

EYMARDIAN FAMILY

SSS INTERNATIONAL



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Curia Generalizia SSS, Via G.B. de Rossi, 46 - 00161 Roma - Italia - www.ssscongregatio.org

Rule of Life SSS

40th anniversary of its final approval by the Church

Dear confreres,

Rome, 25th May 2023

The International Theological Commission (ITC) of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament convened its physical meeting at the Generalate in Rome from the 3rd to the 9th November, 2022 and thereafter a virtual meeting on the 9th Feb, 2023. After having finalized the articles to be published on the Eucharistic Catechism, the Commission explored various projects in which it would engage in the near future. At the call and invitation of Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, the

Commission realized the importance we should give to the reflections on the Rule of Life as we approach the 40th anniversary celebration of its final approval by the Church in 2024.

Contents:

- Rule of Life: 40th anniversary in 2024
- Internationality, USA
- Ordinations, Colombia
- New parish priest in Lima, Peru
- Story of Cali, Colombia
- New book, USA
- Anniversaries
- Deceased

Prompted by this awareness, the Commission deliberated to call on articles and reflections on the Rule of Life from its historical, theological, missiological, ecclesiological and pastoral perspectives. Our confreres actively involved in this project are expected to making use of his own expertise and researches to understand the Rule of Life in a deeper way. This will surely help the Congregation for the future living of the Rule of Life. This specific contribution needs to contact to the Commission to get the orientations through email:

segretariato@curiasss.net

In addition to the scientific work on Rule of Life, the Commission also thought that a reflection or sharing involving more confrères, it might also be opportune for you to refer to your favorite Rule (number) that you are fascinated with, if any, and tell others of 'why' of it and the your lived experience of that particular Rule of Life.

As we invite volunteers at this stage to join hand with us with your contributions to be published on Rule of Life, may we draw your kind attention to the following considerations:

1. Bear in mind that your contributions must be limited to the Rule of Life, but you are at liberty to look at from a perspective that you are comfortable to reflect on.
2. The reflection could be written in English, French, Italian or Spanish, and so we propose that it be limited approximately to 600 words.
3. As we are in the very initial stage of this project on 'Rule of Life', we invite anyone who wishes to make contributions to contact Fr. Binh, the Coordinator of the ITC, representing the General Council with your number (RL) chosen via:

segretariato@curiasss.net

Please contact us on or before the 30th June, 2023.

On behalf of the International Theological Commission

Father Binh Joseph, SSS
Coordinator

We Welcome SSS International Priests to the Province of Saint Ann!

On April 28 and May 2, 2023, we welcomed two of our international priests to the Province of Saint Ann – USA. Blessed Sacrament (SSS) Father Joselito (Lito) Hitosis came from the Philippines after a vacation from his previous assignment in Hilo, Hawaii arriving in Holiday, Florida, to be the new parochial vicar (assistant priest and the updated term from Canon Law) for the parish of Saint Vincent de Paul. He will also collaborate with the Filipino Community in the Diocese of Saint Petersburg since they need a chaplain now. He joins Father William (Bill) Fickel SSS, the pastor, and Father Dominic Long SSS, the current parochial vicar. They will be a community of three again, a sacred Trinity of ministry.



from left to right: fathers Dominic, Joselito, Bill

As of July 1, 2023, Father Bill will retire as pastor and serve full-time in the formation and ministry needs of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament (*Associates*), who are in several parishes in the dioceses of Saint Petersburg and Orlando. He will continue to live in the Holiday Community and serve as Vicar Provincial for the Province of Saint Ann. Father Dominic will become pastor on July 1 and be officially installed on September 24.



Thomas, Peter, Christian, Ravi, John Thomas

On May 2, Sri Lankan SSS Father Christian Christopher also took the long flight. He arrived in Houston, Texas, to become one of the chaplains in the hospital ministry in the extensive medical center of Houston, near our parish of Corpus Christi. Father Christian will also reside in the Houston community and assist with Masses in our parish. He replaces Father Ravi Earnest Sebastian (now part of the USA province, originally from India and

assigned as parochial vicar of the parish of Saint Jean Baptiste) and Father Peter Van Tuong Nguyen (who, after his spiritual direction class in University Heights, Ohio, another suburb of Cleveland across from John Carroll University is returning to his native Vietnam). Father Christian is no stranger to hospital ministry, having served in Lenox Hill Hospital, New York City, several years ago. We are grateful to Fathers Peter and Ravi Earnest for their dedication and service in Houston for four years.



Father Mark del Rosario will soon come to San Antonio, Texas and our parish on the Riverwalk, Saint Joseph Downtown Church. He has been serving in the Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado as a pastor there for many years, a mission of the Philippine Province. Father Mark will now be collaborating with Saint Ann Province as pastor of this historic church as of July 1, 2023. He will replace Father Norman Pelletier, coming to the Provincialate in Highland Heights, Ohio (Cleveland) this summer to work in the Center for Eucharistic Evangelizing and with our Associates and their formation. While a USA citizen, Father Mark will remain a Philippine Province member and work with parochial vicar Father Joseph Thai Minh Tran of the American Province.

Internationality was a theme of our USA Chapter in August 2022. It is a long and arduous process to work with American homeland security. More SSS students and priests will be arriving soon, for their visas are in process. We will be pleased to share their stories at a later date.

In the meantime, we are so grateful to the Sri Lankan and Philippine Provinces (for now Vietnam and India are also working with us on the visa challenges) and these men for hearing the Eucharistic call to come to serve with us.

Stay tuned for more exciting news and collaboration as we grow in our international Eucharistic mission for the USA.

May 13, 2023

Feast of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament

Father John Thomas Lane SSS,
Provincial of the Province of Saint Ann

Priestly Ordination in Colombia Province of St John XXIII



The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the Families of our new ordained religious, Father Wilmer Gómez sss and Juan David Zapata sss gladly share this occasion of grace and joy in giving their lives at the service of the Church in our small Blessed Sacrament religious community. Each of them is already willing to serve by going to the communities to which he has been appointed.

“A living faith in the Eucharist” (cf. NR 45,3)

“May the Most Holy Eucharist be your true point of departure, just as all rays of the sun spread out from the sun, so you will set out from the Fire from which all light radiates...” (PG 356,1)

Fr. Wilmer Gómez S.S.S,
ordained on 13th May 2023,
Ventaquemada Boyacá



Fr. Juan David Zapata S.S.S,
ordained on 20th May 2023,
Medellín



Colombia-Peru, *NOTIBIP* n. 91 - May 2023

I greet and congratulate our brother Wilmer Jobany Gómez, who was ordained a priest on 13 May in his hometown of Ventaquemada. He celebrated his first Eucharist on 14 May in his parish of St Anthony of Padua, where he received the sacraments of Christian Initiation.

I likewise greet and congratulate our brother Juan David Zapata Patiño, who was ordained on 20 May in his hometown of Medellín Antioquia. He celebrated his first Eucharist on 22 May in his parish of St Albert the Great, where he received the sacraments of Christian Initiation.

Priests are men, born in ordinary and normal families, who have virtues and defects like the rest of human being. But God has chosen them from all eternity to fulfil the mission of bringing his love and mercy to all people. For this, love must radiate in their life, they must be exemplary fathers for their faithful. And they must be adequately prepared humanly and spiritually to be capable of responding to all the challenges and questions put to them by people today.

Father Carlos José Sierra Rodríguez, sss
Provincial Superior

Canonical possession of the new Parish Priest in Lima, Peru

The proclamation of the God is the bounden duty of all Christians by virtue of baptism, the sacrament that configures them to the Eucharistic Christ and incorporates them into the mystery of the Triune God, in view of contributing to the Church's mission (cf. Mt 28:19-20). A priest undertakes this task with greater commitment in virtue of the commitment made before God and before the Church to serve his people.



On 7 May 2023, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, the parish community assembled for the eucharistic celebration at 11 am, when Fr Elibien Joseph sss assumed canonical possession as the new Parish Priest of San Cristóbal. It was a celebration comprising three significant stages:

1. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided by the Vicar General of the diocese of Chosica, the Reverend Fr Víctor García. This was an event characterised by various signs of communal, fraternal and harmonious meaning with the presence of many priests of the diocesan clergy, the four congregations of the parish jurisdiction, the police presence of the Police Station of Caja de Agua and representatives of all the groups and movements of the parish.

Fr Víctor addressed the community on the passage from the Gospel of John in which Jesus described himself, saying: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14:6), thus helping the people to understand that Jesus is the centre of the Church. He must be the point of reference for every Christian, and any pastoral service entails looking to Jesus regarding his total dedication to the service of humankind. This should be the perspective in which to see the new path beginning with the new Parish Priest, Fr Elibien, in order that a fruitful animation is carried out for the community's wellbeing.

2. A personal look at the community: the community of Lima has more than 50 years of history during which many Blessed Sacrament religious have contributed to pastoral and evangelising animation always in harmony with some diocesan clergy. It is quite a challenging community, comprising different situations, customs, traditions and traces of former religious.

I feel encouraged to undertake this new eucharistic mission in the light of the synodal context that the Church is living; a process involving learning, openness, listening, being available and, above all, humility and prudence in pastoral work from the perspective of the SSS *Rule of Life*: "We will make our parishes into authentic communities so that they shall be: places of proclamation and the living of the Gospel, places of prayer, eucharistic adoration and festive celebration, places of sharing, fellowship and of human development." (RL 41)



3. A moment of fraternal gathering around the table – The Congregation always cultivates the spiritual tradition of the Eucharist around the table of fraternal sharing. At the end of the celebration all participants had lunch in the house of the *Sisters of the Gospel – Caja de Agua* – raising a toast that expressed the wish and will to begin this new pastoral, evangelizing and missionary journey in the Parish of San Cristóbal.

May God guide us in this mission as a parish and community of faith!

Father Elibien Joseph, sss

Parish Priest of San Cristóbal



Once the religious were installed they went to introduce themselves to his Excellency the Archbishop, who promised them the world... which little by little disappeared as they had to find their feet regarding how to subsist and carry out the task that they had in mind.

The two priests divided between themselves what was the parish territory, which later on, because split by the construction of a highspeed freeway, became two separate parishes, the parish of Our Lord's Nativity on one side and the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes on the other; the two priests took charge of each of these as the parish priests. The two professed religious for their part soon found work as teachers to support everyone in the community, whereas the two priests were working hard as best they could in serving the faithful whom God had entrusted to them.

Gradually they got to know the area and their community while building two parish centres. In the neighbourhood *El Rodeo*, the parish of Our Lord's Nativity: the Church, presbytery, school with solidarity centre, centre for Technical-Industrial formation, evening classes for illiterate adults, centre for nutritional improvement, a programme for improving living conditions and obtaining building materials at low costs, while at the same time taking care of worship and evangelization at every level. In the neighbourhoods of *Atanasio Girardot/Santa Fe*, in the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes: besides the building of the parish church, various parish halls were constructed, while a model programme for catechetical work and Youth work was set up.

Here we cannot express enough gratitude to the German Catholic and Lutheran Churches, particularly to Fr Friedrich Wuwolt and the Lutheran Pastor Ulrich Honeker, as well as to the Hispanic American College for the help given in several ways to the community. All this work was not realised as if it were plain sailing.

The community had to undergo serious problems, such as the infiltration of the subversive movement M-19 within the youth groups. This led to certain authorities closing the youth groups that we supported; misunderstandings by some members of the clergy that lead to the Auxiliary Bishop of Cali questioning our stay in the city in these terms: "The SSS religious are supported, tolerated, or opposed." The religious responded: "We are either fully supported, or we will leave the Archdiocese." At this point the matter passed into the hands of the Archbishop, who stated: "To touch the Blessed Sacrament Religious is to touch the Archbishop." The religious requested the Archbishop for permission to invite the Auxiliary Bishop to visit the *El Rodeo* neighbourhood in order to give a talk about the Catholic Church in Latin America, which the Auxiliary Bishop agreed to do.

This was at a time very near the famous Episcopal Conference of Medellín that was entirely focused on the option for the poor.

To be continued...

Father Lucinio Martin Herrero, sss

Colombia-Peru, *NOTIBIP* No. 90 - April 2023

« Dining in the Kingdom of God »

Release of the new book of
Fr Eugene LaVerdiere, sss
in the USA



Anniversaries 2023

August

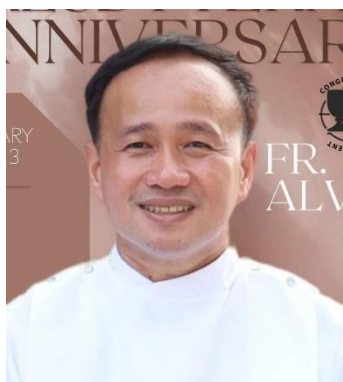
02.08.1998	Fr. Antônio Geraldo ALVES	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Priyantha Anthony ANGODAGE	Jaffna, Sri Lanka	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Marcelo Carlos DA SILVA	Belo Horizonte, Brazil	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Francisco Jr DE OLIVEIRA MARQUES	Fortaleza-S.Benedito, Brazil	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Joseph HOANG YEN LINH	Khiet Tam, Vietnam	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Asirvadam MANUEL	Matale, Sri Lanka	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Jésus NERES DE SOUZA	São Paulo, Brazil	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Dominic PHAM VAN TU	An Ngai Dong, Vietnam	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Joseph TRAN NGOC TAN	Buon Ma Thuot, Vietnam	profession 25
02.08.1998	Fr. Joseph TRAN THANH BINH	Khiet Tam, Vietnam	profession 25
12.08.1963	Fr. Finbarr Raphael OHALLORAN	Dublin, Ireland	profession 60
15.08.1998	Fr. Boris John PERLAKI	Sydney, Australia	ordination 25
31.08.1963	Fr. Norman PELLETIER	Cleveland, U.S.A.	profession 60



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. 1630 - Father Alvin Pancho MANAOIS

Province: Our Lady of the Assumption
Community: Mapandan, Philippines
Death: 10 May 2023
Age: 47
Profession: 8
Priesthood: 2



N. 1631 - Father Armindo Magalhães DUQUE

Province: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Community: Fortaleza, Brazil
Death: 17 May 2023
Age: 83
Profession: 40
Priesthood: 36

