



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership

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Welcome, Four New Lay Associates!



NEWS FROM TEXAS

The Houston Associates hosted a Come and See Dinner on September 25th. They decided to “kick it up a notch” this year from the usual Come and See Social. About 60 parishioners were sent personal invitations to Wine and Dine.

FROM MARYLAND

Frank and Marjorie Zalar recently conducted a Day of Eucharistic Reflection at Saint Joseph’s Church in Eldersburg, Maryland. Seventy people attended and really appreciated the Zalars’ efforts. Thanks to their dedication, Life in the Eucharist and other facets of eucharistic evangelizing are growing in Virginia and Maryland.

FROM OHIO

The Life in the Eucharist team at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Macedonia, Ohio, is hard at work planning a Life in the Eucharist retreat for Saturday, October 25.

Let us know what you are planning for the Annual Renewal of the Associate Promise the weekend of November 15-16 or 22-23.

This will be the focus of our next Connections.

On Sunday, September 14, 2014, four new associates were received at Saint Eulalia Church in Chicago, Illinois, by Father Norman Pelletier, SSS, provincial superior of the Province of Saint Ann. Aably led and formed by Father Rudsend Paragas, SSS, the four candidates — Jane Lashinski, Rose Mattax, Martha and Paul Mastropolo — made their covenant promise to “live my baptismal consecration according to the charism of Saint Peter Julian Eymard; and to place at the center of my life the paschal mystery, to contemplate it in prayer, and to share with people the life flowing from it.”

In his inspiring homily, Father Pelletier welcomed our new Associates of the Blessed Sacrament into the Eymardian family and invited them “to join the religious on a journey of faith to see all of reality in the light of the Eucharist and to grow in an Eymardian eucharistic spirituality.”

There was a wonderful spirit of joy and excitement that parishioners expressed to Jane, Rose, Martha, and Paul, especially at the Sign of Peace and the warm reception that followed the celebration of Mass. Already a number of parishioners have approached Father Michael Arkins, SSS, the pastor of Saint Eulalia’s, about being in the next group to be formed as associates.

Article and photograph by Jim Brown

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CONNECTIONS

Gathering of Albuquerque Associates



Albuquerque and
the Sandia Mountains

This past September 12-13, Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, the director of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing, visited the associates in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ten associates shared a meal and an evening of conversation on the 12th at the home of Kathy and Tony Medley. "It was," in the words of the Medleys, "a wonderful opportunity for us to share our history and hopes for the future with Father Tony, who listened . . . and gave us many good ideas for how we can continue to grow in our eucharistic spirituality."

There is a long and varied history of involvement with the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the association, dating back to the Blessed Sacrament Shrine on Gold Avenue in the early

1950s and '60s and then for 41 years at Saint Charles Borromeo Parish. The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Charles played a very important part in walking with and nurturing the associates, as have the pastors and religious who served there.

Father John Thomas Lane, SSS, was the pastor at Saint Charles when the province decided to withdraw from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. He worked with the associates in helping them to connect with the renewed Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament. In 2011, the Albuquerque associates made their promise in the presence of Father Provincial.

Recently, Father Vincent Chavez invited the group to meet at Saint Therese of the

Little Flower Church. He was also present on the 13th when Father Tony celebrated Mass and led the group in a morning of reflection and prayer. Tomas Luna, one of the associates, commented: "We are in a searching mode, both in how to sustain ourselves in the future and especially since the Blessed Sacrament Community is no longer present in the archdiocese. It is a challenge and an opportunity, given the fact that there may be more groups of associates forming throughout the country in places where there is no Blessed Sacrament parish."

God has blessed us with a group of deeply committed associates in Albuquerque. They have persevered through a period of transition and remain as focused as ever.

Pray for the
Life in the
Eucharist
Retreat at
Our Lady of
Guadalupe
in Macedonia,
Ohio, on
Saturday,
October 25.

A New Course of Study on Saint Peter Julian Eymard

We are pleased to announce the completion of a new resource from the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE). *A Course of Study on the Life and Writings of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, the Apostle of the Eucharist* has been adapted from a seven-session program developed by Ethel and Tony Lapitan, Associates of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and members of Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Holiday, Florida.

What is now a ten-session program was conceived as a follow-up resource for women and men who have gone through the formation program to be associates or who have participated in a Life in the Eucharist program or eucharistic parish mission, as well as groups of people who are interested in knowing more about the founder of the Congregation and Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

The program is now available for use. We hope that people's experience of it will deepen their own eucharistic spirituality and their appreciation of Father Eymard, his life, and the legacy he left us. Copies will be distributed at the Provincial Chapter in Florida next month. Conveners and spiritual directors of groups of associates or LITE teams may request a master copy by contacting the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing.

The *Course of Study* is another example of the fine work being done by our lay associates and Life in the Eucharist teams in partnership with our religious. A word of thanks to the Lapitans, Jim Brown, Father Thomas Wiese, SSS, Kay Vincent, and Susan Work for their assistance in preparing this new program of spiritual enrichment.