



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

DECEMBER 29, 2019 — CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 12

Another Year of Grace . . .

AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF GIFTS AND TALENTS,
DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT
TO A MISSION OF EUCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING
INSPIRED BY SAINT PETER JULIAN EYMARD

THE WRITING TEAM FOR THE DAILY EUCHARISTIC REFLECTIONS

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Note: *The Daily Eucharistic Reflections will continue throughout 2020*

LOCAL LEADERSHIP OF ASSOCIATES OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Corpus Christi Church — Houston, Texas

- The Leadership Board of Tammy Arnold, Laura Edstrom, Greg Dufour, Veronica Hollingsworth, and Jim Ziegler, and Father Tom Smithson, SSS, Local Director.

Saint Jean Baptiste Church — New York, New York

- The Leadership of Margaret Clare Norton, and Father John Kamas, SSS, Local Director.

Saint Joseph Church — San Antonio, Texas

- The Leadership Board of César Camacho, Frank Guerra, Liz Ochoa, Joe Silva, Dr. Billy Stewart, and Fathers Mario Marzocchi, SSS, and Anthony Schueller, SSS, Local Directors.

Saint Paschal Baylon Church — Highland Heights, Ohio

- The Leadership Board of Chris Hart, Brittany Immormino, Dan Lewis, Joe McCormack, Mary Muehle, Kay Vincent, and Joe Zentner, and Father Paul Bernier, SSS, Local Director.

Saint Philip Church — Norwalk, Connecticut

- The Leadership of Ana Comacho, Dan Krenicki, and Father Michael Boccaccio, Diocesan Director.

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“Our ideal
is to live
the mystery
of the Eucharist
fully and to
make known
its meaning,
so that Christ’s
reign may come
and the glory
of God
may be revealed
to the world.”

Rule of Life for Associates, 2

CENTER FOR
EUCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING
CLEVELAND, OHIO

A Ministry of the
Congregation of the
Blessed Sacrament

5384 Wilson Mills Road
Cleveland, OH 44143

CONNECTIONS

Another Year of Grace . . . (*Continued*)

Saint Stephen Church — Winter Springs, Florida

- The Leadership Board of Diana McGinty, Katy Ford, and Father George Dunne, SSS, Local Director.

Saint Vincent de Paul Church — Holiday, Florida

- The Leadership Board of Mary Brady, Margaret Flanders, Gloria Jung, Laura Worhacz, and Father Bill Fickel, SSS, Local Director.

REGIONAL RETREATS



I would also like to thank in a special way Father George Dunne, SSS, who presented and led regional retreats throughout the Province to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the founding of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris, France, by Father Eymard. The theme was “A Spirituality of Communion.” And thanks to all those who assisted him in the planning of these retreats.

And to all of you who have contributed to the mission of Eucharistic evangelizing and partnering with us in the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing, *Deo Gratias!* A blessed Christmas season and a healthy, grace-filled New Year!

Jim Brown

Rest in Peace Madelyn Napolitano December 9, 2019

Madelyn was a very active parishioner of Saint Vincent de Paul and in her early years, helped with faith formation and many other activities. On August 2, 2015, she was inducted as a member into the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Many years ago, Madelyn became a survivor of cancer and lived relatively comfortable afterward. In recent years, her health declined with the onset of heart disease. After the deep loss of her daughter, she spent the remaining years of her life homebound. Eventually, Peninsula Care Rehabilitation Center became her residence.

She is no longer bearing the sufferings of this world, and we are confident of the newness of eternal life and great joy for Madelyn who has now seen the face of God. Madelyn was a gentle and loving lady who treasured family and faith. May her soul be united with her daughter and family who have gone before her.

*Gloria Jung
Associate of the Blessed Sacrament
Saint Vincent de Paul Church
Holiday, Florida*

For the Christmas Season



A Christmas Meditation

God becoming poor, in order to be the
friend, the brother of the poor;
God making himself weak in order to
console the weak and the abandoned;
God accepting suffering, in order to prove
his love;
He becomes a child, so that man will
no longer be afraid of God.

Saint Peter Julian Eymard

A Christmas Prayer from Pope Francis

May the little child
whom we contemplate today in the manger,
in the cold of the night, watch over
all the children of the world, and every frail,
vulnerable, and discarded person.
May all of us receive peace and consolation
from the birth of the Savior and,
in the knowledge that we are loved
by the heavenly Father,
realize anew that we are brothers and sisters
and come to live as such!

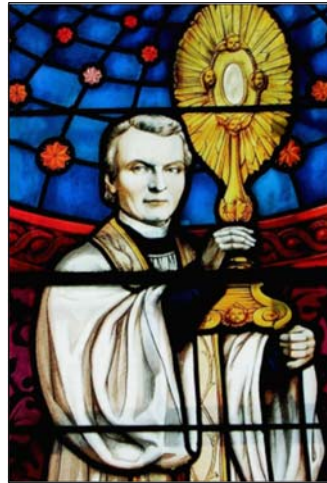
Excerpt from Christmas message December 25, 2018

Glory

Shimmering brilliant Light that enfolds the world
with joy.
The greatest Hope for the tiniest spark of life.
The Center of love and serenity and peace.
The Cohesion of atoms and the total universe.
The Beginning of the Cosmos and its inevitable
Conclusion.
Humanity must kneel in awe, in trembling, in wonder;
With infinite love before the very Word,
Christ.

*Nanette Ethel Lapitan
Associate, Holiday, Florida*

A Historical Note



December is historically a very important month in the life and legacy of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

In December of 1856, Father Eymard set up plans to inaugurate solemn worship of the Blessed Sacrament in the new chapel at the first house established in Paris. He wrote Marguerite Guillot on December 13:

On January 6, the feast of the Three Kings, the first day of the manifestations of our Lord, we shall have solemn exposition for the first time. How blessed is that day, so greatly desired! On that day, it seems to me our Lord will take possession of his family and of his house forever.

On December 5, 1910, a decree was declared to open the apostolic process for the canonization of Father Eymard.

On December 9, 1962, Pope John XXIII canonized Peter Julian Eymard at the end of the second session of the Second Vatican Council.

On December 9, 1995, Pope John Paul II inserted Saint Peter Julian Eymard's feast in the liturgical calendar of the universal Church, to be observed on August 2. The Holy Father wrote in the words of the decree:

Font and fullness of all evangelization and striking expression of the infinite love of our divine Redeemer for humankind, the Holy Eucharist clearly marked the life and pastoral activity of Peter Julian Eymard. He truly deserves to be called an outstanding Apostle of the Eucharist. In fact, his mission in the Church consisted in promoting the centrality of the Eucharistic mystery in the whole life of the Christian community.

Jim Brown

