



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership

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Pope Francis to Members of Institutes of Secular Life



On May 10, Pope Francis spoke to members of Institutes of Secular Life.

His words are applicable to those who have made a Covenant Promise as Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. May his words serve as a source of inspiration as we strive to live our lives centered on the Eucharist!

“Institutes of Secular Life: A Sign of the Church in Dialogue,” May 10, 2014, Vatican Information Service

“By vocation, you are lay-people in the midst of others. You lead a normal life, without any outward signs, without the support of community life, without the visibility of an organized apostolate or specific works. You are rich only in the totalizing experience of God’s love and are therefore capable of knowing and sharing the burden of life in its many expressions, fermenting them with the light and strength of the Gospel.”

“Many of you come and go, alone, in your apartment; others are in small communities. Every day, you live the life of someone who lives in the world, and at the same time protect the dimension of contemplation, in relation to the Lord and to the world; contemplating reality, contemplating the beauty of the world, and also the great sins of society, deviations, all these things, and always in spiritual tension.”

“Your vocation makes you interesting to every person and to their deepest yearnings, which often remain unexpressed or masked. Through the strength of God’s love, that you have encountered and known, you are capable of proximity and tenderness, like the Samaritan who passed by, saw, and had compassion. This is the moment to which your vocation commits you: to place yourself next to each person and to make yourselves close to every person you meet; because your stay in the world is not simply a sociological condition, but rather a theological reality that calls you to a conscious, careful presence, in which you are able to perceive, see, and touch you sister’s and brother’s flesh.”

“If this does not happen, if you become distracted, or still worse, you do not know this contemporary world but instead know and frequent only the world that is most comfortable to you, or that most entices you, then conversion is urgent! Yours is a vocation that is by nature outgoing, not only because it brings you to others, but also and above all because it requires you to dwell where all people reside.”

“Never lose the impulse to walk the streets of the world, with the knowledge that walking, even with a faltering step or limping, is always better than standing still, closed up in our own questions or own certainties. Missionary passion, the joy of the encounter with Christ that leads us to share the beauty of faith with others, is a bulwark against the risk of being paralyzed by individualism.”

“You are like antennae, ready to gather the seeds of newness inspired by the Holy Spirit, and can help the ecclesial community to take on this benevolent gaze and find brave new paths to reach everyone.”

Continued on reverse side.

Easter Season

The Easter season is a blessing of God, during which we experience the joy of the first followers of Jesus in discovering the risen Lord present in their midst. God bless you as we move toward the celebration of Pentecost!

Revised Animator’s Guide

The revised Animator’s Guide for the formation of new associates will be available at the beginning of June.

CENTER FOR
EUCCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING

*A Ministry of the
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament*

5384 Wilson Mills Road
Cleveland, OH 44143

440.442.4734
eucharisticevangelizing.com
cee@blessedsacrament.com

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

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Pope Francis to Institutes of Secular Life, continued



“You are the poor among the poor, but with a burning heart; never still, always on the way. Together, and sent, even when you are alone, since consecration makes you a living spark of the church. Always in motion, with that pilgrim virtue: joy.”

“I hope that you will always maintain this attitude of going beyond, not only beyond, but even further, where everything is at play: politics, the economy, education, the family. It is perhaps possible that at times you are tempted to think, ‘But what can I do?’ When this temptation rears, remember that the Lord has spoken to us about the grain of wheat. And your life is like a grain of wheat. It is like

leaven. Do everything possible so that the kingdom might come, grow, and be great, and that it may protect many people, like the mustard tree. Think about this. A small life, a small gesture; but it is leaven, it is a seed, it allows growth. And this brings consolation.”

“This is why it is important to have so much hope! It is a grace that you must ask of the Lord always: the hope that never disappoints. It never disappoints; a hope that goes ahead.”

“I would advise you to read chapter 11 of the Letter to the Hebrews, the chapter of hope. And learn that many of our forefathers have taken that

road and have not seen the results, but they perceived them from afar. Hope! . . . This is what I wish upon you. Many thanks for what you have done for the church. Many thanks for your prayer and your action. Thank you for your hope. And do not forget: be revolutionaries!”

Special thanks to Father Bill Fickel for providing us with this beautiful text. As we go about our eucharistic life, living it faithfully in countless ways daily, Pope Francis reminds us of the “big picture”—our oneness with all believers and our small but vital contribution to the building of God’s kingdom.

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

Good News from Saint Stephen’s Church in Florida

We now have over 450 Catholics who have experienced the Life in the Eucharist Sacramental Reflections program in two parishes in Winter Springs, Florida, in the Diocese of Orlando: Saint Stephen and Saint Margaret Mary. More than 60 team members have already been formed at Saint Stephen’s to present the LITE program.

Last month, we presented the LITE program at Saint Margaret Mary; and as a follow-up, Father George Dunne, SSS, and the Core Team have just started formation with about 35 prospective team members there. We are delighted that Father Anthony Schueller will be in Florida for ten days in June to assist with the formation program.

Among the 60-plus team members at Saint Stephen’s are a number of people interested in learning more about the Blessed Sacrament Associates Program, and we are hoping that with the help of Father Tony we will schedule a “Come and See” evening at the parish and look to starting our own initial formation program for prospective associates.

We are also reading *Tomorrow Will Be Too Late* together and meeting to discuss the life of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. Father George has asked Father Norman Pelletier, the author, to visit us during one of our discussions.

We are very excited about the rekindled fire that seems to be

burning in the hearts of people for the Eucharist, and we want very much to keep that fire burning. We are very hopeful and on fire ourselves about the future of Life in the Eucharist in the Diocese of Orlando as well as in our own Catholic Community of Saint Stephen.

*Colleen Aboud
Lay Coordinator
Life in the Eucharist
Saint Stephen
Winter Springs, Florida*