



SSS Grapevine

An Internal Publication of the
Province of Saint Ann (USA)
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
October 5, 2026 – 2026.26

Happy 70th Anniversary, Father Ernest!



On September 22, 2026, Father Ernest Falardeau SSS celebrated 70 years of ordained ministry as a priest of Jesus Christ. Father Ernest has lived at Regina Health Center, Richfield, Ohio, for the last two years, serving in our praying ministry there.

Ordained at our first foundation parish, Saint Jean Baptiste, New York City, by Auxiliary Bishop Griffiths, he immediately went to teach as a young priest at our Hyde Park High School Seminary, where he mastered Latin, Greek, French, and public speaking with the students. In 1961, he went on to teach liturgy and theology at the Saint

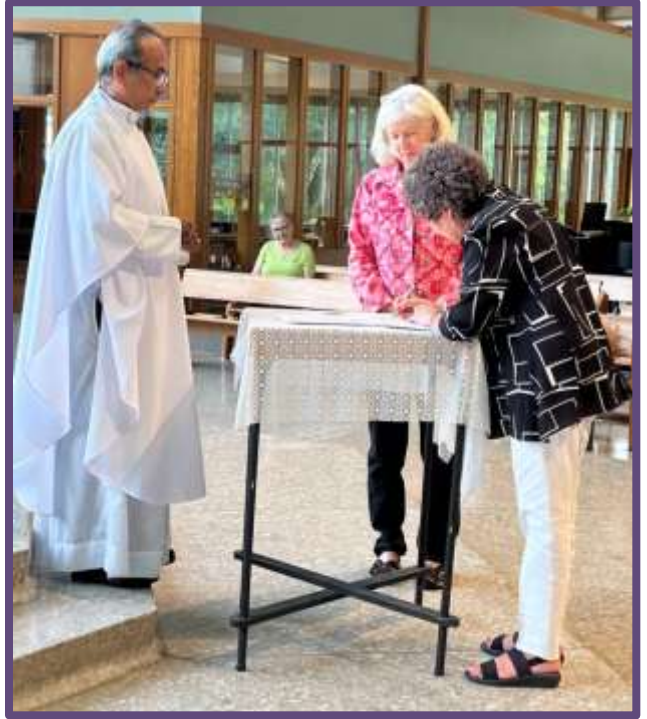
Joseph Major Seminary, located first in Cleveland and then, with the move to Highland Heights, Ohio. After his teaching and leadership work, he moved back to Hyde Park to serve as rector of the seminary and vocation director from 1967 to 1979. After our SSS seminaries closed, Father Ernest moved to Albuquerque to serve on the parish staff of Saint Charles Borromeo, Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 1979 to 2003. Also, he served as the Ecumenical Officer for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Through his ecumenical work and book writing, he became known as an international expert and consultant. From 2003 to 2020, Father Ernest moved back to the church where he was ordained, served as an assistant priest in the parish, continued his ecumenical work and writing, and dedicated himself to playing his trumpet and swimming to stay healthy. On June 16, 2020, he moved to our Bethany Center, part of Saint Paschal Baylon, Highland Heights, and stayed there until 2024, when he moved to Regina.

Father Ernest has written three books, numerous articles, and contributions to encyclopedias, and has received several national awards for his work with Eucharist, Communion, and Ecumenism. Congratulations, Father Ernest!

Welcome Our New Aggregation Member

Josephine (Josie) Lawrence of Saint Paschal Baylon parish, Highland Heights, Ohio, completed her initial formation in the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament this summer, but due to a family emergency, was unable to make her promise in the Aggregation until Saturday, September 5, 2026, at her home church and headquarters of the Blessed Sacrament. The pastor, Father Pushparaj Rosario SSS, and Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing Director, Mona Grigsby-Suarez, received her into the Aggregation during the regular morning Mass.

Josie serves Holy Communion during parish Masses and is also a minister of Holy Communion at the nearby Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital. This ministry, and the witness of the Aggregation members, inspired her to be formed in the Aggregation and live the *Project of Life* vocation. Before retiring, Josie also served as a nurse at Cleveland Clinic, earned a degree in Business Administration, served as Vice President for Nursing Services at Cleveland Clinic, and then



spent 17 years as Chief Operating Officer for two other hospitals in northeast Ohio. Before retiring in 2023, she also served as a consultant for 12 years. Welcome, fellow member of the Eymardian family!



We Celebrate with SOAR! 40 Years of Grants



Fathers John Kamas, SSS, Fred Bugembe, SSS and John Thomas Lane, SSS with new president Kristen R. Wise, who recently visited our Highland Heights Community to see the work of the grants Father James Hayes was also present, but unavailable for this photo

wonderful things SOAR! has done to support aging religious throughout the United States. Lay people started SOAR! first learned of the plight of sisters who were struggling in their convent in trying to find funds to replace their roof. After reading the story, a few people got together, donated their own funds, and encouraged an annual giving program to continue supporting religious communities.

The New York Blessed Sacrament Community joined honorees Auxiliary Bishop of New York (*and our Manhattan region bishop*) and Sister Kathleen Lunsman IHM, now the former president of SOAR!, to honor them and the organization's commitment to serving religious communities like the SSS. SOAR! stands for "supporting our aging religious." And yes, they have an exclamation point in the copyrighted name.

At the fortieth anniversary, celebrated Thursday, September 17, 2026, at the Athletic Club of New York City, religious communities shared personal and video statements with the gala about the



Pictured with some other religious provincials who have received grants from SOAR!



With Bishop Whalen, 2nd from the left

The SSS in New York and Highland Heights have

benefited greatly! We received grants to build and stock a laundry room in New York and to install railings. In Highland Heights' Bethany Center wing of our house, we got new railings and refurbished each of the nine bedrooms with new floors, windows, ceilings with lighting installed, electrical work, and air conditioning units. We have benefited from these grants for 15 years.

We pray for SOAR's ongoing work! We are so grateful for the gift of attending the gala, and we pray for 40 more years of support for the religious of the United States.

Convent of the Sacred Heart Trains & Welcomes New Communion Ministers



Since 2000, Father John Kamas SSS, and now Father John Thomas Lane SSS, have served as chaplains to this all-girls school, from kindergarten through high school, near Saint Jean Baptiste. *(There are 750 students.)* This is a Religious of the Sacred Heart School, with a few sisters still serving as tutors and on the school boards.

Each year, the chaplains train a few of the students to be ministers of Holy Communion. Inspired by Father Kamas and his retirement, the largest group of girls in the school's 145-year history decided to show their faith and gratitude by becoming Communion Ministers. Trained by Father Lane and high school theology teacher Sam Scheidt, they were installed at the first school Mass, the Mass of the Holy Spirit, on Monday, September 21, 2026. Congratulations to these women who serve their school – and all of them took turns distributing Holy Communion to share the Body of Christ with their parents and fellow “Cardinals.”

Reminders – Save the Date

- **Eucharistic Holy Hour on *Dilexi te*:** The text to pray with this apostolic exhortation at Saint Jean Baptiste (SJB) on **Tuesday, October 6, 7:00 PM.**
- **Province Aggregation Council** bi-monthly meeting on Zoom: **Wednesday, October 14, 7:30/6:30/5:30 PM.** Code to follow; an important meeting for planning the rest of 2026 and 2027 events.
- **Eucharistic Holy Hour for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 PM (SPB) or Monday, November 2, 7:00 PM (SJB).**
- **Aggregation Quarterly Continuing Formation** on the Revised & Expanded Initial Formation **Saturday, December 12, 10/9/8 AM** on ZOOM.
- **Life in the Eucharist Retreat** – either for the first time or your continuing formation – with the SSS religious – **Friday, August 6, 2027 – Sunday, August 8, 2027**, on the campus of SPB. **Reserve your rooms and space now** so local Aggregation members can host you, or book a hotel room down the street.
- **Eymard Pilgrimage in France: October 11 – 22, 2027:** Edita Krunac from Select International Tours writes: *Preparing, quoting, and setting up a group pilgrimage trip requires a significant investment of time and resources from our entire team, including accounting, marketing, graphic design, and our overseas partners who secure hotels, buses, and guides. When a group cancels, we take a substantial financial hit. So, please let Father Lane know by December 25, 2026, if you are interested. We need at least 25*



Photo of a previous Eymard Pilgrimage taken at Saint-Roman, near Chatte, France, Father Eymard's first assignment as a diocesan priest

people for this trip, which will cost about \$5,000.

Let Father Lane know:
jtlanesss@gmail.com.

Rest in Peace

We pray for the brother-in-law of Father James Hayes SSS (*New York City*), Andrew Maddelena, who died suddenly at 77. He was married to Father Hayes' sister, Margaret, and had three adult children. May he rest in peace!

NEO Aggregation Cleans Up SSS Cemetery Plot



This photo, provided by Dawn Ferrante, show (l-r): Tom and Chris Anderson, Dawn Ferrante, Mary Muehle, Bonnie DiCillo, and Dan Lewis

We are so grateful to several members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament in northeast Ohio who renewed the cemetery plots of our SSS religious at All Souls Cemetery in Chardon, Ohio, for us on Sunday, September 27, 2026. They did an amazing job of cleaning and removing the weeds and grass that covered many of the gravestones. What a wonderful act of mercy and care! Thank you, NEO leaders!



The finished product, a very necessary cleaning! The edging and clean gravestones are amazing and a real improvement!

Saint Vincent de Paul Celebrates its Annual Name Day



Each year around the feast day of Saint Vincent de Paul, the fine people of the parish in Holiday, Florida, celebrate with an International Festival. This year, it fell on Sunday, September 27, 2026. For this year's celebration, they also bid a fond farewell to Father Joselito Hitosis, SSS (*Father Lito*), in gratitude for his 3 years of service to the parish as its parochial vicar and local SSS leader for the past two years. Father Lito returns to his home province for a future assignment there after his Philippine

Province Chapter meeting in the coming weeks. Thank you, Father Lito, for your dedicated service! *(Photos provided by Margaret Flanders, Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Holiday, Florida)*



Uncle, Brother Matthew, Welcomes Sister's New Baby

The Vlastelica family of Sydney, Australia, welcomed their first new-generation baby – to our uncle, Brother Matthew Vlastelica SSS, on Monday, September 28, 2027. Brother Matthew is in his native Australia for visa renewal, to be present for the USA process, his one sister's wedding, and the birth of his other sister's new child. Petra Rose keeps the Croatian-Australian tradition of naming rights. We pray for the new mom and baby and continued good health! Brother Matthew has been attending classes while in Australia via Zoom at Catholic Theological Union (CTU). He will be back in the USA on October 10, 2026, and in Chicago at CTU shortly after this family visit.



Question: Is There a History Book of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament to Share?

By Sister Catherine Marie Caron SSS
Provincial & General Superior Emerita, Waterville, Maine



Editor's note: With the recent issue of the Grapevine featuring a photo with the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, readers of the Grapevine and history buffs of the branches of the Eymardian family were curious and asked the Grapevine staff for more information about the history of the Servants and the Aggregation. Many documents in storage, mostly in French, reveal the wonderful origins of the branches of the Eymardian Family. Here, based on the questions and title of this note, Sister Catherine responds:

ANSWER: We do not have a history book of the Servants, but multiple documents developed by individual sister religious regarding

special aspects of interest. Most of these are in French. Word of mouth has been the primary source of information. At some point, we hope someone may compile a more complete set of resources, but to give you an idea, I can list off the top of my head some obvious ones:

- Biography of Mother Marguerite by Father Henri Evers SSS (*so far, the best and in French*)
- Two efforts at summarizing her biography (*English*)
- Two volumes of her journal (*French*)
- A volume of her conferences to the sisters (*French*)
- A collection of highlights of the various Superior Generals' terms until Vatican II by Sr. Janine Bourque SSS (*French*)
- Several CDs in PowerPoint of history until Vatican II with a printout by Sr. Edith Bula SSS from the Philippines (*English*)
- Lists of dates of foundations and house closures
- Studies on the date of foundation, prepared for the General Chapter of 2005 (*decision 1859- vows of the first group*)

Current Endeavors

- Mother Marguerite's correspondence has been digitized (*in French and over 2000 letters*), as well as the archive material dealing with her life and work and testimonies by contemporaries.
- Dr. Anthea Kelly prepared a PowerPoint discussing Mother Marguerite's health issues (*French and English*) partly to explore and refute Father Donald Cave SSS's opinion regarding Mother Marguerite's health issues as psychological.
- Sr. Suzanne Aylwin SSS has been preparing a selection of material on Mother Marguerite, interspersing Mother Marguerite's correspondence, both received and sent, and including notes from her journal. This will shortly be made into a book serving as an archival reference work for a new Biography on Mother Marguerite (*pending approval*).
- For the current Amplified General Council Meeting, Sister Teresa Anh Dao Dinh SSS, Assistant General, has prepared a document listing all the General Chapters over the years with their principal decisions.

This question scratches the surface and begs us to have an aid to assist the efforts to record the history of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and marvel at the work over the decades across the globe from Father Eymard, Mother Marguerite, and the Aggregation, and how their stories are intertwined!



This photo and the one above show the Servants community and chapel in Waterville, Maine, along with the area's Aggregation members

Please pray for the Amplified General Council meeting of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, taking place in Paris currently until October 10, 2026, with special highlights of the Father General of the SSS present and a special visit to a historical site of the Sisters' Congregation, Angers, France, with the noted Blessed Sacrament historian, Father André Guitton SSS.

News from our SSS Province in Australia

We share the news release from the Holy Spirit Province below, and our congratulations and prayers to the new council. Of note, Father Ben Ho SSS, the new provincial, began his formation with us here in the USA Province, with Brother Michael Perez, SSS, as his Novice Director in New York. We are proud of our international collaborations in the SSS.



The Provincial Chapter 21 of the Province of the Holy Spirit announced:

Pictured (l-r): Father Ignatius Vu Hoang Anh Tuan SSS, Father Anthony Nguyen The Nhan SSS, Father Ben Ho SSS, & Father Philip Watkins SSS

- Provincial Superior: Father Benjamin Ho SSS
- 1st Consultor & Vicar: Father Anthony Nguyen The Nhan SSS
- 2nd Consultor: Father Philip Watkins SSS (*former provincial*)
- Treasurer: Father Ignatius Vu Hoang Anh Tuan SSS