

March 21

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I want to thank you for sharing the article by Father Christman, and appreciate your efforts to find ways to build deeper connections among the Associates community. We have a strong Associates community here at St. Stephen Church in Winter Springs, FL, but it is important to feel connected to our larger community of associates as well.

I especially resonated with the part of Father Christman's article when he noted that being a Christian "mystic" is merely having a real and profound personal relationship with God. I have never thought of myself as a "mystic" (I am too goal-oriented and task-driven, not one to choose stillness and contemplation for any longer than a few moments at a time). However, I am truly blessed in that, from my early childhood, I have always had the sense of a real and profound personal relationship with God. I have always felt a sense of peace, presence, and total acceptance of who I am whenever I slow myself down, look within, and connect with He who is always with me. He has never let me down. With that said, I also know that community is such a significant part of my faith life – community with my biological family, with those I have chosen to be my family (my husband, and dear friends), and with my spiritual family (both those with whom I am well connected -- my spiritual leader, Father George Dunne, SSS; my fellow Life in the Eucharist (LITE) team members and Associates), but also the entire Body of Christ. I am especially cherishing all of these communities now that we are being told not to gather together. (It is ironic that when it was perfectly fine to gather together, I often felt "too busy" to do so, but now that it is not available to me, I am starving for it!)

Again, I am truly grateful for you, the CEE, and the Blessed Sacrament community as a whole, and pray that we will continue to find ways to support one another in being Eucharist for the world.