



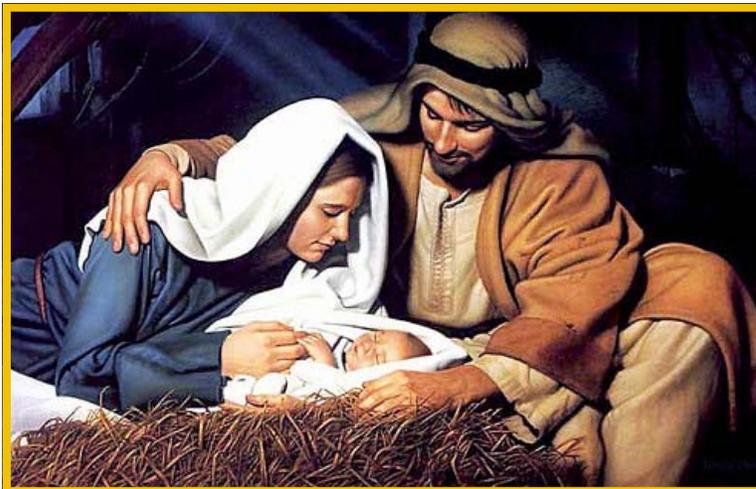
CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

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An Eymardian Reflection on the Word Incarnate



*The Eucharist was sown at Bethlehem. . . .
When Jesus was born on the straw of the stable,
the Word was preparing the Eucharist,
which he considered the complement of all his other mysteries.
He was coming to be united with us
and through the Eucharist,
he would consummate the most perfect union
that mankind is capable of attaining,
a physical and personal union through the Eucharist. . . .*

*He was even then Emmanuel, "God with us,"
who was coming to dwell among his people.
At Bethlehem, the Word was made flesh.
At Bethlehem, he concealed his divinity
in order to familiarize man with God.
He veiled his divine glory as a first step
to the veiling of his humanity.
He bound his power in the weakness of a child's body;
later he would bind it beneath the sacred species.
Mary and Joseph were the first adorers of the Word incarnate.*

"The liturgical year provides the context for our journey of faith and offers us a Christian orientation for choices we make."

*Rule of Life
for Associates*

CENTER FOR
EUCARISTIC EVANGELIZING

*A Ministry of the
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament*

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James W. Brown
Father William Fickel, SSS
Father Anthony Schueller, SSS

New Director of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing

At the first meeting of our new Provincial Council on December 15-16, we approved the annual contract of Jim Brown as a consultant to the Province of Saint Ann and appointed him director of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing.

It was a natural thing to nominate Jim for this position. He has worked with our Province and our religious and associates intimately for many years, is an associate, and knows us well. Jim has embraced the eucharistic vision and spirituality of Saint Peter Julian wholeheartedly.

Father Bill Fickel, Father George Dunne, I, and others will continue to partner closely with Jim and all of our lay collaborators in the ministry of eucharistic evangelizing, inspired by the teachings and example of the Apostle of the Eucharist.

Father Anthony Schueller



CONNECTIONS

On Being Named Director of the CEE

When Father Anthony Schueller, the newly elected provincial superior of the Province of Saint Ann, invited me to become the new director of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE), I was reminded of the beginning of the Prayer to Saint Peter Julian Eymard which states: “The God of our ancestors led you . . . on a journey of faith.”

As an organizational consultant and facilitator with the Congregation since January 1987, I have been graced to be connected to the ministry of eucharistic evangelizing and the CEE in a variety of ways:

- Facilitating meetings of the CEE Advisory Board in the mid-1990s;
- Participating in Life in the Eucharist programs, both as a participant and as a team member;
- Being received as an Associate of the Blessed Sacrament in 2010;
- Assisting the two recent CEE directors, Fathers Bill Fickel and Anthony Schueller, these past five years, particularly in developing formation materials and resources for LITE teams and associates programs.

And so it was with great humility and a sense of gratitude that I have accepted Father Tony’s invitation.

I look forward to contributing to the mission of the center to create and promote educational programs, resources, and experiences that will assist Catholics — and especially our growing community of lay associates — in deepening their understanding and appreciation of the fullness of the mystery of the Eucharist.

A high priority for me will be visiting our Blessed Sacrament pastors, each of our associates groups, and LITE teams in 2015 and discerning together new and creative ways to follow the evangelical way taught by Saint Peter Julian Eymard — a “journey of faith to serve one another more generously so that our lives may witness to a more just and peaceful world.”

James Brown

P. S. You will notice in the current issue of *Bread Broken & Shared* an announcement regarding *A Pilgrimage to France — Places of Saint Peter Julian Eymard* set for October 7-20. Pilgrims will visit important venues in Father Eymard’s life and ministry: Paris, Chartres, Lyons, Ars, Grenoble, his birthplace La Mure d’Isère, and various Marian shrines. The total cost is still being determined, but write ssscommunications@blessedsacrament.com or call the Provincial Offices at 440.442.6311 to get your name on the list. The Eymard pilgrimage is a life-changing event.

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE



Pope Francis has announced a special Year of Consecrated Life, which began this year on November 30, the First Sunday of Advent, and will continue through the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2, 2016. The theme of the year is *Wake Up the World!*

Pope Francis has set forth his vision and hopes for the year in an apostolic letter “To All Consecrated People on the Occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life.” In it, he continues a conversation begun with major superiors shortly after his election, and adds new insights and challenges. It is a very powerful letter.

The Holy Father expresses his admiration and love for the consecrated life as a gift to the church, and reminds us that he, too, is a religious. He calls on consecrated men and women to be bold, courageous, prophetic, and faithful in living the Gospel and in embracing the particular way of life to which they have been called.

The letter also touches on lay associations/aggregations and their relationship to the orders which inspired them. We will explore this more in future issues and activities.