

SSS INTERNATIONAL

n. 257 – March 20, 2017

SSS Generalate
Via G. B. de Rossi, 46 - 00161 Rome – Italy



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IV Provincial Assembly

The annual Provincial meeting for religious began on the morning of Monday **January 17th 2017**. Fr Giulio Maccali, a General Consultor, also attended. Fr Camille Gagnon, the Provincial Superior, inaugurated the meeting of the brothers, presenting a complete report of the situation of the Province. We have faced difficulties and obstacles, but we feel that the Spirit continues to work amongst us and that is why our mission continues. Part of the work was centred on financial aspects. We are building up a regulation to manage this area better.

ongoing formation and the accompanying especially of young religious. In considering how to face this challenge the Assembly determined that every month during 2017, the religious of the SSS communities present in Bogotá shall meet to reflect together, share life and create a brotherly atmosphere.

The Assembly ended with a leisure day. Adelina, one of the faithful from the Corpus Christi community, welcomed us to her farm (Chinauta). Here all of us enjoyed a day of rest and togetherness. We are grateful to Camille, Jaime and Gustavo, master chefs, who made us feel like kings.

FROM THE NOTIBIP 44
JANUARY 2017



Blessed Sacrament Parish, Caguax 1967-2017, 50th Anniversary

Message from our priests
November 2016

Another day was dedicated to ongoing formation. Fr José Antonio talked about the “gift of self” from an academic point of view and a lay person, Jean François Lecrom, presented a project with a strategy applicable to our work so that the mission we develop may reach better quality. The Formation Commission then presented the general report of the processes followed through the year. It remained as a challenge to begin implementing strategies that will encourage

This year 2017 is a very special one for the community in Caguax. We will soon celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Blessed Sacrament Parish. From now, we have different committees working to prepare this event. We are helped by them to prepare with much enthusiasm and joy because the Parish is for us the place where we meet God our Father. We are the great family of children of God. Here we receive the sacraments that communicate to us that divine life and keep us strong in faith and love.

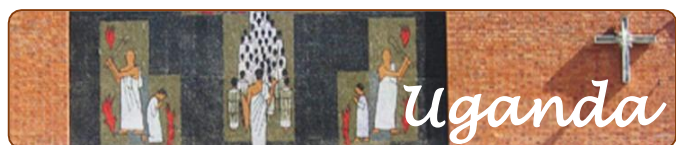
Without doubt, the main success we have to underline this year is the 50th anniversary of our Blessed Sacrament Parish at Caguax, from 8-11-2016 to 8-11-2017. The first SSS religious arrived in Caguax on March 3rd 1967 and the SSS community received its canonical erection on August 5th 1967.



“The Lord has been great with us and we are joyful” (Psalm 125). Jesus’ power is so near in the Blessed Sacrament, and to know that he will never abandon us must be for all of us a great source of joy. This is a Eucharistic parish and among us there are many Eucharistic persons who joyfully live this reality.

May the Lord continue blessing them all and allow them to have a new year full of love and peace. These are the wishes of your priests.

FR ANTONIO ODRIEZOLA, SSS, PARISH PRIEST
FR JESUS MAIZA, SSS, PARISH VICAR
FR JAIME RODRIGUEZ, SSS, PARISH ASSISTANT



Ugandan adorers commemorate 206th birthday of Fr. Eymard

It was a special day in Kimanya Parish as the adorers, together with the parishioners, commemorated the 206th Birthday Anniversary of St. Peter Julian Eymard last **February 3-4, 2017**.

The celebration kicked off with Nocturnal Adoration joined by various groups in the parish. Two Masses were celebrated, presided by the Parish Priest, in

honor of Father Eymard. The adorers, after the Mass, spent an hour of Adoration with Morning Prayer.



The celebration was also an opportunity to know more about Father Eymard. The adorers are deeply moved by the life and mission of Father Eymard who inspires them to become more zealous and committed adorers.

Breakfast was served and shared by the adorers to celebrate this meaningful event.

EXTRACT FROM
PROVINCIAL UPDATE N. 39



An experience of Eucharistic spirituality with the laity

On Sunday **5 February 2017**, St Peter-Julian Eymard’s feast, we lived a splendid day at the hermitage of Lecceto, despite the beating rain. The invitation was opened to the group of families, lay persons who attend the monthly prayer meeting and some interested in an “eymardian Eucharistic day”. About 80 took part.

An experience of fraternity was spread over various items: celebrations, adoration, round table discussions, consigning of the *Life Project* and launching of a summer week of fraternity. We wanted to underline as this SSS community proposes, by means various experiences, the forming around the Eucharist of a family according to the example of the life and prophetic message of St Peter-Julian Eymard. Especially interesting was the proposal of the “round table discussion”, where a director of the pastoral

council, a single lay woman and two couples, outlined on the basis of the Eucharistic celebration how their faith experience and life find there its inspiration.

From the opening, the penitential liturgy, listening to the Word of God, sacrifice of Christ, sacramental communion, there comes about stimuli and sharing of experience that become translated into attitudes and authentic choices. It was emphasized by all that there must be a deep link between the celebration and life, between the daily "liturgy lived" and the "liturgy celebrated"; from a Eucharist-gift (welcome, forgiveness...) to a style of living: returning the gift received, sharing it in diverse realities and in various expressions: family, parish, groups, professional situations.



Particularly in the witnessing of the couple the well-expressed rich insight of the Second Vatican Council was underlined, namely, the description of the family as a "domestic Church" and as the place where the liturgy of love is celebrated every day by the spouses, its ministers. Nor was it omitted to emphasize that the weekly or daily experience prepared us for the following Eucharist. This indicated the conviction about the Church making the Eucharist and likewise that indeed the Eucharist makes the Church, the parish, the community, the family, not only through the riches of grace, but also as a stimulus and outline of living since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.

At the depth of this experience, there was St Peter-Julian Eymard with his message and his teaching about involving the different groups of persons around the Eucharistic mystery, and the presence of the SSS Fathers in the world (shown by a video) who are working in various areas: from the slums of Latin America to the African savannas, as well as in the ghettos of the metropolitan cities. Without exaggeration, we felt that we were a nucleus of the great "eymardian family", that wants to realize the great dream of Peter-Julian: *Christ is there, therefore go to Him, through Him, with Him.*

THE COMMUNITY OF LECCETO
MALMANTILE (FLORENCE)



10th anniversary of the Province **Blessed Isidore Bakanja** 19 March 2007 - 2017

The year 2017 highlights in a particular way the history of the Province of Blessed Isidore Bakanja insofar as it celebrates 10 years since its canonical erection. In other words, since 19 March 2007, the date on which the Superior General Father Fiorenzo Salvi formally erected the Region of Blessed Isidore Bakanja into a Province, this foundation commemorated the very day of beginning to exist as a Province. This year is also special since Father Anaclet Bambala, the Provincial Superior, celebrates at the same time as the Province's 10th anniversary ten years of priestly ordination and his 45th birthday.

We would like by this article to give thanks to the Lord and recall at the same time the efforts of all the contributions of confreres who have fostered this mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. For this reason, this article will present essentially a historical record, in thanksgiving to the Lord and to the pioneers of this mission, particularly to the Province of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament of Italy.

Brief historical glance

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was officially set up in 1958 under the mandate of Father Spiekman, the Superior General. The first SSS Fathers (Gauthier and Eykmans) were provisionally lodged in the Parish of St Paul, where they carried out investigations for a suitable place to spread our charism.

In 1962 the Belgian confreres were replaced by Father Taillard (from Switzerland) and Father Armani (from Italy). We can recall that from the beginning the concern was to assist the people, which was shown concretely by opening a health centre in which the youths Edouard Kisonga and Celestine Makiadi were associated first as apprentices and then for service as nurses, while still at school. They carried out this service alongside Father Taillard until 1968.

In 1963 Father Latini, the Provincial, authorized the integration of black candidates into the Congregation and the two youths mentioned above became as a result the first native religious.

As regards the development of this mission, we note that in October 1965 the first Italian confreres arrived: Father Rottoli and Brothers Fortunato Tassoni, Luigi Landrini and also the following students: Giancarlo Magni, Mauro Pasinelli and Ennio Serrani. We underline also that it was in this year that Father

Rottoli began the building of the parish church of the Blessed Sacrament, which was inaugurated in 1970.

In 1968 Father Jobin from Switzerland, well known for his musical talent, came to this mission that was growing. An important step in 1975 was the first time that a Congolese scholastic, Brother Edouard Kisonga, participated at the Provincial Chapter as an observer. The European Provinces' generosity and the concern about growth enabled this mission to continue its advance with the arrival in 1985 of the Belgian confreres, from among whom were Father Jef Willems, who would later become the Regional Superior, and Urbain De Cock from Burundi.

Animated by the desire to live our charism in collaboration with the local Ordinaries, our valiant missionaries pursued the work of founding new communities after that of Binza on 13/05/1958. With the expansion of the mission, in 1980, Father Giancarlo started the parish of the Martyrs of Uganda, then the communities of Lonzo was begun on 30/08/1970, Kikusa on 05/06/1985 which became the scholasticate on 27/01/1995, Kikwit on 16/03/1988, Mont Ngafula in 1993, the Martyrs of Uganda/Sanga Mamba in 2015, and finally an extension *ad experimentum* in France at Le Havre in the Parish of Saints Peter and Paul.

It became a Region on 26 September 1973, under the name of an autonomous Region of Zaire (RAZ), then this mission changed its name in February 1996 when, from the first Provincial Chapter, it became Blessed Isidore Bakanja, a name that came into force in 1998.



Photo of the 1st Provincial Chapter

The governance of this mission

We have the duty to recall the names of those who have directed us:

- 1) Fr Giovanni Cividini (1973-1986)
- 2) Fr Remo Rota (1986-1995)
- 3) Fr Jef Willems (1995-1998)
- 4) Fr Edouard Kisonga (1998-2000). He became an Auxiliary Bishop of Kinshasa before completing his mandate and was replaced by
- 5) Fr Remo Rota (2000-2003)
- 6) Fr Thaddée Mupapa (2003-2006)
- 7) Fr Jean-Pierre Lakika (2006-2007)

From the erection into a Province to our day:

- 1) Fr Jean-Pierre Lakika (2007-2010)
- 2) Fr Thaddée Mupapa (2010-2014)
- 3) Fr Anaclet Bambala (2014 to the present)



Photo of the 3rd Provincial Chapter

To mark the closure of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Congregation and solemn acceptance of our canonical erection into a Province, a Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated on 13 May 2007 in the Blessed Sacrament Parish with the priestly ordination of Father Anaclet Bambala by His Excellency Bishop Edouard Kisonga, the first religious to become an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa.

From the beginning of its existence until today, our Province has 7 communities with a bishop, 23 priests, 2 deacons, 2 brothers, 24 scholastics, of whom 5 are from the Dem. Republic of the Congo, 2 novices, and 10 pre-novices. May thanks be given to God for all these marvels.

It is right and fitting to give thanks to God for his infinite love. Already 10 years as a Province and in 2018 we will celebrate our 4th Provincial Chapter and our 60th anniversary of being in the Dem. Republic of the Congo. 60 years of being here, of Eucharistic life and service, this is a good reason to offer thanks.

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God ; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith.” (Heb 13:7)

In this year of grace, our gratitude goes to all the former religious who were at the beginning of our foundation, to those who have supported us and to those who still support us to continue our mission. In a particular way, our gratitude is addressed to the Province of “Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament”, our Mother Province, and to Father Jef Willems, without forgetting the pioneers whom we have mentioned above and some of whom who are resting in the soil of the Dem. Republic of the Congo. Our gratitude goes also to the Belgian association CENA, which continues

today to make us the beneficiaries of its support, as well as to other SSS Provinces.

Truly, thanks to their commitment, their determination and their sacrifices, we are today a Province looking to the future to spread the mission of the Congregation. May each and all find here the expression of our gratitude.

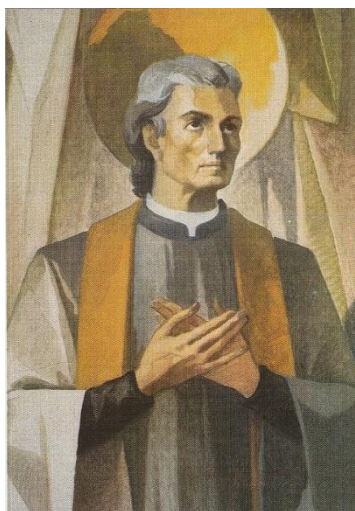
FR ANACLET BAMBALA MAZINA, SSS
PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR



On the road with Father Eymard to make the gift of ourselves

27 June - 6 July 2017

“I have made the
perpetual vow of my
personality to our
Lord Jesus Christ.”



Proposal

The « Eymard » Centre of spirituality offers the possibility to Religious of the Blessed Sacrament, to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and to laity interested in Father Eymard to live in Eymard House at La Mure a time of regarding their own spiritual journey in the light of Christ following Father Eymard.

“We cannot live the Eucharist unless we are animated by the spirit which led Christ to give his life for the world. When he proclaimed the New Covenant by the gift of his Body and Blood to his disciples, it was out of love that the Lord gave himself up. Sharing this gift of himself to us, we place ourselves at the service of the Kingdom, fulfilling the words of the Apostle: ‘It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.’” (RL 4)

Purpose

To understand, deepen a sense of the journey that led the Founder to make the vow of his personality.

To consider the step that each one must make to be transformed by the Spirit into a disciple-apostle of the Eucharist through following Christ and Father Eymard.

Method

The basic text is “The Great Retreat of Rome” (a reading of this text is required beforehand).

Presentation of the Great Retreat and reading of some passages; deepening based on biblical quotations used by Father Eymard; review of recent documents of the Church about the Eucharist.

Each day there will be the celebration of the Eucharist, adoration and the Prayer of the Church.

Time for reflection and sharing will be likewise proposed.

Programme

Length: 10 days, from 27 June to 6 July 2017
(arrival 26 June, departure 7 July).

1st day: Introduction, getting to know one another (where each one comes from, journey, expectations, etc.); presentation of the Great Retreat of Rome and its important aspects.

2nd and 3rd day: Reading together the Great Retreat of Rome.

4th day: Trip to St Romans, where Father Eymard discovered the importance of God’s love, and to Grenoble where he celebrated his last Mass.

5th day: Continuation of the reading together of the Great Retreat of Rome.

6th day: The vow of personality on 21 March 1865.

7th day: “Desert” experience at Our Lady of La Salette to reflect on: what step must I take to let myself be transformed by the Spirit?

8th day: How Father Eymard tried to communicate his experience to SSS religious, the Servants and laity.

9th day: Trip to Our Lady of Laus. “Mary, travel companion of St Peter-Julian Eymard”.

10th day: The Virgin Mary and the gift of self. Mary makes us into another Jesus Christ.

Conclusion.

Participants

7 persons

Language of communication: French.

Inscriptions before 30 April 2017

Place

Eymard House, 67 rue du Breuil, La Mure

Guide

He helps to read Father Eymard's text, suggests ways of reflection, coordinates the experience, evaluates the interpersonal reports.

Financial Participation

In order to foster maximum participation: 40 € per day.

Contact

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Documents uploaded on
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Partage – Sharing – Compartir – Condivisione
SSS / Eymard Spiritual Journey Michael Perez

35 Chapitre General 2017

English

Father Eymard / Studies / Eymard Eucharistic and merciful person, Dom Jorge Bezerra



Research of André Guitton

Father Guitton conducted an historical research regarding the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament and the Great War, based on the circular letters of Father Eugene Couet, the Superior General at the time of the War 1914-1918.

If you are interested in this document, written in French, you can contact Fr Guitton at his e-mail address:

sss.eymard@wanadoo.fr



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. 1510 - Father Robert L. LUSSIER

Province: Saint Ann
Community: Cleveland, USA
Death: 16 February 2017
Age: 87
Profession: 65 Priesthood: 60

N. 1511 - Father Piet VAN DER POL

Province: Saint Peter Julian Eymard
Community: Nijmegen, Holland
Death: 20 February 2017
Age: 86
Profession: 58 Priesthood: 52

N. 1512 - Father Fausto JORDAN DONLO

Province: Our Lady of the Bl. Sacrament
Community: Madrid-S. de Baranda, Spain
Death: 3 March 2017
Age: 84
Profession: 66 Priesthood: 59

N. 1513 - Father Ernest LEBRUN

Province: Saint John the Baptist
Community: Québec, Canada
Death: 10 March 2017
Age: 96
Profession: 73 Priesthood: 68