



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

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Easter — We Rise with Christ!

“*Haec dies quam fecit Dominus, exultemus et laetamur in ea.*’ ‘This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it’ (Ps 117:24).

“These words the Holy Spirit places on the lips of the church on the triumphal day of the Savior, on the day of his resurrection; after he had left Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Calvary, he entered into his eternal triumph and took possession of his kingdom. We understand that the church uses them to encourage the faithful to rejoice, since it is the entrance day of the Savior into his glory.

“My brothers, we can say the same thing on this day that the Lord has made in his mercy and love; we are allowed to add: let us exalt in joy. What is this day? It is the day of days, the day of the church, the day of our Lord in us. It is truly *the day of the Lord in us* because today triumphs over death in us, as he triumphed from his tomb over the death of the world.”

The above quotation from Saint Peter Julian Eymard calls us to rejoice as we celebrate the great paschal feast of Easter and the 50

days of the Easter Season.

One of the truly overwhelming aspects of Easter is that *it is our mystery too*. By “our,” of course, is meant the *church* — all of us who have died to sin in baptism and been raised to new life with Christ. We entered into this life on the day we were reborn in the saving waters of baptism and anointed with Sacred Chrism.

The new life of Easter is especially evident in those initiated at the Great Vigil on Holy Saturday. Their joy is contagious! But Easter life abounds as well in the renewed lives of the already-baptized — you and I who have sought by God’s grace and through personal resolve this past Lent to turn more fully to Christ and to pattern our lives on his teachings and example.

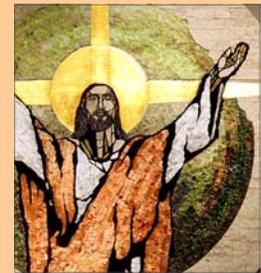
Faith-filled participation in the Eucharist deepens our life in him. It is one of the basic things each of us can do to grow in Christ. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, Vatican II’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, says in paragraph 106: “By a tradition handed down from the apostles and having its origin from the very day

of Christ’s resurrection, the church celebrates the paschal mystery every eighth day. . . . For on this day, Christ’s faithful must gather together so that, by hearing the word of God and taking part in the Eucharist, they may call to mind the passion, the resurrection, and the glorification of the Lord Jesus, and may thank God, who ‘*has begotten them again unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*’ (1 Pt 1:3).”

Yes, “this is the day the Lord has made!” Christ is risen from the dead! And we rise to new life in union with him. “Let us be glad and rejoice in it!”

A blessed Easter and Easter Season to all members of the Eymardian Family!

Father Anthony Schueller,
SSS



“This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.”

Psalm 117:24

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Life in the Eucharist Ministry — Yet Again at OLG!

Readers of *Connections* may recall an article by Louise Borgione in the May 8, 2015, issue. Louise, a long-time associate of the Congregation and a founding member of the Life in the Eucharist ministry at Saint Paschal Baylon Parish in Highland Heights, Ohio, shared with us the good news of the LITE ministry being done at the diocesan parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe in nearby Macedonia for nearly 20 years. Louise is now a member of the Our Lady of Guadalupe team and happily responded to my request to write the article below for us.

I had the good fortune to attend the first session on February 29. In a word, it was a wonderful experience: well planned, well presented, well facilitated. Thank you, Mary Leben and the whole team, for continuing to partner with us in spreading the good news of the love of God revealed in the Eucharist and in promoting the charism of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the Diocese of Cleveland.

Jim Brown

Early in summer 2015, Mary Leben, the administrator of the Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) Life in the Eucharist (LITE) team, contacted Father Dan Begin, the pastor of a nearby parish, Our Lady of Hope, in Bedford, Ohio. She proposed that the OLG team come to their parish to present a LITE program. Father Dan showed interest and turned the matter over to a parish staff member, Louise Martin, to check out the program. The two got in touch with each other, and things began to move.

It was suggested to Louise that she attend a one-day Life in the Eucharist program on August 2 at Saint Paschal Baylon Parish in honor of Saint Peter Julian Eymard's feast day. Louise was so impressed with the program that not only did she recommend that Father Begin proceed with the program in their parish, but she also wanted to be trained to join the OLG LITE team.

This took a few months to get on the parish calendar, but Louise and another parishioner from OLG, Sandra Austhof, came on board for an intense training every Wednesday night during the

busy holiday month of December to be ready to join the team when they began preparations for the LITE program at Our Lady of Hope. It was quite a task for these two women who work fulltime during the day, as well as for the trainers, Mary Leben, Helen Govern, and Louise Borgione. But they dutifully read and studied all the material in the training manual and were ready by the start of the new year.

Father Dan is pastor of two parishes, Our Lady of Hope (OLH) and nearby Saint Mary's. He spreads himself quite thin trying to build up a Catholic community among members of the two parishes. He looked forward to having this program in an effort to unite parishioners by inviting members of both churches to the LITE mission, which was held on five evenings from February 29-March 4.

About 70 people attended each evening. The participants were quite impressed. Several made comments such as: "We knew much of the spiritual points, but this really reawakened our awareness of Jesus in the Eucharist in our lives"; "We also learned so many new aspects of the

Eucharist we did not know before, or had forgotten"; "We especially liked the session with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and the final Mass was especially sacred and meaningful."

Father Dan commented that he was very pleased with the outcome because it brought people together to "communicate with one another," something he has been trying hard to do since he was named pastor of the parishes two years ago. Our team was especially pleased that provincial Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, was able to concelebrate at the concluding Mass on Friday night. The team really appreciated his participation and also that of Jim Brown, who attended the first evening and served as one of our table leaders.

Other members of the OLG team joining Mary, Helen, and myself during the week were Don Burke, Joe Kost, Greg Knapik, and Steve Hujarski. All of us were thankful to God for the opportunity to give this gift of Life in the Eucharist to the parishioners of these parishes.

Louise Borgione



Life in the Eucharist presents five specific topics that open up the riches of the Eucharist as Celebration, Contemplation, and Communion. This approach offers a comprehensive view of the eucharistic mystery.