



# CONNECTIONS

*Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family*

APRIL 30, 2020 – INTO THE MONTH OF OUR LADY

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4

## CEE Website Project



Father John Christman, SSS, the Editor of *Emmanuel* magazine, Kay Vincent, our “webmaster,” and I continue to develop and post new resources (videos, articles, reflections from our associates) on a weekly basis on the “Ongoing Formation” link on the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing website. If you are reading this newsletter, we assume you are getting our weekly letter via Constant Contact in your email inbox. If by chance you are not, let us know. Or go to the following link:

<https://eucharistic-evangelizing.com/blessed-sacrament-associate-formation/associates-ongoing-formation/>

*Jim Brown  
Director*

*Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing*



## “Zooming” Around the Province

*Creative planning and programming during these challenging times*

Saint Philip Church, Norwalk, Connecticut

Under the leadership of Dan Krenicki, the associates at Saint Philip Church resumed their weekly gatherings this past April 14 using the Zoom video platform. Dan invited Father John Christman, SSS, and me to participate. Typically, the group has a business meeting to start off with, then goes into their ongoing formation program and a couple associates lead the initial formation program with prospective associates. At this meeting, I was invited to update the participants on the Website project we have been working on.

*Continued on the next page*

*Ora  
pro  
nobis!*

Center for  
Eucharistic Evangelizing  
Cleveland, Ohio

*A Ministry of the  
Congregation of the  
Blessed Sacrament*

## CONNECTIONS

---

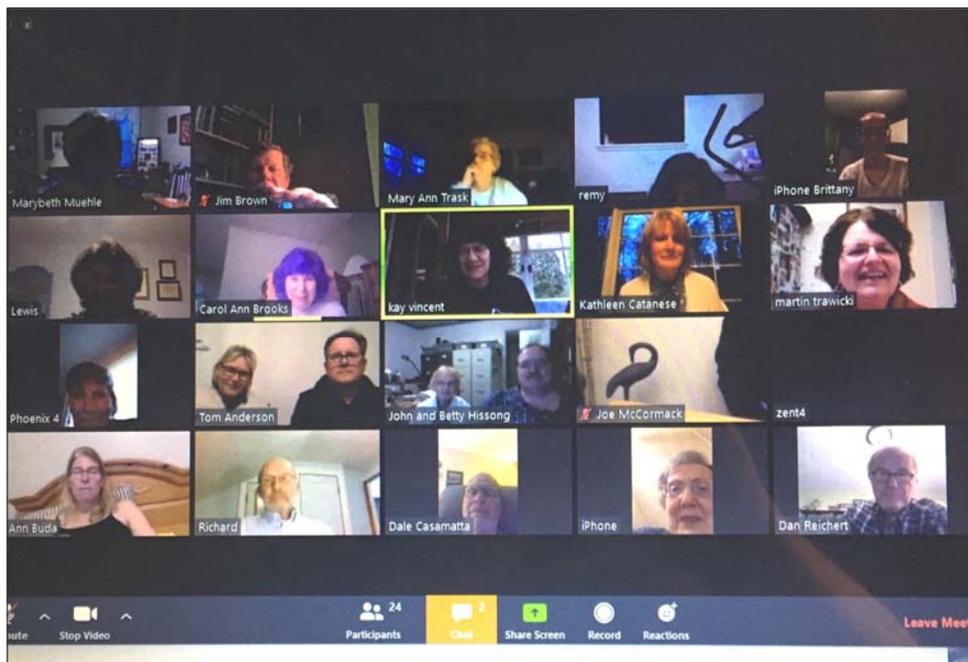
### “Zooming” Around the Province (*Continued*)

The rest of the time was devoted to discussing Father John’s article *Coronavirus, the Cup, and Cancellations*. It was a wonderful conversation and faith sharing. Fifteen associates participated for all or most of the meeting.

Saint Philip’s pastor, Father Sudhir D’Souza, took out a contract with Zoom so that he could offer for the whole parish daily and weekend Masses, rosaries, and other devotions during Lent and the Easter season as well as for parish gatherings. Dan’s Bible Study held their first virtual Saturday morning meeting with 35 participants using the parish contract with Zoom.

Looking to the future, the group was excited about the possibility of “Zooming” in speakers from around the Province to present and/or participate in their monthly gatherings. Dan and the group plan to go to two Zoom meetings a month, one for business, the other for formation, as they continue to shelter in place.

#### Saint Paschal Baylon Church, Highland Heights, Ohio



The eight member board at Saint Paschal Baylon, including the Director, Father Paul Bernier, SSS, have been meeting this month via Zoom. They designed a questionnaire and each board member called a group of associates at SPB. The questions were focused on checking in to see how people were doing given the situation, if they needed any assistance or were able to give any help, if they have been reviewing the CEE website, their internet capability, and other comments or suggestions. Kay Vincent was collating the results of the phone interviews.

They have suspended the (in-person) Manna I program they were doing each month until the end of the year. They have planned in the interim a Zoom gathering for Wednesday night April 29. Fr. Paul has sent an article entitled, *How to be a Eucharistic People*, which will be the focus of the sharing. The article is being sent out for those who are not able to participate. They will evaluate the success of this experience and depending on when we’re able to attend Mass in person, will look to other such virtual gathering opportunities.

*Jim Brown*

### A Historical Note



#### The Story of the Aggregation (*Continued*)

Father Peter Julian Eymard died in 1868. What is clear is that the Aggregation which had received its approbation from Rome in 1859 continued to be viewed as an essential work of the Society. While in Rome in 1875 for the approbation of the *Constitutions* voted on at the 1874 Chapter, Father Albert Tesnière, SSS, “was mandated to obtain as many spiritual blessings as possible for the Aggregation” (*In God’s Time*, Father Norman Pelletier, SSS, 60).

Furthermore, Father Pelletier points out that “the goal of the Aggregation was to bring individuals and societies to the Eucharist” and clearly the religious felt that “through the Aggregation, the spirit of the Congregation was diffused among the (lay) faithful” (60).

The ministry of First Communion to youth and the poor workers in the slums of Paris, a work so dear to Father Eymard, continued for nearly ten years after his death. Records that exist show that in “May of 1875, 33 young people made their First Communion and were confirmed” and “in April of the following year, 32 received their First Communion and were confirmed” (107). Later in 1876, the community moved out of the center of the city. This First Communion apostolate struggled for another couple of years because of geographical distance and the fact that the community was still very small. Then it was abandoned.

By 1875, though, the Aggregation was flourishing throughout France, principally in Marseille, Paris, and Angers. The mission focus was one of recruiting and organizing devout lay women and men for adoration.

The records that remain indicate that in Marseille 6,600 members of the Aggregation committed themselves to an hour of adoration per month, 7,000 lay women and men made the same commitment in Angers. Additionally, there were some number of “associates” (identified as the Guard of Honor) who committed themselves to a “communal hour of adoration according to the prayer method of the four ends of sacrifice” (66).

In addition to the commitment to be adorers, the Guard of Honor assisted at Mass with Communion and hymns. Other members of the Aggregation joined the religious in their prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Many attended daily Benediction. Men participated in nocturnal adoration. In Paris, every First Friday of the month, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., two or three men at a time assured adoration in the chapel. A Ladies’ Group met once a month together for an hour of solemn adoration (67).

On March 29, 1880, the French government ordered the suppression of religious houses in the country. Religious were expelled, churches were closed, and the mission of adoration among the members of the Aggregation was suspended.

*To be continued*

*Jim Brown*

# CONNECTIONS

---

## MAY 1, 2020 – RENEWAL OF THE DEDICATION OF OUR COUNTRY TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Introduction

When our risen Lord appeared to his disciples on Easter Sunday he said: “Peace be with you.” We can be confident that he desires this same peace for all the members of his body, the Church, and for the people of the entire world. In this difficult time we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and Queen of Peace, to ask that she intercede with her Son for all those who are affected in any way by this pandemic. As we renew the consecration of our country and of ourselves to the Mother of the God, we implore her maternal care for her children.

### Prayer

Let us pray. O God, Father of mercies, whose only begotten Son, as he hung upon the cross, chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother, to be our Mother also, grant, we pray, that with her loving help your Church may be more fruitful day by day and, exulting in the holiness of her children, may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us now entrust our country and ourselves once again to the Virgin Mary’s care: Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, you are the fairest fruit of God’s redeeming love; you sing of the Father’s mercy and accompany us with a mother’s love. In this time of pandemic, we come to you, our sign of sure hope and comfort. Today we renew the act of consecration and entrustment carried out by those who have gone before us.

Pastor for his parish: With the love of a Mother and Handmaid, embrace this parish which we entrust and consecrate once again to you, together with ourselves and our families.

Families, groups, or individuals: With the love of a Mother and Handmaid, embrace us as we renew our consecration to you, together with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In a special way, we commend to you those particularly in need of your maternal care.

*Mary, Health of the Sick,* sign of health, of healing, and of divine hope for the sick, we entrust to you all who are infected with the coronavirus.

*Mary, Mother of Consolation,* who console with a mother’s love all who turn to you, we entrust to you all those who have lost loved ones in the pandemic.

*Mary, Help of Christians,* who come to our rescue in every trial, we entrust to your loving protection all caregivers.

*Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy,* who embrace all those who call upon your help in their distress, we entrust to you all who are suffering in any way from the pandemic.

*Mary, Seat of Wisdom,* who were so wonderfully filled with the light of truth, we entrust to you all who are working to find a cure to this pandemic.

*Mary, Mother of Good Counsel,* who gave yourself wholeheartedly to God’s plan for the renewing of all things in Christ, we entrust to you all leaders and policymakers. Accept with the benevolence of a Mother the act of consecration that we make today with confidence, and help us to be your Son’s instruments for the healing and salvation of our country and the world.

*Mary, Mother of the Church,* you are enthroned as queen at your Son’s right hand: we ask your intercession for the needs of our country, that every desire for good may be blessed and strengthened, that faith may be revived and nourished, hope sustained and enlightened, charity awakened and animated; guide us, we pray, along the path of holiness.

*Mary, our Mother,* bring everyone under your protection and entrust everyone to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.