



# SSS Grapevine

An Internal Publication of the  
Province of Saint Ann (USA)  
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament

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## Quarterly Associates Meeting Features Uganda Foundation



In this 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the Province of Saint Ann has placed a strong emphasis on its rich history, with a particular focus on the missionary spirit that has permeated the province. The USA men founded communities which became provinces in Australia, the Philippines, Great Britain and Ireland, Vietnam, and Uganda. Both in Vietnam and Uganda, due to political reasons, our men were deported. In 1994, under the leadership of Father Norman Pelletier SSS, Superior General, and with the support of SSS men from the Philippine province, the foundation of Uganda was able to return and reopen. *(Now the Ugandans are on their own with three communities and part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Province.)*

To remind us of the missionary spirit of the Eucharist, found in the *Rule of Life* and the *Project of Life*, Father Simon Peter Zikusooka, SSS (Uganda), made a presentation to the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament at their quarterly Zoom gathering, Saturday, September 7, 8:00 AM MDT. In a few locations, folks gathered around their monitors – something we encourage for other Associates in the future, to be a community!

Father Simon Peter shared the rich history of the Province's founding of the community at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Masaka, Uganda, in 1959, and how, through the generous donations of our province over the past two years, we have been able to remodel and add to the buildings the province first erected. It was wonderful to see the photos and the vibrant faith of the communities there, including hearing the work of the Catholic School there and also the ministry of the Associates. The Uganda communities, through Father Simon Peter, express their gratitude for our contributions of prayer and financial support.



Photo shows Diocese of Saint Petersburg Associates with Father Simon Peter in the Saint Jean Baptiste, New York "studio."

**NOTE: NEXT QUARTERLY ZOOM MEETING: Saturday, November 29, 10 AM EST/9 AM CST/8 AM MST with Superior General Father Philip Benzy Romician, SSS – on his canonical visitation of the province report! Stay tuned for the link – and gather around with your fellow associates to celebrate the last hours of Ordinary Time.**

## Canonical Visit of Father General Ends in Orlando



From August 3 until September 12, 2025, the Province of Saint Ann (USA and in Scotland) and the Province of Our Lady of the Assumption (*Philippines – in Colorado and Hawai'i*) welcome Father General Philip Benzy Romician, SSS. We have been reading about his visit in the past few *Grapevines*, and due to a special arrangement to visit all the Associate groups

across the United States and the Province of Saint Ann, Father Benzy arranged a special day to come for a visitation for the Associates of the Diocese of Orlando on his way back to Rome. His canonical visitation had brought him to the Hawaiian Islands; he needed to return to Rome somehow, and so it happened with a layover day in the Diocese of Orlando on September 11.

Father Benzy met with the new leadership team of the Associates in the Orlando area. Also, Father George Dunne SSS, long-associated with the Life in the Eucharist Team members *(both the first youth team and then adult team)* and the Associates *(forming groups in 2016 and 2019 with the late Father Anthony Schueller SSS, Father Bill Fickel SSS, and former director of the CEE, Jim Brown)*. Following Father Benzy and Father George's canonical visit, the new local leaders of the Associates met with Fathers Benzy and Father Lane, along with Mona, to review needs and brainstorm about the future.

Following the report and planning meeting, all the Associates who were able joined in a special concelebrated Mass in the San Pedro Spiritual Development Center, Winter Springs, Florida. The deacon of Saint Stephen Catholic Church, Jim Ferruzzi, pastor emeritus Father John Bluett, and Father Lane were present with almost 40 associates and the new religious sisters leading the music. *(The Sisters of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary were founded in Orlando in 1990 by the current leader, Mother Adela Galinda. The order of 80 sisters is around the world, headquartered in Miami.)*

San Pedro provided a fabulous sit-down dinner where Father Benzy gave his talk (now on the Associates page of the <[blessedsacrament.com](http://blessedsacrament.com)> website), "Living the Eucharistic Mystery Fully." He spoke of the *Rule of Life* 1 and 27 and the *Project of Life* 2, explaining how we are called to live the Eucharist and be the Eucharist, using practical examples that touched the hearts of those gathered.



*(Left to Right)* Father George Dunne SSS, lead organizer for the day, and Orlando leader Diana McGinty, Father Benzy, Deacon Jim Ferruzzi, and Monsignor John Bluett



## Teaching Our Children Well



A goal of Saint Peter Julian Eymard and our many Associates this year in their groups is passing on the tradition of prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and the “4-ends of the sacrifice of the Mass.” In the picture, Corpus Christi Catholic School, Houston, Texas, is starting with their first and second graders, immediately after their Friday School Masses. Other students and parish groups are also making their visits during the day. They have a song, a scripture, and students sharing their intentions—all in 15 minutes or less. The CEE is working on some resources for children. Please let us know how many copies you would like for your parish.

## Testing the Waters – October 2026 Eymard Pilgrimage?



Currently, six people have expressed interest in having an Eymard Pilgrimage to France in October 2026. Estimates include a \$4,500 13-day tour package that provides for Marseilles, Avignon, Laus, Le Mure, Grenoble, Montélimar, Lyon, a winery on the way to Paris, and Paris. Air package estimates are at \$1,200, but will be finalized in December 2025. Let Mona in the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing know of your interest: [monagrigsby-suarez@blessedsacrament.com](mailto:monagrigsby-suarez@blessedsacrament.com). A formal notice will be made by Christmas, accompanied by a flyer and sign-up, if there is enough interest for the special “footsteps” of Saint Peter Julian Eymard pilgrimage.

## More pictures of Orlando's day with Father General:



Diocese of Orlando Local Council meets with Father Benzy (Left to Right), Mona, Becki Long, Zeynep Port way ("Z" is also the Local Council Leader), Andrea Suggs, and Father George Dunne SSS



The new religious community of the Sisters of the Pierced Heart of Jesus & Mary leads the music for the special Mass at the San Pedro Center.

*Text and photos provided by John Thomas Lane SSS, except for Houston, by Associate Blanca Gonzalez*