



Glimpses from the General Chapter



November 6-24, 2023
Thú Duc, Vietnam

Glimpse 1 – the General Chapter Delegates – October 5, 2023

One Month Until the General Chapter and Counting Down

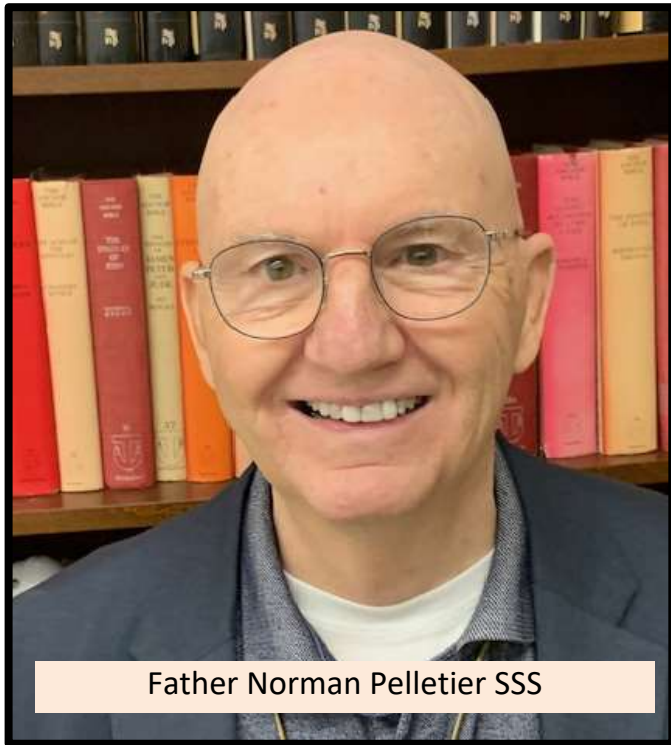
These past few days, I have received the preparatory materials for the 36th General Chapter for the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. This event will be hosted in the province of the Martyrs in Vietnam, held in the Provincial House in Thu Duc City, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Every six years, the leaders of each of the provinces and regions of our religious congregation and a delegate from each place come together to meet and hear past successes, plan our future, and elect leadership for the next six years. During this event, I'll explain moments through these regular "glimpses" of the Chapter, expanding on these elements of the Chapter. A Chapter is an official "religious life" term for a business meeting, but there is also a spiritual element. We will have a retreat, this time focusing on the 40th anniversary of our *Rule of Life*.

Before I get ahead of myself, knowing how the two United States representatives (*Father John Thomas Lane SSS and Father Norman Pelletier SSS*) were chosen to attend



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the General Chapter is helpful. When I was elected provincial last August 11, 2022, I was also selected by “right,” or by the title of my office, to attend and represent the Province of Saint Ann. Depending on the size of a province’s membership, you are afforded a delegate or two. We can elect one delegate since we are a province of less



Father Norman Pelletier SSS



Father John Thomas Lane SSS

than 100 members. Father Norman Pelletier was voted for this role. (*Father John Keenan was also elected an alternate delegate in case Father Norman could not.*) Father Norman is well-acquainted with having served as a delegate previously, Vicar General of the Congregation, and General Superior. He has also gone several times as Provincial Superior of the Province of Saint Ann and as former General Superior. I’ve been fortunate to lead the music and liturgy at two General Chapters (1999 *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil* and 2017 *Mundelein, Illinois*).

During these events, we can meet religious from across the globe in the Eymardian Family, fellow male religious, a few women religious (*Servants of the Blessed Sacrament*), *Servitium Christi*, and Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. For instance, at the 2017 General Chapter, with a day focusing on the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament and its formation, the previous director of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE),



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Jim Brown, attended and made presentations and shared resources from the CEE. Here are the folks you'll get to see pictures of in the coming days:

The current General Council:

Fr Eugenio Barbosa Martins, Superior General (*Brazil*)
Fr Jose Antonio Rivera Ruiz, Vicar General (*Spain*)
Fr Benzy Philip Romician, Treasurer (*India*)
Fr Joseph Vu Quoc Binh, Secretary Consultor (*Vietnam*)
Fr Agostinho Maholele, Consultor for Formation (*Mozambique*)

Australia:

Fr Philip Watkins, Provincial
Fr Benjamin Ho, Delegate

Brazil-Argentina-Chile:

Fr Marcelo Carlos Da Silva, Provincial (*Brazil*)
Fr Francisco Junior De O. Marqués, Delegate (*Brazil*)

Canada:

Fr Ghislain Cossette, Provincial
Fr Jean Ratté, Delegate

Colombia:

Fr Carlos José Sierra Rodriguez, Provincial (*Colombia*)
Fr Elibien Joseph, Delegate (*Haiti*)

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Fr Oliver Ndong, Provincial
Fr Anaclet Bambala, Delegate



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India:

Fr Peter Jayakanthan Dorairaj, Provincial
Fr Joel Nelson Soosai Marian, Delegate (*Austria*)
Br Ignatius Joseph Thambi, Invited Delegate

Ireland and the United Kingdom:

Fr Peter Dowling, Provincial (*Scotland*)
Fr Darren Maslen, Delegate (*England*)

Italy and Spain:

Fr Gabriele di Nicolo, Provincial (*Italy*)
Fr Manuel Baribero, Delegate (*Italy*)
Fr Fiorenzo Salvi, Delegate (*Italy*)

North Europe and Mozambique:

Fr Eugene Van Heijst, Provincial (*Netherlands*)
Fr Maurits Gijsbrechts, Delegate (*Belgium*)
Fr Félix Florindo Tupasso, Invited Delegate (*Mozambique*)

Republic of the Congo:

Fr Jean de Dieu Passy, Regional Superior
Fr Séverin Amos Mvouka, Invited Delegate

Senegal:

Fr Yves Maxim Sagna, Provincial
Fr Abraham Faye, Delegate

Sri Lanka:

Fr Justin Chawkan, Provincial
Fr Sagara Jayamanne, Delegate



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The Philippines

Fr Roel Dela Cruz, Provincial

Fr Vergel Dalangin, Delegate

Br Reynaldo Acabado, Invited Delegate

Vietnam:

Fr Joseph Pham Dinh Ai, Provincial

Fr Peter Trih Nhu Cung, Delegate

Fr Joseph Tran Ngoc Tan, Delegate

Br Joseph Vu Trong Thien, Invited Delegate

Thanks, and join with us in prayer using the General Chapter Prayer below:

SSS Religious – Sacramentinos:

Together, Faithful Witnesses of the Eucharistic Mission

Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us
as we prepare for our General Chapter.

Ignite a rebirth of our communities
unfolding the diversity and wealth of Your gifts
to strengthen us to work as one (see *RoL* 8).

May we renew our faith and Eymardian Charism
to live our *Rule of Life*
for the Church's Eucharistic mission (see *RoL* 6)
in this new era.

Together, may we be your faithful witnesses
of the Eucharistic mission given to us by our ancestors.



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Now with you,
may we fashion our Congregation
in a new reality for our Eymardian Family.

Through Christ our LORD. Amen.

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament, pray for us!
Saint Joseph, protector of the righteous, pray for us!
Saint Paschal Baylon, patron of Eucharistic congresses, pray for us!
Saint Peter Julian Eymard, holy founder, pray for us.

Very Reverend John Thomas Lane SSS
Provincial Superior



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