

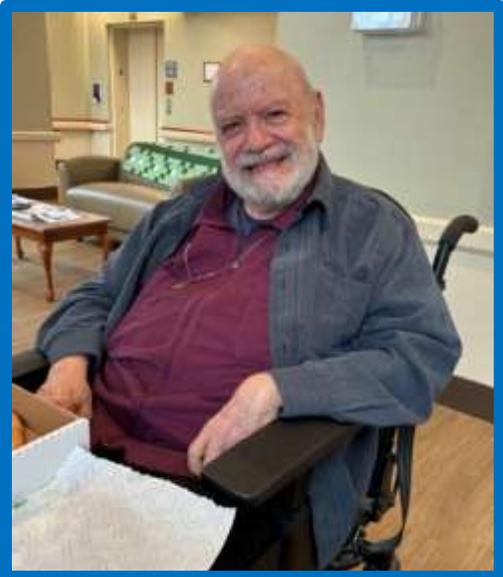


SSS Grapevine

An Internal Publication of the
Province of Saint Ann (USA)
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
March 28, 2026 – 2026.10

60 Years of Religious Life

We congratulate Brother Michael Perez SSS on his 60th anniversary of religious profession of vows on March 19, 2026. Brother Michael is well known within the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (SSS) because he was the first religious brother in the congregation to serve as a novice director and student director, not only for service to the United States but also for candidates across the English-speaking world. Brother Michael continues to teach in formation when we have postulants, and more recently, last week, he conducted a Zoom conference with our two English-speaking novices in Scotland.



Brother Michael came to the Congregation from the northwest part of the island of Manhattan, New York City’s one borough. He is very proud of his Puerto Rican heritage and has also served the Church in ministry to Latino communities. He walked into Église Saint Jean Baptiste one day as a young adult and was hooked by the prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and the witness of the religious praying together. Throughout his career, he studied history and taught; studied nursing and practiced alongside our religious men; and earned a Master of Arts in religious formation at Fordham University. He has been a porter, campus minister, local superior, formator, “dishwasher” and everything in between! We have appreciated, in these last thirty years, his focus on the founder, his being steeped in his life and writings, and his sharing many insights from Saint Peter Julian Eymard with our men in formation, continuing education, and our Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament at many retreats, congresses, and assemblies. For the last three years, Brother Michael has taught postulants and our novices from Regina Health Center, Richfield, Ohio.

Thank you, Brother Michael, for your continuing ministry, bringing religious life and our founder to life with your incredible depth and range of SSS, Eucharistic, and Eymardian life! Send him a message at: michaelangelsss@yahoo.com

Saint Ann Province Reaccredited by Praesidium



Since 2002, when the “Charter to Protect Young People and Vulnerable Adults” was implemented by the United States Conference of Bishops (USCCB) in (arch)dioceses and religious institutes, the continuing implementation mandates us to follow strict policies and demonstrate compliance. In the last decade, the SSS has been part of this process through an independent agency called “Praesidium,” which accredits not only religious institutes but also other professional organizations, including the Scouts of America. With the SSS Review Board and Pastoral Council, there are policy manuals and documents that mandate the SSS to follow these policies and implement

them, advancing with the times. Over the last year, Susan Work, the province's executive assistant, has guided the process with Praesidium and the provincial council. Last week, after the final review from Praesidium and their site visit, we received our full accreditation again for 2026 – 2029, the usual three-year accreditation. We are so grateful to Susan for her untiring work with the rest of the provincial staff to gain this “stamp of approval.” We look forward to our continued collaboration with Praesidium and our Review Board, which monitors us and the (arch)diocese where we serve (USCCB) across the country.

Eymard Pilgrimage Postponed to 2027

Due to concerns about air traffic, safety, and the wars in the Middle East, many folks are not ready to travel in 2026. Therefore, the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing is postponing the pilgrimage to the fall of 2027. Please get in touch with mgrigsby-suarez@blessedsacrament.com or dimitre.bobev@gmail.com to request to be added to the list once the new October 2027 dates are finalized.



New Icon Made for Saint Ann Province



In the spirit of the 125th-anniversary remembrances, and in response to the request for a new image of our beloved Good Saint Ann, the provincial council commissioned a new Eucharistic image of Saint Ann by Joan Steinman of our Corpus Christi Parish in Houston, Texas. Over the winter, Joan took suggestions to gather the Holy Family for their afternoon chores to have an “afternoon snack” with fresh bread!

As seen in the image, Saint Ann has come to feed her grandson, Jesus, and her daughter, Mary, and is calling forth among the grapes around the family woodshop, with the workers, Joseph and Joachim, finishing a project. Mary foreshadows the washing of the feet, coming from her chores and care of the family as well. From these actions of hospitality and service, Christ is nourished to live his call to make the Spirit of the Lord come upon us in Eucharistic hospitality.

We appreciate Joan’s diligent work! A new holy card and prayer featuring this image will be available later this year. The painting icon will be placed at Saint Paschal Baylon in Highland Heights, Ohio.