

Bread Broken & Shared

A Publication of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament Province of Saint Ann for the Eymardian Family and Friends

Getting to Know our New Hospital Chaplain

By Father Joseph Kiet Nguyen Huy SSS



I am Father Joseph Kiet Nguyen Huy, born in South Vietnam into a “small” family of nine children. As the youngest son, I have been so blessed to receive much love from my parents and siblings. My parents were farmers who planted cassava (yuca, manioc, or arrowroot). This work was the primary source of funding for the family. My parents didn’t have enough money for us to study, so my siblings sacrificed themselves, giving

up their studies to help my parents. I am the only one who could finish university studies and receive a Bachelor of Biotechnology.

I do not know where my vocation originated, but I believe that it was sown in my childhood when my mother brought me to Mass every day. While walking to the church for the Mass, I still remember my mother teaching me how to pray for peace in the family, my parents and siblings, my studies, and so on. She taught me that the best way to repay the family sacrifices was to devote myself to the consecrated life. This way, I would have time to pray for them. However, I did not distinguish between diocesan seminarian life from religious life.

After graduating high school, I was immediately recommended to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. I enrolled as an Aspirant of the Congregation while studying at the university for four years. I can say that the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is the first and the only “love” for me.

For the first period of my formation, everything happened very usually and peacefully, with one year in Postulancy, two years in the Novitiate, making my first profession on August 2, 2011, and two years studying philosophy. Whoever chooses religious life will realize how difficult it is to keep the vow of obedience! After my philosophy degree, I was sent to the Philippines to study theology for four years. However, when I

finished the third year of theology, I was surprised to be called back to Vietnam with an ambiguous explanation that I was returning for the good of my vocation. I did not understand what was happening to me at that time. But to keep my obedience, I came back and accepted many challenges. My studies were stopped, and I left behind my classmates. I returned to study and finished the theology program in Vietnam. On November 22, 2021, I was ordained a priest and assigned as a Parochial Vicar at the SSS parish in Xuan Loc diocese in Dong Nai province.

Then, one day, the provincial superior met me and told me there was an invitation for doing mission in US, then asked if I could

Continued on next page...

Inside This Issue

- 2 Meet our Seminarian
- 3 36th General Chapter
- 4 Provincial's Perspective
- 5 Marcel Ina Brings Life
- 6 New Co-Director CEE
- 7 Saint Ann Triduum
- 8 Pilgrimage

Getting to Know..Continued from previous page

accept the invitation. And once again, to keep the vow of obedience, I accepted the asking. I knew this was another challenge because my father had just passed away six months before my priestly ordination. If I went, my mother would be lonely and sad. And if I went, I would have to accept a new life. Finally, after praying, I believed God was always with me and was guiding me to the US. I trusted God would guide me to another new world.

I have been in the USA since September 1, 2023. The bishop of Cleveland appointed me as the chaplain at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, Ohio, part of the Cleveland Clinic network. I live with my community at Saint Paschal Baylon in Highland Heights. It is a joy to live and celebrate Mass in the parish and at the local Ursuline Sisters convent, too. I also assist at a Vietnamese parish in Cleveland, Saint Boniface.

After four months as a hospital chaplain, I have encountered many patients with various situations. Some patients I anointed, but the next day, I knew that they passed away. Suffering from their diseases challenges other patients. Other patients decline to receive the blessing and the sacraments. It's worse that some deny their faith in God. This makes me stressed. But through the experience in the past, I did not

give up; instead, I prayed for them and for myself to be faithful and courageous to do this ministry.

The *Rule of Life 1* states, "Our ideal is to live the mystery of the Eucharist fully, and to make known its meaning so that Christ's reign may come and the glory of God be revealed to the world." I realize that my ideal will come true if I show the love of God in the Eucharist to the patients by listening, sympathizing, smiling, and praying. I enjoy this each day! Thank you for welcoming me into the Province of Saint Ann. ✠

Meet Our Seminarian

By Brother Joseph Tuan Ngoc Hoang Vu SSS

I am Joseph Tuan Ngoc Hoang Vu (*lots of names, so here they call me Joe Tuan*), a student from the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Vietnam. As the fifth son among my siblings, I was born in 1991 in a family of nine members, including my parents and seven siblings. Three of my older brothers were ordained to the priesthood – one serving in the Congregation of Mission (Lazarists – CM), another brother in the Dominicans (OP), and the other in the Diocese of Xuan Loc, Vietnam.

The vocation came to me unexpectedly, probably because my knowledge of the Eucharist had been limited. On a day of Eucharistic adoration, I had a profound realization that God was inviting me to join the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – an idea I had not imagined or known before. I began my journey in our Eucharistic Congregation as a Postulant in 2016. Two years later, I attended the Novitiate in the Province of Martyrs in Vietnam, where I continued my spiritual development for the next two years, in 2020.

On August 1, 2020, I officially became a member of the Congregation by making my first profession, coinciding with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, I studied Philosophy at the Dominican



Center of Studies for two years, followed by a year of practical experience at the Provincial House in Khiet Tam, Thu Duc City, part of Saigon's vast (17 million people) metropolitan area.

On August 25, 2023, I began a new chapter by traveling to the Province of Saint Ann in the USA to pursue my Theology

Continued on next page...

*Meet Our Seminarian...Continued
from previous page*

study. This marked my first experience in a foreign country, never outside my homeland. Naturally, I experienced a blend of surprise and nervousness while being introduced to a new place. Thankfully, the whole-hearted support of fellow SSS members, brothers, Deacon Joe, and priests has played a pivotal role in helping me adapt gradually. I am deeply grateful for their kindness and warm welcome during this meaningful phase of my new journey. I enjoy learning and getting more fluent in English and look forward to my theological studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois. ✠

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.

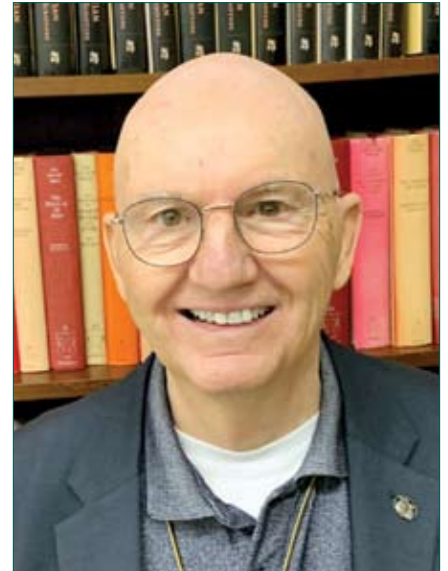
Give us the grace to become like the bread of the Eucharist which is broken for the life of the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Random Reflections on the 36th General Chapter

By Norman B. Pelletier SSS

In November of this year, I attended the 36th General Chapter (*International Meeting of the SSS Congregation*) held in Vietnam along with Father John Thomas Lane. This was Father Lane's first General Chapter as Provincial Superior of the SSS in the United States. It was my seventh. The first was in 1987, but this time, because of my age, I was respectfully addressed as the "patriarch," the eldest member of this gathering.



When the editor of this newsletter requested that I write a few thoughts about this meeting, I was happy to do so. The first thing I would need to say is that it was an excellent opportunity to return to Asia, specifically to Vietnam, and see the growth and the energy of this area of the Congregation. The SSS Province in Vietnam is now the largest in Asia and Oceania. Vietnam presently has over 60 scholastics (*students*) in training for the priesthood and about two dozen novices in preparation to become vowed religious in this Province.

The General Chapter lasted three weeks, the standard time for this type of international meeting. Some of my initial impressions were that, for the first time since 1987, there had been such a significant number of Asian and African participants. Also, for the first time, nearly half or more of these participants were new to this experience. Consequently, there seemed to be a lot more observation than active participation at times, somewhat like the liturgies of bygone days.

The most challenging thing for me was to keep quiet and watch the new face of the Congregation struggle to identify itself in and through the Eucharist and contribute to the expansion and spiritual (Eymardian) journey everyone had once undertaken. It was thus clear and indisputable that the center of the Congregation's mission had pulled away from Europe and North America to Asia, Africa, and parts of South America. A new international leadership was elected, reflecting this cultural shift.



From the Provincial's Perspective

Easter Time reminds us of the ongoing celebration of our life in the Risen Lord. Jesus Christ gave us the Eucharist as a constant reminder of the “Real Presence” of Christ among us. Each celebration of the Mass is another Easter — Risen Lord moment — that we thank God for and enjoy. As Saint Peter Julian Eymard stressed, especially with his Eucharistic Zeal, he hoped that the Eucharist would set us on fire and be the fire, the Holy Spirit that would always ignite the Church to be apostles and disciples for the Eucharistic mission.

We are blessed to have you as partners in this Eucharistic mission to celebrate the beautiful ways we give thanks to God. You support us in our mission of Eucharistic evangelization. We are sent from each Mass to go to the world and bring the Spirit of the Eucharist to set the world on fire with God’s love.



Evamarie Cross

Easter Time is our summer planning season. We finalize our annual Triduum at the Province Center. This year, Father James Burkart, priest of the archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and pilgrim leader, will preach our Saint Ann Triduum Wednesday – Friday, July 24 – 26 at Saint Paschal Baylon Church, Highland Heights, Ohio (*next to our province center and the Saint Ann Shrine in the Oratory of the Blessed Sacrament*). The Eymard Triduum (July 31-August 2) is the following week, with Associate and Youth LITE Leader Evamarie Cross offering the reflections.

We hope you’ll join us and support our summer retreat on August 5–9, 2024, at our Province Center in Highland Heights (*Cleveland suburb*), Ohio. It has been 40 years since our new *Rule of Life* began. After the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), all religious orders and congregations were asked to update their constitutions or rules in tandem with the Church’s council and renewal. Our Gospel way, or the 5th Gospel for us being the *Rule of Life*, highlights a unique Eucharistic path. We will have three experts on the *Rule* share their wisdom: Father William Fickel SSS, Brother Michael Perez SSS, Associate of the Blessed Sacrament, and co-director of the CEE, Mary Muehle. Final registrations are now being taken.

We are grateful you live that faith and support the many works of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. This *Bread, Broken & Shared* issue highlights how you support us in our Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE), giving retreats through this office and our new co-directors. You support our men at our semi-retirement center, Bethany Center, by



providing a cook for us. You support our international men, especially our student-seminarian, as he receives competency in English to study at our seminary, Catholic Theological Union. You have supported our education in the past – one of these men now serves as a hospital chaplain. Your constant giving to the mission of the Blessed Sacrament Community (SSS) gives to us and helps us share and live the Eymardian charism.

Lastly, may I make another push for you to join us on our EYMARD PILGRIMAGE THROUGH FRANCE, November 5 – 17. This will be an excellent chance for you to see, smell, and enjoy the sites of Saint Peter Julian Eymard and get a glimpse into the beautiful life he led, wishing for his baptismal-Eucharist covenant to be at the forefront of his Christian life. (See page 8 for details.)

May you enjoy the fruits of a great Easter Time. Let us continue to pray for each other! ✠

Marcel Ina Brings Life to Our Kitchen on Weekdays

Saint Peter Julian Eymard inspired the Eymardian family to foster a special devotion to Saint Joseph – so that through his intercession, we would always have what we needed, trusting that God would provide. Through your generosity, our benefactors and friends of the Province of Saint Ann, we have been blessed to have a lunch and dinner cook, Monday through Friday, at our provincial center in Highland Heights, Ohio, next to Saint Paschal Baylon church. Two and a half years ago, we bid farewell to our almost 20-year chef and Associate of the Blessed Sacrament, Jim Bartel. He was featured in a previous *Bread, Broken & Shared*. Through our prayers and a great tip from our nurse (*who we featured in the last issue of Bread Broken & Shared*), we found a grand woman who was in the “right place at the right time,” hoping to get into a full-time position with her husband retiring and wishing to support her family. Through the intercession of Saint Joseph, our unique gift from God is Marcel Ina!



She was born in Lebanon, and shortly after getting married 25 years ago, she and her husband Antoine moved to Ohio. Many of us know of the significant connection between Lebanon and northeast Ohio with a large community of Maronite Catholics. Marcel and Antoine moved here to be with this community and joined Saint Paschal Baylon parish for the award-winning Catholic school so their children would have a great place to develop their faith. And so, they did! Now, all these years later, they have four beautiful children: Jack-Anthony (24), Rebecca (22), and twins Jackie and Rachel (19).

While the children were growing up, Marcel ran a catering business from her home, cooking for Lebanese and Syrian friends. Due to the rave reviews about her food, she grew in her at-home business. Just over two years ago, she came to the Blessed Sacrament Community (SSS) as a beautiful addition, specializing in healthy foods, providing special snacks for each of the thirteen religious and their diets, and creating outstanding menus. Even her son comes from time to time to bake cookies for us! She loves our enormous kitchen and the incredible space and appliances that help her excel in her special meals, from soups to desserts; she covers it all. She is so happy when the food she makes is gone each day. We enjoy her fresh food and all the homemade items, with her frugal coupons to help us save money. Marcel enjoys working here and says, *I love the priests and brothers. They are so special to me, and I am so honored and blessed to cook for this religious community. I love that they love my food, and it is such a joy to share my love of food with them.*

(SSS) have always used a phrase originating from Father Eymard “ARTE,” Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum, which in Latin means “May Thy Eucharistic Kingdom Come.” We comically translated these letters, ARTE, to mean “Always Ready to Eat.” As a Eucharistic Congregation, we are blessed by you always to be able to eat – both the Eucharistic food and the food from the table of our home.

In addition to Marcel, we thank Brother Allen Boeckman who is always available to provide Saturday suppers. Also the eight generous volunteer families that provide meals for us on Sundays and holidays. We are well fed and are most grateful. ✠

We American members of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament

New Co-Director of the CEE Shares Her Life in the Eymardian Family

By Mona Grigsby-Suarez

My life journey is similar to Saint Peter Julian's, who likened himself to Jacob, having trekked through many lands, encountered interesting people, experienced novel opportunities, and often wondered how best to serve God and neighbors.

Entering into the winter season of my life, I am coming full circle — being born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and, after living in several other states and countries, I have returned to my birth state. I have been a student and/or a teacher for most of my life, instructing in English or Spanish to students ranging from age five to seventy-five in various settings. When not teaching, I am a "lifelong learner," collecting degrees just for fun.

When not involved in education, I especially enjoy spending time outdoors, camping and hiking, tending my garden, or taking a stroll with my dog. Sadly, my favorite traveling companion — my husband Luis, passed away last year, and I now only have the memories we created.

I became an Associate of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in 2009 and am an active member in three different Blessed Sacrament parishes (Houston, Albuquerque, and Highland Heights [Cleveland]). I feel "home" with my Eucharistic community and appreciate all the friendships and love I have experienced throughout the years, especially in our Eymardian family.

And now, I am your Center for Eucharistic Evangelization co-director. I have enjoyed meeting new members and working on translations, events, the initial formation manual, and novena with Peter Julian Eymard. I look forward to expanding our Spanish-speaking communities and youth components. I can only imagine what blessings, treasures, and opportunities God will grace me as I continue my journey. ✠



A Word of Thanks to our Partners in Ministry

Many of you returned the enclosed response card in with a generous donation to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. We are most grateful to you for making it possible for our priests and brothers to continue their ministry. Your gift, whether large or small, helps you to actually share in the ministry of the Congregation in the USA. You are remembered daily in the prayer intentions of the priests and brothers of the Congregation.



Bread Broken & Shared

Bread Broken & Shared Newsletter is published by the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Province of Saint Ann, for Associates, family, friends and benefactors.

Contact information:

Phone: (440) 442-6311
 Fax: (440) 442-4752
 Editor: Office of Communications
 Design: Kay Vincent
 Email: ssscommunications@blessedsacrament.com
 Website: www.blessedsacrament.com

Photographs in this issue courtesy of:
 File Photos



CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

5384 Wilson Mills Road
 Highland Heights (Cleveland), Ohio 44143

Since 1900, our Eymardian Family serves the United States and now in Connecticut, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Texas

Become an Apostle of the Eucharist: Brother, Sister, Deacon, Ordained Priest or Associate

Looking to 2024 Triduum Celebration

By Scott Gongos

Director of Saint Ann Shrine and the Office for Mission Advancement

It has been a delightful start to 2024 at Saint Ann Shrine! Our Lenten journey was filled with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and it was terrific to see larger crowds joining us at 11:30 am for daily Mass. We invite you to join us for our daily Eucharistic celebrations at the Shrine. Thanks to the generosity of a friend of Saint Ann Shrine, we installed an air conditioner to make the summer Masses cooler. We also completed work on our front sidewalk to make the Shrine more accessible. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting Saint Ann Shrine!

I would also like to thank you for supporting the Annual Appeal! Your kindness, prayers, and financial contributions have been so very appreciated. Your support ensures the long-term care for the religious of the Blessed Sacrament who have been faithful ministers of the Eucharist to you and your parish! Thank you so very much!!!

If you are considering other alternatives to support the Blessed Sacrament and/or Saint Ann Shrine, you can include us in your estate plans or donate gifts of stock. It's a straightforward process, and I'd happily help you with either of these opportunities.

Our Annual Triduum for Saint Ann and Saint Joachim will be celebrated July 24-26 and we hope you can join us! The three-day celebration is a unique and beautiful way to honor the grandparents of Jesus. If you plan on visiting from out of town, I'd be happy to assist you with your trip planning. I can be reached at 440-449-2700 or sgongos@blessedsacrament.com.


This year's celebrant is Father James Burkart. Father Burkart was ordained to the presbyterate of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston on May 22, 1993. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Drama from the University of Houston in 1988, a Master of Divinity from the University of Saint Thomas in Houston in 1993, A Master of Arts in Theological Studies (*Systematic Theology*) from the University of Saint Thomas in Houston in 1995 and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies (*Liturgy*) from the University of Notre Dame du Lac in 2004. He has served in various parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston over the years. He served as chairperson of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission from 2005-2018. He is a past president of the Board



Father James Burkart

of Directors of the Southwest Liturgical Conference (swlc.org) and currently serves as an associate member.

We look forward to seeing you at the Triduum! God Bless You! ✠





SAINT ANN SHRINE &
CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Celebrate
Saint Ann Triduum

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday
July 24, 25 & 26, 2024

Saint Paschal Baylon Church
5384 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
Parking Lot South of the Church





Scan this QR code
to download the
Triduum flyer

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 provincial superior, Very Rev. John Thomas Lane SSS with preaching by Father James Burkart

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

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

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,

Fr. John Thomas Lane, SSS

Tel: (440) 442-6311

Email: ssscommunications@blessedsacrament.com



**Scan this code
for the Eymard
Pilgrimage
Brochure and
Registration
Form**

