



SSS Grapevine

An Internal Publication of the Province of Saint Ann
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
September 8, 2024 – 2024.20

International Eucharistic Congress in Ecuador

The USA SSS Delegation arrives safely Friday morning - Father John Thomas Lane SSS, Co-Director of the CEE & Associate Mona Grigsby-Suarez and Father Jaime Ario Rodriguez Reyes SSS (*stationed in Houston but on loan from the Columbian province*). Thanks for your prayers! We arrived at a mild climate - always the same due to the equator climate, the use of the American dollar for their currency, and the American outlet system for power. (Yet, we have a power outage today, Saturday, throughout the entire country. Yet, the texts and wifi work to let us know this!)



Father John Thomas Lane, author of the article, Mona Grigsby-Suarez, and Fr Jaime Rodriguez Reyes



We met for a walking tour to register for the International Eucharistic Congress, meeting with the organizing General Consultor for the International Eucharistic Congress, Father Francisco Junio Marquez, SSS (*Brazil Province*).

We have a free afternoon and visit the National Park of inactive volcanos. *(We hope that they stay that way during our visit!)*. We are at 9,200 feet, and though the temperature is 70 degrees, the intense sun makes it feel like 100 degrees. A neighborhood boy, Jardin *(far right - 10 years old!)*, just off from school, gives us a 15-minute history lesson about the valley. We play a little ball with him on the short visit.

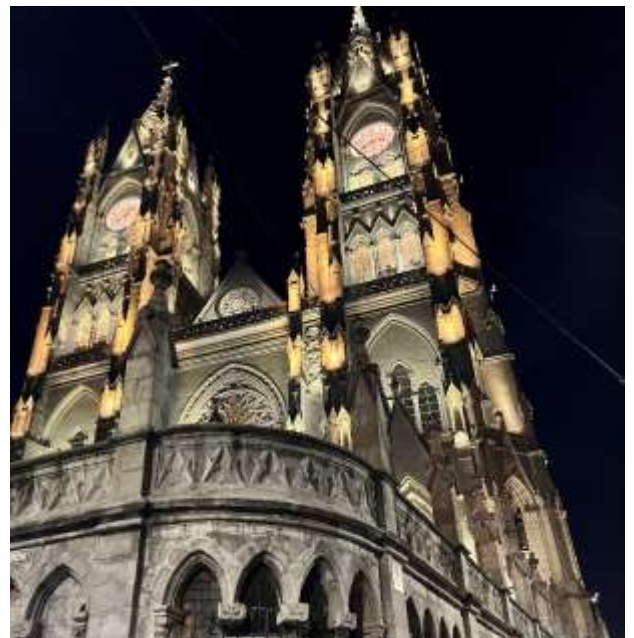
We went to Mass at the Basilica of the National Vow, the



Amsterdam with Father Tonny Demai, SSS.



largest neo-Gothic basilica in the Americas. It is 150 years old and a monument and perpetual reminder of the consecration of Ecuador to the Sacred Heart by President Luis Cordero on July 23, 1883. While it was consecrated by Pope John Paul II on his pastoral visit to Quito on January 30, 1985, and inaugurated on July 12, 1988, it is technically unfinished due to the belief that when it is completed, the world will end. Our Uganda friends are having a layover in



At one of the two parks commemorating the equator.



This is the original French “discovery” set up in the “middle of the world” in 1736. We went to the cultural center and equator museum for our day to support the local Quito people and learn about their lifestyles and practices. The equator has “moved” over the years as the earth’s axis shifts. Read more about the equator and its fascinating history of discovery online.

The unique chapel where we had Mass.

The interior shrine of the Sacred Heart to which the country is dedicated.



Under the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ’s patronage, we begin a particular retreat, worship, and prayer time at the 53rd International



Eucharistic Congress until September 15. Our Eymardian family will stay together at a retreat center near the Bicentennial Metropolitan Convention Center, where the congress is held. The theme for this congress: *Fraternidad para sanar el mundo*. “Ustedes son todos hermanos” (*Matthew 23:8*) or a better translation in English: Companionship to heal the world: “You are all companions.” The event is being broadcast LIVE <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL9hND3yX18>

Due to a countrywide power outage of about 4 hours, our Eymardian family had flight delays from Brazil and Columbia (lower picture). All were finally able to gather, with a few Peruvian Sacramentos, for an evening dinner with Wifi and electricity restored, and all were safely gathered.

