



SSS Grapevine

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Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
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Life in the Eucharist Parish Mission in Austin, Texas



Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Austin, Texas, welcomed our provincial Father John Thomas Lane SSS for a parish Eucharistic Advent Mission. The four-day event occurred in this large parish of 5,000 families, with a large diocesan Catholic Elementary and Catholic high school on their 35-acre campus. With the holy day of obligation, Father Lane had the

opportunity to preach to these schools and share the charism of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. Besides the preaching during the weekend Masses and the use of the theme song, "Jesus, Hope of the World,"



Father Lane led a Taizé Eucharistic Holy Hour on the 4-ends of the Mass of Saint Peter Julian and the novena of Eymard. With the novena repeated twice, for the early day participants and evening gatherings, Father Lane challenged the youth of the school to attend his novena for extra credit. Twenty students did. For Father Lane, the event's highlight was the youth group meeting with 120 high school students who had questions to stump him. It led to excellent discussions, especially

about vocations (*i.e.*, "How you know where God is calling you?") and the history of the parts of the Mass.

Renewal of Associate Promises in NorthEast Ohio



Blessed Sacrament Father Louis Demba Ndione SSS received the renewal promises of many NE Ohio Associates at the vigil Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent



Father Norman Pelletier SSS, former provincial superior of the USA province and Superior General of the Congregation, led a retreat for these Northeast Ohio Associates on Saturday, December 7, at Saint Paschal Baylon.

In Your Prayers

- Father Joseph Thai Tran SSS's (*San Antonio Community*) brother, Joseph Long, died recently back in Vietnam. We send Father Thai our prayers and sympathy. Father Thai has been experiencing exhaustion and will spend a month resting with his family and the Holiday, Florida community. We pray for his speedy recovery.



- We pray for Father Marcelo Carlos da Silva SSS, 51, provincial superior of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe (*Argentina – Brazil – Chile*) and chair of the Sacramentinos Americas Conference (*SAC*) who will have surgery to remove a tumor on Monday, December 16. We pray for his quick recovery. Father Marcelo is registered for the English Institute of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing and the Sacramentinos Americas Conference (*SAC*), and we pray that he will attend this summer.

Young People Inducted as Associates of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Tampa, Florida



Father Izzy of Saint Paul Parish takes a selfie with the newly-inducted Associates in Tampa, Florida



Associate Lay Leader of St. Paul, AnnMarie Nicora,
assists Fr. Bill Fickel SSS with crosses



Father William Fickel SSS instructing the new Young Adult Associates on their responsibilities as Associates

1st Anniversary of the Province Associates Council

By Greg Dufour, Chair of the Province Associates Council



I am pleased to serve for the first year in the inaugural Saint Ann (USA) Province Associates Council. In the *Project of Life 24*, the leadership of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, or Associates, has local, national, and international levels. The August 2022 Provincial Chapter of the men's branch instructed the province and council to revive the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE) and assist in running the office. Father John Thomas Lane SSS, our provincial, in reviewing the CEE and *Project of Life*, felt it was now the time, as the Associates have grown with branches across the country, to have a council that would assist the CEE and its (co)director(s) and the Provincial Council of the Province. In the Spring of 2023, the CEE and its co-directors, Mary Muehle and Mona

Grigsby-Suarez, worked with the Provincial Council to start the process and structure to assist leadership and collaborate. Here's a timeline of some of our highlights:

October 2023 - In collaboration with the CEE, Associate Branch leaders defined the Council's purpose, priorities, leadership roles, and responsibilities

December 2023 - First bi-monthly Province Associate Council Zoom meeting attended by newly appointed Associate branch Council members and alternate Council meeting agendas follow a standard agenda set by the CEE directors (*See attached document*)

The council chair (currently me) meets with CEE directors and the Provincial to plan the agenda for the Council meeting.

At council meetings, council members share Associate branch happenings, resources, challenges, and solutions. CEE and Provincial give reports.

Summary notes/minutes of meetings, action items, and audio recordings of Zoom meetings are sent to Council members, alternates, CEE co-directors, and Provincial Superior.

January 2024 - Distributed the revised Initial Formation Program for Associates of the Blessed Sacrament

February 2024 - Discernment for Associate Council Leadership:
Chair-Greg Dufour (*Houston*), Co-chairs-Jim Ziegler (*Houston*) & Alex Petrilak (*Tampa*),
Secretary Marissa and David Treviño (*Laredo*)
Council member contact information shared with members
Council Zoom meeting

March 2024 - Province-wide Associate Quarterly Zoom Meeting planned and hosted by the
CEE/Associates Council/Branch Associates
Topic: **Reflecting on the Paschal Mystery** - Speaker: Father Bill Fickel SSS

April 2024 - Council Zoom meeting

June 2024 - Associates Quarterly Zoom Meeting planned by Branch Associates, Winter
Springs, FL
Topic: **History of the Rule of Life for Associates** (ROLA), the difference between the ROLA
and the *Project of Life* – and why we are readopting the *Project of Life* for the title of our
“rule” or “guide” to being an Associate.
Speakers: Father John Thomas Lane SSS, Jim Brown CEE Director Emeritus
Council Zoom meeting

June 2024 - Leadership Chart of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament (Saint Ann
Province) drafted

September 2024 - Associates Quarterly Zoom Meeting planned and hosted by Branch
Associates, Tampa, Florida.
Topic: **Brainstorming Ideas for Jubilee Celebrations for the 125th Anniversary of
Service of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the United
States.** Speaker: Father John Thomas Lane SSS.
Topic: **Overview of the Blessed Sacrament website and available online resources.**
Speaker: Kay Vincent, Website Administrator, Emmanuel Media.

July 2024 - National Eucharistic Congress and Revival (*Indianapolis*)

August 2024 - SSS Congregation *Rule of Life* Retreat: Religious and Associates reflected on
living the ROL and the *Project of Life (POL)* from the perspectives of community,
worship/prayer, and service.
Distributed Project of Life (*1st edition newly printed for us*)
Council Zoom meeting

September 2024 - International Eucharistic Congress (*Quito*)

November 2024 - Pilgrimage to the Places of Saint Peter Julian Eymard

December 2024 - Council Zoom meeting with 1st Anniversary Self-evaluation

We have had our tasks, we have enjoyed our collaboration, and we look forward to growing to serve one another as the Eymardian Family, doing what is most important in every family: communicate!