



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

MAY 2, 2016

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4

“God Doesn’t Call the Equipped; He Equips the Called”

Two weeks ago, April 18-22, an Amplified Provincial Council took place at the Provincial Headquarters in Highland Heights, Ohio. This was a gathering of leadership in the Province: superiors, pastors, and directors of Province ministries. An APC takes place midway through the term of a Provincial administration, typically at the time of preparing for a General Chapter — a gathering of religious leadership from around the world. The 35th General Chapter of the Congregation is scheduled for June 4-25, 2017, in Chicago.

Among the topics addressed during the week (quality of life and mission, finances, retirement, formation, vocation ministry, etc.) was the state of the lay associates’ program which is developing in the United States.

In a letter to the members of the APC, superior general Father Eugênio Barbosa Martins, SSS, included this note:

“A great gift that we received from God through our holy Founder is that of sharing in a charismatic family wherein lay men and women have a fundamental role, through the Aggregation of the Blessed

Sacrament. Also in this field, the Province has been a pioneer in sharing the charism and mission with the laity. May your reflections lead you to enhance this dimension that greatly assists us to live the challenge of eucharistizing families and society.”

To enrich the dialogue on the topic of the associates, the Provincial leadership put out an invitation to the associates at Saint Paschal Baylon to attend the afternoon session on April 21 and join the APC members for the celebration of the Eucharist and the religious community for dinner. Nine of our associates were able to attend. The purpose of the exchange was to share the good news and challenges members of the APC have had with the associates program.

As it happened, the associates from SPB represented well the evolving community of associates around the country as well as the variety of ways these people express their association with the charism of Saint Peter Julian Eymard in their parishes and beyond:

Married couples: Rosemary and Joe McCormack;

Members of the new Leadership Board: Mary Muehle, Kay Vincent, Susan Work;

People with a longtime connection to the Congregation: Louise Borgione, Jim Nagle, Virginia Sepic;

People with a more recent connection to the Congregation: Mary Muehle;

Members from parishes other than Saint Paschal: Sue Lenahan, Susan Work;

Members employed by the Congregation: Kay Vincent, Susan Work, and myself;

Original “associates” who were (and still are) involved in the Life in the Eucharist ministry in the early 1990s: Louise Borgione.

Among the many wonderful things we heard are happening throughout the Province were five interesting conclusions or observations:

1. How people were *personally invited* by a religious to consider becoming an associate;
2. The challenge or wonderment associates who *worship at diocesan parishes* have as

to how to spread the Eymardian eucharistic spirituality in their parish;

3. Jim Nagle mentioned that in his many letters he writes to diocesan newspapers they always include after his name “Lay Associate of the Blessed Sacrament”;

4. The challenge Father George Dunne mentioned forming an associates group in a diocesan parish;

5. The sense of humility people feel being associated with this wonderful group of religious. To this point, Louise recalled a line she had heard many years ago from LITE founder Bob Rousseau when she first became involved: “God doesn’t call the equipped; he equips the called.”

Jim Brown

CENTER FOR
EUCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING

*A Ministry of the
Congregation of
the Blessed Sacrament*

5384 Wilson Mills Road
Cleveland, OH 44143
440.442.4734
eucharisticevangelizing.com
ccc@blessedsacrament.com

James W. Brown, Director

CONNECTIONS

More Good News at Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Holiday, Florida



“Happy is the soul that knows how to find Jesus in the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in all things!”

May 13, 2016, the feast of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament, marks the 160th anniversary of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, founded in 1856. A special gift has been in preparation to mark this *very* special day in the life of our Eymardian Family. Having completed their formation with prayer, study, and discernment, Father William Fickel, SSS, the pastor, will receive the Commitment Promise of 15 new Lay Associates of the Blessed Sacrament at the 8:30 Mass on Friday, May 13. Called to center their lives on the Eucharist, they will make a public Covenant to follow the *Rule of Life for Associates* and will receive the cross of the Aggregation: Sylvia Archibold, Peggy Ellis, Margaret Flanders, Juan Gonzalez, Robert Gozo, Joanne Heller, Ivonne Hernandez and Rick Hernandez, Jim Inkrott, Lisa Lancaster, Ted Laubner, Lucy Lazich, Valerie Merimee, Eddison Richardson, and Antonia Valentin.

This is a truly blessed day and occasion. The above quote from the Founder, Saint Peter Julian Eymard, says it all.

Laura Worhacz and Father Bill Fickel, SSS

“We welcome Christ’s command to the apostles, and like them we proclaim the Gospel and give witness to it with our lives.”

Rule of Life for Associates,
12

As a fruit of the prayers offered daily for the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament, a beautiful cenacle of prayer has unfolded in Holiday, Florida. *Mothers of the Blessed Sacrament* has 102 members who have joined together to form an online cenacle of prayer. There are daily prayers that go out — a prayer for a spiritual Communion for those who cannot get to daily Mass; a morning offering with prayer intentions attached for each day; on Thursdays, prayer for priests — each and every Blessed Sacrament Father’s name is listed.

Many of the mothers have large families. The online connection has allowed all members to be part of a prayer group, especially those who are homebound with little ones. One of the founding mothers is due this June with her 10th child. She sends out the daily prayers and keeps the lists organized for the daily intentions, which include the deceased, sick, families, military, priests, souls in purgatory, conversion, and the unborn.

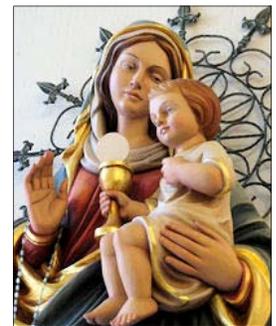
Each day various prayer intentions come into the website. The love comes forth when the responses come in for requests; no one feels alone. Additionally, the website is used to communicate all Catholic events, retreats, news, etc., in the area. Furthermore, the cenacle has an opportunity to meet every first Saturday of the month.

Some months nearly 20 of the moms attend Mass at Saint Vincent de Paul. The women involved in the online cenacle are from different Catholic churches throughout the Tampa Bay area.

Since I have been inducted into the Association, I have felt the presence of all of our associates’ prayers, with the Holy Spirit always breathing new life. My job is director to the cenacle, overseeing all emails, responding to each and every email with a picture, prayer, and Hail Mary. The website has presented the opportunity to send out reflections from Saint Peter Julian Eymard and invitations for new associates. Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament is the foundress of the Cenacle. We are the Mothers of the Blessed Sacrament, named after her. The title

cenacle came from Saint Peter Julian. He is the patron of the online cenacle of prayer.

Laura Worhacz



May 13
· Feast Day
· 160th Anniversary
of Founding