



# SSS Grapevine

An Internal Publication of the  
Province of Saint Ann (USA)  
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament  
**April 15, 2026 – 2026.11**

## SOAR! Visits to See Their Grants Fulfilled



SOAR! Site visit with left to right Father Lane SSS, our Provincial, Sister Kathleen from SOAR!, Carol Kelley, PhD, our nurse, Father Roger Bourgeois SSS, Bethany Center resident, Ray Frato, SSS Maintenance Supervisor, Paula Beatrez, Accountant and grant writer, Kristen from SOAR and Fr Joseph Kiet Nguyen SSS, local superior. Not available for the photo, Brother Gary LaVerdiere SSS, House Manager

We are always grateful to our benefactors and sponsors who help us with our various projects, staffing, and other needs of our religious life, especially for our international and senior religious. One organization that has supported us for over 10 years is called SOAR! – Support Our Aging Religious! (Yes, there is an exclamation point in the name- initials.) This organization, founded in the 1980s, is independent from the Catholic church or religious orders/institutes. The members who formed a board of directors and fund read an article

about the plight of aging religious orders, predominantly religious sisters who were struggling with what to do with their buildings and how to adapt for the future, and responded. Many religious groups did not have the funds to transform their buildings and support the aging religious and their needs. This board got to work right away to raise the funds and create a “trust” that would regularly distribute funds to qualifying religious Congregations, like ourselves!

Sister Kathleen Lunsmann IHM and Kristen Wise, director of grantmaking, visited our Bethany Center and Provincial Headquarters in Highland Heights, Ohio, on March 31, 2026, to see for themselves the fruits of their gifts over the decade of support to the SSS. During this period, we have replaced stairway railings, hallway flooring, and flooring in each of the 9 bedrooms and the nurse’s station; installed new windows, AC units, and ceiling lighting; and replaced tubs with showers for easier accessibility in the bathrooms. In our New York City house, we created a laundry room with easy-access washing machines and dryers, replacing a closet unit that required the user to stand on a ladder to reach the dryer. These little things mean a lot and support our religious



extremely well, so that they may remain active in our existing houses and upgrade these homes to fit the needs of our religious, as we need different items at certain chapters of our life. Thank you SOAR! And thanks to all who support SOAR! Each year, with the mission to partner with religious orders like ourselves to make our lives safe and comfortable.

## Open House for New Aggregation Members in New York and Chance to Visit with the New Pastor



On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, our Center for Eucharistic Evangelization Director (CEE) Mona Grigsby-Suarez and Provincial and pastor-elect Father John Thomas Lane SSS were invited to make a presentation to 25 candidates for the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament and their discernment at our Blessed Sacrament parish, Église Saint Jean Baptiste, New York, NY. One of the interesting takes for the evening: they were also invited by the current pastor, Father John Kamas SSS, to be more intentionally part of the parish's life as a young adult group. Mona presented the many aspects of an Aggregation member's life, the formation process, and commitment. We introduced many pieces of our literature, our prayer styles, and the opportunity to attend a Life in the Eucharist Retreat (LITE). Josephine Berenson and Patrick Gillespie, local co-chair leaders, hosted the event as a special social and preliminary time. Many of these young adults are already involved in various liturgical ministries in the parish. They enjoyed learning more about the history of the SSS, the Aggregation, Eymard, and the transition of pastorates with Fathers Kamas and Lane. Candidates ranged from a high school senior to college students to many young adult professionals.



Another highlight is the preparation for the Saint Jean Baptist High School LITE retreat with the youth group of Saint Paschal Baylon, Highland Heights, OH. This will occur on June 4, 2026 (*and we will report on this event in the future*). Members hope to participate and learn more about LITE.

May these women and men discern their call to our Eucharistic way of life in the Eymard Family. We pray for them!

## Easter Greetings from Our SSS Communities!

We wish you all the best on the great season of Easter Time – the great 50 days of contemplation on the mystery of the resurrection. May it be a season of new life and growth! You are in our prayers.



Father Gnansekar PaulRaj SSS, pastor of our Houston, Texas parish of Corpus Christi



Father Arul Tarcisius Dhairiam of our parish of Saint Joseph Downtown in San Antonio, Texas



The priests at Saint Jean Baptiste, New York, with a staff meal on Easter Wednesday. Fathers Fred (Uganda), Kamas



Our New York Community at Saint Jean Baptiste with the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame



Fathers Keenan, JK, Norman and Martin created the Easter dinner in Highland Heights. We are grateful to our benefactors and donors who support our meals! Thank you and we keep you in our prayers!



Our Cleveland SSS Community



Our Novice Matthew Vlastelica (*second from the left*) with the Liverpool Community at social time before the Easter dinner.



Our SSS community in Holiday, Florida  
(l-r): Fathers Dominic Long, Joselito Hitosis, Joseph Thai Tran, and William Fickel