



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

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The Aggregation Celebrates 155 Years!



Today, November 17, 2014, marks the 155th anniversary of the establishment of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament in 1859.

On the international website of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, we read: “The Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament is a public, universal, and international association of faithful affiliated with the religious institutes founded by Saint Peter Julian Eymard — the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament — and recognized by the Catholic Church.”

“It stems from the long tradition of our religious families which gave life to a ‘public association of lay faithful’ in order to share the same eucharistic spirituality and mission with the laity, draw-

ing inspiration from Saint Peter Julian Eymard.”

“Guided by the *Rule of Life for Associates*, their Christian vocation is to give witness to Christ in the midst of our human society and, starting from the Eucharist, source and summit of all evangelizing, to . . . permeate evangelically all human realities. Organized on an international, national, and local level, they take an active role in the actions of the local church in fostering solidarity, human dignity, and holistic human development.”



Holiday Associates

On Sunday, November 9, Father Joseph Binh Vu Quoc and Father Sebastiao Machado, members of the General Council of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Rome, were present at Saint Vincent de Paul Church, Holiday, Florida, as the local associates renewed their Promise, the first of many renewal ceremonies taking place across the country at this time.

Fathers Binh and Sebastiao were in the United States to take part in the Provincial Chapter.



Father Joseph Binh, SSS

“We seek to pursue our Christian vocation and our call to holiness by following the evangelical way taught by Saint Peter Julian Eymard.”

Rule of Life for Associates

CENTER FOR EUCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING

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CONNECTIONS

Chapter Discerns Future and Chooses Leaders



INSTALLATION OF NEW LEADERSHIP

Pictured left to right

William Fickel, SSS

Provincial Consultor

John Keenan, SSS

Provincial Consultor and Vicar

Joseph Binh, SSS

General Consultor

Robert Stark, SSS

Provincial Treasurer

Anthony Schueller, SSS

Provincial Superior

John Christman, SSS

Provincial Consultor

Follow the Associates program and the Life in the Eucharist movement in Bread Broken and Shared, the Provincial Newsletter.

The 24th Provincial Chapter of the Province of Saint Ann took place at the Bethany Center in Lutz, Florida, from Monday, November 9, through Friday, November 14. Religious from throughout the country came together to spend time in prayer, dialogue, and discernment around the theme *The Joy of Eucharistic Evangelizing*.

Father Norman Pelletier, Provincial Superior, opened the chapter and said in a paper entitled "Vision for a Sustainable Future": "Our Provincial Chapter has many weighty issues to ponder, some too complex to resolve immediately; nonetheless, a clear direction can be given to our leadership for the next four years. This is a vital responsibility and a challenge that we cannot avoid. Let us do so with serenity and with the assurance that the Spirit will guide us in our conversations."

"Let us not cease praying to Saint Peter Julian Eymard that he may assist us in our discernment of what God wants of us. Lastly, let us be gentle with one another, for we have been given a great gift for which we are only the privileged stewards."

Each morning began with the liturgy of the hours and shared prayer in the presence of the Eucharist. The day's deliberations ended with the celebration of the Eucharist, a relaxing dinner, and a free evening. The retreat center's property lent itself to leisurely walks around the lakes and

spontaneous gatherings on porches and in the gathering spaces of the "cottages" that housed the chapter members.

Much of the work of the chapter centered on Mission, Properties, and Elder Care. Prior to arriving in Florida, each Blessed Sacrament community was asked to read various reports on the topics and to begin surfacing ideas.

On Thursday, elections for new province leadership occupied the morning hours and were followed by another day-and-a-half of discussions.

Provincial Chapter XXIV closed late Friday afternoon with a festive Mass, during which Father Joseph Binh, representing Father General in Rome, installed the new Provincial Superior and Council. He prayed: "Let your Spirit uphold them always as they take up their new responsibility among their brothers in the Province of Saint Ann. May the prayers and example of a eucharistic life as lived by our Holy Founder, Saint Peter Julian Eymard, be with them always."

The chapel was filled with more than 50 associates, LITE team members, and friends of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament from Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Holiday, Saint Stephen Church in Winter Springs, and Saint Margaret Mary Church in Winter Park, who swelled the ranks of the capitulars and added to the joy of the occasion.

PRAYER FOR THE GIFT OF SELF

*Holy Father,
may the love you manifested
in Jesus Christ
and which we celebrate
in the Eucharist
move us to respond
to your gift
with the gift of ourselves.*

*Enable us to live
the paschal mystery,
to interiorize it in prayer
and share with others
the life that springs from it.*

*Assist us each day
to respond to the call
of Jesus, your Son,
who invites us to leave
everything and follow him
along the evangelical path
traced out in our Rule of Life.*

*May the Holy Spirit
guide us together with the
community of brothers
to search for you and to
be inspired by the Gospels,
at each step.*

*In your ever faithful love,
and trusting in the interces-
sion of the Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God, and of
Saint Peter Julian Eymard,
we ask you, Lord,
that we may persevere
throughout our life
in living the gift of ourselves
as we serve Christ
and our brothers and sisters.*

*Grant that we may build up
a world founded on justice
and love, so that the reign
of Christ may come
and your glory revealed
to the world.
Amen.*