

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

These last months have given us much time to reflect on our Eucharistic lives and how a deprivation of the sacramental presence of Christ impacts our egocentrism; then it paradoxically redirects all things back to him. We have all given pause to the lessons of wisdom and opened ourselves to receive the reflection of our personality.

The Lay Associates of Holiday, Florida began celebrating early in July with the Novenas honoring Saint Ann and Saint Peter Julian overlapping as two circles with the Mandorla being Eucharistic Jesus. The gift of Jesus' life predestined for humanity. Through Jesus' poverty on the cross comes the promise of the resurrection for all generations through the Eucharist.

The Feast Day of Saint Ann began an early celebration of the monthly Cenacle on July 22nd, the Feast day of my confirmation saint, **The Apostle of the Apostles**, Mary Magdalene culminating in our **Apostle of the Eucharist**, Saint Peter Julian Eymard for future generations!

Morning prayer ushered the anticipation of the liturgical celebrations to come in this month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. Anita McMahon presented a beautiful Holy Hour in honor of Saints Anne and Joachim. She incorporated a brief historical background and offered opportunities for meditative reflection time. The background information was drawn from apocryphal writings found in the Proto-Gospel of James along with substantiating scripture from the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke. It wasn't until centuries later names were attributed to the parents of Mary. So many questions are left unanswered but hope and trust fire the flames of love. Mary's saintly family gave us a different perspective in which we could begin to deconstruct or reconstruct our prayer and understand or redefine the promises to come through great trust in the grace of God's will for us.

Anita proposed we place ourselves in a meditative state in a different time and space. The historical background was left for us to contemplate in sacred silence. The reflection posed questions about our ancestral journey of faith and the beautiful influence of communal Eucharistic life for future generations. We offered silent gratitude to those who preceded us as followers of Jesus: the disciples, apostles, martyrs, fathers in faith, many great saints who prepared the way for us. The living bread now manifested in the love of the Eucharist is for all generations as a perpetual institution until the end of time.

“The feast of Anne and Joachim serves to remind grandparents of the need to establish a tone of love and tradition for future generations. Younger people can benefit from the wisdom, depth, experience, and appreciation of profound family rhythms that nurture them.” This was from a homiletic excerpt published in the SVdP Bulletin, 16th Sunday in Ordinary time 7/13/17)

Our month culminates this year with the celebration of the Eucharist on August 2nd. The Associates will again enter into the Cenacle of the “Upper Room” with Jesus after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Fathers Bill and Dominic will preside over a Special Holy Hour honoring the 152nd anniversary of our founding Father Peter Julian focusing on the four ends of the Sacrifice of the Mass. Each year brings us closer to a further deepening of our love and commitment to a covenant promise to God's Will through the Eucharist and through the fortitude of a young man from La Mure d' Isere who dared dream of changing the world through the burning love of the Eucharist.

“We are never freer, nor more peaceful than in filial surrender to the most gracious will of God.” Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Gloria Jung
Associate of the Blessed Sacrament
Holiday, Florida