

# Thanksgiving for and with the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament

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## 1. A Moment of Thanksgiving

Today is indeed a special day: the last day of the liturgical year and the beginning of a new liturgical year. As the Church invites us to pause and reflect, we are called to do something profoundly Eucharistic—to give thanks. The very word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving,” and so today becomes a truly Eucharistic moment for all of us.

Just two days ago, you celebrated Thanksgiving Day, a beautiful national tradition that resonates deeply with our spirituality. Today, as a family of Eucharistic disciples, we bring together our faith tradition and your cultural celebration, offering to God our gratitude for:

- all the graces received throughout the year,
- the growth in your spiritual life,
- the joys and crosses that shaped you,
- and the countless ways God walked with you.

## 2. My Visit to the Aggregates of the Province of Saint Ann

I would also like to take this moment to express my joy and gratitude for my recent visit to the Province of Saint Ann. One of the highlights was meeting the various groups of Aggregates across the USA.

Allow me to share some reflections:

1. It was a wonderful experience to encounter the members of the Aggregation in different communities across the country.
2. I witnessed how the members are migrant, enthusiastic, committed, and passionate about the Eucharistic charism.
3. Many of you demonstrate deep knowledge of Saint Peter Julian Eymard and a genuine love for the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.
4. I saw in you a tremendous desire to understand and live the charism of the Aggregation—not just in words, but in daily life.
5. It was clear that you receive a solid, periodic formation and accompaniment, which is essential for growth in a Eucharistic vocation.
6. I must highlight, with gratitude, the dedicated accompaniment provided by
  - Fr. John Thomas Lane, SSS, Provincial Superior,
  - and Ms. Mona, and all other leaders, whose commitment to organizing meetings, planning sessions, and preparing formation programs is truly admirable.
7. For me, it is deeply satisfying to see the Aggregates living out the Eucharistic charism with conviction and joy.

### **3. Important Points to Deepen Together**

As we look toward a new liturgical year, I invite you to reflect on a few essential elements that must remain at the heart of your vocation.

#### **1. Remember your ultimate call.**

Your goal, your objective, your identity as Aggregates is to live and to make known the Eucharistic mystery fully.

This is not optional—it is your baptismal and vocational mission.

“Our Lord wants you to be apostles of the Eucharist.”

#### **2. Ensure your formation is intentionally Eucharistic.**

Your formation programs—spiritual, theological, human—must always lead you back to the central objective:

to grow in your understanding and living of the Eucharist.

Formation should help you:

- deepen your love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament,
- grow in interiority and spirituality,
- and acquire the skills to witness to Christ in the world.

#### **3. Remember that the Eucharistic mission begins with *being*.**

Many people can perform works of charity or service, but only a Eucharistic disciple can bring Christ’s presence, gentleness, and compassion into these works.

Your mission flows from:

- who you are,
- what Christ is forming in you,
- and how deeply you are rooted in His Eucharistic love.

The Eucharist transforms your interior life, so that your exterior mission becomes fruitful.

#### **4. Ask yourselves: How can we *live* the Eucharist concretely every day?**

This is the fundamental question for every Aggregate.

Practical ways include:

- Bringing a Eucharistic attitude into your family: patience, forgiveness, gentleness.
- Living a spirit of thanksgiving daily.
- Making time for Eucharistic adoration, even short visits.
- Participating actively and consciously in the Eucharist.
- Bringing Christ’s presence into your workplace or community.
- Being persons of reconciliation and unity.
- Engaging in simple acts of kindness that radiate Christ.

## **Conclusion:**

### **1. Overcoming Spiritual Amnesia and nurturing Spiritual Stamina**

One of the subtle dangers in our spiritual journey is what we may call “spiritual amnesia”—the tendency to forget God’s constant presence in our lives.

God blesses us, guides us, and protects us continuously, yet we often become distracted or indifferent and fail to recognize His loving action.

To overcome spiritual amnesia, we must nurture our spiritual stamina. Just as we engage in various exercises to stay physically fit, we must invest effort in prayer, adoration, reflection, and fidelity to the Eucharist to remain spiritually strong and attentive to God’s voice.

### **2. Becoming a Silent Homily**

Our life is called to be a silent homily.

Our gestures, our relationships, the way we speak, listen, and serve—our very presence—should communicate the Gospel.

Today, more than ever, the world needs people who preach God through their lives: through simplicity, compassion, integrity, and Eucharistic charity. This type of preaching is not only necessary but deeply effective, for it is rooted in authenticity and daily witness.

### **3. Living the Gift of Self in the Spirit of Saint Peter Julian Eymard**

As members of the Eymardian family, associated with the charism of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, we are called to walk along the path he traced—a path marked by profound self-giving.

The gift of self is the offering of one’s will to God. It is not passivity, nor is it a denial of our abilities. Rather, it is a form of active discipleship, a readiness to embrace God’s will and to collaborate with His grace.

To live the gift of self is to participate wholeheartedly in the mission of Christ present in the Eucharist, allowing our life to become an offering of love.

Dear members of the Aggregates, as we begin our liturgical year, I humbly invite you to focus on these three attitudes in our daily living. If we cultivate them faithfully, our spiritual life will grow strong, and as a concrete expression of living the Eucharist, we will truly embody the gift of self.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, accompany you.

May Saint Peter Julian Eymard guide you as a spiritual father.

And may Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, strengthen you for the mission ahead.

Thank you, and God bless each one of you.