Bread Broken & Shared

A Publication of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament Province of Saint Ann for the Eymardian Family and Friends

Provincial Chapter 27 Provides Guidance for Our Future



From August 3–7 in Northeast Ohio, at two locations, the primary being Regina Health Center, Richfield, Ohio, and the other being Saint Paschal Baylon Family Life Center (SPB), Highland Heights, Ohio, delegates of the 27th Provincial Chapter for the Province of Saint Ann met to review the past, raise issues of concern for the present, elect new leadership and provide guidance and direction for the future.

A "chapter" is a grace-filled moment in the life of any religious community of men or women. The word "chapter" is used to define a specific canonical piece of legislation and moment in the life of a religious institute. It is a time of prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Morning and Evening Prayer, Eucharist, fellowship among the members, discernment, social time, great meals provided by great cooks and guests who support the mission of the Province of Saint Ann. Our theme was "Abound in Hope," and the grace of this theological virtue, mixed with a lot of faith and love, helped guide the delegates throughout the special week of our lives.

Continued on next page...

Inside This Issue

3 Emmanuel Magazine
5 Provincial's Perspective
6 Brother Matthew
7 Uganda Mission
9 Staff-Kay Vincent
10 Saint Ann Shrine
13 Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing
15 Support Our Mission
16 SPJE Pilgrimage-2027

Provincial Chapter..Continued from previous page

Each day there were specific highlights we enjoyed:



- **MONDAY,** we had a retreat time with our guest liaison from our General Council, Father Francisco Junior Marques SSS (*picture to the right*). A native of Brazil, Father Junior represents all the American provinces to the General Team and shared about our unique relationship and mission at this time in the history of the entire religious order. We also had reports from the Provincial Superior, Provincial Treasurer and the Provincial Business Office, including the Advancement Office. This meeting was held at Regina so that all of our men of the province, plus the invited international religious from across the SSS globe could participate and hear the "state of the province."

- **TUESDAY, at SPB** we focused on the future structure of the Province of Saint Ann in relation to the rest of the Congregation around the world. As we are less USA members, how we will fit into the bigger picture? This is an ongoing question and concern that we will bring to the larger Congregation at a meeting next June 2027. Michael DeSanctis, our *Emmanuel Magazine* editor gave a report and a direction for the future of the media service. The majority of the day was with our Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, our other branch of the Eymard Family as Father Junior gave a very interesting and detailed history of the Aggregation. Another highlight was having our international priests go out to the beach in Cleveland city proper and enjoy some ice cream at the local dairy shop.



- **WEDNESDAY:** We gave updates on homeland security while again at SPB. We also reviewed our internal processes for the accreditation which we went thru this past year and spend time on our statutes, policies and procedures. We also listened and questioned the three candidates for the office of provincial.



- **THURSDAY,** back at Regina, we discerned the issues for the future and elected new leadership. We are grateful that Father John Thomas Lane SSS (*Middle Right)*, Father John Kamas SSS (*far right*) and Father Thomas Smithson SSS (*middle left)* agreed to serve again after being re-elected as provincial, treasurer and consultor respectively. Father Long Nguyen SSS (*far left*) was elected for the first time as consultor and also in a special role, being the first international priest, non-member of the province, but serving with a Green Card and four-year commitment to be in the province and therefore eligible to be elected.



Continued on next page...

Provincial Chapter...Continued from previous page

- **FRIDAY,** wrapped up at SPB with priorities made for the new council and time for discernment of members to serve on committees and councils. The chapter felt that vocation ministry is a prime concern, personal and community finances, implementation of the *Liturgy of the Hours – Second Edition*, and other pieces for community life are the direction for our life together in the future to improve upon.

We are grateful for the staff (*especially in the picture, left to right, our nurse Carol Kelley, our executive assistant Susan Work, and accountant Paula Beatrez)* and members who worked hard and supported our chapter – but especially the prayers of our readers and Aggregation who support the mission of the Province of Saint Ann.



To the next four years! May the Holy Spirit guide the Province of Saint Ann and always "abound in hope." ✠

Status Report on Reimagined Emmanuel Magazine

By Michael E. DeSanctis, Editor

Much has changed at *Emmanuel* in the short time since I assumed editorship of the magazine about a year ago. We've gone from being a bi-monthly, subscriber-based publication on paper to a digital presence on the Congregation's website available monthly, without charge, to anyone intrigued by its contents. The magazine's longstanding reputation as a clearinghouse for serious reflection on the nature, history and practice of worship in a Eucharistic key remains intact, as evidenced by our publication in recent months of essays as wide-ranging as theologian Robert Nicastro's examination of the sacrament from a "Process Theology" perspective (March), to a piece by Michael Centore, editor of *Tomorrow's American* Catholic, recounting the blessings he draws from praying the Liturgy of the Hours (May), to medical ethicist Dolores Christie's investigation into what Christians *really* means when claiming to discover Christ "in the breaking of the bread."

We've been happy to publish a number of articles on topics related to the various art forms associated with the rites of the Church, including a lavishly-illustrated one by architect Tino Grist, who writes from Rome, Italy, addressing the role that A.I. is beginning to play in the designing of Catholic places of worship. Likewise, our special Advent installment was devoted entirely to the paintings of well-known artist Rev. Peter S. Gray, a member of the Society of Saint Sulpice, and featured a collection of color reproductions of his Eucharist-themed works. The magazine took an inter-religious turn in January 2026 by sharing a heartfelt reflection by retired physician Steven Levy, MD, FCAP, from Erie, Pennsylvania, a lifelong supporter of dialogue between Catholics and Jews as outlined in *Nostra Aetate* (1965) of Vatican II, who wrote of the picture of Jesus he and his Lutheran wife draw from Sacred Scripture.

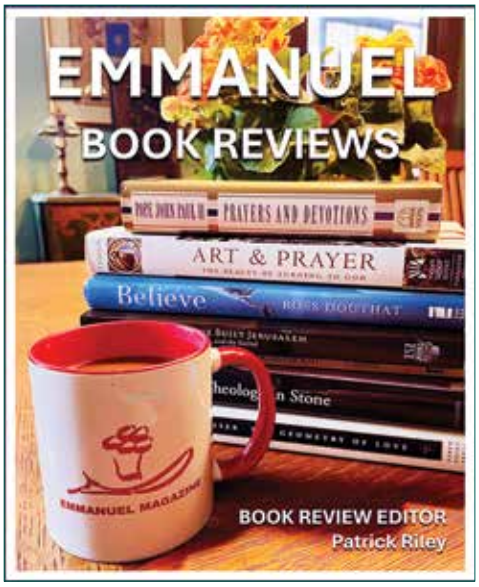


Hoping to widen the pool of contributors to *Emmanuel* and encourage readers to see themselves as "participants" in the magazine's reemergence, we invited them through an editorial initiative called "Modern. Reverent. Catholic." to submit assessments of the settings and situations in which they regularly celebrate the Eucharist, with a nod to

Continued on next page...

Emmanuel Magazine...Continued from previous page

how these conform with the liturgical directive of Vatican II. As it turns out, the first to respond to our invitation was political scholar Mauro Del Guidice, another Italian writer based in Rome, who described church buildings both old and new that have contributed to his spiritual development. Many of the other essays we published in the past year simply reinforced the wider "sacramentality" with which Catholic Christianity has always viewed the world, among these "Blessed Be God Forever" penned by Cincinnati-based Jim Brown, a former organizational development consultant to the SSS.



Under the direction of book review editor Pat Riley, *Emmanuel* continued to share thoughtful assessments of nearly a dozen titles, both scholarly and popular, likely to be of interest to our readership. Several of these were prepared by academic writers, suggesting that the magazine remains a platform attractive to those with a more intellectual involvement in the life of the Church. Given the nature of electronic communication today throughout scholarly, ecclesiastical and other circles in fact, it is clear that word has quickly spread of the magazine's rebirth in digital form—and we are pleased to be receiving nearly daily article pitches and submissions from interested parties throughout the world.

In terms of staffing, we continue to rely heavily on the expertise of Emmanuel Media Director Kay Vincent, who's primarily responsible for giving each installment of the magazine the polished "look" it enjoyed as a paper publication for decades. Among our related goals for the coming year is to retain a volunteer copy editor/proofreader and assemble an advisory board to help maintain *Emmanuel*'s general tone and editorial direction. Given the immense collection of archival material to which the magazine has access, we also aim to begin unearthing for republication many of the wonderful essays, articles and reflections that to have graced its pages since its emerging in the 1890s.

Going forward, I see nothing but good things in store for *Emmanuel*, whose very name bolsters my belief while working at my desk each morning that God truly *is* with us, and that the words, images and ideas we presume to broadcast like seed to the world—now by digital means—are important contributors to the mission of the Congregation. ✠

A Word of Thanks to our Partners in Ministry

Many of you returned the enclosed response card in with a generous donation to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. We are most grateful to you for making it possible for our priests and brothers to continue their ministry. Your gift, whether large or small, helps you to actually share in the ministry of the Congregation in the USA. You are remembered daily in the prayer intentions of the priests and brothers of the Congregation.

Bread Broken & Shared

Bread Broken & Shared Newsletter is published by the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Province of Saint Ann, for Aggregation members, family, friends and benefactors.

Contact information:
Phone: (440) 442-6311
Website: www.blessedsacrament.com

Bread, Broken & Shared STAFF:
PUBLISHER & EDITORIAL: Very Reverend John Thomas Lane SSS, Provincial
EDITOR & LAYOUT: Ms. Kay Vincent
EDITOR & ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR: Mr. Scott Gongos
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PROVINCE: Mrs. Susan Work
PHOTO CREDIT: Publisher's file

CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
5384 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights (Cleveland), Ohio 44143

Since 1900, our Eymardian Family serves the United States and now in Connecticut, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Texas

Become an Apostle of the Eucharist: Brother, Sister, Deacon, Ordained Priest or Aggregation Member

From the Provincial's Perspective

Dear Friends of the Blessed Sacrament Community:



As we share this latest issue of our *BBS* newsletter/magazine we reflect on so many moments of gratitude and love. This issue highlights your generosity to us in our mission. We are grateful when you support financially our SSS missions throughout the world, especially Uganda with funds for a vehicle and our students' education. We are grateful for your financial support to reestablishing *Emmanuel Magazine* online so that it has free subscriptions for all to have access and read. We are grateful for the ways you support our religious in the retirement and aging needs. We are grateful when you fund this newsletter/magazine and our communication office – especially reading in this issue about Kay Vincent our long-time media editor and creator.

We are grateful when you fund the leadership of the Province of Saint Ann so that we are able to serve you throughout the country and in our Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing. You support us and we are so grateful when your province funding for holy cards, novena booklets and other items to print.

We are so grateful and in this season of gratitude thru the end of the year, we love hearing how you have been impacted by our men, Saint Ann, and the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Our mission is to bring the Eucharist and all its facets to you through human and material resources. You have done so much to care and support us. You are in our hearts filled with gratitude and love!

Please also note in this issue some highlight photos of the Provincial Chapter 2027 this past August 3 – 7, 2026. It was a great moment of grace, getting our men from all over the country, including our Aggregation members, to review the past, elect new leadership and look forward to the future. We enjoyed many firsts for this chapter, since we were in our two northeast Ohio locations to make sure ALL our men could participate, especially those with moblity issues, and we used artificial intelligence to summarize our notes, provide close-captioning in English and have one of our religious from New York zoom into the meeting. The new leadership team, with me being re-elected with Fathers Kamas and Smithson, and a new man coming onboard, a first – one of our international religious – Father Long, look forward to serving with you to meet our goals and creatively delve into the future of our mission to bring you God's love in the Eucharist.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving, a season filled with lots of hope this Advent, and many gifts and blessings this Christmas and into 2027. On behalf of everyone – thank you! We love you and are most grateful! Let us continue to pray for each other.

In Christ our Eucharist,

Very Reverend John Thomas Lane, SSS
14th Provincial Superior

Please note: **In my photo, I am with members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society at the annual meeting this year in Atlanta, GA, August 29, 2026 – here with Raul Mendoza, national president, and Atlanta President Carmen Rosado and local team leader Gladys.**

Congratulations Brother Matthew

It had been 16 years since a man professed first vows in our USA Province of Saint Ann. We are blessed to have Brother Matthew Vlastelica with us now as a first year student at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago, Ilinois. After completing his two-year novitiate, Matthew professed vows on Sunday, August 2, 2026 at Corpus Christ Catholic Church, Houston, Texas, the place of the novitiate. Pictured here is Brother Matthew and his Novice Director (from India) Father Paul Raj Gnanasekar (Father Sekar). We pray for him as he begins the several year process of study with Father Norman Pelletier SSS as his student director.



Thank you for supporting his education and praying for future men to join our Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. ✠

Prayer in Honor of Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Gracious God of our ancestors, you led Peter Julian Eymard, like Jacob in times past, on a journey of faith. Under the guidance of your gentle Spirit, Peter Julian discovered the gift of love in the Eucharist which your son Jesus offered for the hungers of humanity. Grant that we may celebrate this mystery worthily, adore it profoundly, and proclaim it prophetically for your greater glory. Amen.

Who We Are

"Following in the footsteps of St. Peter Julian Eymard, our mission is to respond to the hungers of the human family with the riches of God's love manifested in the Eucharist." *Rule of Life 3*

Conscious of our call to bear prophetic witness to the Eucharist, we commit ourselves to the renewal of Church and society through this sacrament, especially by:

- ♦gathering communities characterized by hospitality, reconciliation, and service;
- ♦celebrating the Eucharist as the source and summit of the life of the Church;
- ♦associating others with our prayer;
- ♦giving personal witness to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist;
- ♦sharing our Eucharistic mission with others in full collaboration.



Most Grateful for Your Support of Our Uganda Missions

by Father Simon Peter Zikusooka SSS, Superior of Uganda Implantation

Unfortunately, due to the Ebola outbreak in parts of Africa, Father Simon Peter was not able to be present for mission appeals and our August chapter. He wrote this article to express his gratitude in this Bread, Broken & Shared, *since he was not able to be at our parishes.*



Masaka community partial renovation *– Saint Ann gave new second floor & new roof*

Abounding in hope with our Lord present here in the Most Blessed Sacrament at the altar of the Blessed Sacrament Parish Kimaanya- Masaka, I greet you dear friends. I salute the Eucharistic communion that gathers us. I salute the relationship of the USA SSS & Uganda SSS that dates for 67 years when the brothers from the Province of Saint Ann came to Uganda and started our mission. We hold ever in our hearts Fr. Girou, SSS and Fr. Leo Bourques, SSS who were pioneers in commencing the SSS mission in Uganda.

After these many years **we now count three canonical communities**. We also hold **two other houses**, one at the farm where our aspirants spend a period of one year of discernment, and the other in the archdiocese of Gulu, where we are starting a new parish – Saint Peter Julian Eymard Church. **The archdiocese of Gulu** is located in the north of Uganda sharing boarders with the Republic of South Sudan. This area suffered from the 1980's to the early 2000's whereby Lord's Resistance Army intended to overthrow the government. Many atrocities were committed. Today, in the aftermath of the war, people are being resettled. Many have lost all family members. Their hearts are wounded. Evangelization was not easy at all. It has been a neglected region which is now just picking up.

It is against this background that the archbishop asked our Congregation to do Eucharistic animation in his diocese **to raise the hope of his faithful**. He also asked us to help in forming catechists who would be frontliners in the transmission of faith. We were welcomed officially in the archdiocese on the August 18, 2026. We have assigned two brothers as pioneers of this mission. Kindly pray for this mission.

We express our sincere gratitude to do mission appeals for aid to our SSS Uganda. These funds have been put to good use!!!

- We have managed to renovate part of our residence in Masaka, our mother house.
- We have installed a solar power plant to give us electricity in the house.
- We have completed our farmhouse and manage our coffee farm as a fundraiser for our communities.
- We have just purchased a Toyota Noah vehicle for the use of our Students in Eymard Formation House because of your generosity.

Continued on next page...

Uganda Mission...Continued from previous page

Today we have a great collaboration with the province of Saint Ann that we have a brother, Father Fred Bugembe SSS, working in the province in New York City. We pray that this collaboration is sustained especially considering the difficulty in obtaining visas. May we all abound in Hope as we build the Eucharistic Kingdom. Thank you for your continued support and care of us! ✠







TOP: Coffee and animal farmhouse aspirant community, near Masaka - completed in June 2026

MIDDLE: Toyota Noah just purchased for formation house in Jinja, Uganda (US$16,500)

BOTTOM: Temporary residance of the brothers in the Archdiocese of Gulu

MAKE A GIFT

Visit our website at www.blessedsacrament.com. You can support our newsletter by visiting Make A Gift - Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you so much for supporting our Mission Work!

Featured Staff Person - Kay Vincent



Kay has been a parishioner at Saint Paschal Baylon parish for the last 40+ years. Over those many years she was involved in the nursery and religious education programs and the Community at Prayer, and served a number of terms as a member of the parish Pastoral Council. She has been a member on the Life in the Eucharist leadership team and is currently chair of the prayer shawl ministry and a member of the Aggregation since 2011, where she also served as co-chair for six years.

Kay began serving the Province of Saint Ann in 2000 as the Circulation Manager for *Emmanuel Magazine*. In 2002 she moved into the Publication Department for the province doing layout for the magazine, the province newsletter *(Bread Broken & Shared)*, and many other publications of the province, including for Saint Ann Shrine and the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE). Her work has also produced books by Father Norman Pelletier SSS, Father Bernard Camiré SSS, Father Paul Bernier SSS and Jim Brown. In 2022 when the Congregation was ready to revise their website, Kay worked along with former Blessed Sacrament religious John Christman, to create and produce a new design. She currently maintains the website and the position has evolved into Emmanuel Media, including a YouTube channel, a Daily Eucharistic Reflection facebook page and re-imagined *Emmanuel Magazine* as an online posting.









From TOP down:

-Daughter Leah performing

-Kay and Leah touring Alaska

-Daughter Karena [center] with family dropping oldest, Nolan, at college in 2025

-Son Kevin with family climbing in Germany

Kay grew up in Euclid, Ohio, attended Saint William elementary school and Villa Angela high school. She went to the University of Cincinnati, Parsons School of Design [NY] and Ursuline College, majoring in graphic design. Kay worked for Mayfield City Schools in the career technical department for 30 years. She has three adult children, who now live around the globe. The oldest daughter, Karena, is married to a Navy serviceman. They have three children and have lived in Virginia, Maryland, Seattle, San Diego and Yokosuka [Japan]. Middle child, son Kevin, lives in Germany with his wife and young son. Youngest daughter, Leah, is a dancer with Navarasa Dance Theatre in Los Angeles/San Jose, California and works as a Spanish interpreter and translator. Kay enjoys family and friends time, travel, mysteries and gardening. ✠

Shrine of Saint Ann

By Scott Gongos, Director of Mission Advancement



I am sorry to share that our beloved Chaplain of Saint Ann Shrine, Father Roger Bourgeois SSS, passed away at the age of 96 on Saturday, August 22nd. Father Roger served faithfully as Chaplain for the past 13 years. Father Roger was ordained a priest on September 21, 1957 and served the Blessed Sacrament community as Pastor, local superior, provincial vicar, novice director, and parochial vicar in numerous parishes across the United States and the Philippines. Known for his meticulous attention to detail and care for the liturgy, community, parish, and personal friends, he will be missed dearly. I will miss our daily morning greeting, as our offices are next to each other, where we discussed the previous day's Cleveland baseball, basketball, or football games. Rest in Peace, Father Roger!



We are excited to share that Father John Thomas Lane, Provincial Superior for the Saint Ann Province for the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, named Father William Fickel SSS and Brother Thomas Mella SSS, as Co-Chaplains at Saint Ann Shrine. Join us in welcoming our new leadership!!!

Saint Ann Shrine hosted the Annual Triduum on July 24-26 as we celebrated the Solemnity of Saint Ann. Father Paul Raj Gnanasekar SSS, from Houston, Texas preached all three days. His wonderful homilies and wisdom surrounding our faith provided an amazing background for his preaching. There isn't much written of Saint Ann or Saint Joachim, but Father Sekar was able to pull in to context the great mother Saint Ann was to Our Blessed Mother along with being a wonderful role model for her grandson, Jesus! Saint Ann's role in the history of our faith is so vitally important!

Day One of the Triduum is the Children's Mass where our young people are able to receive a special blessing and Saint Ann medal. Day Two is our Mass where we celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. This Mass has such special meaning to Saint Ann and our work at Saint Ann Shrine as she is a healer to those who are sick and suffering. So many of you share your joyous stories of being healed through your prayers to Saint Ann or when you've blessed yourselves with Blessed Oil. I am humbled by your stories of faithful devotion to Saint Ann based on your own healing! Thank you for sharing them with me and feel free to continue to share your amazing stories with me at 440-449-2700 or sgongos@blessedsacrament.com.

The third day is the actual feast Mass. This year's celebration was held as part of the 6:30pm Sunday evening Mass and it features a candlelight procession at the end of Mass. The lit candles looked magnificent as the congregation walked through the church. It was an amazing sight to behold! After Mass, a light reception was held that put the icing on a wonderful weekend (pun intended)! Veneration of the relic of Saint Ann takes place during all three days of the Triduum as well.

We'd love to have you join us at Saint Ann Shrine for daily Mass Monday through Friday at 11:30am. I hope you are able to experience the serenity of Mass at the Shrine! Please call ahead to let me know that you'll be joining us so I may introduce myself. We also welcome your group to join us for Mass!

Continued on next page...

Shrine of Saint Ann...Continued from previous page

On behalf of the staff at Saint Ann Shrine, we thank you for your sincere generosity while supporting the Shrine! We do thank you for all you continue to do to support the mission of Saint Ann Shine and the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament! Please let us know if there's anything you'd like us to keep in prayer. We look forward to your continued prayers and support! We recently had the statue of Saint Ann, Blessed Mother, and baby Jesus cleaned and repainted, as it certainly needed the refreshing. We plan to replace the carpet inside the Shrine, update/paint the walls inside the Shrine, and perform various maintenance duties to keep the Shrine clean and welcoming for our guests. It is an investment in a place where generations of people have encountered God through prayer and through the loving intercession of Good Saint Ann!

We invite you to make a gift in memory of Father Roger for his dedicated service to Saint Ann Shrine and/or in support of the renovation projects being done, as we would be honored for your support. Your generosity will make a lasting impact for generations to come! Any financial support we receive that exceeds our costs incurred to spruce up the Shrine will be used for daily operations. Thank you so much for your prayers of support, generosity, and kindness in supporting our mission!

May Good Saint Ann continue to intercede for you and your loved ones!



Saint Ann Triduum Mass with new icon of Saint Ann

Prayer to Saint Ann

O glorious Saint Ann,
you are filled with compassion
for those who invoke you,
and with love for those suffer.
Heavily burdened with the
weight of my troubles,
I cast myself at your feet and
humbly beg of you to take
the present intention,
which I recommend to you in
your special care.

Please recommend it to your
daughter,
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
and place it before the throne of
Jesus,
so that he may bring it to a
happy issue.

Continue to intercede for me
until my request is granted.
But above all obtain for me the
grace one day
to see my God face to face,
and with you and Mary and all
the saints
to praise and bless him for all
eternity. Amen.

Saint Ann Shrine Triduum



Photos from the Saint Ann Triduum held at Saint Paschal Baylon [Highland Heights, OH] on July 24-26, 2026.













Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing

By Mona Grigsby-Suarez, Director, Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing



Aggregation Day 2026

It was a blessing to share "Aggregation Day" on August 4, 2026, as part of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament's Chapter gathering. I share a condensed report here for those who could not be with us:
From the Congregation's mission:

> …to respond to the hungers of the human family with the riches of God's love manifested in the Eucharist (*Rule of Life* 3)… "Father Eymard's ability to translate his Eucharistic grace into very diverse ministries stimulates us to be creative in our mission." The CEE does this by developing programs, resources, and experiences that foster knowledge and love of the Eucharist and the search for the true meaning and power of the Eucharistic mystery.

As you can appreciate, the mission is immense and the opportunities to respond are without limit! Acknowledging such a challenge, I dedicate much of my time supporting members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament – one of the four branches of the Eymardian family, at the national and international level.

I've had the opportunity and privilege of being with all our Aggregation communities in the United States: in New York City, Orlando and Holiday in Florida, San Antonio and Houston in Texas, Albuquerque in New Mexico, and in Northeast Ohio. I've also had the incredible occasion to share with our Blessed Sacrament communities in India, Ecuador and Brazil.

I've been inspired by each encounter, realizing what a diverse yet unified Eymardian family we are, journeying with others in the footsteps of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. While each community has its unique profile, all share and reflect the same Eymardian charism of having the Eucharist as the center of our life.

With a desire to support the efforts that I witnessed in the various Aggregation communities, I continue to be involved in five major projects:

1. Resources in Spanish and other languages.
Realizing that we are a multicultural Eymardian family, it is the Congregation's goal to make available resources in other languages – especially in Spanish. We now have our current *Initial Formation* program guide, as well as our *Life in the Eucharist* retreat handouts in Spanish, as well as prayer cards and other worship aids which were first printed in English. We are also working to make the same materials available in Vietnamese.

2. Our international Eymardian family.
In Fortaleza, Brazil, Father Francisco Jr. Marques SSS and I offered two multilingual LITE retreats as well as several other events. In November I will be traveling to Uganda to serve as part of a LITE team headed by Father Simon Peter Zikusooka SSS to offer in our Blessed Sacrament parishes. I am one member of a 20-member community of the newly formed *International Community of Aggregation Leaders* supported by the Congregation under the guidance of Father Francisco Jr Marques SSS. This new development strives to share our international Eymardian charism with others from around the world.

3. International Eymardian Family English Institute.
Our first IEFEI was offered in the summer of 2025 and hosted guests from Brazil, Colombia, and Viet Nam. Its objective was to connect local English-speaking persons with members of our international Eymardian family in an immersion-model of learning to not only improve the guests' English but to share each other's culture and reality. We hope to offer this program again in the summer of 2027. Acknowledging that there is an international need to speak both English and/or Spanish in many of our Blessed Sacrament parishes,

Continued on next page...

Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing...Continued from previous page

I am creating two SSS-specific textbooks: *Spanish for Sacramentinos* and *Eymardian English*. Both learning aids focus on vocabulary and topics unique to our Eymardian charism. I hope to have these available by summer 2027.

4. Amended Initial Formation Program.

Many local Aggregation groups have remarked that they have difficulty keeping members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament (ABS) engaged and committed. Many newly promised members have stated that they do not know "what is expected next." Both issues affect the growth and sustainability of the Aggregation and the evangelization of the teachings of SPJE. Accepting these concerns, since December 2026, the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament Executive Council has dedicated some 100 hours to evaluate and revise the current Initial Formation program. We now have an adjusted 18-month initial program that includes new components: four national zoom gatherings for the candidates so that they may journey with others beyond their local parish, participation in a *Life in the Eucharist* (*LITE*) retreat, and the creation of a service contribution that demonstrates their involvement in living our *Project of Life*. We believe these additional opportunities will support and strengthen members' promise to live a life time membership as a member of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

5. **Life in the Eucharist (LITE) Retreats.**

A new expectation for all those in our Initial Formation program is that each candidate will participate in one of our LITE retreats as part of their formation. Since 2025, we have offered LITE retreats in Holiday, Florida facilitated by our Orlando, Florida LITE team led by Diana McGinty and two abbreviated LITE retreats offered at our Houston, TX parish in Spanish with both attended by some 75 participants. A bilingual LITE team was created in San Antonio, TX with a one-day LITE retreat in English and repeated a week later in Spanish. I am planning to facilitate the Congregation's August 6–8, 2027 LITE retreat at our Headquarters in Highland Heights, Ohio in the Cleveland Diocese. **ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!** Please contact me if you have any questions.

It has been a sanctifying blessing serving as the Director of the Congregation's Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing. I look forward to the joys and challenges of the future with an abundance of hope! ✠

Mona Grigsby-Suarez
mgrigsby-suarez@blessedsacrament.com
+1 (216) 379-7447







TOP: LITE participants San Antonio, Texas
MIDDLE: LITE presentation Fortaleza, Brazil
BOTTOM: Houston LITE with Hispanic community

SAINT ANN SHRINE &
CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Easy Ways you can support our mission!

A QCD, stock donation, Estate Plan gift, or grant from your DAF can be some of the most easy and efficient ways to support our mission work and have an immediate and meaningful impact on Saint Ann Shrine and the care for the retired members of the Blessed Sacrament Community.

1) If you are age 70½ or older, you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA. A QCD allows you to:
   - Make a tax-free gift (up to $105,000 per year, per individual) directly from your IRA to Saint Ann Shrine or the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
   - Satisfy part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
   - Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions

2) Make a donation of stock.
   - Depending on the stock's current value, you may avoid capital gains tax or deduct the loss in value while donating the proceeds of the sale. Consult your financial advisor for the most advantageous opportunities for you.

3) Include Saint Ann Shrine and the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in your Estate Planning.
   - By doing so, you will join our Legacy Society and make a lasting impact on our future!

4) We accept grants from your Donor Advised Fund (DAF).

If you'd like to support us through any of these opportunities, your custodian or financial advisor will need the following information:
Legal Name: Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament/St. Ann's Shrine
EIN: [13-1623999]
Address: 5384 Wilson Mills Road; Highland Heights, Ohio; 44143
Contact: Scott Gongos, Director of Mission Advancement
Call 440-449-2700 or email sgongos@blessedsacrament.com



Please ask your custodian to include your name with the distribution so we can properly acknowledge your generosity!

Thank you for considering these special ways of giving. Your commitment makes a lasting difference, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership!



Give the Perfect Christmas Gift: Join the Eymard Pilgrimage October 11 – 21, 2027



Our tour company will not put a package together without knowing if we have 25 committed folks to join the special pilgrimage in the "Footsteps of Saint Peter Julian Eymard." Due to the expense and time consumption to put this specialty trip together– for the Eymard Places are not in "high-tourist-area" – we need to know if you are interested in this 12-day tour around France. Based on a "round about" number, the trip would average $5,000 per person, airfare, double room occupancy, with single room add on. Please contact Father Lane by email: jtlanesss@gmail.com to place yourself on a list let us know you wish to travel. We would love to have as many Aggregation members as possible to see for the first time, or another time, the historic sites of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

ALL ARE WELCOME!