



SSS Grapevine

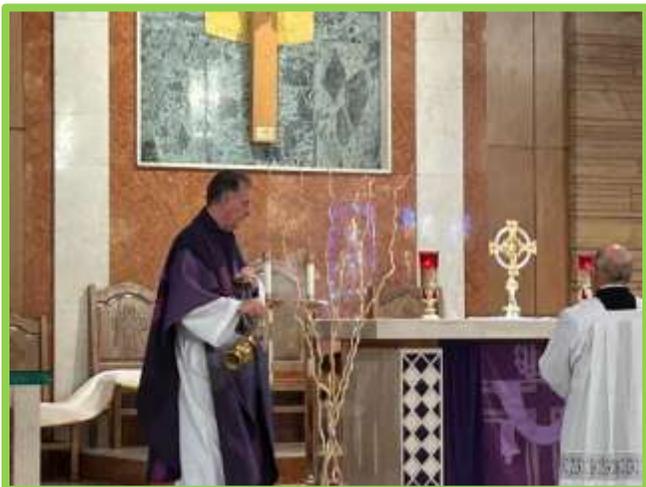
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CEE in Casper, Wyoming for Living a Eucharistic Life Retreat

By John Thomas Lane, SSS, *Provincial*

“What is a Parish Mission?” “What do you do when you are away at these retreats?” These are but a few of the questions I receive when I accept parish missions or retreats twice a year for the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE). The CEE still receives some requests for parish retreats each year. Mona Grigsby-Suarez, our director, and I can provide some retreats, as you read in the last *Grapevine* #6 of 2026. This Lent, Saint Patrick Church, Casper, Wyoming, requested that this author lead a parish mission-retreat on the Eucharist and hold a catechetical day on the Mass and the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to share with the parish community, especially those who are becoming Catholic at this Easter Vigil. The retreat begins with the weekend Masses, and the theme selected from our CEE toolbox is “Living a Eucharistic Life.” I also selected a song for the parish to use each day during the parish mission. For this one, we chose “This is a Day of New Beginnings,” with the powerful poem text by Brian Wren, set to music by Lori True.



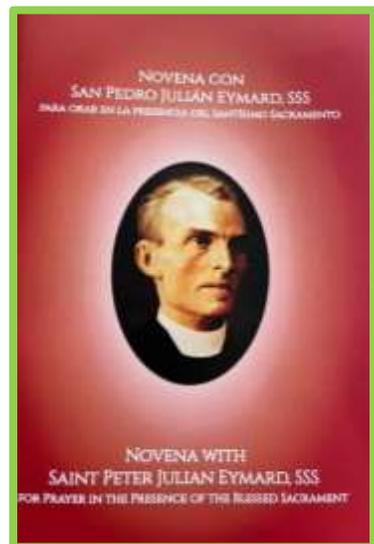


This past weekend, we heard the gospel of the “Woman at the Well.” What a wonderful way to begin a retreat or parish mission, for with the unnamed woman, we can see ourselves very well, having a great theological question-and-answer session with Christ. We, too, have our own moments in faith where we question and deepen our faith with Christ, encouraging us on toward evangelizing. I asked participants, “What are you leaving in your jar, behind at the well?”

For those who are unable to drive at night, I offer talks after the morning Mass, where I preach the homily of the day, and we continue the extension of the Mass with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. On the first day, I introduced the “4-ends of the Sacrifice of the Mass,” or the 4 praying styles of Eymard, to the parish. They love learning this methodology – A-R-T-E: *Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum – May Thy Eucharistic Kingdom Come!* They easily remember the anagram as I focus on the praying with the Blessed Sacrament through their “adoration,” “reparation – for forgiveness,” “thanksgiving,” and “entreaty” or petition. The funny punch line: A-R-T-E also stands for “always ready to eat!” or pray and live the Eucharist in our lives. I also offered, after a Mass, a time of questions and answers, a “stump the priest” opportunity to learn about the Mass or other Catholic topics.

On the second day of the retreat, I focused and prayed with the stations of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, as contained in a bilingual novena booklet. This parish only worships in English, so we followed this script and the “eight moments,” or phrases that were important in Eymard’s life. While we focus on his life, we also focus on our contemporary issues in the praying of the novena in the setting of exposition. The eight stations are:

1. The “gift of self.”
2. Called to be a priest.
3. Tomorrow will be too late.
4. Called to found an Order dedicated to the Eucharist.
5. First Communion in Paris – with the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.
6. Priests for others – Saint John Vianney and Eymard.
7. Apostle of the Eucharist – with Saint Pope John XXIII’s proclamation.

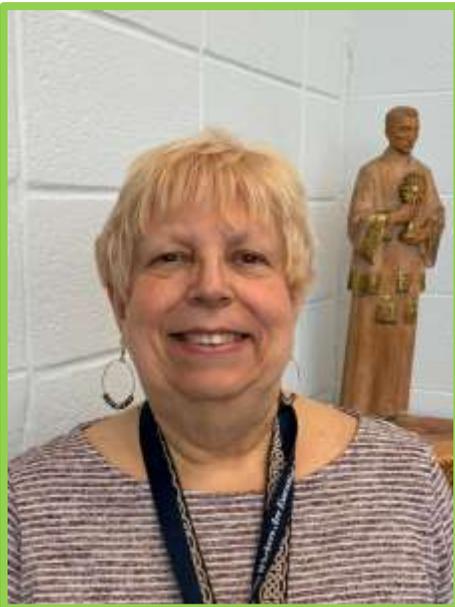


8. May Thy Eucharistic Kingdom Come – focusing on the heavenly banquet and the Eucharistic saints with Eymard bring us to heaven.¹

The last day of the retreat in Casper focused on the Eucharist as a healing sacrament, with an opportunity to celebrate the anointing of the sick during Mass, following the homily. I give some options for parishes to choose from, such as this, and this parish wanted to have this experience. The pastor, Father Cliff Jacobson, and his parochial vicar, Father Denis D’Souza (*on loan from India*), assisted me in the anointing of 200 participants. It was also a joy for the special appearance of their parish middle school and high school youth group.

Each day, I also offer spiritual direction and confession, and 25 people took advantage of them. During the homily, I sing a song that helps us focus on the day's theme and invites the congregation to come forward and leave their intention at the altar, with Christ exposed in the monstrance. Furthermore, when free, I work on parish, provincial, and other writing projects, where I feel I, too, am on retreat in the extra quiet. Especially in the setting of the Lamarie mountain range to the south, my daily walk, with 35 mph winds, felt like the Holy Spirit was truly guiding this time of reflection so that all may grow in their “living a Eucharistic life.”

20 Years of Faithful Service



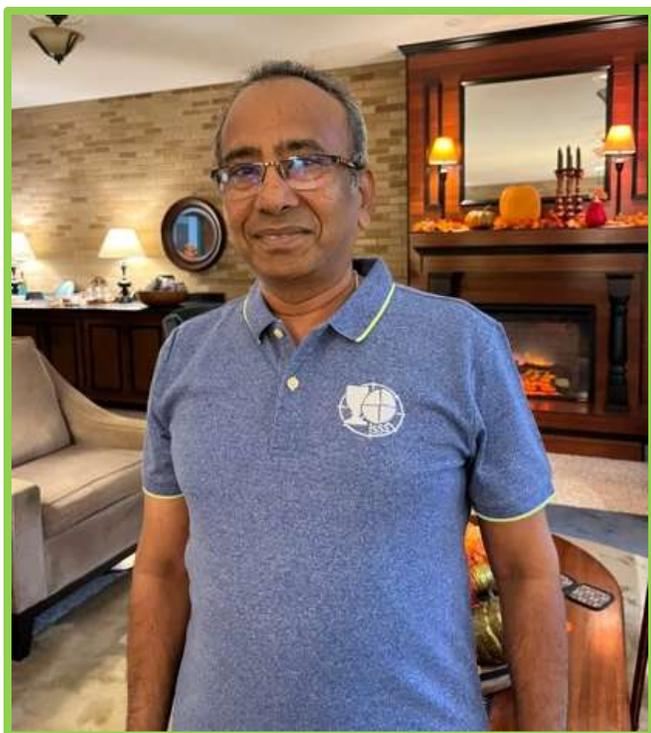
This summer, Susan Work (*photo to the left*), our executive assistant to the provincial and the province, celebrated 20 years of continued service with and for the Congregation. (In an upcoming *Bread, Broken & Shared* will give more details of her work with the Congregation and Aggregation.) We are grateful for her daily support of the provincial offices, especially for her major responsibilities as an immigration specialist and for the mission appeal/co-op program that coordinates our international priests with parishes across the USA to raise funds for their provinces. Susan makes us look good! We are so grateful for her 20 years and counting of support for our SSS mission.

¹ Contact the CEE or Emmanuel Media offices (440) 442-6311 for copies of this novena for your worship of the Eucharist or personal prayer. Copies are \$1, plus shipping and handling.

Additionally, Josie Rice (*photo to the right*), the development office assistant, also celebrated 20 years of faithful service this past week. She manages all calls to Saint Ann Shrine, Mass intentions (*you can always request this with her by calling (440) 449-2700 and hearing her wonderful voice*), orders for Saint Ann Shrine, and the coordination of prayer intentions. More than this, Josie provides a wonderful, compassionate listening ear to the many who call during the week to pray and ask that Josie and Good Saint Ann hear their prayers. We are grateful for Josie's faithful witness, her kind smile, and her loving care for our visitors and callers to Saint Ann Shrine. (*The last Bread, Broken & Shared, Fall 2025, featured Josie, so please check on our website for more information about her personal life and her joys of serving with the SSS and you!*)



New Assignments Announced for This Summer



Last week, the Provincial Council announced the following assignments with the family, friends, pastoral staffs, and parishes notified first:

- **Reverend Rosario Pushparaj SSS** (*on loan from India Province – photo to the left*) completes his 2-year term as parochial vicar to Immaculate Conception Parish, Willoughby, Ohio, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wickliffe, Ohio. Bishop Edward Malesic, Diocese of Cleveland, appoints him to be pastor of Saint Paschal Baylon Parish, Highland Heights, Ohio, beginning June 1, 2026, with the rite of installation celebrated on August 8, 2026.

- **Very Reverend John Thomas Lane SSS** completes his 17 years as pastor of Saint Paschal Baylon on June 1. Archbishop Ronald Hicks of the Archdiocese of New York appoints him as pastor of Église Saint Jean Baptiste in Manhattan, New York, beginning August 15, 2026, and celebrates the installation ritual the same day. He continues as provincial superior until his term expires on August 6, 2026, at the 27th Provincial Chapter. The provincial offices remain in Highland Heights, with the provincial's remote work continuing.



- **Reverend John Kamas SSS**, (*on the right in the photo*) completes his 13 years as pastor of Église Saint Jean Baptiste on August 15, 2026, and assumes the leadership as *pastor emeritus*, continuing to reside at Saint Jean Baptiste after a brief sabbatical this fall in recognition of his service to the parish.

We are extremely grateful to Fathers Rosario and Kamas for their dedicated service to the Province of Saint Ann and the parishes they served, noted for their great care, kindness, and love for their parishioners.