.5082 or website: www.stjeanbaptisteny.org*

The Vicar's Voice

by William Fickel SSS – Vicar Provincial



This year, a particular blessing was to lead a group of 16 pilgrims through the Holy Land and Jordan for 14 days. The city of peace, Jerusalem, experiences continued hostilities. Sadly, the same is true in many cities, schools, churches, and synagogues. We travel there not as tourists but instead walking in the footsteps of Christ. We went to deepen our relationship with Christ in the people we met. We went to celebrate Eucharist and learn the fidelity the gospel calls us to give witness.

My focus as Vicar Provincial is toward fostering vocations in service to our mission of making the love of God

known in the Eucharist, ongoing formation, and Lay Associates. We are addressing the staffing of the CEE. Jim Brown offered outstanding leadership in developing our Associates' programs and life in the Eucharist parish programs. We aim to continue ministering in our province, fostering collaboration with our lay associates.

Father Lane, our provincial superior, is in conversation with provincials

in Asian countries seeking personnel to minister in the

province of Saint Ann. There is the reality of other members of the Congregation taking on ministry in USA dioceses apart from working with our province. Our efforts focus on the richness of intentionality in our Eucharistic mission. We are grateful for their ministry and ask them to assist us in attracting young men to join us in living our religious vocation of service to the Eucharist and God's people. Ongoing formation is required to strengthen the mission of the province. We are in this together.

To all the members of our province, with particular concern for our lay members, our vocation is to live in the Paschal Mystery of daily dying and rising. Peter Julian knew this gift in the death of his personality, to live no longer for himself. He wanted only to live the life of Christ given to him in the Eucharist. Our eucharistic vocation was spoken of at the Final Meal, "Live in my love. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in me."



Prayer in Honor of Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Feast Day - August 2

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



Bread Broken & Shared

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Photographs in this issue courtesy of: Ivonne Hernandez, Father Christian Christopher, Father Mark Del Rosario, File Photos

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

Religious in Florida, New York, Ohio, Texas
and Hawaii

Carol Kelley, PhD., AGPCNP-BC Assists with Our Health Care

At the Provincial Chapter meeting in 1987 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, our religious established a goal to create a health care system for our men. Like many other religious orders, we had plans for our long-term well-being and created a place for “retirement” and another place for assisted living and care. Our assisted and long-term care facility became Regina Health Center, with other religious women and men of the Diocese of Cleveland. *(We will have an article on the 30th anniversary in our next issue of Bread Broken & Shared)* Another goal led to the establishment of Bethany Center – where our men could come for limited services and ministry since, as many are aware, religious brothers, deacons, and priests do not entirely retire from ministry.

Our religious men have been blessed to have a nurse work with them to schedule their appointments, provide medical assistance, and facilitate other aspects of their health care. Our first nurse, Vickie Gurney, retired in 1992. Then, nurse Christine Detzel blessed us with her presence for twenty-five years until her retirement in 2017.

Now, we are fortunate to have a nurse practitioner specializing in geriatric and palliative care. Carol Kelley is a graduate of the University of Akron School of Nursing (BSN - 1984), University of Rochester School of Nursing (MS - 1989), and Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (*Ph. D in Nursing* - 2001). She also teaches Nursing at Case Western Reserve University and forms future nurse practitioners. Carol manages her students and us religious with her great scheduling, use of technology, quick wit, and grace. We wanted to focus on her and ask her, now that she has been with us for six years, what have been some of the things she has learned and loved about being our nurse. She enjoys advocating for our health care, coordinating care with many providers, and interpreting health information. She feels that individualized care facilitates better outcomes.

We asked her about some of the challenges for her part-time position: working with medical insurance companies to determine/maximize benefits, helping our Bethany folks navigate a complex medical system with many specialists, coordinating the ability to attend medical appointments with multiple persons, and being available for unexpected medical issues. She hopes to do more wellness care (especially diet) in the future.

Carol had an elderly religious sister-friend who had a hard time navigating, and she saw the need for religious to have assistance. Then this position became available. Carol says, “Everyone is kind and easy to work with –



and it is a unique ministry – for me to share my talents and gifts with religious who have shared their talents and give for the betterment of the church. I enjoy—providing care and hearing about their lives and faith journey. It’s been a pleasure working with these guys and helping them navigate chronic medical problems and help them be healthy, both in Bethany Center and at Regina Health Center in Richfield.”

Because you donate to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, our elder religious, we are fortunate to have this particular benefit to our long-term health care, helping us to focus on our ministries and leaving the challenging medical issues to Carol’s assistance. We are grateful to YOU for assisting us with having this position of care and ministry FOR US. ❖

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE PLACES OF
SAINT PETER JULIAN EYMARD, APOSTLE
OF THE EUCHARIST, TO FRANCE**

VISITING:

NICE
LA MURE D'ISÈRE
LA SALETTE
GRENOBLE
LYON
ST-BONNET-LE-FROID
LA GRAND CHARTREUSE
CHARTRES
PARIS

\$4479 FROM NEW YORK

(Air/land tour price is \$3979 plus \$500 gov't taxes/airline surcharges)

13 DAYS: NOVEMBER 5—17, 2024

Hosted by

FR. JOHN THOMAS LANE, SSS

*Provincial Superior ~ Congregation of the
Blessed Sacrament*

Tour Highlights:

- ⇒ Roundtrip airfare from New York
- ⇒ Transfers to/from airports by private motorcoach
- ⇒ Accommodations in first class/select hotels based on 2 persons sharing in double rooms with private bath
- ⇒ Most Meals
- ⇒ Daily Mass celebrated when possible
- ⇒ Services of a professional English-speaking tour director
- ⇒ Comprehensive sightseeing throughout
- ⇒ All admission fees and hotel service charges

For More Information, Please Contact,

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Email: ssscommunications@blessedsacrament.com



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