



SSS Grapevine

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Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament

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Associates Formation Facilitator Workshop

By Mary Muehle

We are familiar with the quote, “It takes a village to raise a child.” As an Associate community, we can rephrase this quote to say that “it takes a team to form an Associate.” The Lord continues to call more men and women to the life of an Associate. As we grow as a community, we are being called to grow in our responsibility to the community. One way of sharing that responsibility is to share in the formation of new members who want to share in our way of life. Hence, the call to form initial formation teams.



In response to the Province Associate Council’s call for a workshop to prepare facilitators for the Associate Initial Formation Program, a committee was formed consisting of Greg

Dufour, Margaret Flanders, Jim Zeigler, Alex Petrilak, Gloria Jung, and Mary Muehle. After several months of planning, the workshop was offered in two parts on April 26 and May 10. Throughout the two-part program, both new and existing facilitators received an in-depth look into the formation process. The goal was to equip facilitators with the skills and confidence necessary to lead the initial formation program, establish the right environment, engage participants in program activities, and utilize the full range of team members' gifts and skills. Additionally, the program presented the vast resources available through the Congregation.

We are grateful to all who participated in the workshop and for their affirming comments, as presented in the online evaluation form. We are especially thankful to the team that planned and presented the workshop.

If you missed this opportunity, you have a second chance. You can find the workshop recordings on the Congregation's website, located in the Associate Resources section, within the next few weeks.

Welcome Our Newest Associates

By Mary Muehle, Mona Grigsby-Suarez, and John Thomas Lane SSS



A year ago, we initiated the province's first online Initial Formation Program. Due to requests from individuals who could not attend an in-person formation program through

the CEE office, we launched the program on Zoom. Five individuals from various locations entered into the discernment process and participated in the monthly online sessions.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025, the Feast of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Carmella Nelson (*Houston, TX*), Tom Canniere (*near Philadelphia, PA*), and Anabella Batista (*Holiday, FL*) were inducted into the Associates. Our Provincial, Father Lane, witnessed their promises. Each will complete their commitment ceremony and receive their Associate crosses later this year. Anabella in Holiday, Florida, at our parish there, Tom at the Northeast Ohio Retreat in November, and Carmella in Houston at our parish there.

Thanks to the team members who served as their guides and mentors: Father Bill Fickel, Dale Casamatta, and Mary Muehle. The reviews were all positive, even when the technology presented challenges. May God be praised for the opportunity that Zoom presents to continue growing and forming disciples of Eucharistic spirituality.

Our next SSS Associates Initial Formation program begins on June 8, 2025, at noon EST, with scheduled gatherings every 2nd Sunday for 12 months at our Congregation's Headquarters, located at 5384 Wilson Mills Road in Highland Heights, Ohio. Online participants are welcome. For additional information, please get in touch with Mona at mgrigsby-suarez@blessedsacrament.com or 505-239-1019.

Mary Muehle's last day in the CEE Office was May 13, 2025. She will continue to volunteer in formation work, LITE work with her local Northeast Ohio team, and with editing the *Daily Eucharistic Reflections*. We are grateful for all of Mary's work as co-director and appreciate her time and efforts since 2020 in helping us develop our Province Associates, and now the reality of a Province Associates Council. Thank you, Mary!