



SSS Grapevine

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

October 2, 2023 – 2023.16



Rest in Peace,

Brother James Eugene Blee SSS

Religious of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament



Born in Londonderry, Derry, Ireland, on August 18, 1928, Brother “Eugene” Blee SSS died in the early morning of October 2, 2023, at Regina Health Center, Richfield, Ohio, where he had been a resident for several years, after a different medical procedure and inability to recover from it.

Brother Blee was one of three children (*Sister Rita and Brother Patrick*) born to John and Margaret (nee Devine) Blee. All are deceased. They were all proud that they lived in Saint Columba, where the monastery of his baptism is still located. While interviewing for a hotel manager position in Leicester, England, he accidentally came across the Blessed

Sacrament Community Chapel. Rather than going into that vocation, he was drawn to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and immediately entered. After postulancy and novitiate in England, he made his profession of first vows on April 12, 1957.

He was proud to be a member of the Eymardian Family as a religious brother, an avid reader, and a student of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, the Eucharist, and religious life. He would light up a room and engage with folks with his Irish charm, of which he was pretty proud of his heritage.

After his religious profession, he came to the United States to serve in various Congregational Ministries from 1957 to 1959 at the High School Seminary in Hyde Park, New York, and from 1959 to 1963 at the High School Seminary in Waupaca, Wisconsin, from 1963 to 1968 in parish ministry in Chicago and from 1968 to 1972 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Beginning in 1976, he started a long time of prison ministry that became a passion for him, especially in Juvenile Detention Centers in Los Angeles, El Paso, and Alamogordo, New Mexico. He moved to Highland Heights, Ohio, to become the sacristan for Saint Ann Shrine in 1994. Due to his failing health, he retired and served in various ministries at Regina Health Center, where he was known for his great hospitality, care, and work with the Knights of Columbus through Assumption Catholic Church, Broadview Heights, Ohio.

The *Order of Christian Burial* will be celebrated at Regina Health Center, Monday, October 16, with the Vigil at 10 a.m. and Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. in the Holy Family Chapel. There will be a private Rite of Committal later that day. In place of flowers, donations may be made to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, 5384 Wilson Mills Road, Highland Heights, Ohio 44143.



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