



CONNECTIONS

Celebrating Our Eucharistic Partnership in the Eymardian Family

AUGUST 1-2, 2020 – DEATH AND FEAST OF SAINT PETER JULIAN

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 6

Feast of Saint Peter Julian Eymard



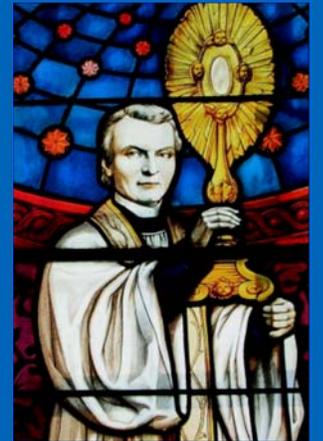
La Mure d'Isère, France
City of the Birth and the Death of Saint Peter Julian Eymard

On Sunday, August 2, we celebrate the feast day of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. Father Eymard died 152 years ago on August 1, 1868. In the Opening Prayer for the Mass of his feast, we pray:

*O God, who adorned Saint Peter Julian Eymard
with a wonderful love of the sacred mysteries
of the Body and Blood of your Son,
graciously grant that we, too, may be worthy
to receive the delights he drew
from this divine banquet.
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.*

When then Pope John Paul II inserted Saint Peter Julian's feast in the general calendar of the universal Church on August 2, he said in 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."

Happy Feast Day, Members of the Eymardian Family!



"We are inspired by the teaching 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."

*Rule of Life
for Associates, 3*

Center for
Eucharistic Evangelizing
Cleveland, Ohio

CONNECTIONS

Big Celebrations Among Our Associates Family

This past month two of our Associates of the Blessed Sacrament couples celebrated significant wedding anniversaries.

On June 11, a Mass was celebrated at Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Holiday, Florida, by Father Bill Fickel, SSS, assisted by Father Dominic Long, SSS, for Ethel and Tony Lapitan on their 60th wedding anniversary. Some 15 Associates at SVDP joined the celebration. Ethel shared this: "Father Bill gave us a special blessing and made some very sweet comments. We celebrated this special time with what we have come to call 'Love in the Time of COVID,' with everyone in attendance wearing masks; no hugs, but lots of love obvious in the eyes of our friends. All these gatherings with our family and friends, with special priests and religious friends have cemented our faith and our love and marriage. We have truly been blessed." The Lapitans shared with us their "20 Rules" which Ethel read at the Mass.



Ethel and Tony Lapitan's Rules for a Successful Marriage

1. Remember the 3 Cs in marriage: COMMITMENT, COMPASSION, COMPROMISE.
2. Make your bed with your spouse at least once each week.
3. Never eat the last piece of dessert or pizza without sharing with your spouse.
4. Be honest when you mess up, admit it.
5. Never argue in bed.
6. Never leave your spouse stranded without toilet paper.
7. Compliment your spouse at least once a day.
8. Never criticize your spouse in front of others, especially relatives
9. Keep your most intimate moments filled with wonder and joy, and keep them private.
10. Pray together at bedtime and in the morning, and at meals.
11. Attend church together and go with your children, if you have them.
12. Always kiss your spouse good night.
13. Say, "I love you" every time you leave your spouse.
14. Always consult your spouse before moving furniture, making new flower beds, or decorating the Christmas tree.
15. Let your children and/or your relatives see you hug each other.
16. Share your tears, your fears, your happiness with your spouse.
17. Remember, your spouse is always your best friend.
18. Keep photos of each other where you can see them every day.
19. At least once a week, do what your spouse wants to do, even if it is your least favorite thing: go to the opera, hockey games, watch wrestling, or jog together.
20. Pay attention to your spouse in public and in private. Listen well.

Continued on the next page

CONNECTIONS

Big Celebrations Among Our Associates Family (*Continued*)

On June 27, Marjorie and Frank Zalar, formerly of Highland Heights, Ohio, and members of Saint Paschal Baylon Parish, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends. Their daughter Christa organized a surprise plan inviting members of SPB and former colleagues in the Life in the Eucharist ministry to send emails of congratulations, which she organized into one long message, or to send a card. As a result of hearing from so many friends, Frank sent us an article, “Evangelizing on the Fringe” – an update on what has been happening since they left Ohio six years ago to live in Virginia.



Evangelizing on the Fringe

Marjorie and I just celebrated our 50th year of marriage. It has been a time of remembering our life together, our children, grandchildren, and family, and our relationship with the Blessed Sacrament Congregation and all that has meant to us. Beginning with the first year of our marriage, the Congregation and the Saint Paschal Baylon Community have been an essential part of our evolving family life. Slowly at first, dealing with all the demands and challenges of family life in modern society, the Eucharistic Spirit became more and more relevant and essential to our development. After many years of involvement and training, Marjorie and I were among the first lay persons to become Associates of the Blessed Sacrament.

About seven years ago, we made the decision to move from Cleveland to Northern Virginia to be closer to our daughter and her family. Leaving Saint Paschal Baylon and the hospitality of the religious was very difficult. We have come to realize just how precious a gift is the SSS Eucharistic spirituality at SPB. On the other hand, we have also come to realize that the move matured our Eucharistic resolve, and forced us to go out like the apostles, separated from Jesus, and actually begin to live the Gospel.

Being out here in the “diaspora” where the cup of Christ’s Blood is rarely offered, there are no altar girls, priests often celebrate the Eucharist with their back to the congregation, altar rails have been installed, and receiving the consecrated bread on the hand is discouraged, we found it necessary to constantly review our SSS training and search for those things that would sustain us in our current environment. For us, it all boils down to this: “The Eucharist is as much about changing lives as it is about changing bread and wine.” If one lives this simple but awesome tenet, everything else falls into place, or should. Eucharistic evangelizing is about changing lives. Although we are not formally a part of a Life in the Eucharist team, we are still out here trying to change lives, ours and others, working from a worldview that is Eucharistic.

After organizing a few formal LITE programs at two parishes, we began to realize how difficult it is to ignite Eymardian fire at a parish where there are no Blessed Sacrament religious available. This is especially difficult in parishes where the clergy never heard of the Congregation and had no interest in becoming familiar. *Continued on the next page*

CONNECTIONS

Big Celebrations Among Our Associates Family (*Continued*)

Like the apostles, we, too, had to kick the dirt from our sandals and walk away from parishes where the pastor would not even acknowledge our repeated attempts to discuss the LITE program.

So we went to phase two and began to continue living in the world, contributing our time, talents, and treasure, but always from a Eucharistic center. My focus has been science education, especially to elementary and middle school students. Marjorie's focus has been on reading and writing education, especially for children with disabilities. We also have found a vast opportunity to live the Eucharist among the elderly here at Ashbey Ponds where we currently reside. This is a self-contained retirement community of more than 1500 residents.

I want to emphasize to you and all the LITE and Associate members that living apart from teams and parishes where the Congregation and Julian Eymard are immediately visible, it is still possible to do Eucharistic Evangelizing. By living and working in the world, emboldened by the teaching of Julian Eymard and embodied in the lessons learned through LITE and the Aggregation, one can evangelize the Eucharist and change lives, especially our own.

Marjorie and I keep you and your families in our thoughts and prayers.

Frank Zalar

A Historical Note

The Story of the Aggregation (*Continued*)

The Sentinel of the Blessed Sacrament was a magazine published monthly by the Blessed Sacrament Congregation. Its purpose was to provide stories and material to inspire a devotion to the Eucharist among lay people. It had its origins in the Catholic Archdiocese of New York. In 1902, the editor of the magazine, Eliza Lummis, asked the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, who had recently established a community in New York City to take it over. It became the official publication of the Peoples' Eucharistic League, as well as The Nocturnal Adoration Society.

In the January 1913 issue of the *Sentinel*, we read: "With the new year, we trust many of our *Associates* (my emphasis) will try to get new members for our Archconfraternity (the Peoples' Eucharistic League). If each one responded to this appeal, our already large membership would be doubled."

There appears to be no use of the word *Aggregation* in the twentieth century. Clearly though, the early Blessed Sacrament Fathers who ministered to the growing community of lay people who wish to grow in their devotion to the Eucharist were referred to as "Associates."

As Blessed Sacrament communities were founded in Chicago, Albuquerque, and Cleveland, the number of lay people who joined the PEL grew. By the 1958 Provincial Chapter, 30,146 members were enrolled in the American Province. (It should be noted that at that time, Great Britain and the Philippines were attached to the American Province.)

Father Eymard had also started the Guard of Honor. They were encouraged to make weekly or even daily holy hours, what were referred to as a "Dialogue Eucharistic Hour." This involved prayers, hymns, a sermon on some aspect of the Eucharist, and Benediction to end the service. The official register of the Guard of Honor was maintained at its national headquarters at Saint Jean Baptiste Church in New York City. In 1950, it reported that since its inception in 1914, it had recruited almost 14,000 members, with over 3,000 who were still active.

In our next installment, we will talk about the Eucharistic Fraternity which invited its members into the most intense living out of the Eucharistic vocation.

(Source material: An unpublished manuscript by Patrick J. Riley, D. Min.)