

Bread Broken & Shared

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

Welcoming Father Jaime Ario Rodríguez Reyes SSS

My name is Jaime Ario Rodríguez Reyes. I was born on June 26, 1977, in El Real, Cajibío, department of Cauca, Colombia.

I am the 5th child of Efraín Rodríguez Mosquera and María Calixta Reyes Lame. I have three brothers and a sister. My family, to this day, are farmers; we work the land growing sugar cane, coffee, bananas, and corn at various times of the year. My father died by drowning in the Cauca River on September 3, 1981; I was four years old. Since then, it has been my mother who has continued to support us in everything.

I completed my basic studies in 2 stages, the first three years at the Mixed Rural School in the village of El Real. Due to financial reasons, I suspended my studies and dedicated myself to farm work. Between the ages of 16 and 19, I accompanied my brother to the preparation to be catechists in the parish.

At 19 (1997), I was recruited for mandatory military service for 18 months. At the end of this experience, with the help of maternal relatives, I went to work at a grocery store in Popayán. The family's condition was that they

helped me in the first steps, with the aim of me resuming my studies until I finished them. It was a demanding stage in the work and study schedule. I left at 6:30 am for work until 6:00 pm when I returned home, and from 7:00 to 10:30 pm at school.

By the end of 2001, I was finishing my studies and attending a small chapel where the Eucharist was celebrated every Saturday. I participated as a lector and eventually spoke with the priest, who invited me to begin a vocational discernment. I accepted the process, and every Sunday afternoon, after leaving work, I went to the Santo Domingo parish in Popayán to learn more about religious life and the charism and mission of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. This process ended with a mission experience. Then, I entered the formation house on July 9, 2002, in Bogotá, Colombia.

My studies in various stages: 1st and 2nd Philosophy at Santo Tomas



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Welcome Father Jaime...Continued from previous page

University (2003-2004), 3rd Philosophy at San Buenaventura University (2005), Novitiate at Sete Lagoas, Brazil (2006-2008), 1st Profession (January 13, 2008), Theology at San Alfonso University (2008-2012), Perpetual profession (April 20, 2013), Diaconate (May 11, 2013), Priestly Ordination, (December 14, 2013). I earned a BA in theology (Colombia) and (USA).

Pastoral Involvement:

1. January to November 2014 – Corpus Christi Parish in Bogotá, Colombia.
2. December 2014, Santísimo Sacramento Parish, Puerto Rico.
3. January to September 2015, Latin American Scholasticate, Bogotá.
4. September 2015 to December 2019, Santísimo Sacramento Parish, Puerto Rico. In December 2019, the two other religious, Jesús Maiza and Antonio Odriozola (COVID-19 and Cancer), died.
5. January 2020-2021, parish priest alone in the Santísimo Sacramento Parish, Puerto Rico.
6. May-November 2021, missionary in the diocese of Caguas, Puerto Rico, Santo Cristo de la Salud Parish, Comerío.
7. November 2021-May 2024, missionary in the diocese of Caguas, Puerto Rico, San Antonio de Padua Parish, Barranquitas.

Father Jaime (*James in English*) served in Puerto Rico for nine years with our SSS Community there. Unfortunately, with two SSS men dying of COVID-19, this mission closed, and Father Jaime is coming to our province for four years with a 'convention of transfers' between the two provinces. He will serve as a parochial vicar at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Houston, Texas, with a particular emphasis on the Spanish-speaking community, a void we are happy to fulfill. Additionally, Father Jaime will be learning English.

Born June 26, 1977, in a rural region 10 hours north of Bogota, Columbia, he grew up in a family of four other siblings. He joined the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and did his formation with the collaborative efforts of both provinces of South America, learning formation and studies in Spanish and Portuguese. He was ordained on December 14, 2013, under the patronage of one of his favorite saints, John of the Cross. Some feel he looks like Saint Martin de Pores, another of his favorite saints.

We welcome Father Jaime to the province of Saint Ann for four years; he is at the provincialate for a few weeks to complete the usual paperwork necessary to be part of our province systems. Luckily, Father holds a green card for serving in the United States in Puerto Rico for an extended period. Father Jaime began his service at Corpus Christi Parish in Houston, Texas, in August 2024. ✠



Who We Are

“Following in the footsteps of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, our mission is to respond to the hungers of the human family with the riches of God’s love manifested in the Eucharist.” *Rule of Life 3*

Conscious of our call to bear prophetic witness to the Eucharist, we commit ourselves to the renewal of Church and society through this sacrament, especially by:

✠gathering communities characterized by hospitality, reconciliation, and service;

✠celebrating the Eucharist as the source and summit of the life of the Church;

✠associating others with our prayer;

✠giving personal witness to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist;

✠sharing our Eucharistic mission with others in full collaboration.



From the Provincial's Perspective

By John Thomas Lane SSS, *Provincial*

Jubilee. Dictionary definitions tell us that a “Jubilee” denotes a special anniversary of an event, celebrating twenty-five or fifty years, etc., or a reign of activity. The Bible describes in the Hebrew Scriptures a detailed purpose of a jubilee and how the word comes from the sounding of a ram’s horn, a *yobel*, with this instrument inaugurating a special time and marking its launch.

In the Province of Saint Ann, we are blessed that our notable anniversaries always correspond with the Roman Catholic Church’s jubilee year. Pope Francis proclaims 2025 the Jubilee Year and the theme of being “Pilgrims of Hope.” One hundred and twenty-five years ago, the Blessed Sacrament religious in Montréal, Quebec, Canada, and Rome prepared to go to Mexico City. Due to a revolution in Mexico, at the last moment, four religious groups embarked for the United States of America to a French-Canadian parish on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, New York City. We began administering Eglise Saint Jean Baptiste on December 12, 1900, and our mission has grown and evolved across the United States ever since.

We invite you to be part of this special time of jubilee for the Church and the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. We will also have celebrations and benefit dinners at our current sites where we minister to build up the Body of Christ and prepare for the next 125 years. I look forward to going to two of our previous foundation sites, too, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Menasha, Wisconsin, where we still have very strong affiliations with you, our benefactors, donors, partners in ministry, Associates of the Blessed Sacrament and friends of the Eymardian Family. And, as Pope Francis, like previous popes, who every 25 years call for a Jubilee Holy Year, we join the whole Church with the chosen theme of hope. **We are all pilgrims on the journey.** The 2025 Jubilee Year logo encapsulates the theme quite well and where we, as the Province of Saint Ann in our continuing service, hope to be in our Eucharistic life. The logo shows four stylized figures, like those first very different SSS religious who came from Montréal; each had one purpose: to bring the winds of the Spirit and the Good News of Christ together in the Eucharist from the earth’s four corners.

The logo (*shown on page 4*) shows one pilgrim holding the cross, anchored in hope, helping us all with the waves of life. Things don’t always go smoothly in life, and do we ever have calm waters? Our adventure as SSS has had its challenges in the last 125 years, and so will the next 125 years! But as our men, the Associates and Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, have proven by their collaborative efforts, prayers, and donations to support our mission, **WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROMOTE AND SERVE THE EUCHARISTIC CHRIST.**



We are anchored in hope still! We are to be Eucharistic apostles of hope, and in this jubilee/anniversary time, remember that our faith and hope have always been our guide as we move forward in Christ’s Eucharistic life. Anchored in the Eucharist, may we celebrate our great past together, our joys in the present, and the hope of a future filled with so much possibility. I often wondered what went through the minds of explorers as they traveled across an ocean, the unknowns, or coming across a rustic Canadian border to boldly set out to bring our SSS Eucharistic charism to new worlds. **May we be as bold today** in our worldly challenges, knowing that we are anchored in the Eucharist, our love and life, helping us bring about Christ’s mission of hope, joy, and love!

Happy anniversary! We never looked so good! Thank you for being part of our mission now and into our hope-filled future.

Continued on next page...

From the Provincial Perspective...Continued from previous page

Jubilee 2025 Anniversary Scheduled Celebrations

Here are the days and places we will celebrate in our 125 Year Presence across the USA. We hope you will join us in one or more celebrations. We appreciate your anniversary gifts. We thank you for advertising and supporting our mission through the upcoming anniversary raffle and memory book. These are beautiful ways to help us now and into the future and enjoy a keepsake of history. Please join us:

Monday, January 6, 2025 7:00 PM Eucharist	Saint Jean Baptiste New York, New York	TBD Reception following
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 5:30 PM Eucharist	Saint Joseph Downtown San Antonio, Texas	Archbishop Gustavo, Reception following
Saturday, April 26, 2025 5:00 pm Eucharist	Saint Charles Borromeo Albuquerque, New Mexico	Father Lane SSS with reception following
Saturday, June 21, 2025 5:00 PM Eucharist	Corpus Christi Houston, Texas	Father Lane SSS Presiding Reception following
Thursday, August 7, 2025 4:30 PM Eucharist	Saint Paschal Baylon Highland Heights, Ohio	Bishop Malesic presiding Fundraising Banquet
Friday, August 15, 2025 12 Noon	Saint Mary Menasha, Wisconsin	Father Lane SSS presiding Reception following
Tuesday, December 9, 2025 5:00 PM Eucharist	Florida Associates , Bethany Center Lutz, Florida	Father Lane SSS Presiding Fundraising Banquet



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Father John Thomas Lane SSS, Frato family,
Riley family, File Photos

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*Religious in Florida, New York, Ohio, Texas
and Hawaii*

My Life and the SSS Congregation

By Patrick J. Riley

From a young age, I had sensed a calling to the priesthood, but I felt no desire for the diocesan priesthood and was drawn to religious life. In eighth grade, "the vocation recruiter" from the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, visited our school. I knew nothing about the Congregation but accepted an invitation to spend a weekend at their minor seminary in Hyde Park, New York. I was not impressed with that experience, but, no doubt, a gift of the Holy Spirit, I decided to apply and was accepted.

In September 1961, my parents, six siblings, and I drove to the Hyde Park seminary. We unloaded my belongings and were warmly welcomed by seminarians and religious. My family left, and I was in uncharted waters. I had never been away from home, and here I was in a strange place. I began feeling anxious and went to the chapel where several religious were on priedieus in adoration. I remember kneeling and praying, "If you want me to do this, give me peace."

I stayed and became comfortable in this new regimented life of silence, study, prayer, and fraternity. I entered a class of over 40, but when we graduated from high school, only 10 were left. I enjoyed the life of the seminary and established some great friendships. I was impressed with many priests and brothers who showed a deep personal concern for us and challenged us to grow intellectually, spiritually, socially, and physically. I later enjoyed living in a community with many of these same religious.



"I was impressed with many priests and brothers who showed a deep personal concern for us and challenged us to grow intellectually, spiritually, socially, and physically."

After a year of college, I, with over forty young men from our college and our two minor seminaries, entered the novitiate in Barre, Massachusetts. In August, we received the religious habit and began what was to be a year of intense spiritual training and development. These post-Vatican II years were challenging for the Church, the Congregation, and the novitiate. From the beginning, we spent each day with three hours of adoration, daily Mass, the hours of the Divine Office, and praying the rosary. Most of the day was spent in silence, including work, study, and recreation. Then we began going around parishes singing folk Masses and even recorded an album of our music. While we kept most of the spiritual exercises, the tenor of the novitiate changed. We were allowed to smoke, and silence was no longer the order of the day.



Patrick J. Riley, Associate

After two years, we made our first profession of vows and were off to Cleveland to study at John Carroll University. This was a whole new world. We were professed religious living in a monastery connected to a large parish. We were students who participated in the life of the parish, and some of us taught religion at a Catholic high school in the middle of Cleveland. Many of us also received minor orders during those years. It was a great community with priests like Eugene LaVerdiere, Frank Costa, Roger Bourgeois, Jack Dowling, and Joseph Nearon. We learned much about priesthood and religious life from them and other members of this large community. I graduated from John Carroll in 1971. I was the only member of my 1961 freshman class of Eymard Seminary still in the Congregation. Believing at this time that I was where I belonged and where I intended to stay for the rest of my life, before moving to my next assignment, I made my final profession.

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My Life and the SSS...Continued from previous page

I was then transferred to Saint Jean the Baptiste Church in New York City to begin studies at Fordham University. Shortly after I arrived in New York, the Province purchased a house of study for theology students in the Bronx near Fordham. I was a member of that small community. After earning an MA in religious education, I enrolled in Woodstock College, the Jesuit Seminary of the New York and Maryland Provinces. There, I studied Sacramental, Pastoral, and Historical Theology. There, I began a lifelong love of Church History and the History of the Church in the United States, courses I taught in graduate schools for many years. During my New York years, I again was impacted by many of the SSS religious.



Pat and Sue Ann Riley

With the time for ordination coming into focus, I had a period of deep prayer, reflection, and consultation. I decided to leave the Congregation and sought a dispensation from my vows. It was a sad time for me as I was leaving a group of men who greatly impacted my life. So much of who I am is due to the Congregation, but I knew it was the right decision to leave.

I returned to Cleveland, where I was offered the position of theology teacher at a Catholic school. I had many lay friends in Cleveland whom



Front row: Walsh LeMay, Sue Ann Riley, Morgan LeMay and Stormy; Back row: Katey LeMay and her husband JJ, Sean Riley and his wife Deenah, Maureen Riley and Pat Riley

I had befriended during college, and I began my new life at 26. I was busy working, socializing, and volunteering in my local parish, and I knew that I needed to take a break from the Congregation to shape that new life.

I began my career in Catholic high school teaching and

administration. Along with my over 40 years of high school ministry, I worked to establish a Master of Arts degree in religious education at John Carroll University. Then, I collaborated on initiating a Master's degree in Catholic School Administration and a Master's degree in Ministry at Ursuline College.

I married Sue Ann in 1977 at Saint Paschal Baylon Church, where twenty-three priests were concelebrating, most of them SSS priests I had lived with at one time or another. Our three children, born in the next six years, were all baptized by Father Donald Pelotte or Father Norman Pelletier.



“So much of who I am is due to the Congregation...”

Father Norman Pelletier, a dear friend for many years, returned from serving in the Generalate of the Congregation for 18 years. Almost immediately elected Provincial of Saint Ann's Province brought me back into a closer association with the Congregation. Father Norman held gatherings on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. Many SSS from Saint Paschal's came along with some of the priests from the Asian Provinces who were doing Mission Appeals in this country. Sue, a few other laypeople, and I also joined these events.

Sue and I went on an Eymard Pilgrimage to France with Norman

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My Life and the SSS...Continued from previous page

Pelletier and attended two provincial chapters and several provincial retreats as guests. Father Norman asked me to write the history of Saint Ann's Province, and I spent some time in the archives of the Generalate with Fr. Norman, who was doing research. So far, history has been done until the 1970s.

I wrote my first book review for *Emmanuel Magazine* while living at Saint Jean's in NYC in 1972. I love to read, so I continued writing reviews for this SSS magazine long after I left. Twenty-five years ago, Father Anthony Schueller, then *Emmanuel's* editor, asked me to become the book review editor. I did that until the magazine ceased publication in 2020. I wanted to continue volunteering and be part of a Life in the Eucharist (LITE) Team, a ministry of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing, and I accepted. I am part of the CEE's Daily Eucharistic Reflection team, writing two reflections monthly, and have served on two LITE retreat teams.

In 2017, I was honored to be invited to rejoin the Eymardian Family as an Associate. The experience of so many of the exemplary men of the Province with whom I lived and worked profoundly impacted me, and in the last few years, I have tried to give back something I received.

I left the Congregation after 13 years to follow a different road: marriage, parenthood, and grandparenthood – that has been an incredible blessing, but in many ways, our success as a family is grounded in the values, ideals, and virtues of that former way of life.



Our Eymardian Family

"We feel like an integral part of the Eymardian Family. All have made us feel like we really belong." These words of Mary and Ray Frato indicate the power of their long association with the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament at our Cleveland, Ohio SSS Community, where they have worked side by side with our religious and associates.



Mary and Ray Frato

Mary is first-generation Lebanese from a family of six. Her mom and dad immigrated from Lebanon several years back, but unfortunately, Mary has yet to return to her native land and meet her many cousins who are still living there. Ray is a native Cleveland; his paternal and maternal grandparents immigrated from Italy. Mary and Ray met through a multi-parish young adults' group in 1986, then married in 1991 and started their family. They live in Lyndhurst, Ohio (*near Saint Paschal Baylon Parish*) and have two children: a daughter, Angela, and a son, Ray Junior. They have two grandchildren. Mary spends time with the grandchildren. In his earlier days, Ray's dad did much plumbing work for the Benedictines in Cleveland. Ray relates that his dad "got a kick out of the fact that Ray was working for the SSS at their provincial headquarters."



They love working with the individual religious and feel that the SSS are part of their extended family, and they feel like they are very much part of the larger Eymardian Family.

Mary and Ray had a café/gift shop in downtown Cleveland for 22 years. When Ray's health deteriorated, they could not continue with this small business venture, so Ray started working for the SSS, maintaining their vehicles (2010), and since then, his responsibilities have expanded significantly. You can often hear the SSS community question: "Do you know where Ray is? I need him to do something." Ray monitors many mechanical things in the community and has remodeled and upgraded many building areas. Ray is responsible for anything that breaks, and

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Our Eymardian Family...Continued from previous page

he can fix it. The community relies on him for almost everything. He does plumbing repairs, room remodeling, electrical work, and computer assistance and secures bids for the yearly SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious) and other grants. Mary has been concentrating on cleaning and readying rooms for our guests.

Ray started attending Saint Paschal's in 1986, and Mary was involved at Gesú Parish in University Heights. They both joined Saint Paschal Baylon in 2004.

They are both generously involved in the Helping Hands/Clown Ministry, of which they are co-treasurers. They continue to be active members of Saint Paschal Baylon Parish. Their family keeps them entirely occupied.

They love working with the individual religious and feel that the SSS are part of their extended



▲ *The Frato Family: Mary, Ray, daughter Angela with the two granddaughters (Isabella and Eloise), Angela's husband Kyle Anderson, and son Ray Junior*

► *Ray and Mary as Clowns*

family, and they feel very much like they are part of the larger Eymardian Family. They shared that most of the community at Saint Paschal Baylon has felt comfortable with them. ✠



"We feel like an integral part of the Eymardian Family. All have made us feel like we really belong."

**A Word of Thanks to
our
Partners in Ministry**

We are most grateful to you for making it possible for our religious to continue their ministry. Your gifts – large or small – help you to share in the ministry of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the USA. You are remembered daily in the Masses and prayers of all our religious.

*Prayer in Honor of
Saint Peter Julian Eymard*

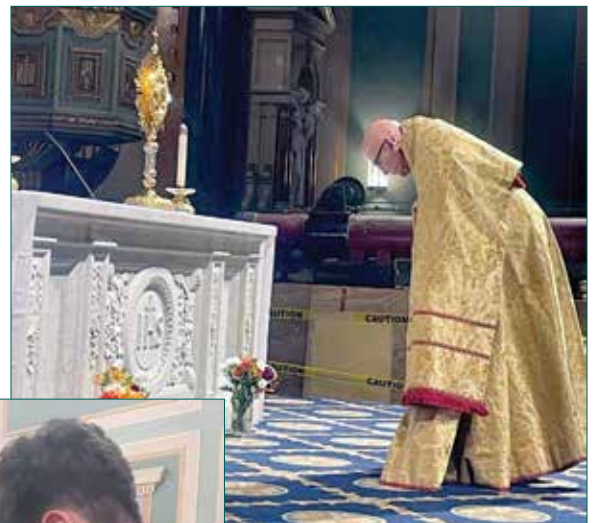
Gracious God of our ancestors, you led Peter Julian Eymard, like Jacob in times past, on a journey of faith. Under the guidance of your gentle Spirit, Peter Julian discovered the gift of love in the Eucharist which your son Jesus offered for the hungers of humanity. Grant that we may celebrate this mystery worthily, adore it profoundly, and proclaim it prophetically for your greater glory. Amen.

Saint Ann Shrine

Celebrating Saint Ann in Ohio and New York

Father James Burkart from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston led the Triduum preaching for Saint Ann in Highland Heights (*suburban Cleveland*), Ohio. Folks flocked to venerate the relic of Saint Ann and participated in the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament Community is grateful for the benefactors and supporters who contribute to the mission of our religious Congregation. This Triduum was the 37th annual Triduum at Saint Paschal Baylon in the 124th year of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation's service in the USA.

In New York, the annual Novena in honor of Saint Ann continued again this year, as it has done for more than 100 years. Although the crowds are sparser these days, their dedication and faith are as strong. Father John Kamas SSS led this annual event at the Church of Saint Jean Baptiste in New York City.



TOP: Father John Kamas SSS bowing before the monstrance



CENTER: Father John Kamas blessing a devotee of Saint Ann with her relic

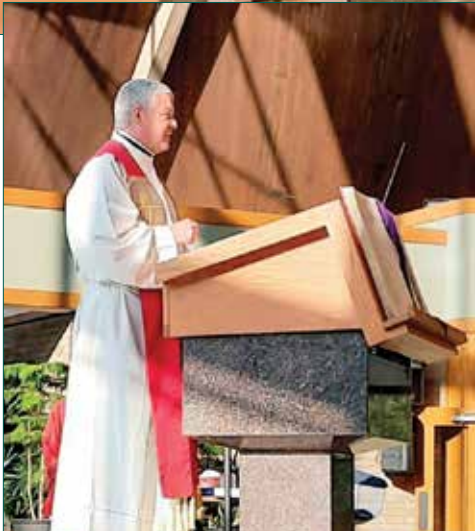
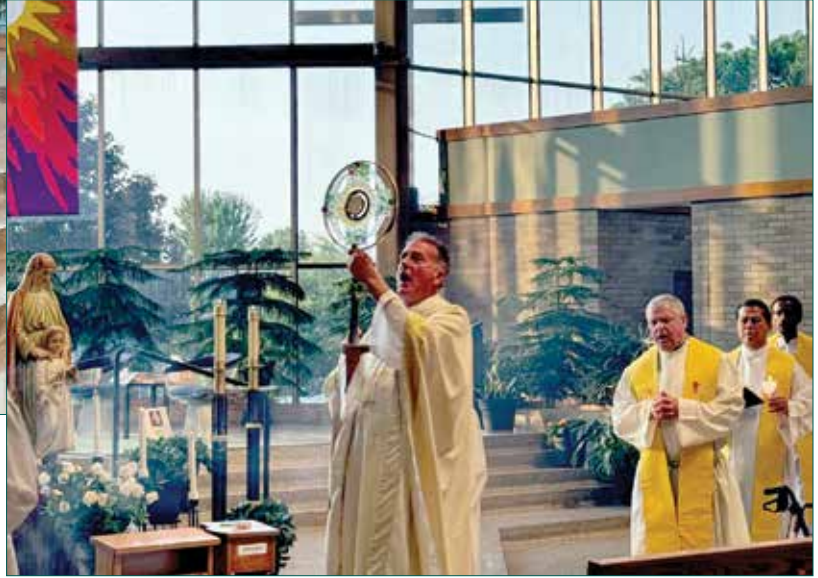


BOTTOM: Father James Hayes SSS applying Saint Ann's relic to a young man

New York Novena

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Highland Heights Triduum



From TOP down:

-Concelebration in Saint Paschal Baylon Church on the feast of Saint Ann

-Father John Thomas Lane SSS, pastor and provincial superior, carrying the Blessed Sacrament in procession

-Father James Burkhart delivering his reflection during the Triduum

-Preparing for the procession of the Blessed Sacrament

-Concelebrants on the Feast of Saint Ann in Saint Paschal Baylon Church



Captivated by the Love of God Living a Radical Response Celebrating 40 Years of the Rule of Life

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

The Rule of Life Retreat celebration brought together fifty-eight Blessed Sacrament Congregation vowed religious and Associates over four days the week of August 5th-8th. Each day offered the opportunity to engage in a deeper understanding of our shared Eucharistic charism.

The retreat opened with a reflection by Father Norman Pelletier SSS, inviting everyone to be open to the Spirit, drawing us together into a Eucharistic community and being formed by the Rule of Life and Rule of Life for Associates into the Eymardian family.

The next three days focused our attention on the themes of community, prayer, worship, and service as expressed in the Rules for religious and associates. Brother Michael Perez SSS, Father William Fickel SSS and Mary Muehle, Associate of the Blessed Sacrament, each reflected on the day's theme to energize the table discussions.

Rotating table seating each day enabled us to get to know one another as we shared our stories of living this Eymardian way of life. We also reflected on what we can bring into the future from this experience to allow the spirituality of St. Peter Julian Eymard to influence our church and our world.

In true Eymardian spirit, the Retreat closed with a beautiful Eucharistic celebration and a banquet to celebrate who we are and who we are called to become!

Thanks go out to Father John Thomas Lane SSS for the beautiful liturgies and prayer experiences. Also, thank you to the Retreat Committee led by Mona Grigsby-Suarez for all their hard work preparing for this event. Praise to all for a job well done!



► *Right CENTER: Father Norman Pelletier SSS*

► *Right BOTTOM: Those who gave reflections during the Retreat (L-R): Mary Muehle, Fr William Fickel SSS, and Bro Michael Perez SSS*

◄ *LEFT: At Prayer*

Continued on next page...



▲ The Rule of Life Retreat Participants (several were missing from this photo)

◀ Table Sharing



▲ (L-R): Fr John Kamas SSS, Fr Joseph Kiet Nguyen SSS, Fr John Thomas Lane SSS, Patrick J. Riley

◀ Table Discussions



◀ Working on Table Discussion Report

▶ Presenting Table Report

▼ BELOW - Right & Left: Final Banquet

