



# CONNECTIONS

*Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family*

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## “The Body Is One and Has Many Members” (1 Cor 12:12)

*At the Amplified General Council in Rome in April 2015, the “Memory and Discernment Committee” produced a powerful reflection which will serve as part of the preparation for the 2017 General Chapter. We share a few paragraphs from Number 5, entitled “A Passion Shared with the SSS Laity.”*

“The pastoral ministry of Father Eymard was always marked by closeness with lay people, especially in Lyons with the Third Order of Mary. From the beginning

of the Institute, he was thinking of a eucharistic SSS ‘family’ that would unite the male religious, the Sister Servants, and the lay people of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

“The dream of such a Congregation around the Eucharist was not possible in his time. Nowadays, however, there are many religious institutes which live this reality of a family composed of members sharing the same charism in different states of life.

“The association of lay people with our life and our apostolate, especially through the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, marks the history of our Congregation. Today, we find in renewed and life-giving ways this characteristic in the life of most of our Provinces/Regions. Many have benefited from the efforts for renewal through the LITE sessions or eucharistic missions.

“This aspect of our life deserves special attention. . . .”  
*Father Anthony Schueller*



OUR LADY OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
Provincialate  
Cleveland

## A Joyous Celebration in Norwalk, Connecticut



This past September 27, ten parishioners of Saint Philip Church, including diocesan pastor Father Michael Boccaccio, were received as Associates of the Blessed Sacrament at the noon Mass. Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, Provincial Superior of the Province of Saint Ann, presided and welcomed their “Commitment Promise” to join the extended Eymardian family.

Fathers Bernard Camiré, SSS, Anthony Marshall, SSS, and Emil Rodrigo, SSS (Province of Christ the Bread of Life, Sri Lanka) also attended and concelebrated the Mass. The associates intend to start a new group of prospective associates before the end of the year.

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### What's Expected of an Associate?

In the *Rule of Life for Associates* (ROLA), we read the following in Number 22:

“The same spirituality and same ideal unites consecrated and lay members of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation as one spiritual family.

“Where there is a community of the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament, the lay members share with them social and prayer times, mission gatherings, and formation initiatives. As associates, they are part of the extended Eymardian family which finds its identity in the spirit and mission of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

“The essential features and structures of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, as described in this document, may be adapted according to circumstances and places.”

As I look around the Province of Saint Ann, I see a variety of wonderful events happening that express the rich ways that our growing community of Associates of the Blessed Sacrament are living this message from the *ROLA*. Examples are the following:

Chicago — Participating at Saint Eulalia Church in the *Course of Study on Saint Peter Julian Eymard*, an ongoing formation program led by Brother Darren Maslen, SSS.

Cleveland — Participating at Saint Paschal Baylon Church in a *Life in the Eucharist* program this past August and an expanded version of the *Course of Study on Saint Peter Julian Eymard* which started this past September. They also join the religious community at least five times a year for dinner or a picnic

Florida — The associates at Saint Vincent de Paul Church celebrate a monthly holy hour and social; some lead Morning Prayer; and, some assist in the initial formation program for new associates. In the neighboring Diocese of Orlando, 20 parishioners are in formation to be Associates of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Stephen Church in Winter Springs.

Houston — Associates are participating in an initial formation program for a group of prospective associates at Corpus Christi Church as part of their own ongoing formation, and some lead a monthly holy hour. This past July, they joined the religious community for a cookout.

New York — The small group of associates at Saint Jean Baptiste Church continues to meet monthly for ongoing formation and occasionally for a meal with the religious community.

Norwalk — The newly promised group of associates at Saint Philip Church is planning to start a new group and have begun hosting a monthly holy hour.

When asked what is expected of an Associate of the Blessed Sacrament, the answer might be better stated: “As an associate, you are *invited* to be part of the Eymardian family joining the religious of the Congregation in prayer, mission, ongoing formation in the eucharistic spirituality of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, and social events.”

*Jim Brown*

## THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

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### OUR NEW ASSOCIATES IN NORWALK

Father Michael Boccaccio  
Anna Camacho  
Michael Falbo  
Brent Fitteron  
Betty Hunter  
Arthur McCarthy  
Ann McGuire  
Kathi Sonntag  
Paul Sullivan  
Felice Werwin

*Our Lady  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament*

The Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus and of the church,  
is the indispensable model of the eucharistic life.  
She shared the disciples' life of prayer in the Cenacle  
and their apostolic journeying in the world.  
Like her, we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit,  
so that, docile to his action, we may contribute effectively  
to the coming of the kingdom. (*ROLA*, 13)