



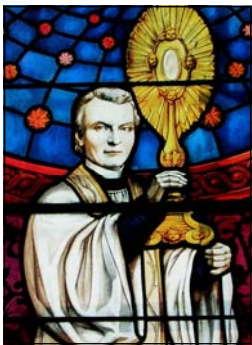
CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership

AUGUST 1, 2014

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Feast of Our Holy Founder — August 2



Our eighth *Connections* newsletter brings us to the beginning of month eight of the year and the feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, the founder of the Congregations and the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

This man of fire, Pope John Paul II wrote in a message to the Superior General of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament on the occasion of the 31st General Chapter in June 1993, “was seized by the love of Christ revealed in his Eucharist; he passionately wanted to manifest it to his contemporaries. With his companions, he inaugurated a form of religious life in which the Eucharist is the heart. His life, nourished by the Eucharist celebrated and contemplated, was rich in every kind of ministry. Truly, under the action of the Holy Spirit, he perceived that force of renewal that is the Eucha-

rist for the church and society.”

Pastor Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?*, says: “Without God, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life has no meaning.”

Father Eymard’s life was rooted in his relationship with God — he always sought to know and to do God’s will — and he lived a purpose driven life: to glorify Christ and to bring many to him in the sacrament of his love.

The following prayer to Saint Peter Julian Eymard, from the Province’s web site, offers a beautiful reflection on his journey, and ours.

*Saint Peter Julian,
the Lord has given you,
as he once did to Jacob,
his servant,
an ever-searching faith.
All your life long,
you have sought the way
to deepen your union
with God and to satisfy
the hungers of humanity.*

*In the Eucharist,
you have discovered
the answer to your searching:
God’s love was there
for you and for all humanity.*

*Answering this gift of love,
you made the gift of yourself
to God and you have given
of yourself to the service of
his people.*

*Your life, modeled
on that of the Cenacle,
where Mary and the apostles
were united in prayer,
inspired your disciples
to live in an atmosphere
of prayer. Their apostolic
zeal caused them to build
Christian communities
where the Eucharist is the
center and source of life.*

*Saint Peter Julian,
accompany us
on our journey of faith.*

*May our ardent prayer
and our generous service
help us to contribute
to the establishing
of a world where there is
justice and peace.*

*May our celebrations
of the Eucharist proclaim
the liberating love of God
for the renewal of his church
and the coming of his king-
dom. Amen.*

”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
EUCCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING

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CONNECTIONS

A Note About the History of the Aggregation



*Birthplace of
Peter Julian Eymard,
La Mure d'Isère, France*

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

We are reminded by Father André Guitton, SSS, that in 1862, a pamphlet on the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament listed among the main eucharistic works envisioned for lay associates:

1. To teach Christian doctrine to uneducated children and to adults who have not made their First Communion;
2. To be dedicated to the work of Holy Viaticum, which consists in preparing persons for the reception of the last sacraments.

In addition to assisting him in his ministry of preparing workers and his little “rag-pickers” for their First Holy Communion, Father Eymard hoped that each associate would “give a few hours of the day or night in the prayer of adoration,” and “inspired by the eucharistic life of the Society [of the Blessed Sacrament], share its goal, according to the limits of his/her state, and become an active participant in all its merits and in all its spiritual graces.”

So, what does the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament expect of its associates today? In a word, the same thing it expects of its religious: to reflect on the *Rule of Life* for the congregation (in this case the *Rule of Life for Associates*) and discern how best to bring forth one’s gifts to serve the church and the world in ways inspired by the Eucharist.

For some, this will mean daily attendance at Mass, time in adoration, joining the local religious community for the Liturgy of the Hours, celebrating the feast days special to the congregation.

For others, participation in some or all of these occasionally.

For some, it will mean an active involvement in some parish or community ministry. For others, an active role in the ministries of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (e.g., the Life in the Eucharist programs); and others, participation in small faith communities like these monthly ongoing formation programs.

What is expected of all the members of Saint Peter Julian Eymard’s spiritual family — lay and religious alike — is a life dedicated to living a eucharistic spirituality.

From Saint Peter Julian Eymard: When Eucharist Becomes Life, a course of study of the life and writings of the Apostle of the Eucharist by Tony and Ethel Lapitan and Jim Brown.

EYWARD DAYS SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON CHURCH

SAINT PETER JULIAN
EYWARD
The Apostle of the Eucharist
Founder, Congregations
and Aggregation
of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday, August 1
7:00 p.m. Holy Hour
and Novena with
Saint Peter Julian Eymard
*Our Lady of the
Blessed Sacrament Chapel*

Saturday, August 2
Feast of
Saint Peter Julian Eymard

2:00 p.m. “An Eymardian
Eucharistic Spirituality
for Today”
Father Norman Pelletier, SSS
Family Life Center

4:30 p.m. Mass for the Feast
of Saint Peter Julian Eymard
Father Norman Pelletier, SSS,
presiding
Church

Pot Luck Dinner
Family Life Center

Sunday, August 3
Fathers William Fickel, SSS,
and Anthony Schueller, SSS,
preaching

8:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social
Family Life Center
Sponsored by the
Welcome Committee