



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 8

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary has traditionally been a day on which members of the Province of Saint Ann have professed their vows. We congratulate our religious whose anniversary of profession is today. *Ad multos annos!*

The following excerpts are taken from a discourse of Saint Andrew of Crete, an eighth-century bishop, theologian, and homilist:

“The fulfillment of the law is Christ himself, who does not so much lead us away from the letter as lift us up to its spirit. For the law’s consum-

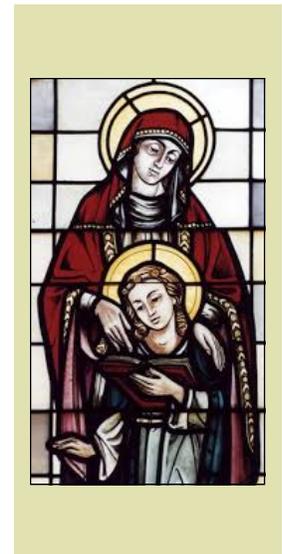
mation was this, that the very lawgiver accomplished his work and changed letter into spirit, summing up everything in himself and, though subject to the law, living by grace. . . . He changed whatever was burdensome, servile, and oppressive into what is light and liberating, so that we should be enslaved no longer under the elemental spirits of the world, as the apostle says, nor held fast as bonded servants under the letter of the law.

“This is the highest, all-embracing benefit that Christ has bestowed on us. This is the revelation of the mystery

that is the emptying out of the divine nature, the union of God and man, and the deification of the humanity that was assumed.

“This radiant and manifest coming of God . . . most certainly needed a joyful prelude to introduce the great gift of salvation to us. . . . The birth of the Mother of God is the prelude, while the final act is the foreordained union of the Word with flesh. Today the virgin is born, tended and formed and prepared for her role as Mother of God, who is the universal king of the ages.”

Father Anthony Schueller



Ann and Mary

Associate Promise Mass Upcoming in Connecticut

Something special has been taking place at Saint Philip’s Church in Norwalk, Connecticut, over the past year. A group of parishioners has been meeting monthly, led by associate Dan Krenicki with the full support of Father Michael Boccaccio, Saint Philip’s visionary pastor, in the hope of becoming Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. And Father Mike will be right there among them in three weeks, making his Promise too as an associate, on Sunday, September 27.

The story of Saint Philip’s begins with the desire of Kathy Krenicki to live her Catholic faith more deeply. She and husband Dan completed the formation process at Saint Jean Baptiste Church in New York City. And shortly before she passed away on October 5, 2013, Kathy sealed her Promise as an Associate of the Blessed Sacrament on her deathbed with a kiss.

Saint Philip’s Church is not served by the Blessed Sacrament Community, but it is certainly imbued with the spirit of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. The candidates have been moving steadily through initial formation with joy and dedication, learning about Father Eymard’s love of Christ in the Eucharist and the sacrament’s power to transform lives, the church, and the world. They have formed a true community of prayer and service in the spirit of the Eucharist. We rejoice that God has called them to this new commitment.

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What's Expected of an Associate?

In this issue, we are pleased to have a guest column by Rose Mattax of Saint Eulalia Parish.



I am a Lay Associate of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Eulalia Parish in Maywood, Illinois, west of downtown Chicago. I and three fellow parishioners made our Promise Commitment in September 2014.

As I was going through the initial formation program led by Father Rudy Paragas, SSS, I began thinking about what activity or program I might commit to as an associate. I had no idea of what might evolve. Coincidentally, in August 2014, a L'Arche community moved into the house across the street from where my husband John and I live.

L'Arche was founded in France by Jean Vanier. A L'Arche community's purpose is: "We are people, with and without developmental disabilities, sharing life in communities belonging to an International Federation."

After renovating the house to standardize it for disability needs, the L'Arche community held an open house this past January which I attended. Over the last year, I

have visited the community and gotten to know the members living there: four "core members" (persons with developmental disabilities) and three "assistants" (persons who come to share life with the core members).

In the course of many conversations, I invited the community to "come visit us at Saint Eulalia." They liked our celebration of the Eucharist and the wide diversity of people who worship at our parish. They now are discerning whether to "adopt Saint Eulalia as their parish community."

We house at Saint Eulalia in the former school building the Quinn Community Center (QCC), in honor of Monsignor William Quinn, a former pastor of Saint Eulalia Parish who brought with him a strong passion for social justice.

The QCC is a place where Saint Eulalia's parishioners and residents from Maywood and Broadview come together to identify issues and make a difference in the community. I have been in touch with Gabriel Lara, the Director of the QCC, about building a connection with the L'Arche community.

Whatever evolves, I know that as a Lay Associate of the Blessed Sacrament, I feel that this growing involvement with the L'Arche community is what I am called to do.

Rose Mattax

The Province of Saint Ann will host a convocation for all the members of the Eymardian family during the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. Scheduled close to the feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard on August 2, it will take place at the Provincial Center and Saint Paschal Baylon Parish in Highland Heights, Ohio, July 29-31, 2016.

A Holy Year is a time of pilgrimage and prayer, so the doors of the Provincialate and the Cleveland community will be open to welcome a family reunion of Blessed Sacrament religious, the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, lay associates, and other partners in our eucharistic mission and ministry.

The theme is "Celebrating the Gift of Self in the Year of Mercy."

The convocation will feature keynote speakers, workshops, prayer, song, and food. More details will be communicated in the January/March 2016 issue of *Bread Broken & Shared* as well as in a brochure which will be mailed out in the new year.

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We are sad to report that on July 21, Rose M. Brown, a Lay Associate of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Holiday, Florida, passed away. Though Rose was a parishioner at neighboring Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, she was, according to Gloria Jung, "an adorer of the Eucharist and committed herself to praying at Saint Vincent de Paul each Wednesday from 11:00-noon." Gloria added, "Rose told me on Sunday (before she died) that she was 'walking with Jesus.'"

Please remember Rose in your prayers, especially her own family and her Eymardian family at Saint Vincent de Paul Church.

LIFE IN THE EUCHARIST REUNION

Participants of Saint Paschal Baylon August 1 LITE Program
Saturday, September 19, Eymard Hall
Starting with 9:00 a.m. Mass, program ending by 11:30

Jim Brown

Watch for updates on the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament in *Bread Blessed & Broken*, the quarterly newsletter of the Province of Saint Ann.