



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

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Corpus Christi and the Grace of Lyons 1845

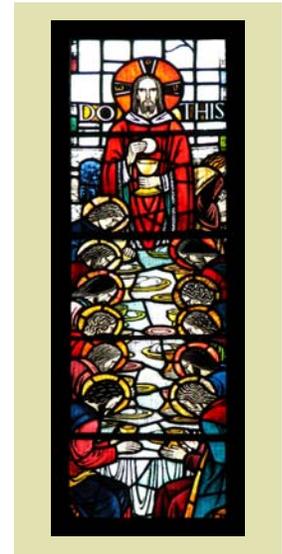
Throughout his life, Peter Julian Eymard had an intense devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. He knew about the apparition of Our Lady of La Salette and enjoyed traveling to various Marian shrines. It was Father Eymard's apostolic work for the Society of Mary that would put him in contact with the various currents of eucharistic piety that were flowing through the French church and elsewhere in Europe.

Despite persistent health issues, Peter Julian was an amazingly energetic and hardworking priest and religious. Naturally drawn to

contemplation, the demands of his ministry, especially his preaching schedule and the various administrative duties assigned to him, made it impossible for him to live a purely contemplative life. He was an outstanding organizer of lay societies, a zealous educator, a well-prepared preacher, and something of a prophetic figure in his Marist community and even to his superiors.

Father Eymard was especially effective at preaching eucharistic devotions, very popular at the time. It was on one such occasion, on Corpus Christi, May 25, 1845, that he

had a powerful experience that would change the course of his life. While carrying the Blessed Sacrament in procession at Saint Paul's Church in Lyons, he felt an intense attraction to Christ in the Eucharist and resolved to "bring all the world to the knowledge and love of our Lord; to preach nothing but Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ eucharistic." This grace would gradually consume his life and his energies over the next several years. In 1856, he made the painful decision to leave the Marists in the hope of a founding a religious congregation wholly dedicated to the Eucharist.



Given for you!

Good News from Saint Paschal Baylon Parish

We are happy to announce that at the Vigil Mass for the feast of Corpus Christi, seven people will make the Promise to live their baptismal consecration along the way taught by Saint Peter Julian Eymard as Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. They will be received by Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, Provincial Superior of the Province of Saint Ann, at the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, June 6, at Saint Paschal Baylon Church. The current group of Cleveland-area lay associates will join them for the Promise Ceremony and along with the Blessed Sacrament Community will host them for a potluck dinner following the Mass.

Congratulations, and welcome to the Eymardian Family!

*Sandra Cianciola
Fran Dinunzio
David Dugovics
Charlotte Fornal*

*Sue Lenahan
Larry Reichert
Katy Zarobila*

During their formation the past year, they have been warmly welcomed by the associates and the religious and been guided by Joe McCormack and Mary Muehle, in particular.

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What's Expected of an Associate?

We have been exploring the question above in these 2015 issues of Connections. Perhaps another way of approaching the question is to ask: What does it mean to be a Lay Associate of the Blessed Sacrament?

We are pleased to share a "witness" from Joe McCormack that first appeared in the March/April 2014 issue of Emmanuel Magazine. Joe and his wife Rosemary are associates at Saint Paschal Baylon Parish in Highland Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. They are both involved in a variety of ministries.

EUCCHARISTIC MOMENTS

You know the feeling. Family and friends are sitting at the kitchen or dining room table. Conversations are flying like hummingbirds. Something is going on down at the other end, another conversation over here, and something serious over there. You are quiet for just a moment to take it all in — the joy, the laughter, the love.

Those family conversations around the table have in-

spired me the most in my life to know what is good. Coming together with our joys and pains and anxieties and our frustrations at the table is a Eucharistic Moment.

Our days can be filled with these moments while we stand in line, while we have a cup of coffee after Mass, or while we are at work. These moments are when we are in touch with others and see them as human beings with the pains and joys they carry.

A man who took a cup of coffee from me when I once helped out at a shelter blew across the top of the cup to cool it down before taking a sip. Then he looked at me and said, "This is a good cup of coffee." He took delight in receiving a simple cup of coffee and must have had a better life at one time to draw from a past experience to know that this was good.

We draw from our past experiences to know whether something is good or not. And just like being at a table with family and friends, we know this is a good experience because we are together. And we might say, "It is

good for us to be here" to have this Eucharistic Moment."

When I started the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament program, it didn't take me long to see that my home table experiences were not unlike those that take place at our altar, where we gather with our hopes and joys and burdens to share in the body and blood of Christ. In the food, we are offered, we are nourished, and then we nourish others.

In a hospitality environment, the best is offered in the giving and receiving, but first must come the invitation, like a colorful scarf outside a Bedouin tent announcing to strangers, "Come in." We must communicate that we are bringing the Good News. We associate ourselves with the Eucharistic Moment of bringing the Good News and offering nourishment.

That is the invitation. Those who come to table know that the good is here, the hospitality is here. Christ is here.

Joe McCormack



"The Eucharist shapes our lifestyle as individuals, family members, and as members of society. We endeavor to understand every reality in the light of this sacrament and we contribute to a Christian vision of our global reality."

Rule of Life for Associates, 6

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON PARISH

As part of the Eymard Triduum being celebrated in August at Saint Paschal Baylon Parish, the pastor, Father John Thomas Lane, SSS, has initiated with the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing a plan to present a Life in the Eucharist program, one for adults and one for the youth of the parish.

The LITE Team at Saint Paschal's has begun its planning for the adult program to be held on August 1.

Eva Marie Mickol, the Director of Youth Ministry at Saint Paschal's, is taking a group of young people from her youth group to Winter Springs, Florida, to participate in a Teen LITE program presented by Father George Dunne's LITE Teens at Saint Stephen Parish and to be formed in presenting the program in August at Saint Paschal's.

"We are beside ourselves with excitement," says Eva Marie. "I am really excited about attending the LITE Teen retreat there. Since there are ten of our young people attending, my hope is that we can each take one of the five topics and when we come back, we will be able to present those at our LITE retreat — two per topic."

We wish them a safe and fruitful trip! And congratulations to Eva Marie and Father Lane on pulling off such a trip.

Editors
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Anthony Schueller, SSS