



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

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Welcome, Father Eugênio and Father Binh!

The religious and associates of the Province of Saint Ann are getting ready to welcome Father Eugênio Barbosa Martins, Superior General of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, and Father Joseph Vu Quoc Binh, General Consultor, for an official visit November 1-26.

This is Father Eugênio's first trip to the United States. He was born in Araguari, Minas Gerais, Brazil, on September 5, 1960. He professed first vows on January 25, 1984, and was ordained a priest on



January 24, 1988. He served in various ministries in the Province of Santa Cruz (Brazil), including Provincial Superior from 2002-2010,



and was chosen the 14th successor to Saint Peter Julian Eymard as Superior General on May 16, 2011. He is fluent in many languages and brings

a wealth of experience to his duties in leadership and animation of the Congregation.

Father Joseph has served as a General Consultor for three years and is convener of the International Commission on Mission. He was born in Vietnam on November 11, 1974, professed first vows on August 2, 2001, and was ordained to the priesthood on February 11, 2009. He attended our Provincial Chapter in November 2014, representing Father General and the General Council.

Living the Eucharist as a Gift of Self

The following is an excerpt from a workshop talk presented at the Province Convocation held in Cleveland, Ohio, in late July. The theme was "Celebrating the Gift of Self in the Year of Mercy." The full text is being sent to the leaders of the Associates Boards.

The sacrament of God's love entrusted to the Church calls us to greater participation in living the Eucharist with our own lives. Yes, the Eucharist is an action of Christ's body, broken and shared. It is a gesture of giving thanks with bread and wine; and of being nourished with the body and blood of Christ as a participation in the "body of Christ."

Peter Julian Eymard was troubled by the religious ignorance of people estranged from the Church and oblivious to the living presence of God in Holy Communion. He believed that the fire of God's love burning in the Eucharist could ignite a transformation of society. Sadly though, for many the Eucharist had become an empty ritual that had little effect in the lives of people.

Father Eymard realized the path of spiritual transformation flows from living in the body of Christ as the People of God. Our Founder's charism initiated a paradigm shift which positioned the Eucharist out of the tabernacle and into the center of our lives.

While on an extended retreat in Rome, Peter Julian experienced the Eucharist as an invitation to share in the kenosis of Christ as expressed in the letter to the Philippians (2:5-8). *Continued*



PROVINCE VISITATION

November 1-4, 21-26
New York - Saint Jean Baptiste

November 4-7
Holiday - Saint Vincent de Paul
Diocese of Orlando

November 7-10
Chicago - Saint Eulalia
House of Studies

November 10-17
Provincial House
Cleveland - Saint Paschal Baylon

November 17-21
Houston - Corpus Christi
San Antonio - Saint Joseph

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Living the Eucharist as a Gift of Self, *Continued*



“(Jesus) emptied himself, taking the form of a servant. . . . He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Peter Julian Eymard taught his followers that it is in and through our lives that Christ continues this work of the Father as we unite ourselves to the self-giving of Christ in the Eucharist and in service to the world.

During this retreat, he experienced the personal love God had for him drawing him into a self-abnegation of his personality. Through this complete self-giving at the altar in reception of Communion, it becomes possible for the Lord to “live again in us and continue through us the glorification of his Father.”

Pope Francis, during his travels to parts of the world touched by extreme poverty and human suffering, has encouraged people to embrace the future with hope. He does not skirt the challenges that are set before us in a secular society, suffering from hostilities and injustices that deny the dignity of the many who live in deplorable conditions. The children have asked him, “Where is God?” And the pope replies by saying that we are to be “experts in communion.” Our lives need to show forth the joy and love of God who is with us.

This Holy Year of Mercy invites all Blessed Sacrament religious and associates to live fully the gift of the Eucharist with the insights of Saint Peter Julian’s Gift of Self. It is a time to listen (in the silence of prayer) and to penetrate more deeply the inner recesses of the heart of God to experience acceptance, compassion, and mercy.

These are the words Father Eymard heard Jesus speak to him on March 21, 1865, in making the Gift of Self: “You will be entirely invested with me. My heart will beat within your body; my soul will act through your soul. Your heart will be the receptacle and the pulsation of my heart. I shall be the person of your personality, and your personality will be the life of my person in you.”

Father Bill Fickel, SSS

Another Joyous Celebration in Norwalk, Connecticut

Last Sunday, October 23, three parishioners of Saint Philip Church were received as Associates of the Blessed Sacrament at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. They are:

Wendy Ditullio
Rose Morgera
Ralph Diaz

Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, Provincial Superior of the Province of Saint Ann, concelebrated the Mass with pastor Father Michael Boccaccio and welcomed their Commitment Promise in joining the extended Eymardian Family.

AND MORE EXCITING NEWS . . .

The current associates are planning another initial formation program for perspective associates at Saint Philip. The new program kicks off on November 8. On Saturday, October 22, Father Tony and I met with associates Anna Camacho, Dan Krenicki, and Paul Sullivan to develop materials translated into Spanish, based on the twelve formation booklets. Some 18 Spanish-speaking people from Saint Philip and surrounding parishes are interested in becoming Associates of the Blessed Sacrament.



Anna will lead the Spanish-speaking group, while Dan, Paul, and others will lead the program for prospective English-speaking parishioners.

Jim Brown

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