# CONNECTIONS Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership

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#### Three Parish Eucharistic Missions



February and March are a busy time at the CEE, with three parish eucharistic missions in Maryland and Ohio, and invitations coming in to do more in the future.

The first took place at Saint John the Evangelist Church in Frederick, Maryland, from February 22-26. Former Saint Paschal Baylon (Highland Heights, Ohio) parishioners and dedicated associates Frank and Marjorie Zalar and Father Bill Fickel conducted the annual mission at

Saint John's, the Zalars' new parish. The mission focused on three elements of the Eucharist. The hope was to fan the flame of eucharistic evangelizing, and the mission certainly did that! About 90 people attended each day, and from that number a couple dozen participants have expressed the desire to continue on the path of formation in Eymardian spirituality and ministry.

Two weeks later, March 15-18, Father Anthony Schueller and Jim Brown traveled to Our Lady of Peace Parish in Ashtabula, Ohio, to present a parish Lenten mission on the theme "How the Eucharist Can Transform Our Hearts."

Our Lady of Peace is a new parish created from the three former Catholic churches in

## Advisory Board to Meet

The CEE Advisory Board will hold its annual meeting the morning of Saturday, April 5, at the Provincialate. The board advises the Provincial and the leadership of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing on programs and policies regarding Life in the Eucharist, the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament, and other CEE activities. Among the agenda items is a report from Jim Brown on the recent meeting of the International Commission on Mission, held at the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament's headquarters in Rome.

the city of Ashtabula (Mother of Sorrows, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Saint Joseph). Father Tony presided and preached at four of the weekend Masses. The mission began on Sunday evening and continued with morning and evening sessions on Monday and Tuesday.

Eighty-five people attended the mission daily, which was a powerful and uplifting experience of journeying with a community of deeply committed Catholics striving to form a new church family and identity.

From March 29-April 1, Father Tony and Jim will be at Saint Michael's Church in Sharonville, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, for a Life in the Eucharist Lenten program. Saint Michael's pastor is Father Thomas DiFolco, the former director of the Office of Priestly Formation for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and a faithful reader of Emmanuel. The goal of the mission is to help families see the connection between the eucharistic table and family life and relationships.

#### **Prayers Please**

For Brother J. Anthony Ornelas of the Blessed Sacrament Community at Corpus Christi Parish, Houston, Texas, who died suddenly on March 19.

Anthony, 58, served as a maritime chaplain at the Port of Houston, one of the busiest seaports in the United States.

His Funeral Mass will be celebrated in Salt Lake City, Utah, his hometown, on Thursday, March 27. A Memorial Mass is set for March 31 in Houston.

## CENTER FOR EUCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING

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#### CONNECTIONS

## The Blessed Sacrament Mission—Snippets from Rome



I was again privileged to attend another meeting of the International Commission on the "SSS Mission," held March 3-6, in Rome, Italy. The commission (CIM) was formed at the XXXIV General Chapter (2011) to guide and support the religious of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in their ministries and to encourage eucharistic initiatives so that all members of the Eymardian family may truly become "apostles and disciples of the Eucharist."

The CIM is made up of members representing a global perspective of the congregation: Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Ireland/Great Britain, Italy, the Philippines, Vietnam, and the United States. We were also blessed by the presence of the Superior General of the congregation, Father Eugenio Barbosa Martins, who attended the four-day meeting.

As the meeting got underway, those on the General Council talked about the impact and "inspiration of Pope Francis" and the climate he has created in Rome. Talking about the activities and writings of our new pope, Father Eugenio said at the outset of the meeting: "I believe that as we look at our Blessed Sacrament mission, we will need to get out of our comfort zones." And on that note, the meeting began.

In addition to discussing the state of the mission throughout the congregation, we spent a good deal of time hearing about the status of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament (the associates) worldwide and how the commission can be of service to this third wing of the Eymardian family.

One clear takeaway from the meeting was knowing that as a result of our deliberations, the CIM plans to serve as a kind of "clearing house" for the exchange of materials and resources being used in the various formation programs, including syllabi, schedules of events for associates taking place, especially in India, Brazil, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and, of course, all we are doing here in the

Province of Saint Ann.

A more detailed report on this Rome meeting will appear in the May/June issue of the Province Newsletter.

Jim Brown

"I believe that as we look at our Blessed Sacrament mission, we will need to get out of our comfort zones."

Father Eugenio Barbosa Martins, SSS Superior General

Program and
Life in the
Eucharist
(LITE) in
Bread Broken
and Shared,
the Provincial
Newsletter.

Follow the

**Associates** 

#### News from Corpus Christi, Houston

The Houston associates hold a monthly Holy Hour on the second Thursday. The Holy Hour for March took place yesterday, March 20. The focus of our prayer was for our beloved former pastor, Father Dana Pelotte, and for Brother Anthony Ornelas, who died suddenly during the night of March 19. We hold them as well as our families, friends, and all who are in need of healing and prayer in our hearts.

Bubba and I are working with Father Tom Smithson in organizing a Come and See social for people who are interested in the associates program. When that is finalized, we'll let you know.

The associates will also be leading the Stations of the Cross the remaining Fridays of Lent as well as hosting the Holy Thursday Agape Meal.

Patty Pizzitola