



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

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Life in the Eucharist Alive at Our Lady of Guadalupe

In 1995, two members from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Macedonia, Ohio, Faith DiPippo and Helen Govern, attended a Life in the Eucharist program presented by the LITE team at Saint Paschal Baylon Church in Highland Heights. I was a member of that team.

In 1997, a group of us presented a LITE program at Our Lady of Guadalupe and later formed a team to put on their own programs there.

Over the years, the Our Lady of Guadalupe team has offered programs not only at the parish but in churches in

the surrounding area.

In 2008, Mary Leben and Don Burke, who, like me, is a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing, became co-administrators of the LITE team.

When not planning for upcoming LITE presentations, they meet monthly to keep their eucharistic faith kindled as well as to nurture a spirit of team camaraderie.

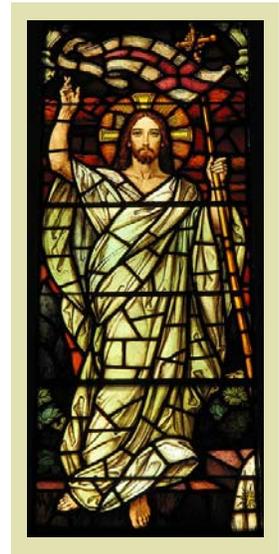
Though I continue to meet monthly with the associates at Saint Paschal Baylon, I joined the LITE team at Our

Lady of Guadalupe in 2007.

This past fall, Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, spoke to our team about going through initial formation for prospective associates. Helen Govern and I volunteered to lead the program and are currently midway through it.

It is very gratifying to share the charism of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation with a group of dedicated parishioners from a diocesan parish who have caught the eucharistic fire of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

Louise Borgione



Alleluia!

Father General's Message on the "Gift of Self"



"On 21 March 1865, after a long human and spiritual journey of development, Father Eymard opened himself entirely to God's grace, and a special way of making a gift of himself confronted him. This gift would mark his whole existence and make a definitive impact on the understanding of the Eymardian charism. The path that led from the Cenacle of Jerusalem to the interior Cenacle opens up a new and profound dimension of devotion to God as a consecrated person and makes him still more fruitful. In meditating on his personal notes during the Great Retreat of Rome, we discover a courageous and deep man, who carried out a sincere search into his real motives directing his life. Looking at himself in the mirror of personal truth demanded maturity and freedom. In this exercise, we see a mature man in virtue of sufferings imposed on him by life, but also an audacious man who breaks through barriers and suggests new paths to follow."

In the photo above, Father Eugênio Barbosa Martins, SSS, Superior General, holds the handwritten journal of Father Eymard from the Great Retreat of Rome in 1865

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What's Expected of an Associate?

We are pleased to have a guest writer, longtime associate Patty Pizzitola of Corpus Christi Church in Houston, Texas.

Bubba and I have been associated with the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament since 1990. We were delighted when the Congregation established the Aggregation (Association) back in 2010, thus formalizing a relationship many of us in Houston and in Cleveland had for over 20 years.

In reflecting on the question *What's expected of an associate?* I think a good way to answer is to draw a picture of what our associates do here at Corpus Christi Parish. And quite simply, I think it comes down to responding to what we felt was a call to witness and live our lives by sharing in the mission and charism of the Congregation founded by Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

I am so proud of our associates at Corpus Christi. When I look around, I see associates involved in numerous ministries:

Those who are able attend Morning Prayer and daily Mass.

We serve on councils and commissions, RCIA, teach in the day school. We are liturgical ministers, bereavement counselors for families and individuals, catechists for the young, active in adult faith formation, and teach English as a second language, to name a few.

We offer transportation each summer for the Blessed Sacrament missionaries from India.

Our associates sponsor and lead a Holy Hour the second Thursday of the month.

We have a group of twelve who stepped forward to facilitate the formation of parishioners wanting to become associates, and many of our associates are returning and repeating the formation process to learn more and to walk with those in formation.

Many of us have been involved in presenting Life in the Eucharist programs, both at Corpus Christi and, for some, as part of travelling LITE teams.

Many of us are the first ones to step up to assist our pastor and parish staff with parish programs and events.

Our experience tells us that many of us were already quite involved in the life of the parish when we entered into the formation program to make the Promise Commitment of a Lay Associate of the Blessed Sacrament.

But if someone is asking the question, *What's expected of an associate?* I would have to quote Joan Naschke: "There's a reason we are associates; we are involved!" Our Houston associates truly live a Life in the Eucharist.

Patty Pizzitola

The Advisory Board for the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE) held its annual meeting on April 18 at the Provinciate in Cleveland.

The following is a list of highlights from this very energizing meeting. A full copy of notes will be sent to the associates and LITE team leaders.

Much is happening around the Province. New groups of associates are in formation in five parishes. Associates attend monthly meetings and are actively involved in their parishes.

The Life in the Eucharist ministry is very active and alive at Saint Stephen's Church in Winter Springs, Florida, under the leadership and guidance of Father George Dunne, SSS.

As the new director of the CEE, I have been visiting with pastors, local Blessed Sacrament directors, and associates groups throughout the Province to find out what is happening and assess how the CEE can be of service and support.

The Advisory Board reached a consensus on two important aspects of the growing associates movement:

1. Clarifying roles and responsibilities of Blessed Sacrament religious, the local directors, and the lay leaders/administrators. Job descriptions will be developed;
2. Opening up a conversation about term limits for local lay leaders as called for in the *Rule of Life for Associates*.

FEEDBACK ON EMMANUEL MAGAZINE

If you subscribe to *Emmanuel*, you would have received in the mail a survey seeking your input on the magazine, which has been redesigned in both layout and approach to content. We encourage you to send in your feedback. Our hope is that more lay associates and LITE team members will subscribe to the magazine and find it a source of inspiration and help as you continue your eucharistic journey.

Jim Brown

CONGREGATION'S ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING

Wednesday, May 13, marks the 159th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. On that day in 1856, Father Eymard and his first companion, Father Raymond de Cuers, encountered Archbishop Marie-Dominique Sibour of Paris and explained to him the dream of establishing a new order dedicated to the Eucharist and the catechesis of the young and adults in preparation for Holy Communion. The archbishop gave his immediate approval. The day is observed in the Congregation as the feast of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, the woman of the Cenacle, whose intercession was critical at every step along the way.