



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

AUGUST 31, 2019

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 8

New Associates in Connecticut

At the Vigil Mass on Saturday, August 3, three people made their Promise Commitment at Saint Philip Church in Norwalk, Connecticut, to become Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. Cecilia Gracia and Dollka and David Morico were received by Father Michael Boccaccio, the Director of the Aggregation in the Diocese of Bridgeport. They chose this date because of its proximity to the August 2nd feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

Cecilia is the mother of Dollka, and with the facilitation of Associate Ana Camacho, went through the Spanish version of the yearlong Initial Formation Program. Dollka and David are both artists and part of the Saint Philip Artists' Guild, which is housed in a building on the church property. Along with other artists of the Guild, they help with the liturgical seasons at the parish, including producing original art for the church. A percentage of the proceeds from the artists of the Guild goes to the parish.

Four parishioners from Saint Jean Baptiste Church in New York City traveled to Norwalk to join the celebration. Associate of the Blessed Sacrament Clare Norton and three members of the new associates formation class at Saint Jean Baptiste, Bivian Tello, Jean Stoddart, and Maria Rodriguez joined the associates at Saint Philip for the Entrance Procession and were present with them on the altar for the reception ceremony.

Congratulations to our three new Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. Welcome to the Eymardian Family!



Pictured (left to right): Dollka and David, Cecilia signing the certificate assisted by Father Michael Boccaccio. To his right is the Pastor of Saint Philip Church, Father Sudhir D'Souza, and a number of Saint Philip associates, including Ana Camacho.

“We are inspired by the teachings and example of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, ‘outstanding Apostle of the Eucharist.’ He responded to the needs of the people of his time by proclaiming God’s love manifested in a special way in Christ’s gift in the Eucharist. He encouraged the faithful to share, as associated members, in the charism and the mission of the religious Congregations he founded.”

Rule of Life for Associates, 3

CENTER FOR
EUCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING
CLEVELAND, OHIO

A Ministry of the
Congregation of the
Blessed Sacrament

Recent Loss of Two Associates of the Blessed Sacrament

HOLIDAY, FLORIDA

Therese Pelletier died August 25. She was one of the original Associates of the Blessed Sacrament received at Saint Vincent de Paul Church and was inducted on December 9, 2012, on the anniversary of the canonization of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. She was a member of Our Lady's Guild, the Choir, Share the Word, and the Contemplative Prayer group. Therese loved her faith and attended many parish Scripture programs. She experienced a deep spiritual, faith-filled life and enjoyed her scheduled adoration commitment time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I am sure there is much more; but, I think this is enough to express the extent of her desire to live a virtuous life centered in the Eucharist.

Gloria Jung

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

On August 28, our second "oldest" Associate of the Blessed Sacrament, Bernadette Hill, returned to God after a series of illnesses. Like Andrea Montoya, who died last year and was our oldest living associate, Bernadette was one of the original Eucharistic Associates with the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament in Albuquerque from 1950. She even worked for the Congregation for several years in the Eucharistic Associates Office, both at the shrine and then when it moved and became part of Saint Charles Borromeo Church in 1964. She would proudly wear her "old" logo pendant and then the new Associate's cross in 2009. Yes, both! Bernadette was a porter and a sacristan and dedicated to praying the rosary and Evening Prayer every day — even after both the sisters, brothers, and priests left Saint Charles.

Father John Thomas Lane, SSS

"The Circle of Life — Poems of Adoration" by Ethel Nanette Lapitan, Holiday, Florida

COME LET US ADORE

The Sacred Vessel stands upon the holy table,
gift and silver, gold and jeweled,
reflecting the glory which resides within.
Those without eyes of faith see only a circle of bread;
those whose eyes have been opened by the Gift of Jesus. . . .
Ah, they see; yes, they see
the magnificence, the power, the majesty of the Lord.
Their souls tremble as the radiance shines forth,
as the Christ comes into their very being.
To spend even a little time with Jesus is to renew ourselves,
to bring serenity in this world of stress, love in times of fear,
peace in times of sadness, calm and quiet,
so we may hear the Voice of God.

FACE TO FACE AND HEART TO HEART

The church lies quiet, the lights dim.
Flickering candles light the altar.
A few shadowy figures kneel or sit,
hunched in prayer, chilled in this refuge from the storm.
I am one of them, looking for peace, the loss of fear.
In the silence, I hear a whisper, a passing breath.
Am I the only one who hears?
I find the courage to approach,
to stand on the lowest step.
The golden arms expand, encircling, enclosing,
all embracing.
Suddenly, I am Face to face, Heart to heart,
and mine thunders.
I stagger as I realize:
Divine: him; human: me.
Human: him; a tiny portion of his divinity: mine.

A Historical Note



Especially for catechists

By now, Catholic schools and catechetical programs are getting underway. It is time again to be thankful for all those who have responded to the vocational call to be a teacher, and in particular to those who partner with parents to bring the Catholic faith to their students.

As readers of this newsletter know full well, Father Peter Julian Eymard would not have received permission to found a new Congregation centered on the Eucharist without proposing a ministry of preparing workers and their children from the slums of Paris for their First Holy Communion.

Here is an account of the Work of First Communion by Father Eymard, in which he speaks of himself in the third person and describes his efforts to reach the young people with the Good News of God's love. It was possibly written in autumn 1858:

"These rough kids, however, are outside in the street. They don't dare enter. Discovering their whereabouts, he immediately goes out and gently speaks to them, encouraged them, and finally convinces them to come inside.

"A strange and humorous scene develops in the hall. The children look at him as though they had never seen a priest. Some even start acting foolishly. Father sits in their midst, tells them how pleased he is to see them, how happy he would be to help them prepare for a good First Communion. While he is still speaking, the older ones begin to laugh out loud and run away. The others, influenced by their companions, or through human respect or fear, also run away as fast as they can, shouting and looking back to see if they are being followed.

"Left alone, the religious wonders: 'Now, what shall I do? To do nothing would mean the end of the work; it would be useless to wait for them to return.' Father goes down on his knees, offers himself to God and to the Blessed Virgin, and then goes out searching for them."

The account goes on to record how he found some of the young people who ran away and convinced them to come back. He gave each of them a religious medal, and to those who asked, an extra one for a mother or a sister. Once inside the classroom, he urges them to kneel down with him and says the "Our Father." The giggling and laughing stops in the middle of the prayer. He says to them without any sign of annoyance:

"You must be very happy, my children, since you are laughing so much! Okay, let's laugh together. . . . I would like to know each of you better.' And he takes their addresses to establish better contact."

(Source: Father André Guitton, SSS, *Peter Julian Eymard: Apostle of the Eucharist*, pages 144-145).

Jim Brown