

SSS Grapevine

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San Antonio Aggregation Welcomes 42 Members



By Dr. Billy (William) Stewart, ABS Leader – San Antonio

With great joy, during the 11:00 AM Mass at Downtown Saint Joseph on the Solemnity Day of Saint Peter Julian Eymard (*Sunday, August 2, 2026*), the San Antonio Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament (ABS) added 42 new members with their Promise Commitment Ceremony. Father Arul Tharcus SSS, pastor of Downtown Saint Joseph, gave an enlightening sermon on Saint Eymard and encouraged the new members in their calling as modern-day “disciples of the Eucharist.”

The newest Aggregation members completed their 12-month discernment classes at Prince of Peace and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in San Antonio and have grown deeper in their love of the Most Blessed Sacrament and our Eucharistic way of life. The new members are from several parishes across the San Antonio Archdiocese, including Saint Mary downtown, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Helotes, Prince of Peace, Our Lady of Grace, Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Saint Mary Magdalene, Holy Name, Resurrection of the Lord, and Holy Spirit, all in San Antonio.

The celebration continued after Mass with a gathering in the Parish Hall – the Mother of the

Americas Center – where Cesar Camacho reminded the new members that our journey together has just begun! Many new members expressed their desire to help teach new classes in several parishes and be involved with the Archdiocesan solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ with the special procession, and all were invited to come adore every Sacred Heart – First Friday at our beautiful Downtown Saint Joseph. The Eucharistic fire of Saint Peter Julian Eymard is indeed spreading throughout the Archdiocese of San Antonio and beyond!!

New Pastor in New York City



Église Saint Jean Baptiste is our mother church for the Province of Saint Ann, and has administered this historic parish on the Upper East Side of New York City since 1900. After a total of 25 years as pastor, Father John Kamas SSS retired and became “pastor emeritus,” and Bishop Edmund Whalen installed our provincial, Father John Thomas Lane SSS, as the nineteenth pastor. Guests for the celebration, mostly ABS members, came from the Archdioceses of Galveston-Houston, the Diocese of Cleveland, the Diocese of Portland, Maine, and Saint Petersburg, as well as Fathers Paul Raj Gnanasekar, Joseph Kiet Nguyen, and Francisco Junior Marques SSS. A friend of the NY SSS community, Benedictine Mark Dilone, and lifelong friend Dominican Scott Steinkerchner also joined in the concelebration.



Father John Kamas SSS,
retiring pastor

Bishop Whalen shared the parish's history: a parish started by the sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame – Montreal. He stressed the grand collaboration between the SSS and the CNDs and how their leadership and the high school have contributed so much education and hope to thousands. The bishop also emphasized the importance of the Saint Ann miracles and how people are touched by this devotion.



The CNDs (*the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame*) and Pastoral Staff are presented to Father Lane as part of the rite of installation as pastor



Father Lane with his mom, Jo Ann, who has attended all four of Father Lane's installations in his 27 years as a pastor – first Corpus Christi in Houston, Saint Charles in Albuquerque, Saint Paschal Baylon in Highland Heights and now Saint Jean Baptiste. Father Lane's dad was not well enough to travel for the event and sent prayers and a video message.

Bishop Whalen gave praise, gratitude, and thanks to Father Kamas for holding the Upper East Side together through many trying times since the late 1980s. Father Lane, in his opening address after communion, honored Father Kamas by having the Pastoral Staff name the "lower church's" Grand Hall after Father Kamas, hereby forever calling it "The Kamas Center," since, as Father Lane said, "Father Kamas has truly been a center of this parish for so long that we can never forget what he has done for this place."

The three-hundred-plus crowd all enjoyed an appetizer reception in the high school auditorium after the Installation Mass, with a piano bar being one of the many highlights.



Some of the guests who traveled to be at the event



Later that night, guests and Pastoral Staff members gathered on the roof for a pizza party!