



SSS Grapevine

An Internal Publication of the Province of Saint Ann
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
August 11, 2024 – 2024.17

**Retreat Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Promulgation of the
Rule of Life of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament**

By Father Simon Peter Zikusooka SSS, *Masaka, Uganda, East Africa*



The Retreat Group

The Province of Saint Ann in the USA organized a retreat commemorating the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of the Congregation's *Rule of Life*. We also reflected on the *Project of Life* of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament (*Associates*). It was inspiring to see the similarity of the two texts. Religious and associates of the Blessed Sacrament attended this retreat.



Father Norman Pelletier SSS

Starting with Evening Prayers on August 5, the provincial, Father John Thomas Lane SSS, welcomed everyone present and wished us enjoyable moments with the LORD and each other.

Father Norman Pelletier SSS briefly introduced the *Rule of Life* and the *Project of Life*. Father Norman emphasized that our primary identity is that of **community** — we are a people gathered under the constant inspiration and animation of the Holy Spirit. Each Eucharistic celebration starts by gathering us together. Coming from different walks of life, we form a community, we form a Congregation, we form the Aggregation, we form the Eymardian family, and above all, we create a Eucharistic

community in which – we celebrate, worship, and live.

Our retreat reflection was focused on these two documents about community, prayer, and service; with the guidance of Mary Muehle, Father William Fickel SSS, and Brother Micheal Perez SSS –we entered into a time of personal reflections of how each of us related to the different numbers of the *Rule of Life* and the *Project of Life*. We had different groups daily, which helped us interact with different people. We look at the *Rule* and *Project's* past, present, and future living.

Our reflections were rich due to the internationality of those in attendance – we were from Uganda, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, the USA, Colombia, India, Philippines and Vietnam. At the end of the sessions, we made concrete resolutions that would help us grow in our Eucharistic calling and living. These were to help us live better lives in our communities, enhance our prayer lives, and be more practical in our service.

At the end of our Retreat, Father Norman made some closing remarks, reminding us that we are all on a journey: called to be the *Rule of Life* or *Project of Life* to be the Eucharistic charism for the life of the world. Father John Thomas Lane encouraged us: “Be the *Rule* and *Project* for the next 40 and 400 years!”



Father John Thomas Lane SSS, Provincial Superior

With the help of these practical resolutions, we shall journey well to our destination with the seeds of the *Rule* for seeds for resurrection at the heavenly banquet table (see *Rule of Life* 26).



Father Simon Peter Zikusooka SSS
Masaka, Uganda, East Africa



Mary Muehle, Co-Director of the Center for Eucharistic
Evangelizing



The 3 Presenters of the Retreat (*left to right*):
Mary Muehle, Father William Fickel SSS and
Brother Michael Perez SSS