



SSS Grapevine

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Reflections by the Life in the Eucharist Team Hawaii

Our Associates of the Blessed Sacrament in Ohio and a co-director of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE) share their recent travels and retreat from February 28 – March 5, 2024.



First Thoughts by Tom Anderson

On his way to the General Chapter meetings in Vietnam, Provincial Superior John Thomas Lane SSS planted the seed of this successful visit during a Hawaii visit. The East Honolulu Vicariate determined that the Life In The Eucharist (LITE) program would fit well with their Lenten Season plans. The LITE team (*here at Saint Paschal Baylon – Highland Heights, Ohio*) was

assembled and began preparations. Father Junvic Diolata, SSS, the Mary, Star of the Sea parish Parochial Vicar, helped organize the production of materials, prepare the facilities, and plan the meals and refreshments. The LITE team met weekly, preparing and modifying the content to blend into the parish schedule. The LITE team met with Fr. Junvic and Fr. Frankie de los Reyes, SSS, pastor, via Zoom to ensure all details were discussed.

Father Junvic organized the materials and creatively organized the groups for effective group dynamics. Fathers Frankie and Junvic, were active participants during the program,

attending to the LITE team's and participants' needs. Our sessions flowed into the parish reconciliation, prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (adoration), and Masses. Father Frankie had the insightful idea to attach the puzzle created during the LITE program to a poster board to be presented with the gifts during Mass.

The Holy Spirit was undoubtedly influential in the success of this program, giving the presenters strength and the attendees the willingness to share, creating the desire to continue the process. The brief walk outside between the sanctuary and cafeteria allowed for informal group discussions during the program.

After the two days of sessions, we regrouped on Saturday when Mary and Evamarie outlined the structure, considerations, and processes for forming and developing teams for adult and teen Life In The Eucharist programs in the parishes attending the program. They discussed options for altering the program's content, timing, and delivery. It was a pleasure to listen to the participants' insightful discussions and learn of their plans to continue the program in their parishes. The attendees were interested in developing successful programs and wanted to be assured that the team from Ohio would continue to be available for support.



Team Members: Tom and Chris Anderson, Evamarie Cross and her daughter Gigi Mikol, Mary Muehle

On the last day, we were invited to a meal where we enjoyed many Hawaiian delicacies, each with their origin story and Hawaiian influence. The meal was at a parishioner's home in a neighborhood on the side of the mountain where the church is located. A fantastic view of the Pacific, a beautiful sunset, and night city lights complemented the meal and fellowship. It was a lovely way to conclude a memorable Life In the Eucharist program.

Second Reflection by Chris Anderson

Our visit to Hawai'i was spectacular! We experienced a beautiful welcome from strangers who quickly became friends. Three days were spent with those who attended the Mary, Star of the Sea church seminar, a remarkable endeavor. We shared experiences and life events, cried with others who lived through loss, and opened our hearts to new ways of knowing the Eucharist. As presenters, we were humbled by the welcome, the genuine involvement, and the inspiration to continue the Eucharistic experience. The laughter and

the friendship echoed throughout the neighborhood as we shared our time with others and enjoyed cultural foods and company.

Third Reflection by Evamarie Cross



Words can't fully describe how incredible having the opportunity to travel to Hawai'i and lead individuals from nine different parishes in the Diocese of Honolulu through The Life in the Eucharist Retreat. Everyone at Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and the surrounding parishes were friendly, open, willing to share, hospitable, and genuinely faith-filled. It felt like an extension of our parish family at Saint Paschal Baylon. It was

indeed a humbling experience to share our witnesses, stories, prayer, and being able to evangelize about the Eucharist.

One of the most memorable experiences was watching my own 15 1/2-year-old daughter sharing her witness on Mission. She spoke at length about my dad, Anthony Rossi's, influence on her life and how the Eucharist has led her closer to God. Another highlight was meeting the different youth ministry leaders, especially for their diocese, and the Newman Campus Minister for the University of Hawaii. I am confident they will host their first-ever LITES for Teens very soon. Working with Mary Muehle, Chris and Tom Anderson, Father Frankie, and Father Junvic were highlights of this special time. I have been leading LITE Retreats for over nine years, and I genuinely feel those who came to LITES Hawai'i will be the first group to take the program and host their own.



One of the things I always say is how much I love being Catholic. Going to a Catholic church feels like home, no matter where you go. I am genuinely so grateful I met my incredible brothers and sisters in Christ from all walks of life at this phenomenal parish. It was a trip I will never forget. God is SO GOOD!

Fourth Reflection by Mary Muehle, Co-Director of the CEE

What a privilege to be part of the team carrying the Life in the Eucharist program to our brothers and sisters in Hawai'i. The warmth, hospitality, and hunger of the 60-plus people from the Diocese of Honolulu who attended was truly a Lenten blessing. The gratitude they expressed for our traveling so far and sharing the gifts of ourselves and our faith was profound.

Our shared faith and struggles became apparent as we moved from teachings and witnesses to group discussions. They thanked us for what we brought, but what we received was even more remarkable. Sharing lunch daily was a real treat as we sampled Hawaiian foods and shared our faith journeys. We concluded the time with a training session on bringing this experience to their home parishes and offices. The enthusiasm for moving forward was very evident.

Our final prayer together was an anointing for service as each person came forward to accept the call to be of service. There was a sense that the sharing we have begun will continue. All participants have already been enrolled and are now receiving the Daily Eucharistic Reflections (DER). We received a message that they are delighted to be included! To quote from one of the teachings of the retreat: we came together as strangers and left as family. Mahalo!



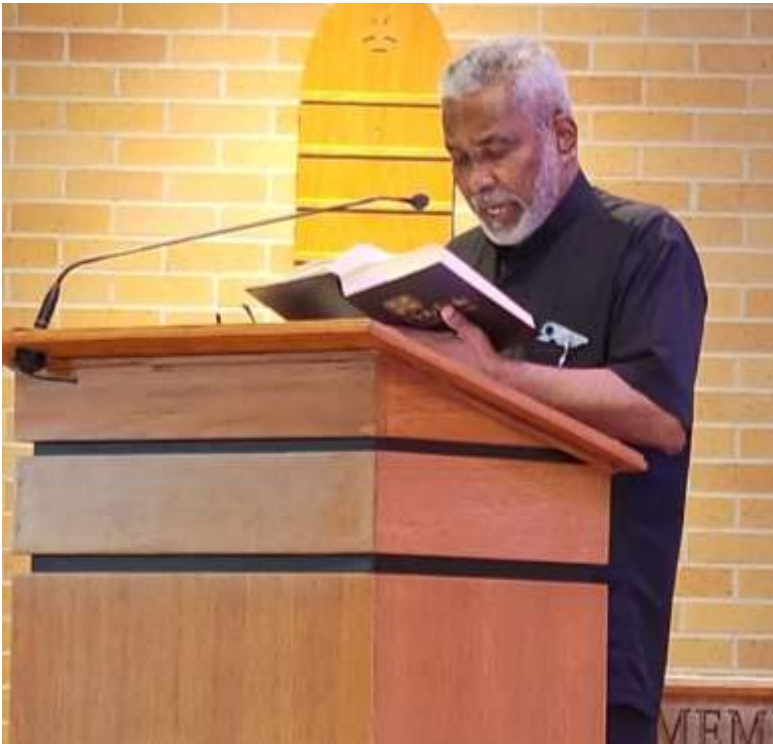
Indian Priests Ministering in Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Gather at Corpus Christi Parish in Houston

Father Gnanasekar Paulraj sponsored a gathering of clergy from India serving in the Archdiocese at Corpus Christi Catholic Church on March 6, 2024. It was for fellowship, prayer, and meeting. Some 22 priests attended. Our SSS associates were a great help to me. Fr. Thomas Smithson SSS gave the reflection, and Father Christopher Christopher SSS gave the benediction. The food was South Indian. It was much appreciated.

Thirty-six priests from India are ministering in the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston. They



gather once a month in one of the parishes. Upon arrival, they have some tea and snacks. Then, in the church, they make an hour of adoration with a reflection of the priest who has invited them. Then they gather for lunch. They celebrate birthdays and ordination anniversary. They play cards. Then, they go back to their parish. They have a WhatsApp group and share joys, memories, and homilies.



Father Christian Christopher SSS



Father Thomas Smithson SSS

Northeast Ohio Parishes Celebrate Lenten Scriptural LITE Retreat

By John Thomas Lane, SSS, Provincial



Saint Paschal Baylon's (SPB) Life in the Eucharist (LITE) Retreat team hosted the first Scriptural-Based LITE Retreat since before the pandemic, March 8 and 9, in the Family Life Center of the parish.

Twenty-eight participants from Saint Paschal Baylon and area parishes participated, taking advantage of the follow-up on last year's Lenten LITE retreat on the

"Sacramental Reflections on the Eucharist."

While there usually are five sessions for the Scriptural Reflections on the Eucharist, the team highlights three themes: covenant, memorial, and anointed for service due to the limited time over the two days. For those unfamiliar with the process, each



session begins with prayer and scriptural reflection, a witness, personal reflection and group sharing, a teaching, additional reflection and sharing, plus a closing prayer. The retreat also included prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, a closing mass, and lots of good food and fellowship throughout the time together. We are grateful to Mary Muehle, team leader (*who unfortunately was ill and unable to attend but organized the weeks of training*), Kay Vincent, Richard Kramer, Patrick Riley, Kathleen Catanese, and Mary Ann

Carlisle for their leadership of the event, the witnesses of faith and the dedication as Associates of the Blessed Sacrament to sharing the LITE retreat, bringing it back and helping others deepen their faith this Lent.

As a goal of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing, this has also been wonderful: to bring back our many programs and retreats and share them, especially during the USA Eucharistic Renewal. Our Youth Life in the Eucharist (LITE) Team will lead the next retreat from Saint Paschal Baylon to Liverpool, England, for the youth of two dioceses. Pray for their travel and sharing of their faith, June 4 – 11, 2025.

Please contact the CEE office (cee@blessedsacrament.com) if you would like to schedule a LITE Retreat, either of the series.

Welcome, Father Rosario Pushparaj SSS!

By John Thomas Lane SSS, Provincial



After a 12-month VISA process, we finally welcomed Father Rosario Pushparaj SSS, from our Indian Province of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament to join the Province of Saint Ann for the next four years. Father Rosario will serve as parochial vicar of two parishes, just as the pastor serves the same two parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland, Lake County. These parishes are about 8 miles from our Blessed Sacrament Community Headquarters in Highland Heights, Ohio, in the suburbs of Wickliffe (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*) and Willoughby (*Immaculate Conception*). Father Rosario will live with the SSS community and commute to these two parishes with 1,800 and 1,400 families. He will serve with veteran pastor Father Mike Troha, a native of the diocese and familiar with the Blessed Sacrament Community since his home parish, Saint Christine, Euclid, Ohio, was supplied by Blessed Sacrament priests during his childhood.

Father Rosario comes to Ohio with various experiences in his home province of India. He has worked in parish life and formation ministry as a parochial vicar and pastor in India and Sydney, Australia, and provincial ministries such as local and provincial treasurer. We look forward to getting to know Father Rosario and are blessed to have him serve with us in the Diocese of Cleveland. Father Rosario's last name means "king of the beautiful flowers;" we are grateful to our men in India for allowing him to blossom now with us as he serves as the King of Kings and Prince of Peace, beginning this March 1, 2024.

Daily Eucharistic Reflections

YOU can receive these free each day in your email!

We are letting you know that you can receive the Daily Eucharistic Reflections, sent out daily to your email by the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing. The authors are members of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation and many of its Associates. All you need to do is send a quick note to cee@blessedsacrament.com and request that we send these inspiring reflections to you. Tell your family and friends!