

Bread Broken & Shared

A Newsletter for friends of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament of the Province of Saint Ann

Celebrating Vatican II and Saint Peter Julian Eymard

by Anthony Schueller SSS

They came from across the country, and in several cases from “across the pond,” to mark the anniversary of two milestones in the recent history of the Catholic Church: the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the canonization of Saint Peter Julian Eymard fifty years ago. Close to 200 people took part in *Celebrating Vatican II: Saint Peter Julian Eymard, The Apostle of the Eucharist* at the Congregation’s headquarters attached to Saint Paschal Baylon Church in Highland Heights, Ohio, from August 2-4; and for all who participated, it was a weekend to remember and to cherish for years to come.

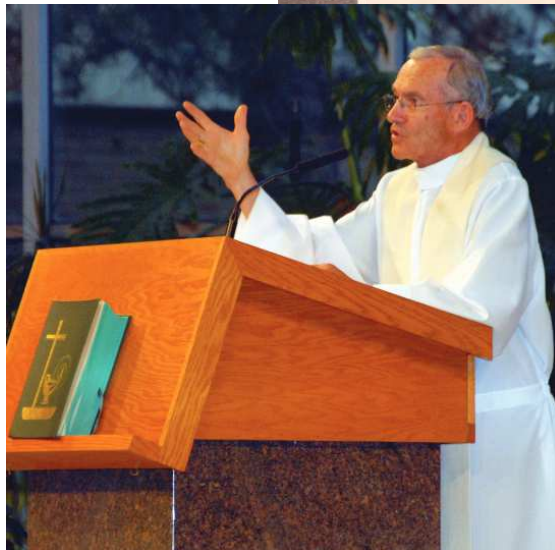
It was no accident that Saint Peter Julian Eymard, the Apostle of the Eucharist, was proclaimed a saint on December 9, 1962, the day after the close of the first session of Vatican II. That session approved the preliminary text of the first conciliar decree, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, which brought about the renewal of the church’s sacraments and rites, especially the Mass. Saint Peter Julian Eymard was a prophetic figure whose life and ministry a century earlier witnessed to the

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▲ Opening Prayer Service with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

◀ Bishop Robert Morneau leading the participants in a reflection during Eucharistic Adoration



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centrality of the Eucharist in Catholic life and to its power to renew the faith of individuals and the church.

The weekend began on Friday evening with a Service of Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction during which Bishop Robert Morneau, of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, offered a beautiful reflection entitled "Eucharist: Jesus Present and Manifest." Building on the experience of students in an English composition class who were challenged to write a short story in just six words, the bishop led the assembly through a series of meditations on the essential meaning of the Eucharist in eleven words, then four, three, two,

and, finally, one word. Throughout, he quoted Father Eymard and various literary and poetry references.

Saturday morning was an opportunity to hear the LITE (Life in the Eucharist) Teens from Saint Stephen's Church in Winter Springs, Florida, tell of the importance of the Eucharist in their lives and of their experience in presenting Life in the Eucharist programs to their peers. A score of teens traveled to Ohio from Florida, along with Father George Dunne SSS, Parochial Vicar, youth ministers Caryl and Jim DeGrandi, and other adult chaperones. Their words touched everyone deeply as they shared the

message of God's merciful love and compassion celebrated at the table of Jesus. For many, it was the high point of the weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, workshops were presented on topics ranging from eucharistic theology and spirituality, to Saint Peter Julian Eymard's understanding of the Eucharist, to the Eucharist and marriage and the Eucharist and service to the poor.

As the LITE Teens often stated, "the Eucharist is about food," so food and fellowship featured prominently in the program. Volunteers from Saint Paschal's, including the Cleveland area



▲ Father William Fickel SSS offering incense before the exposed Eucharist



◀ Saturday morning Mass with [L-R] Deacon Joseph Bourgeois SSS, Father William Fickel SSS and Father Norman Pelletier SSS



◀◀ Nourishing body and spirit



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Associates, prepared snacks on Friday evening and served lunch on Saturday. Later Saturday, everyone gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel for a festive dinner.

Father Norman Pelletier SSS, Provincial Superior, officiated at the closing Mass on Sunday morning. In his homily, he emphasized the call implicit in each moment of the liturgy both to understand the meaning of the Eucharist and to live out its implications for mission.

On behalf of the Provincial Council, thank you to the Cleveland community, Brother Allen Boeckman SSS, our community chefs, Father John Thomas Lane SSS, the parish staff of Saint Paschal Baylon, and Susan Work, for their assistance at every turn and the warm spirit of hospitality.

Author and publisher Gregory F. Augustine Pierce has said that we all need three things: a mission worthy of our lives, a community to send us forth on that mission, and a spirituality that will allow us to be aware of the presence of God as we carry out that mission. The Eymard weekend was an experience of all three – mission, community, and spirituality – as participants recalled the example of the dynamic Apostle of the Eucharist and the continuing challenge of Vatican II to be effective witnesses to the love of God in Jesus Christ, a love which we experience most intimately at the eucharistic table. □

► Father Norman Pelletier SSS introduced Father George Dunne SSS and the young people from Florida

▼ Logo of the TEEN LITE group from Winter Springs, Florida



▲ Youth Ministers Caryl and Jim DeGrandi

◀ The TEEN LITE session

► The young people of Saint Stephen's Parish in Winter Springs, Florida

▼ Father John Christman SSS leading a workshop on Eucharistic Spirituality



◀ Frank Zalar, SSS Associate, leading a session on Eucharist and Evangelizing

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◀ Gathered around the table in celebration
▼ SSS religious and lay associates from our parish of Saint Jean Baptiste in New York City



◀ Father Dana Pelotte SSS [R] with associates and parishioners from Corpus Christi Parish in Houston, Texas

▶ Father William Fickel SSS and Father Raphael O'Halloran SSS with his LITE members from Great Britain

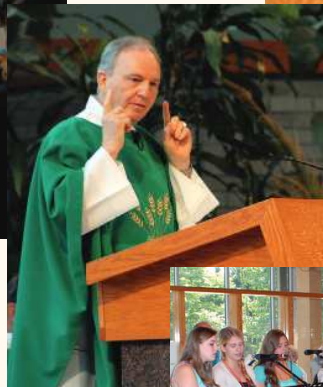


◀ Concelebration of the Eucharist on Sunday morning

▶ Leaders of song from the Teen LITE group



◀ Two Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Sister Mary Catherine Perko SSS and Sister Catherine Marie Caron SSS, in the midst of the congregation at Sunday morning Mass



◀ Father Norman Pelletier SSS delivers the Sunday homily

▼ Teen LITE choir, leading the singing for the Sunday Eucharist

