



SSS Grapevine

An Internal Publication of the Province of Saint Ann,
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament for the
Eymardian Family

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Welcome International SSS Religious! 2nd Pastoral Visit to San Antonio by John Thomas Lane SSS, Provincial Superior

Many schools introduce new faculty and staff to their campus at the beginning of the academic year. At the beginning of September, the Province of Saint Ann welcomed three new international members to our province and began their orientation for these special ministers.



Brother Joseph Tuan
Ngoc Huang Vu SSS

First, we hoped to have two seminarians from Vietnam study in our province for four years and then give back four years of service. Unfortunately, due to the immigration interview process in Vietnam, only one can come now, Brother (Joseph) Tuan Ngoc Hoang Vu SSS. He is preparing for studies by working on his English writing/speaking skills and driving at our Highland Heights Community. His tremendous and helpful spirit has already revitalized our home.

We also welcome SSS Vietnamese Father Joseph Kiet Nguyen Huy SSS, who is assigned to be a chaplain at the local Cleveland Clinic Hospital - Hillcrest. Just five miles from the Provincialate, Father JK (*as he likes to be called*) will serve patients from across the region and the world, especially for heart care, for this is a satellite for heart surgeries from the main campus in downtown Cleveland. Hillcrest is home to one of the two birthing centers in Northeast Ohio. Father JK is also practicing his English-speaking skills to celebrate Mass, for he'll assist



Father Joseph Kiet
Nguyen Huy SSS

from time to time at Saint Paschal Baylon parish, next to our HQ, working on the orientation for the hospital and adapting to American driving.



Father Quoc Bao Nguyen SSS

Father Quoc Bao Nguyen SSS, is assisting for three months in Houston at our parish Corpus Christi and filling in for hospital ministry. He was initially scheduled to raise funds by mission appeals. However, due to his late arrival, the season had passed for mission assignments, and he is assisting Father Thomas Smithson, pastor at Corpus Christi, while he gains strength from his cancer treatments.

The last of our international SSS priests arrived on the heels of Labor Day at the port of entry in Cleveland, Ohio. Father Aruna Laksiri Atthanayaka SSS hails from our SSS Province in Sri Lanka and has served in many ministry capacities there, most notably as a pastor. I accompanied him to San Antonio, Texas, for his orientation into the Archdiocese and his new pastoral assignment at



Father Aruna Laksiri Atthanayaka SSS



Father John Thomas Lane and Father Aruna in front of San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, Texas

the Cathedral of San Fernando. This is one of the oldest continuously serving cathedrals in the world and the USA. Father Aruna will join the cathedral rector, Father Carlos Velazquez, and parochial vicar, Father Ruben Garcia. The cathedral and its offices are just a half mile down the same street as our Blessed Sacrament Community serving Saint Joseph Downtown, where our first non-American SSS pastor, Father Mark Del Rosario SSS, serves. Father Aruna will live with Father Mark and Father Joseph Thai Minh Tran SSS at Saint Joseph Parish while serving at the cathedral as another parochial vicar in this busy, vibrant place of faith, service, and

worship.

For most of the twentieth century, the Claretian Missionaries administered the cathedral in San Antonio. (*They publish the magazine US Catholic and have other parishes and ministries but had to leave the cathedral due to personnel shortages*). It is a privilege that the Archdiocese of San Antonio gave this ministerial assignment, within walking distance, to our community at this time in the Archdiocese's history.

During our archdiocesan orientation, we met with diocesan staff and briefly with Bishop Gary Janek, who installed Father Mark del Rosario a few weeks back. Our primary purpose was to have a particular orientation (*read – paperwork galore!*) to the Archdiocese with Malachite Orthodox Father John Mefridge. Originally from Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Father John came to serve this Orthodox community with his wife and children. Recently, he became an essential leader in the Archdiocese as vicar for clergy and religious. He walked Fr. Aruna and me through the process.



Fathers Ruben Garcia, parochial vicar (*left*), and Carlos Velazquez, Cathedral rector (*center*), with Father Aruna (*right*)

Lastly, our investment and property assets manager, John Ulrich, regularly meets with the province leadership to advise us. John and I met to address new concerns in the markets where we have a property in New York City (*Saint Jean Baptiste*) and Highland Heights, Ohio (*the provincialate next to Saint Paschal Baylon parish*). Both real estate and financial markets are constantly in flux; John likes to keep us in the know as we plan our future for the next generation of SSS leaders.

A year ago, at the August 2022 Provincial Chapter, our primary goal was the implementation of internationality. After a year, this administration has fulfilled this goal, and we are grateful to the provinces of India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam for answering the call to serve with us in our province. We are thankful to Father Ravi Earnest Sebastian SSS, who joined our province from India and now

serves at Saint Jean Baptiste, New York City. We thank the following and review our communities and members, serving together to build the Body of Christ (*noted are our convention of transfers with the home provinces*):

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS (Cleveland):9 - Saint Ann / 3 - other

1. Michael Arkins
2. Allen Boeckman
3. Roger Bourgeois
4. Ernest Falardeau
5. John Keenan
6. John Thomas Lane
7. Gary LaVerdiere
8. Joseph Kiet Nguyen Huy (JK) (*Vietnam*)
9. Norman Pelletier
10. Juancho Ramos (*Philippines*)
11. Joseph Tuan Vu (*Vietnam*)
12. William Young

HOLIDAY: 1/2

1. William Fickel
2. Joselito Hitois (*Philippines*)
3. Dominic Long (*Vietnam*)

HONOLULU: 1/

1. Robert Stark

HOUSTON: 1/3

1. Christian Christopher (*Sri Lanka*)
2. Joseph Doan (*Vietnam*)
3. Paul Raj Gnanasekar (*India*)
4. Thomas Smithson

NEW YORK: 4/0

1. Bernard Camiré
2. James Hayes
3. John Kamas
4. Thomas Mella
5. Ravi Earnest Sebastian

RICHFIELD, OHIO (Regina Health Center): 4/0

1. Paul Bernier
2. Eugene Blee
3. Joseph Bourgeois
4. Michael Perez

SAN ANTONIO: 1/2

1. Mark Del Rosario (*Philippines*)
2. Aruna Laksiri Atthanayaka (*Sri Lanka*)
3. Joseph Thai Minh Tran

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS (*Cleveland*): 2/0

1. Michael O'Leary
2. Thomas Wiese

Seeking Disengagement from SSS 2/0

1. John Christman
2. Anthony Marshall

Priest/Students in Connecticut 0/2

1. Anthony Trang Pham (*Vietnam*)
2. Martin Hien Tran (*Vietnam*)

Province of Saint Ann: 25

Other Provinces: 12

Saint Ann Shrine Established as a Diocesan Shrine! By Bishop Edward Malesic, Bishop of Cleveland

by John Thomas Lane SSS, Provincial Superior



The statue of Saint Ann with the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Christ Child

While tidying up some paperwork in the provincial administration, it became noted that Saint Ann Shrine was not listed among the diocesan or national shrines. While beginning this process with the national and local offices, Scott Gongos, Susan Work, and Father John Thomas Lane SSS started the lengthy process. Let's give some history to the Saint Ann Shrine.

In 1931, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament built a seminary on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio. When the Blessed Sacrament moved its seminary from Euclid Avenue to Wilson Mills Road in Highland Heights, Ohio, in 1965, Most Reverend Clarence Issenman dedicated the new seminary location and consecrated the seminary chapel as The Oratory of the Blessed Sacrament on May 4, 1965. Since then, the oratory has been in continuous use for the Blessed

Sacrament Community and Saint Paschal Baylon. In the history of the Blessed Sacrament Community, the headquarters moved from New York City to the Highland Heights location. Part of the story, though, relates to why the USA province of the Blessed Sacrament Community is under the patronage of Saint Ann, the grandmother of Jesus and mother of Mary. Here's a summary:

In 1892, Pope Leo XIII sent a first-class relic of Saint Ann to the famous Shrine of Saint Anne de Beaupré in Quebec, Canada. (*Note: In French, the letter "e" is added to the name of Saint Ann.*) On the way to Canada, the bearer of this precious relic stopped in New York City at the French-Canadian parish and little church of Église Saint Jean Baptiste. The relic was exposed in the church, and miraculously, the sick and afflicted were cured, the blind saw, the lame walked, and souls came back to God.

For three weeks, crowds thronged to Saint Jean Baptiste from every part of the

country as the word spread. On the day of the departure for the Shrine in Beaupré, Quebec, the relic was carried through the crowded church amid cries of, "Goodbye Good, Saint Ann! Come back soon!"



Moved by such devotion, the bearer of the relic arrived at Beaupré and requested from the rector that a portion of the relic be returned to Saint Jean's in New York. As a result, the relic was divided, and a portion of it was returned to the church in New York City. The first annual Novena, nine days of prayer leading up to the special day of Saint Ann on July 26, began July 19, 1892, and has continued every year since in the United States at Saint Ann Shrine, New York City.

In 1900, Archbishop Corrigan of New York City invited the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Montreal to administer the parish of Église Saint Jean Baptiste (the official name of the church/parish). Founded as a French-Canadian immigrant parish, Saint Jean Baptiste became a center of Eucharistic devotion for the whole country, the first community of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the United States, and a place where the Priests' Eucharistic League, Peoples' Eucharistic League, Nocturnal Adoration Society began to be led by the Congregation. Bishop Clarence Maes, Covington, Kentucky, started the first USA National Eucharistic Congress, inspired by the international Eucharistic Congresses and the desire of Saint Peter Julian Eymard to have congresses on the Eucharist regularly. The National Conference of Catholic Bishops for the USA gave these ministries to the Blessed Sacrament Community for administration.



A portion of the Saint Ann relic came to rest in the Oratory of the Blessed Sacrament and an additional Saint Ann Shrine in Highland Heights, Ohio, because the USA provincial headquarters of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament relocated to Ohio. The naming of the province, under the patronage of Saint Ann, is due to this long history and inherited

administering of the relic of Saint Ann and devotion to this sacred saint and relic.

The first Triduum for Saint Ann in Highland Heights, Ohio, celebrated in the next-door parish church of Saint Paschal Baylon, began July 24 - 26, 1987, in the Diocese of Cleveland. People came from all over the Midwest to enjoy this Triduum. This event occurs at the same time as the annual nine-day Novena still held at Église Saint Jean Baptiste July 19-26 and this original parish shrine.

Now, in the present time, with Pope Francis calling for the Christian Faithful, but especially grandparents, to take seriously their essential vocation, it is timely that attention and devotion be shared for this unique Shrine within the oratory. It is the purpose of the Diocesan Shrine of Saint Ann to provide valuable means of salvation to the Christian faithful of the Diocese of Cleveland and the pilgrims coming from the diocese and beyond through the rich liturgical and devotional life of the Catholic Church (*Canon 1234*). The Diocesan Shrine of Saint Ann is housed in the Oratory of the Blessed Sacrament on the grounds of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Province of Saint Ann, next to the grounds of Saint Paschal Baylon parish, the territorial parish.

Several devotional aspects are present at the Shrine that occur regularly, and that will continue:

- a. Mass is Monday to Friday at 11:30 A.M. Mass intentions may be received in the Saint Ann Shrine office.
- b. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a unique tabernacle in the Oratory of the Blessed Sacrament, except during the Sacred Triduum.

- c. Perpetual Novena to Saint Ann and veneration of her relic weekly with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction, each Tuesday and annually at the Triduum, July 24, 25, and 26.
- d. Recitation of the rosary.
- e. Donations are requested for holy cards, books, holy water, rosaries, and memorial Masses for the deceased.
- f. Weekly distribution of food and clothing for the needy is part of the ministry of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the Helping Hands Ministry of Saint Paschal Baylon.
- g. The sacrament of penance is available during the Shrine hours.
- h. The chaplain/rector or other members of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament offer spiritual direction.
- i. During the annual Triduum, there is a special blessing of children, the celebration of the anointing of the sick, and a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. Each day, there is time for veneration of the relic.
- j. The sacrament of the anointing of the sick is offered upon request.
- k. Indulgences may be obtained based on the *Manual of Indulgences*, 33, paragraph 1, number 4.
- l. Additional items are listed from time to time on the website blessedsacrament.com.

We are grateful to Bishop Edward Malesic for recognizing the importance of this Shrine. To become a national shrine, one must first be a diocesan shrine for ten years. We look forward to this process continuing in the future. As of the Feast of the Archangels, September 29, 2023, we are blessed to have this official establishment. We are proud of this new recognition for Good Saint Ann for our Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the Diocese of Cleveland.



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