



# CONNECTIONS

*Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family*

APRIL 23, 2017 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

## Easter Greetings

We pass on to you this Easter message from Father Eugênio Barbosa Martins, SSS, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament: “I wish you a happy and holy feast of the Lord’s Pasch!”

In his Easter message, Father Eugênio included this quote from Saint Peter Julian Eymard:

*I must therefore be united to our Lord Jesus Christ  
as his human nature was to the authority  
of his divine person,  
as Jesus was totally to his Father.*

*But in order to be so, this union must be a vital one,  
received from him and communicated by him.  
This branch must first be warmed by the sun  
in order to receive the flowing life-sap.*

*The seasoning sun which draws this divine fluid  
is recollection, holy desires, prayer,  
the gift of self in a word, love!*

March 23, 1865

*Jim Brown*



“Receive  
the joy  
of your glory,  
giving thanks  
to God,  
who has called  
you into the  
heavenly kingdom.”

4 Esdras 2:36-37 (Ezra)

## Good News Around the Province

On March 11, the Life in the Eucharist Team from Saint Paschal Baylon Parish, Highland Heights, Ohio, presented a retreat at Our Lady of Peace Church in the Shaker Square neighborhood of Cleveland. OLP was founded in 1919 by Father James Cummins, who was just back from serving as an infantry chaplain in World War I. Having witnessed the horrors of war, he chose to dedicate this new parish to Mary, Our Lady of Peace.

The focus of the retreat was on the themes of Reconciliation, Transformation, and Mission.

Pat Riley, a longtime friend of the Congregation and the chair of the Parish Pastoral Council at Our Lady of Peace, organized the retreat. Some 30 parishioners participated. The retreat ended with the Vigil Mass at the parish during which Pat was officially received as an Associate of the Blessed Sacrament by Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, Provincial Superior.

Congratulations, Pat, and welcome (formally) to the Eymardian Family!



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## Good News Around the Province (*Continued*)

On March 23-25, led by Father George Dunne, SSS, one of the Life in the Eucharist Teams from Saint Stephen's Parish in Winter Springs, Florida, presented the Sacramental Reflections program at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Holiday. Some 75 parishioners participated, a great many of whom were lay Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Bill Fickel, SSS, pastor of SVDP, had for some time wanted a LITE program at his parish since so many of the associates there had never experienced Life in the Eucharist, the premier adult faith formation program of the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing.

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Father George Dunne, SSS, and a core Life in the Eucharist Team from Saint Stephen's Parish have begun a major project in the Diocese of Orlando, Florida. As readers of this newsletter may recall, Father George has developed both teen and adult LITE teams at SSP over the last seven-plus years. Hundreds of teens and over 400 adults have been impacted by the Life in the Eucharist experience at Saint Stephen's and two surrounding parishes.

Bishop John Noonan, the ordinary of the Diocese of Orlando, has asked Father George and his team to present LITE missions to all the parishes throughout the diocese to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018. As those of you who are or have been involved in this ministry throughout the Province know, this is quite an undertaking. A new training manual and participant workbook are being designed. *Please remember them in your prayers.*

Congratulations to Father George and his dedicated group of Eucharistic Evangelizers!



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAINT MICHAEL INDIAN SCHOOL

And lastly, the Youth Life in the Eucharist Team from Saint Paschal Baylon Parish, Highland Heights, is travelling during their Easter break to Arizona to lead a teen retreat at Saint Michael Indian School, Saint Micheals, located on the Navajo Reservation, the largest reservation in the United States.

For more than a century, Saint Michael Indian School has provided students from local Native American communities with a quality education rooted in Catholic values. Saint Katherine Drexel, the founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, whose mission is to serve Black and Native Americans, established the school in 1902. The school is dedicated to the Eucharist and the poor of the region.

The team of 15 youth leaders will present to the middle and high school students of the Navajo Nation a very special eucharistic retreat, facilitating discussions and sharing personal witnesses within the varied catechetical approach of the LITE program. The youth team is led by Evamarie Mickol, the youth minister at Saint Paschal Baylon, and her sister Tanya McGinnis. They are also being accompanied Father John Thomas Lane, SSS, the pastor, and Chris and Tom Anderson, lay Associates of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Paschal's.

Evamarie's goal is, in her words, to "empower our young Church" and to help the students at SMIS "deepen their relationship with Christ and acquire a broader theological understanding of the Eucharist that makes sense to teens." As Father Eymard often said, "*May God Be Praised!*" for all that is happening across the Province.

*Jim Brown*