

Change of Editors for *Emmanuel* Magazine

by Anthony Schueller SSS



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a native of Kortrijk, Belgium, who served as a priest in the Diocese of Detroit, Michigan, and later as a missionary in Kentucky, had been impressed by the efforts of the PEL in Europe and elsewhere to promote priestly spirituality and devotion to the Eucharist. He lobbied his fellow bishops on the matter and became the first National Moderator of the PEL and editor of its monthly review *Emmanuel*.

Five years after the arrival of the first Blessed Sacrament priests and brothers at Saint Jean Baptiste in New York City in 1900, Bishop Maes turned over direction of the Priests' Eucharistic League (PEL) and the editorship of *Emmanuel* to the Congregation, a natural development since Saint Peter Julian Eymard had established the Priests' Eucharistic League in Paris in 1867.

Throughout much of the last century, the League and the magazine grew hand-in-hand. Most priests in the United States became members of the PEL at ordination, and a subscription to *Emmanuel* automatically came with it. And *Emmanuel* carved out a niche among the country's Catholic periodicals by emphasizing articles and an editorial policy focused on priestly ministry, preaching, and spirituality flowing from the Mass and Eucharistic adoration.

Following Vatican II and the advent of other vehicles of priestly animation and a subsequent decline in subscriptions, *Emmanuel* sought to broaden its base by reaching out to laity and religious involved in pastoral and liturgical ministry. This has been both a challenge and an opportunity to expand the magazine's readership and mission and one which *Emmanuel's* editors

Many people are genuinely surprised to learn that the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament publishes one of the oldest and most respected Catholic periodicals in the United States, and has quietly done so since 1905.

Actually, the origins of *Emmanuel*, the "Magazine of Eucharistic Spirituality," go back even further, to 1895 and the formation of the Priests' Eucharistic League (PEL) in this country by Bishop Camillus P. Maes of Covington, Kentucky. Bishop Maes,

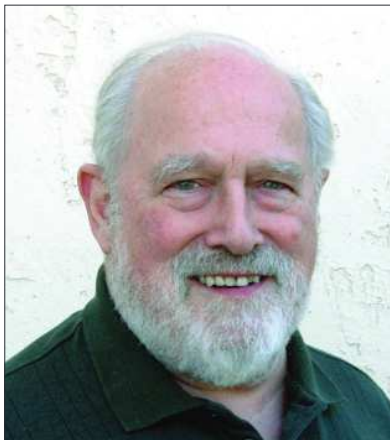
over the years, among them Fathers Eugene LaVerdiere, Norman Pelletier, and most recently Paul Bernier, have embraced with enthusiasm.

New challenges face *Emmanuel* today, notably taking the magazine and its distinctive perspective on the Eucharist into the digital age. Planning has been underway for several months now to enhance the Province's online presence and to launch a digital edition of *Emmanuel* in addition to the print edition.

I will be taking over the editorship of *Emmanuel* with the January-February 2014 issue, and am excited about the potential for reaching even more people through the medium of the Internet. We will also be renewing our editorial and publishing boards and other aspects of the magazine.

Emmanuel is an important national ministry of the Congregation. It has always been a place where our religious and Associates have been encouraged to share their talents through art, writing, liturgical commentary, prayer, reflection on the Eymardian charism, etc. with the wider Church. We are grateful to all of our collaborators, past, present, and future.

Thanks to Father Paul Bernier for the great job he has done and is doing in keeping *Emmanuel* faithful to its original mission of helping priests to live and proclaim the Eucharistic mystery through their personal spirituality and ministry. With his rich understanding of and appreciation for the gifts, talents, and contribution of the laity in church life, he has laid the foundation, too, for what is to come.



Father Paul Bernier SSS