



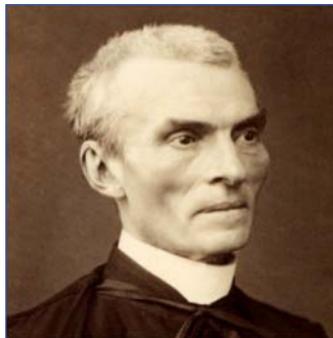
CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

JUNE 30, 2019

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 6

For the Glory of Christ in the Eucharist



Saint Peter Julian Eymard, The Apostle of the Eucharist
Feast: August 2

“The Eucharist shapes our lives as individuals, as family members, and as members of society.

“We endeavor to understand every reality in the light of this sacrament and we contribute to a Christian vision of our global reality”

Rule of Life for Associates, 6

CENTER FOR
EUCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING
CLEVELAND, OHIO

A Ministry of the
Congregation of the
Blessed Sacrament

Board of Advisors for the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament

This past spring a new board of advisors was formed to assist the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing (CEE) in providing direction and resourcing for the growing community of Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. Presently, we number some 285 members. By the end of 2019, we will have approximately 450 associates for the Province of Saint Ann (that is, if all the women and men currently participating in the yearlong initial formation program discern to make their Promise Commitment).

On June 22, we held a three-hour “GoToMeeting” Conference Call with representatives from the various branch boards. Four local Directors: Fathers Tom Smithson, SSS, John Thomas Lane, SSS, Bill Fickel, SSS, and John Kamas, SSS, and eleven lay board leaders participated.

In addition to getting updates from all the branches on *good news* stories happening, initial and ongoing formation programs in progress, we covered topics that included:

- Finances;
- The upcoming regional retreats;
- Ongoing spiritual and educational formation of associates;
- Local matters and challenges.

The minutes of this meeting are being finalized. When they are completed, the local board leaders will make them available to their branch associates.

Jim Brown

Around the Province



HOLIDAY, FLORIDA

Ivonne and Rick Hernandez, Associates of the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Vincent de Paul Church, decided to incorporate Elisheba House as a nonprofit organization. They started this endeavor as a Catholic media apostolate whose mission is to make known the love of God in the Eucharist through the publishing of print and digital media and through outreach programs including conferences, presentations, and retreats.

“We are applying for inclusion in *The Official Catholic Directory* (originally published by P. J. Kenedy & Sons) through our Diocese,” reports Ivonne.

In 2018, Elisheba House published Ivonne’s book *The Rosary: Eucharistic Meditations with Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Apostle of the Eucharist*. And most recently, it published a new book written by fellow associate Laura Worhacz entitled *Consecration to Jesus through Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament: 33 Days with Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Apostle of the Eucharist*. Congratulations to Ivonne and Rick and Laura!

Early in June, Laura Worhacz was happy to announce that they were celebrating the four-year anniversary of the Mothers of the Blessed Sacrament ministry. You may recall (see the January 2018 *Connections*) that many of the mothers meet at Saint Vincent de Paul Church on the first Saturday of each month for Mass, breakfast, and spiritual formation. They are currently using the *Course of Study on Saint Peter Julian Eymard* as their means of formation. The group now numbers 120. Laura sends out materials each month electronically, especially for the mothers who are not able to attend the Saturday gatherings.

Recently, quite a few of the mothers came to Laura and Ray’s home to celebrate the anniversary.



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CONNECTIONS

Across the Province (*Continued*)

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

We are happy to announce that a new leadership board has been formed for the associates branch that meets at Saint Joseph Church in San Antonio. Associates Liz Ochoa and Joe Silva will join up with Billy Stewart, Frank Guerra, and Cesar Camacho, who have been serving as leaders since the first group of associates was received in June 2017.

For the fourth year in a row, the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament organized and led the Corpus Christi procession (“Come to Me”) through the streets of downtown San Antonio. The procession was preceded by the Vigil Mass for The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ at San Fernando Cathedral and then walked to Saint Mary’s Church and back to San Fernando, where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was conducted by Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS. Dr. Billy Stewart, one of the organizers, said there were over 1,000 people who joined the procession. Father Anthony Schueller, SSS, the new pastor of Saint Joseph Church Downtown, and a number of parishioners participated.



Photos courtesy of *San Antonio Express-News*

A Historical Note

Fifty years ago, the notes of Father Eymard from three of his retreats were published in English. This marked an important moment for English-speaking religious and lay people connected to the Congregation. The Superior General at the time, Father Roland Huot, SSS, noted in the Forward to the publication that the retreat notes

Tell us of the promptings of the Holy Spirit in Saint Peter Julian’s soul and of the latter’s active response. Neatly outlined for us to see are the ways and byways along which Saint Peter Julian plodded resolutely to the summits of holiness. As we follow him step by step, we cannot help but wonder to what divine lengths God’s love is ready to go to transform any clot of a man into a saint.

A year earlier, on the occasion of the centenary of Saint Peter Julian Eymard’s death, Pope Paul VI had honored him and the Congregation with a letter dated July 19, 1968. In it, he praised the Founder and his life work and expressed “wonderment at what, under the pressure of a certain supernatural instinct, he accomplished for the glory of God and for the good and honor of the Church.”

Upon its publication, Father Huot urged his religious to avail themselves of this new resource as a way to “set greater store by his example and ideals, and above all to make the most of the spiritual legacy he has left us.” This encouragement falls to us as well who are associated with the Congregation.

Please check with the Superior of your local Blessed Sacrament Community to see if a copy of the book, *Retreat Notes of Saint Peter Julian Eymard*, is available for your reading.

*Jim Brown
Director, CEE*