



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership

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Welcome to *Connections*



Connections is a new initiative of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing, Cleveland, as a way of staying in touch with our associates, Life in the Eucharist team members, and religious across the country. Our hope is to deepen the bonds of shared life and mission, friendship and faith that unite us in the Eymardian Family.

Connections will come to you as needed. Its arrival will be announced in an e-mail, and once the new web site of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing is up and running—very soon!—you will be able to access it there with your own personal account (using a username and password).

We invite you to send news and photos about what is happening in your associates group, LITE team, etc., to be included in *Connections*. So much is happening . . . and we want to celebrate how the eucharistic charism and grace of Saint Peter Julian Eymard continue to touch lives and inspire people to live the Eucharist more dynamically.

Epiphany 1857—Inauguration of the “Great Work”

Father Eymard wanted to do something great for the glory of God and Christ in the Eucharist, and it all began on January 6, 1857, with the inauguration of solemn exposition in the chapel of the new Society of the Blessed Sacrament’s residence on Rue d’Enfer, Paris.

The first religious lived simply, and gladly sacrificed their own comfort for the sake of the mission they had undertaken. During the months between approval of the new order in May and the onset of winter, a new chapel was constructed, where the service of exposition began.

The vision that Saint Peter Julian Eymard set before his followers was to “set the four corners of the world on fire with eucharistic love.” On Epiphany, travelers from the East came to worship the Christ child. The congregation continues to invite all to come to him in worship.

*“Our ideal
is to live
the mystery of
the Eucharist fully
and to make known
its meaning,
so that
Christ’s reign
may come
and the glory of God
may be revealed
to the world.”*

Rule of Life
for Associates, 2

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, January 5
Epiphany of the Lord: 157th Anniversary of the First Solemn Exposition in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
- Sunday, January 5
Centenary Mass of the Opening of Saint Jean Baptiste Church, New York City
- Monday, January 6
NOTE: The gathering and dinner for Cleveland associates has been cancelled due to inclement weather.

CENTER FOR
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CONNECTIONS

Father Fickel Goes on Holiday



For those of you who have not heard, Father William Fickel, SSS, former director of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing, was recently appointed pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Holiday, Florida. He replaced Father Dana Pelotte, SSS, who had to go on medical leave some two weeks after assuming the role of pastor last August.

Father Bill takes over a parish whose parishioners have enthusiastically embraced the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers in the ten years they have served at Saint Vincent de Paul. He also inherits a very active group

of 30 associates who were initially formed and organized by Father Thomas Fitzgerald, SSS, and later nurtured by Father Michael Arkins, SSS, the pastor, when Father Tom took ill.

Father Bill has been touched by the spirit of welcome he has received from the parish community. He had visited Saint Vincent de Paul some years back to put on a Life in the Eucharist Sacramental Reflections program and now looks forward to experiencing the fruits of that program and, in particular, with the associates, who meet on a monthly basis. He and the group will be meeting this month to plan

a new initial formation program for prospective associates. They hope to begin the process as early as February.

In a recent phone conversation, Father Bill chuckled and said: "People come up to me, and before they say anything they reach out to feel my pulse!"

We wish Father Bill, Brother Peter Mahady, and the parish family of Saint Vincent de Paul a very blessed, happy, and healthy 2014.

Jim Brown

*A blessed
new year
to all our
associates
and Life in
the Eucharist
team members!*

Update on Revised Booklets for Associate Formation

Following an extensive evaluation of the inaugural program of initial formation for prospective associates of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, the editing and updating of the meeting booklets are in their final stages.

The new set of twelve booklets will be printed by the end of January.

New sessions have been added, the order of themes changed, readings have been reduced, and suggestions for varying the formation experience have been included in the Animator's Guide.

Animators are asked to please recycle (dispose of) all copies of the current booklets, as these will not be able to be used in the revised initial formation program. Thank you.

Jim Brown