



SSS Grapevine

An Internal Publication of the
Province of Saint Ann (USA)
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
August 10, 2026 – 2026.22

Provincial Chapter 27 Now a Great Memory



One evening, the international religious serving in the Province of Saint Ann, had a night out to tour the Cleveland area, here at Edgewater Park & Beach and time for ice cream in an entertainment district. Two sisters Servants of the Blessed Sacrament serving in Waterville, Maine also joined the relaxing night out.

Every four years, our religious institute, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (SSS) celebrates a “chapter,” an official meeting of all the members who belong to the institute to evaluate the goals made at the last chapter, prayers together, hear reports about the state of the province, the financial status, vocation report, the ministries that serve the province (i.e., *Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing, Emmanuel, fundraising, etc.*) and then plan for the

future by electing new leadership. *(Our last Grapevine featured pictures of the new council for the USA.)*

The meeting opens with an address *(a written letter this time)* from the General Superior, Father Philip Benzy Romician, SSS. Because the General Council sent a representative, the Very Reverend Father Francisco Junior Marques SSS, who lives in Brazil, attended this meeting. Also, at conferences, such as the Province of Saint Ann's participation in the "Americas Conference," Fathers Gustavo Ceballos SSS and Juan David Zapata SSS attended from Colombia.

A new feature for this chapter: two locations: one primary location with all the membership at Regina Health Center, Richfield, Ohio, and another location, with the great services of Saint Paschal Baylon, Highland Heights, Ohio (SPB), next to the SSS provincial headquarters. Additionally, the chapter was "bimodal" because one member, Father Jim Hayes SSS, was unable to join in person but "zoomed" into the meeting from New York City.

The goals for this meeting and the next four years include some of the following:



Father Robert Stark, working in the Diocese of Honolulu, HI, proclaims a Scripture reading in Saint Ann Shrine.



Our Province tradition has been to select the three youngest members of the province to be "tellers" (counters) assisting with the election of provincial and council – and here are left-to-right Fathers Louis, Fred and Anthony.

- strengthening our community life, especially with time together for meetings and dinners
- internationally growing with improved Convention of Transfers (COT) between the religious and their provinces
- more opportunities for prayer in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament
- expanding our vocation apostolate
- reviewing the use of our allowances in cash or credit cards.
- waiting until the complete implementation of the *Liturgy of Hours*, the first Sunday of Advent 2028.
- and the most important – redeveloping the structures of the province in the great service of the SSS around the world with talks to combine ministries with other countries or regions.



We were blessed with one day of the chapter devoted to the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, led by our Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing Director, Mona Grigsby-Suarez ABS (*Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Northeast Ohio*), and USA Province Aggregation Council Chair, Greg Dufour ABS (*Maine and Houston representative*). We heard about all the good works and improvements in past years, and about the revised initial formation program, and the Life in the

Eucharist Congress next August 6 – 8, 2027, at SPB, as a chance for international religious, new ABS, or those in formation for the ABS to attend. A committee will lead this from the ABS, and all are welcome, so SAVE THE DATE!

We enjoyed great prayer and music led by Julie Tragon, an organized secretariat led by Susan Work and Paula Beatriz, and a Congregation of Saint Joseph Sister Rosemary Brennan, facilitated by Brother Gary LaVerdiere SSS and Thomas Wiese SSS, who moderated the event over the five days and made sure that we had wonderful meals and snacks and stayed on task! Thank you for your prayers! Great memories, with great hopes for the future, as we live out the theme of the chapter for the next four years: Abound in Hope!



Sister Rosemary Brennan pictured with Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Anna (left) and Kim (right)



Father Rosario Officially Installed as Pastor of Saint Paschal



Moments before the service, Father Rosario, SSS, Bishop Malesic and representing the General Council of the SSS, Father Francisco Junior Marques, SSS, vest in the sacristy.

Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, Bishop of Cleveland, installed Blessed Sacrament Father Pushparaj Rosario (*a COT with India*) on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic Church, Highland Heights, Ohio. Father Rosario is the 9th pastor of SPB. While Father Rosario's term began on June 1, Bishop Malesic's first available date to come for a pastoral visit and install Father Rosario with the official rite of presenting the staff and pastoral and finance councils was this day.

Father Rosario comes from our SSS Indian Province, where he also served as a pastor and in leadership roles for the community, its finances, and formation. For the past two years, he served as parochial vicar to two parishes in nearby Lake County. We are grateful for Father Rosario's "yes" to serve the wonderful SSS parish with the transfer of Father John Thomas Lane SSS to New York City to replace the retiring Father John Kamas, SSS. (*Stay tuned for this info in the next Grapevine!*) After the Mass, the Knights of Columbus, Welcome Committee, and pastoral staff hosted the annual parish picnic.

Three New Members Join the NEO Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament

Several were in formation for over a year to become part of the "third branch" of the Eymardian Family – the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament (ABS) in Northeast Ohio. Officially founded in 1859 by Saint Peter Julian Eymard, this lay and cleric commitment is to live another way of Eucharistic life. This church-canonically established religious institute of the "Aggregation" makes promises and then renews these promises every year (*and not vows*). ABS Members and CEE Director Mona Grigsby-Suarez and Dick Kramer were the primary leaders of the formation session. Due to several circumstances within the

formation group, on Sunday, August 9, 2026, three proclaimed their promises to be members of the Aggregation at this time:



Featured left to right: altar server Nick, Father Lane, Kathy, Jennifer, Mary Jo, altar server Jimmy, Fathers Rosario, Louis, and Bill Fickel (CEE Director Emeritus)



Mona Grigsby-Suarez

Mary Jo Grendell, Jennifer Morton, and Kathy Sanson, all parishioners of SPB. *(Others who were recently in the formation process will make their promises at another time.)* At the same time, the “three amigos” made their promises, and those ABS members of Northeast Ohio who were present renewed theirs as well. After the Mass, presided over by the newly re-elected Provincial Superior, Very Reverend John Thomas Lane SSS, all enjoyed a light breakfast reception.

We pray for these three new members of the ABS and for future vocations to the ABS. The next formation sessions begin nationally in February 2027. Ask other ABS members and SSS parishes about this and “come and see!”



Many NEO Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament members renew their promise after the three proclaimed their first promise.

Photo courtesy of George Zagar