



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

JUNE 29, 2016 — SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

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Convocation Update

As of this date, there are approximately 35 associates and/or members of Life in the Eucharist teams registered for the July 29-31 Province Convocation being held at Saint Paschal Baylon Parish in Highland Heights, Ohio, outside Cleveland. There are 65 registered participants, including religious, speakers, and other interested people.

As you may recall, the theme of the convocation is *Celebrating the Gift of Self in the Year of Mercy*. Recently, Father John Christman, SSS, who is presenting one of the workshops at the convocation, alerted us to a quote from *Misericordiae Vultus*, the document by which Pope Francis invoked the yearlong Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. It amazingly touches upon the essential purpose of this gathering:

“The church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person. The Spouse of Christ must pattern her behavior after the Son of God who went out to everyone without exception. In the present day, as the church is charged with the task of the

new evangelization, the theme of mercy needs to be proposed again and again with new enthusiasm and renewed pastoral action. It is absolutely essential for the church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy. Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father.”

“The church’s first truth is the love of Christ. *The church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself.* Consequently, wherever the church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident in our parishes, communities, associations, and movements. In a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy” (12).

If you plan to attend the Convocation and have not registered, please do so by July 8. Email Susan Work at susandwork@yahoo.com or call 440.442.6311. Thank you.

NEW ASSOCIATES BOARD IN HOUSTON



This past May, Father Tom Smithson, SSS, the pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Houston, Texas, and local director of the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament, led a discernment process for an Associates Board, as called for in number 27 of the *Rule of Life for Associates*.

As a result of this discernment, Noreen Hoard, longtime associate and member of the Life in the Eucharist team at Corpus Christi, was appointed the lay leader. Three other members will join her on the board: Laura Edstrom, Tammy Arnold, and Bob McInturff, who is the assistant to Noreen.

Patty and Bubba Pizzitola, longtime associates and leaders in the Life in the Eucharist ministry, will be ex-

fficio members of the board. They have been serving in leadership since the inception of the renewed associates program in 2011.

Congratulations! And God be with you all in leading the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament at Corpus Christi into the future.

Jim Brown



See you in Cleveland for the Convocation!

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Newest Member of Houston Associates Welcomed

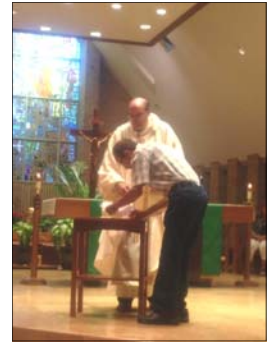
On Thursday evening, June 9, longtime parishioner Daniel Juarez was installed as an Associate of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament during a special celebration of the Eucharist. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Tom Smithson, SSS, as the presider, and Father Bob Chabot, SSS, assisting, and witnessed by 25 fellow associates and five guests.

Daniel completed the formation process earlier in the year, but was not available to participate in the formal covenant ceremony at that time. Daniel's wife, Mercedes, also an associate and a member of the Spanish Life in the Eucharist team, along with their daughter and son-in-law were at his side.

All who witnessed this event were truly blessed when, after he signed his covenant agreement, Daniel turned to those in attendance to recite words that he had carefully selected from the writings of Saint Peter Julian Eymard to express as his prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude for this spiritual commitment as an associate, to strive daily to embody the charism of Saint Peter Julian Eymard and to live a life in the Eucharist.

A celebratory reception — *"of eucharistic proportions"* — in fellowship with one another concluded this memorable evening.

Noreen Hoard



Life in the Eucharist at Saint Jean Baptiste Church

At the invitation of Father John Kamas, SSS, the pastor of Saint Jean Baptiste Church in New York City, a Life in the Eucharist "traveling team" comprised of Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, Rosemary and Joe McCormack, and Jim Brown presented an adapted LITE program on Saturday, May 14, on the Sacramental Themes. In the 9:00-4:00 day, we developed the standard LITE format on the themes of Nourishment, Transformation, and Mission.

Fifty people from nearly every decade, including one teenager, took part in the program. They largely represented a charismatic group who are now members of the church following the closure and consolidation of churches in the archdiocese recently,

and parishioners who are active in liturgical ministries and other activities.

The group engaged in the program very enthusiastically, and the evaluations afterward were very positive. They appreciated having Saint Jean's former pastor of ten years, Father Tony, back for the day.

Other highlights were seeing Rosemary and Joe acting out "The Cracked Pot" story and

Joe giving a dramatic telling of the story "Stone Soup" for the Nourishment theme.

Seven people expressed their interest in forming a Life in the Eucharist team at Saint Jean's. Father Kamas hopes that we will come back to train a LITE team as part of efforts to form a eucharistic community and deepen the spirituality of the church community.

Jim Brown



**"Like the disciples
of Emmaus
who encountered
the risen Lord
and recognized him
in the breaking
of the bread,
we accompany all
who are seeking
meaning
in their lives
and we proclaim
Christ,
the Word
of eternal life."**

Rule of Life for Associates,
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