

Bread Broken & Shared

A Publication for friends, benefactors, and Associates of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Province of Saint Ann

From the Provincial's Perspective

by Very Reverend John Thomas Lane SSS



Greetings and prayers to you all! It's my joy to welcome you to this issue of *Bread Broken & Shared* and also introduce myself to many of you. Whether you are new to the Eymardian Family, Saint Ann Shrine, or the Blessed Sacrament Community's (SSS) regular newsletter, welcome or welcome back to *Bread Broken & Shared*.

The men of the Province of Saint Ann gathered in

Provincial Chapter (a meeting of all religious of the province) August 8–12 and with the Holy Spirit's guidance chose me to be the new provincial superior of the USA membership.

Longtime readers of this publication may have seen my columns on liturgy or vocation work or being the pastor of Saint Paschal Baylon, Highland Heights, Ohio. I continue doing all these ministries and have added a new one to my plate as the province leader. For those of you who have never known me, I grew up in the parish administered by the Congregation in suburban Cleveland, Ohio (Highland Heights). My family has known the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament since before I was born, with my dad having an apartment on Euclid Avenue next to the old Saint Joseph's Seminary. We were blessed to grow up in an SSS parish. My parents are still leaders at Saint Paschal's and we pray for their continued good health in their 59th year of marriage! I'm blessed with a wonderful provincial and pastoral (parish) staff that make me look good and assist me in the valuable work with the Congregation and the parish.

For college, I attended the University of Akron to study music and education and obtain a teaching license. But, having known since I was six years old that God was calling me to be a religious priest, especially with my love for the Eucharist and liturgy, I joined the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and professed vows in 1988. I studied at the seminary

at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, our SSS seminary, since the 1970s. I was ordained in 1992 and later got an advance degree in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame in 1998. (Go Irish!)

For the last eight years, I was the

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Provincial Council (L-R) – Father John Kamas SSS, Father John Thomas Lane SSS, Father Thomas Smithson SSS, and Father William Fickel SSS

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local superior of our community here in Northeast Ohio. I've been the vocation director but also served as the Diocesan Directory of Liturgy for Salt Lake City, pastor in Houston, Texas (Corpus Christi Church) and Albuquerque, New Mexico (Saint Charles Borromeo) and for the last 13 years at Saint Paschal Baylon Parish. During this time, I spent much more time with our men from vibrant, remarkable, and educational backgrounds, enriching my life with their faith and history.



Together, we live the Eucharistic charism Saint Peter Julian Eymard said would light the world on fire with the Eucharist.

Now knowing a bit of my history, you will read a bit of our recent history, the XXVI Provincial Chapter of the Province of Saint Ann, held at our headquarters in Highland Heights, Ohio, from August 8–12. It was a time of grace, reconnecting with our other religious men and associates from across the country. It was a time of prayer, planning, and setting directions for where the Holy Spirit leads our religious order for the future. You'll read more about this event from some of the reflections from our Associates included in this issue of the newsletter. We are grateful to our past provincial superior, Father John Keenan SSS, and provincial treasurer, Father Robert Stark SSS, for their leadership these past eight years, but especially to

Father Keenan for his guidance, leadership, and care after the sudden death of our provincial, Father Anthony Schueller SSS. We are blessed with talented men who serve so generously!

We are blessed that you partner with us by sharing your time, talent, and treasure to assist us in our ministry. Thank you for your donations and prayers that help us each day in living our lives as devoted sons of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. Thank you for caring about our future and supporting us and our lay partners, the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament (lay associates), the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, and our secular institute, Servitium Christi. Together, we live the Eucharistic charism Saint Peter Julian Eymard said would light the world on fire with the Eucharist. You are always in our prayers around the Table of the LORD, in our Saint Ann Shrine, or all of our parish communities across the country and around the globe. ✠



A Word of Thanks to our Partners in Ministry

We are most grateful to you for making it possible for our religious to continue their ministry. Your gifts – large or small – help you to share in the ministry of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the USA. You are remembered daily in the Masses and prayers of all our religious.



Prayer for Vocations

Loving God and Father, your servant Saint Peter Julian Eymard was captivated by your Son's love revealed to us in the Eucharist and he greatly desired to manifest this love to his contemporaries.

He established a new form of religious life which is nourished by the Eucharist: celebrated, contemplated and enriched with ministries of all kinds.

Through his intercession, call forth many young people who will labor in your Church as priests, deacons, brothers or sisters.

Give us the grace to become like the bread of the Eucharist which is broken for the life of the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Saint Ann Province's 26th Provincial Chapter

Our Province, My Gift of Self

Reflections by Associates of the Blessed Sacrament

Reflection by Diana McGinty, Associate from Saint Stephen Parish in Winter Springs, Florida

What an honor it was to represent lay Associates at the Provincial Chapter this past week in Cleveland. I arrived in Cleveland at 10:30 AM Monday and was met at the airport by Gloria Jung (*Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Holiday Florida*) and Tom Anderson, an Associate from Saint Pascal Baylon Parish (Cleveland).

The afternoon went fast while we assisted Susan Work (Executive Assistant to the Congregation) with assembling materials for the Chapter meetings and Mary Muehle, Associate Board leader at Saint Pascal Baylon Parish. The priests and brothers were finishing their afternoon sessions as we descended the stairs from our tasks in the upstairs office; Father JT Lane greeted us and invited us to join them in the Saint Ann Shrine Chapel for Evening Prayer. The sound of mostly men singing and chanting in this small chapel was a beautiful way to close the day that began at 4:30 AM. At the end of Evening Prayer, a remembrance ceremony for the six priests who have died since the last Chapter held in 2018 included lighting a candle for each and the opportunity to share a few words about that religious. Following Evening Prayer, many priests greeted and welcomed us before the three of us left for our planned dinner together—big hugs from Father Norman Pelletier and Father William Fickel.

Monday evening, Laura and Ray Worhacz (*Saint Vincent de Paul, Holiday, Florida*) and Greg Dufour (*Associate Board Leader, Corpus Christi Parish, Houston, Texas*) arrived at our hotel.

Tuesday was packed, and a beautiful day began for me with silent prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Saint Ann Shrine Chapel from 10-11:30 AM. All Associates who came in for the Tuesday meetings (*approximately 30*) joined the Congregation for lunch before our afternoon of meetings began. During the lunch hour, Father Lane asked me if I would be a Eucharistic Minister for the early evening Mass; Father Roger Bourgeois was going to be the celebrant (*he turned 92 August 16th*).

In preparation for the Chapter, all Associate board leaders were asked this past spring to submit an overview of how our Associates are carrying out the mission of the Congregation in our community. I offered that document as requested. Our afternoon of meetings was led by the provincial Father John Keenan; after each person introduced themselves and what parish



we represented, a rich discussion followed with all province priests and brothers in attendance.

During the afternoon, Father Keenan asked me to kick off the discussion by sharing with the group an overview of our *Pathways to Care* project; he introduced it as “a perfect example of living our mission as Associates” because it addresses the *Rule of Life for Associates # 17 – Service of Charity and Social Commitment*. I also shared our present book study with Father George Dunne SSS as part of our ongoing formation. Other Associate board leaders in attendance shared what their groups are doing locally; many are focusing on adoration, meals together (community building), and bringing in new Associates.

The afternoon also included discussion questions keeping in mind the modified Chapter Theme, “*Our Aggregation, My Gift of Self*”:

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Chapter Reflections...Continued from previous page

1. How did I personally discover my vocation?
2. How do we help others find their vocation?
3. How do we see Associates going forward – table discussion
4. What do I want to see in the future for the Associates of Saint Ann Province?

During the afternoon break, Father John Kamas (Saint Jean Baptiste Parish, Manhattan, NY) asked me to send him samples of the Associate materials we have created for some of our outreach events, Come and See, to help him with his Associates. The priests and brothers were extremely welcoming to all of us when we arrived and were genuinely engaged in our afternoon of conversation.

Following my morning adoration, four of us on the planning committee for a 2023 national gathering met. We are planning an All-Associate gathering in Cleveland for early August 2023, possibly a Friday evening through Sunday morning Mass. With a new provincial and leadership team, we will be meeting and seeking approvals. I returned to Florida late Wednesday evening, tired but filled with the Holy Spirit and truly happy that I attended this gathering. What a blessing! It was beautiful to spend time with longtime friends in the Eymardian family, reconnect with many, and meet new associates.

I'm sure we will all continue to pray for Father John Thomas Lane, the newly-elected provincial superior, our new leadership team, and vocations to the Blessed Sacrament Congregation. I look forward to having many more associates from Saint Stephen and other locales join me in August 2023 for this beautiful Eucharistic weekend in Cleveland as part of the Eymardian family. ✠

Reflection by Greg Dufour,
Associate from Corpus Christi
Parish in Houston, Texas



It was a blessing to gather with Associates and the Blessed Sacrament priests, brothers, and deacon from the Province of Saint Ann. We came together for prayer, adoration, and the Eucharist. We also broke bread together as a family and shared how our respective Associate groups carry out the mission of the Congregation. It was heartwarming to reconnect with the religious who had previously served or spent time visiting Houston's Corpus Christi parish community over the years. Putting a face to a name and getting acquainted with the Congregation and Associates from the various groups is essential in community building and supporting each other as we seek to deepen our Eucharistic spirituality and ministry and live out the mission of the Congregation under the inspiration of Saint Peter Julian Eymard.

I was uplifted and inspired during the meeting to learn about

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Meeting of Associates with SSS Religious

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the commonalities of the various Associate groups that unite us, including participation in initial and ongoing formation, Holy Hours, Adoration, serving in various liturgical and parish ministries, and catechetical formation as well as some of the unique experiences and involvement in community outreach. It was evident that the good news of God’s love in the Eucharist was being shared. In our meeting, we were also asked to share and ponder: “what is our vision (going forward) as Associates, and how do we attract others to the charism of Saint Peter Julian Eymard and the lay vocation?” One of the ways to grow in our respective Eucharistic communities discussed was to find ways to engage the youth and families to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist, fulfilling a call to holiness through their baptismal vocation, rooted in prayer, the Eucharist, and in service to others. ✠

Reflection by Mary Muehle, Associate from Saint Paschal Baylon in Highland Heights, Ohio

When we were asked to provide prayer support for the Provincial Chapter, it seemed like a daunting task to schedule many people for the hours of Adoration during the Chapter meetings.



Our board made the phone calls, and it was heartening to see how willing our Associates were to be in prayer for the Community as they met to plan the future. Praying in Saint Ann Shrine made us all feel a part of the Eymardian Family. On day one of the Chapter, I was asked to help prepare materials for the Associate gathering the next day. Upon completing the task, two of the Associates from Florida and I were invited to share in the Evening Prayer with the Community. This was a very moving experience as they remembered the six men who had been called home since the last Chapter. As each name was called, a candle was lighted, and members of the Community shared a word of remembrance. The candles remained in the Chapel for the rest of the week. It was a visible reminder of the strength of the bond shared by these men.

During the afternoon with the Associates and the Community, it was an opportunity to meet community members I had not met before. To be able to put a face to the name increased my sense of community. As we shared stories of our vocational call, it brought home to me that we are a family called together to proclaim the mission and message of Saint Peter Julian’s eucharistic spirituality into the lives of our communities. I pray that we as Associates will be able to expand the reach of the Community in spreading the message.

What a gift being an Associate is in my life! ✠

Reflection by Gloria Jung, Associate from Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Holiday, Florida



The XXVI Provincial Chapter was a spiritually reuniting time to give thanksgiving and support to the community and refocus for the next four years. We rekindled old friendships and made new ones. Personally, it was a mini elixir to refresh, reconnect, and revive.

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament recognizes us fraternally and as partners and reminds us that we share the same mission and

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charism – to make known the love of God as witnessed and lived out by our religious Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay Associates going out to the peripheries of society. Inspired by them, the Associates hope to influence another approach for increasing lay vocations.

The Associates signed up to pray in the presence of the Eucharist during Chapter in adoration, and we were grateful to keep that prayer flowing during the day. Our parishes prayed daily during the week for the fruit of this Chapter, to guide with the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit, Wisdom.

The Associates of Holiday, Florida were fortunate to attend the 2014 Chapter at the Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida, which included a joint afternoon session with an overview, a Celebration of the Eucharist, dinner breaking of bread, and a joyful time of rekindling relationships.

It has been a while since I traveled to the Provincialate of the Congregation in 2016. During the Year of Mercy, the Eymardian Family celebrated the Gift of Self in a joyous reunion. The Blessed Sacrament religious, a few Sister Servants, and Associates of the Aggregation joined in the “City by the Lake,” and we were ecstatic.

Entering Saint Ann Shrine through the double doors facing Wilson Mills Road, referred to as the horseshoe driveway, you are welcomed by the large painted wooden carving in the foyer with Saint Ann, Our Blessed Mother Mary, and Infant Jesus. We took time to give thanksgiving to the brilliant religious with extraordinary leadership and shepherding gifts that have passed through our lives and ask for their intercession in the life of the Province. Their lives were significant because they were relational and answered the call to dialogue with the people in prayer established by our Creator from the beginning of time. Our Lord desires to seal us in his love and for one another and calls us to a constant dialogue of prayer with him.

On Monday, after finishing up with some stuffing of folders in the office Diana McGinty and I accepted the invitation to join the religious at Evening Prayer; it was heartwarming to see them together in the Shrine. The Liturgy of the Hours allows for a time of additional personal and public intercessory prayer. In honor of the religious who had passed away since the last Chapter, a word or two was offered at the intercessory prayers. Six blue, seven-day candles were lit as a tribute to their lives, and I could not help but take this time to glimpse around the Chapel. I was just awe-struck to see and recognize many of the religious I knew!

I offered a few words about the deceased – Brother Peter Mahady, Father Robert Chabot, Father Mario Marzocchi, and Father Anthony Schueller.

There were many personal stories shared in the “City by the Lake”

about companionship and new encounters. Mary Muehle, Diana McGinty, Tom Anderson, Greg Dufour, Laura and Ray Worhacz, Theresa and Dimitri Bobev, and Associates from Cleveland offered time to support a successful Chapter by their presence. I was grateful for all of the Blessed Sacrament religious.

Thank you, Louise Borgione, Dawn Ferrante, Rosemary and Joe McCormack, Father Bill Young, Father Earnest Sebastin, Father Paul Bernier, and other table companions for Tuesday’s breakout session. Major events do not occur in a void; special acknowledgment and blessing go out to the Council members, Executive Secretary Susan Work, Father Keenan, Father Lane, Mary Muehle, and the behind-the-scenes assistance for the XXVI Chapter. For all expressions of support and kindness, give glory and praise to Jesus! ✠

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Religious in Florida, New York, Ohio, Texas and Hawaii

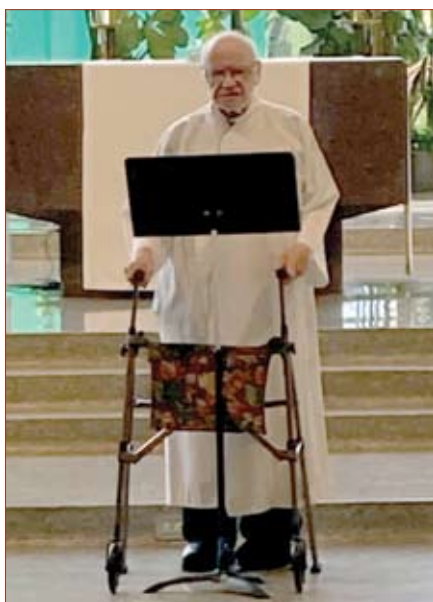
Activity at Saint Ann Shrine

by Scott Gongos, Director of Mission Advancement

We celebrated the Saint Ann Triduum in July and had a wonderful three days rejoicing in the remembrance of Saint Ann and Saint Joachim. It was great to see the local parishioners celebrating with us during the Sunday Mass. It is a beautiful opportunity for them to learn more about Saint Ann and her essential role in our faith's history. I feel our 2nd day of the Triduum is the one that hits home with Saint Ann the most. It is when we offer the Anointing of the Sick to those in need. During my 6½ years of working here, I have heard many heartwarming stories of how Saint Ann's healing power has helped many of you in need. She is present through faith and prayer and answers all who seek her. It's always so wonderful to hear, and I'm grateful for you sharing your personal experiences with me. Brother Michael Perez's reflections each evening during this year's Triduum were delightful to hear as he captivated the essence of Saint Ann's impact on our lives, specifically those in need. His heartfelt preaching had the congregation listening intently each night.



“We’re so grateful to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with our friends Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM!”



It puts a big smile on my face when I see and hear a large crowd celebrating Mass at Saint Ann Shrine. The songs are sung a little louder, and I can listen to everyone singing from my office down the hall. Whether on the phone or eating lunch, I take a moment, a deep breath to take it all in. We're so grateful to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with our friends Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM! I invite you to join us and experience the serenity of Mass at the Shrine! Please call ahead to let me know that you'll be joining us so I may introduce myself!

Your generous support of Saint Ann Shrine over the years has been awe-inspiring! We offer a sincere thank you for all you continued to do to support the mission of Saint

▲ TOP: Shrine of Saint Ann set up in Saint Paschal Baylon Church for the Triduum

BOTTOM: Father Roger Bourgeois SSS, chaplain of Saint Ann Shrine, blessing a participant

◀ Brother Michael Perez SSS delivering a reflection during the Triduum

Ann Shine and the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament! Please let us know if there's anything you'd like us to keep in prayer.

We look forward to your continued prayers and support! God Bless you for a Blessed and Healthy 2023!



Eymard in his Own Words

by Michael A. Perez SSS

Before his First Communion at the age of 12, Peter Julian composed a small book of Acts:

Act before Communion of Faith of Adoration

My dear Jesus, I firmly believe that your body, your blood, your soul, your divinity are truly and substantially present in the Blessed Host, which I am going to receive because you told me so. I adore you with all the respect of which I am capable.
(Peter Julian Eymard – February 15, 1823)



Prayer in Honor of Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Gracious God of our ancestors, you led Peter Julian Eymard, like Jacob in times past, on a journey of faith. Under the guidance of your gentle Spirit, Peter Julian discovered the gift of love in the Eucharist which your son Jesus offered for the hungers of humanity. Grant that we may celebrate this mystery worthily, adore it profoundly, and proclaim it prophetically for your greater glory. Amen.

2nd Act of Offering

My dear Jesus, I give myself to you as you have given yourself to me. On the following morning, Passion Sunday, March 16, 1823, I had the happiness of receiving Jesus into my heart – I immediately told him, “I shall be a priest – I promise you!”



New Superior and Assistant in Cleveland

We hoped that the Provincial Chapter would bear fruit in the goal of internationality – so it happened! Morning came, evening followed, and our local Cleveland community met to discern a new local superior. The Cleveland community comprises three locations in the northeastern Ohio area—the provincialate in Highland Heights, our special ministries house in University Heights, and our assisted-living community with religious in Richfield at Regina Health Center. All came together to continue the synodal process. Additionally, we affirmed the decision to be one community in three locations to show our ever-growing unity and love for one another.

Through the process, we first asked what the community needed at this time for local leadership. One desire was an international presence leading us, proudly sharing with the world that we wish the talents of all religious to be shared and support one another in the local community. The desire for more of our spirituality shared, studied, and lived also became a concern. So, for the first time, the local community chose a Filipino religious, Juancho (Choy) Ramos, as its local community superior. As assistant superior, Michael Angel Perez was selected to work in spirituality and continuing formation.



[L-R] Juancho Ramos SSS, Michael Perez SSS, John Thomas Lane SSS

For the first time in its history, the Highland Heights community, “the big house,” has an international religious at the helm, with a religious of Puerto Rican descent as assistant. It should be noted that both Michael and Choy served as superiors at our House of Studies in the 1990s and 2000s, respectively, and Michael was superior in New York – Saint Andrew, but this is the first time we have had such a diverse, cultural base for our local leadership in our provincialate community.

