

SSS INTERNATIONAL

EYMARDIAN FAMILY

n. 292 – November 13, 2020

SSS Generalate

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The Story of the Aggregation (continued)

The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) brought tremendous changes to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. It significantly affected how the community understood the Mass, adoration, and how these two important facets of their mission related to each other. It reshaped the Congregation's sense of purpose and eventually the way lay people would associate with it. The religious of the Congregation were challenged to rethink the charism of the Founder, Saint Peter Julian Eymard. The renewal period that followed was a tumultuous time, both for the universal Church and the Congregation. There was a rather contentious struggle over the ideas of what it meant to reform and how to interpret the charism of the Founder for modern times.

Perhaps the most significant change was in regards to the Eucharist. For the Council placed the Eucharist at the center of the Church's life and mission and also at the center of a Catholic's spiritual life. The emphasis on perpetual adoration shifted. All devotions, including adoration, were to be seen as flowing from and going back to the Eucharist.

As we have seen, the primary mission of the Congregation up until the Council was to promote adoration. In rediscovering Father Peter Julian Eymard, it became clear that he called for both "contemplatives and apostles, adorers and firebrands, spreading the Eucharist everywhere to make our Lord known, loved, and adored everywhere" (cf. Retreat of Rome, March 25, 1865). When the new *Rule of Life* was approved by Rome in 1984, the primary mission of the Congregation was the following:

"Our ideal is to live the mystery of the Eucharist fully and to make known its meaning, so that Christ's reign may come and the glory of God be revealed to the world" (*Rule of Life*, 1). The Rule goes on to state that, "Following in the footsteps of Father Eymard, our mission is to respond to the hungers of the human family with the riches of God's love manifested in the Eucharist. Drawing life from the bread given for the life of the world, we proclaim in the thanksgiving prayer [i.e., the Eucharistic Prayer] the Passover of Christ, and we welcome the Lord Jesus in his Eucharistic presence by a prolonged prayer of adoration and contemplation" (*Rule of Life*, 3). In other words, what we celebrate at the Eucharist we contemplate in adoration in order to respond to the needs of our world.

For nearly 20 years following the Vatican Council, the members of the Congregation argued and studied, prayed and discerned, seeking to understand the liturgical renewal that was happening. As a Eucharistic community, the task was clear: come to a consensus on what it meant for the mission of the Congregation to make the Eucharist the central focus to its life and mission as the "source and summit of the life of the Church."

And then there was a shift in the mission of the Province of Saint Ann. At its chapter in 1990, the religious agreed to broaden its focus: to "make the riches of God's love manifested in the Eucharist *in collaboration with the laity*." Two years later, the Life in the Eucharist program was created.

September 30, 2020

CENTER FOR EUCHARISTIC EVANGELIZING
Cleveland, Ohio



A missionary in Senegal

We are in a critical period of a pandemic, despite which I managed to be on holiday to rest a little. Personal contacts are reduced, but by computer I'm able to keep in touch. Since 1981 I've been in Africa, Senegal to be exact, where the Church is growing in the midst of a population that is 90% Moslem. Thanks be to God, we're living peacefully and trying to be a leaven in society. Our Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is opening two new communities this year: one in Guinea Bissau and another in Gandiaye, in the diocese of Kaolack, where one of our confreres, Father Martin Tine was recently appointed the bishop.

In Africa the number of Christians is increasing and there are also numerous vocations here to the priesthood and religious life. When I came to Senegal we had only one Blessed Sacrament religious; now we number thirty, among whom there are only two Italian religious. We're grateful to God for making his voice heard in all the continents in order that we can walk in the light of his Word and be strengthened by the Bread of Life. Starting this year, since in Italy the number of our religious is diminishing, our religious in Africa are also taking over our parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and the Canadian Martyrs in Rome. While we once we were setting out to go to Africa, now the Africans are coming to our aid. Let's hope that this exchange of gifts may be fruitful.

The opening of new parishes among the poor makes us consider that God is working marvels among these people. I'll give you an example. In our mission of Marsassoum many lads used to come from various villages to attend the middle school (secondary education from the age of 11 to 15). Two of them asked us to go to their village of Kikiako, 30 Km away, so that their parents could become Christians. Two of us, priests, decided to go with the two boys by car. The road was almost impossible. On arriving we tried to introduce ourselves; though the boys acted as interpreters into their own language, no one understood who we were. In the villages protesters passed by, persons belonging to sects, to NGOs... but who were we? After all our explanations, my confrere Father Yves and I sat down wondering. I had an inspiration. Standing up I said: *'We are the Church of*

John Paul II.' Immediately everyone stood up and enthusiastically said: *'This is the Church we want; this is the true Church.'* Some years earlier John Paul II had visited Senegal and all by means of the local radio were aware of this. Then we told them that soon we would begin the catechumenate lasting three years to form Christians. Then we made the Sign of the Cross: everyone followed making it with great respect, even though they didn't understand what it meant. See how those people needed to know God, who is a Father full of mercy towards all. After three years along those tracks the chassis of the car snapped in two and there was need for some means of travelling: bicycles, motorbikes and cars to continue.

Some of us travelled long distances to proclaim the good news to the poor, others, above all in the city of Dakar, are dedicated to the ministry of prayer, listening, availability to provide the sacrament of Confession. Our churches are always open and a place to meet the Lord in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and to receive from it consolation and peace. There are many young university students from different francophone African countries coming often to the church to meet and pray. One of them, having completed his studies, before returning to his country, Gabon, came to say goodbye. He told me: *'I'm so sorry to leave this church, because in my life I'll not find any more a church like this, always open, with priests always available and welcoming.'* He returned to his country, to his home, but he'll never forget the experience that he had of the Lord during his studies in Dakar.

I invite all of you to collaborate in this work of evangelization, so that youth, so numerous in Africa, may prepare to live and promote a more worthy life in their country. In this world, shaken by so much injustice and selfishness, let us pray for the coming of the kingdom of love and joy that the Risen Lord wants to bestow on all people.

On behalf of my confreres I thank all of you who support us in this work of evangelization and formation of religious. As you know, it is costly to send young people to school for many years so as to have a sound formation.

13 October 2020

FATHER ALESSANDRO BIANCHIN, SSS
Superior, Dakar-St Joseph de Medina

To inscribe a young seminarian in the school of philosophy and theology costs 950 euro per year. This school, where I'm teaching, is called the St Augustine Centre. We have on average 7-8 students for the 3 years of philosophy. The board and lodging of our aspirants are taken care of by our two parishes of Dakar.



Festive Celebration in Santa Maria in Piazza at Turin for the 25th Anniversary of promises in the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament

The Eymardian Family of Turin gathered on 29 September 2020 to celebrate festively the members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament who commemorated the 25th anniversary of making their promises. Every anniversary recalls the memory of a beautiful event that has been lived, the memory of which is kept in one's soul, but it also holds a message for the present, an invitation to return to that experience by reliving the feelings experienced in one's heart on that day. Every anniversary presents a motive for joy and festivity, awakening the desire to "bless" that day, so that the grace received may become a way of being grateful to God.

In the Eymardian Family the 29th of September is a day of 'thanksgiving' in remembering the 25 years of promises made and of belonging to the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, while also the memorial of the religious profession of members of the community. This day unites the whole Eymardian Family in great gratitude to God for having called religious and lay persons to the "grace of the Eucharist."

Even this year, despite the Covid-19, the community came together to hold the memorial of religious profession and recall the 25th anniversary of some aggregates' making of their promises.

The celebration was particularly moving. It is beautiful after 25 years to recall that day on which a response was made to the Lord's call, to dedicate some of one's time to the great and at the same time humble gesture of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, if possible in the church of Santa Maria. The 'yes' expressed then is continued each month, each week, every day, in accord with the choice, a 'yes' that is renewed with the same fervour and love. It is beautiful to hear the formula of the promise being pronounced: "I to this scope express freely to continue to be part of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament and to be inspired by its 'Life Project'..." The temptation to leave the Aggregation is always at hand, to leave the path of

growing in the eymardian eucharistic spirituality, to leave the catechesis provided on the fourth Sunday of every month, to cease the prayer of adoration because of the excuse of having so many things to do, to abandon commitment about living in the spirit of the cenacle and seeking of fraternity. But 29 September is also the day of renewing a desire to continue to express by one's presence praise and glory to God through and together with the eucharistic Jesus.

On this day of festivity, this year, those who were celebrating, because of the pandemic, seated around the altar on which the Blessed Sacrament was exposed called to mind the image of the Apocalypse: the elders, angels and saints around the altar of the Lamb whom they adore.



The whole celebration was according to the prepared plan a succession of moments and signs that recalled the aggregates to living intensely the renewal of promises:

- Illumination by the Word of the Lord Jesus who exults and praises the Father for revealing the profound mysteries to the simple and to those who have a humble and open heart to the mystery;
- St Peter-Julian Eymard's exhortation and word that invites to put the Eucharist at the centre of one's life and to proceed towards the gift of self in the service of God and one's brethren;
- Listening to what is outlined in the "Life Project" about witnessing to the vitality of the Eucharist as a guide to daily conversion to the Gospel and the spirit of the Cenacle;
- Commitment to be faithful to the duties of the Aggregation;

- Repetition of the formula of promises and request to continue in being part of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament;
- Consignment of the sign of what is the focus of one's vocation in life: the Eucharist and the image of the style of prayer, namely, adoration;
- The handing on of the "Life Project" as a guide towards the Eymardian eucharistic spirituality;
- The celebration concluded by thanksgiving to God who in his bounty has called us, made us worthy to abide in his most holy presence in the mystery of Jesus in the Eucharist, singing the canticle with the saved of the Apocalypse: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honour and power..."



Singing the *Magnificat*, an aggregate recalling the 25 years of making the promise becomes aware and recognizes that God's love has penetrated one's heart, calling it to become a presence and witness of a mystery that has involved one's life.

This whole spiritual richness then took shape in the solemn celebration of the Lord's Passover, presided over by the Father Superior, the director of the Aggregation, who also received the renewal of the promises of all the aggregates gathered for the feast of the Eymardian Family.

What can we wish these aggregates? May they be, first of all, faithful and then go to prayer with a heart full of joy as they go to a festivity, members of the Aggregation and zealous women.

21 October 2020

FATHER ALBINO VALENTINI, SSS



Diaconal and Priestly Ordination

Many new priests who belong to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament have chosen father Eymard's sentence, "Our Lord has called me to his Eucharistic service in spite of my unworthiness." (Eymard – NR 45,4) for their life of priesthood.

Truly, Saint Eymard devoted his life to serve the Eucharist. He, himself gave us the most precious spiritual treasure that we become "the apostle of the Eucharist" – according to the Rule of Life, number 1, our ideal is to live the mystery of the Eucharist fully and to make known its meaning, so that Christ's reign may come to the glory of God and be revealed to the world; our mission is very useful in a complicated society. That is the reason why many priests of the SSS Congregation want to imitate their Founder to devote totally their life for the Eucharist.

Following this spirituality, many Vietnamese young people have devoted their life for God; particularly, they devote their will to become "Servants of the Eucharist". On their many difficult journeys, like Jacob, they have to be educated carefully in order to become mature SSS religious. That is good steps for them in the future mission.

On Wednesday **28th October 2020**, in the An Phu parish that is belongs to the Phu Cuong Diocese, Viet Nam, Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc who is the bishop of Phu Cuong diocese, ordained 6 Deacons and 6 Priests. Many SSS religious, relatives and benefactors attended this mass. Truly, this fact brings great happiness and grace for SSS Vietnamese Province and entire SSS Congregation.



Our society faces many complicated situations such as wars, pandemics, natural disasters, starvation... It is very necessary for the world to have many enthusiastic Apostles of the Eucharist to preach the love of Jesus



in the Eucharist. It is only the Eucharist which could heal and transform the world. Also in the Eucharist, people could love and sacrifice for each other.

New deacons and priests today will be sent in many different communities in Viet Nam. And following in the footsteps of Father Eymard, their mission is to respond to the hungers of the human family with the riches of God's love manifested in the Eucharist.

Hopefully, new deacons and priests will be courage to preach Jesus in the Eucharist to everywhere and everyone in order to work at building a world founded on justice and love, so that the glory of the God can be revealed to the world.

FATHER MARTIN AUGUSTINO BÙI VĂN HỒNG PHÚC, SSS



Farewell Fr. Justin

In the letter of Father General dated 27 October 2020 to all provincials, he communicated of a new international community to care of the parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and the Canadian Martyrs, Rome from the **1st of November 2020**. In that letter, we also received the following information: *"the community will likewise include SSS religious who wish to study in Rome. The first of these will be Father **Justin Wilfredo Abellare Montañez** (Philippines) who will end his period of working in the service of the General Administration on 1 November and undertake his studies for a doctorate."*

Therefore, on the feast of the All Saints, the twelve years of the service of **FR JUSTIN MONTAÑEZ** in the General Administration officially comes to the conclusion.

FR JUSTIN MONTAÑEZ, a religious of the Philippines Province, was called to join the team of the General Secretariat as an assistant Secretary from 30 May 2008, the date of his arrival in Rome. He collaborated with the General Secretariat and since 12 October 2012 he was also responsible for communications of which he could collaborate with the religious in charge of communications in each

Province/Region in sharing news, an activity carried out by means of producing the site www.ssscongregatio.org. This task complies with the suggestion made by the 34th General Chapter to improve the sector of communications in seeking adequate means to circulate news within the Congregation.

We are grateful to Fr. Justin for his dedication and mission during all these years. For the first four years (2008 – 2012), as assistant Secretary, he was a big help to check out, arrange, recovery and update many texts and documents which now are available in the website of the Congregation. The second phase of his mission (2012 up to now), his principal task was maintaining communication in the congregational level, a task required of availability, sensibility, and creativity.



We thank Fr. Justin not just for his dedication in this regard, but also his fraternal relationship in the community and his generosity to be available and welcoming guests of Curia from the airport, sometimes very late at night or very early in the morning. He was also very much helpful for the members of the Curia in their travelling. During the recent lockdown caused by the pandemic of Coronavirus, while the workers of the community could not come for the work Fr. Justin generously volunteered to be chef and for the shopping of the community.

We are also grateful to the Province of Our Lady of the Assumption (Philippines) for offering us such qualified service of Fr. Justin. We wish Fr. Justin an abundance of God's grace for his new phase of life so that with his study that he is undertaking will bring a big help for his Province in the future.

In the course of reconstruction of Curia to meet the sufficient maintaining of the General Administration and the delicate situation caused by pandemic of

Coronavirus, we are unable to think about his replacement at this moment. Thus, the communication is now entrusted to the team of general secretariat and the website www.ssscongregatio.org is taken care by Fr. Joseph Nguyen Huu Phuoc, assistant secretary and archivist. For the communication of the Curia, kindly contact any one of the following three email addresses:

- Mrs. Valerie Lemariey, secretary
vlemariey@curiasss.net
- Fr. Joseph Nguyen Huu Phuoc, assistant secretary and archivist
procurator@curiasss.net
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FATHER JOSEPH BINH, SSS
General Secretary



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We thank you for your collaboration.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT SSS
Rome - segretariato@curiasss.net

Anniversaries of Profession and Ordination in December 2020

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 08.12.1960 | Fr. Vitale CHIAROLINI | Ponteranica | Ordination 60 |
| 08.12.1960 | Fr. Leopoldo CRISTINELLI | San Benedetto | Ordination 60 |
| 08.12.1960 | Fr. Venceslao DAL CERO | Prato | Profession 60 |
| 08.12.1960 | Fr. Giovanni MANIERO | Prato | Ordination 60 |
| 08.12.1960 | Fr. Guido VERDICCHIO | Milano-S. Pier Giuliano | Ordination 60 |
| 17.12.1960 | Fr. Josef WENGER | Bozen | Ordination 60 |
| 27.12.1970 | Fr. Giancarlo BREDÀ | San Benedetto | Ordination 50 |



The death of a brother will be celebrated as a Paschal event filled with hope. We shall faithfully carry out the prescribed prayers for our deceased (RL 13).

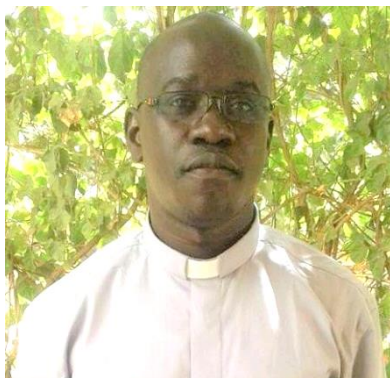
N. 1586 - Father Daniel Dropulich

Province: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Community: Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Death: 30 September 2020
 Age: 59
 Profession: 24
 Priesthood: 20



N. 1587 - Father Jules Souleymane Diatta

Province: Our Lady of Africa
 Community: Marsassoum, Senegal
 Death: 12 October 2020
 Age: 39
 Profession: 11
 Priesthood: 5



N. 1588 - Brother Guido Vannobel

Province: St Peter Julian Eymard
 Community: Lommel, Belgium
 Death: 5 November 2020
 Age: 77
 Profession: 56



N. 1589 – Father Andrew Beaudoin

Province: Saint Ann
 Community: Cleveland, USA
 Death: 6 November 2020
 Age: 92
 Profession: 71
 Priesthood: 66

