

SSS INTERNATIONAL

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SSS Generalate
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On the path of reconciliation and peace

On **29 July 2017**, 27 walkers set off along the path that Peter-Julian Eymard took at the age of 9 towards Villard Saint Christophe in order to prepare for the sacrament of penance.

"May Our Lord keep you and guide you always in peace and devoted love for him." (CO 169)

"Oh! what a wonderful creation of the love of God, the Father reconciling the world constantly in Jesus Christ on the cross and on the altar!" (PG 148,5)

Our day of sharing and prayer began at the beginning of the Three Crosses at La Mure. Every year a walk is arranged by the Friends of Father Eymard. It allows parishioners and all who wish to experience a time of meditation and sharing. The first part of the journey took place in silence, while daylight remarkably dawned over the mountains and fields around us: this recalled the immensity and beauty of God's work. Our journey, which led us to Villard Saint Christophe, was punctuated by time to stop and pray. The logistics team of four persons was waiting for us to cross the roads safely, to refuel us and offer us relief from our bags. The periods of prayer and songs on the theme of peace and reconciliation provided a guiding theme for this day.



A celebration in the church of Villard Saint Christophe brought our morning and our 11 kilometres journey to a close. The parishioners of the village were waiting for us and shared with us Mass and the meal. In his homily Father Manuel Barbiero reminded us that like Martha and her sister no one is better than the other. Each pilgrim is there with his/her differences. He recalled that "walking along the paths of reconciliation and peace" entails walking together: we, God and others. We then shared lunch, after which we set off again in the direction of La Mure by another route of 11



kilometres, which was always punctuated by our times of prayer.

The journey ended with prayer in the chapel of Father Eymard. Each one could complete the pilgrimage at their own pace, grateful for the group's good cohesion and able to express what they felt during the walk: "Very glad", "fraternal spirit", "a help to begin again", "a resource and time of recharging". This walk was a way of praying together and an instant of going beyond oneself.

A big 'thank you' for making the booklet, support of our prayers, for the valuable presence of the logistics team; finally great thanks to the organisers and those who accompanied us in this beautiful occasion of sharing.

MRS AMÉLIE BONTHOUX



Seed of hope!

In the early morning on the 25 July 2017, the feast of St. James, the first martyr among the Apostles, the Vietnamese Province was in shock to know that Fr Peter Nguyen The Trinh SSS, the Provincial consultor - responsible for the Provincial formation, who had supposed to have the Council meeting in the same day, has gone to the Father's House at the age of 54!

In spite of being grief, after the initial shock of loss, comes on in waves, we believe in the Resurrection of the Lord and his followers. Therefore we celebrated this paschal mystery of our confreres in trust and hope.

Fr Peter had broken the bread of his life in different missions – 54 years as the son of God, 24 years as religious SSS, 14 years as priest, several years as a formator and provincial consultor. *"Unless a seed falls to the ground and dies, it cannot bear fruit."* (Jn 12,24), Fr Peter sowed the seed of his life in the ground of the Eymardian family and the fruits of his effort have germinated abundantly which are the young religious generation as being celebrating as following:

ORDINATION TO THE DEACONATE

With praise and gratitude to almighty God, at 9:00 am, Monday **31 July 2017**, the Scholasticate SSS, the Province of Vietnamese Martyrs, joyfully welcomed Most Reverend Emmanuel Nguyen Hong Son, Bishop

of Ba Ria Diocese to preside the celebration of the diaconal ordination for 8 religious SSS.

Through Ordination rites, through intercessions of Mother of the Cenacle, Saints, especially St. Peter Julian Eymard our Founder, we pray that our newly ordained priests would have courage to commit themselves for the Eucharistic Kingdom by realizing the courageous words they have received from the Bishop Emmanuel: *"Imitate Jesus Christ who has emptied himself to serve everybody. Be like Jesus in his humble way of service. From now on, you carry on your life a special mission which nurtures the people with the Words of God and distributes the heavenly food which is the Body and Blood of Christ. Besides, you need to commit yourselves in doing charitable works, looking after the poor and the abandoned and marginalized because they are all part of the mystical Body of Christ."*



ENTRY OF THE 2017 NOVITIATE

In the joyful atmosphere of preparation of feast of our Founder, with all confreres SSS in the world, the Novitiate marked its celebration with the entry of 7 candidates who officially started their first canonical year of novitiate at the Chapel on 31 July. Along with the members of the Hai Duong community and Novice Master was the presence of the Vicar provincial superior who presided over the rite of Initiation into Religious Life in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament of 7 candidates.

This is a special year for them to live intimacy with Jesus in the Eucharist, to learn the SSS life and to continue the process of vocational discernment according to the SSS charism.

THE FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS

The following day, the first of August, at 9:00, in Hai Duong Church, was marked by the celebration of St Peter Julian Eymard, our Founder. In this special occasion, the Province joyfully welcomed 9 young men who willingly challenged themselves to move forward in the Eymardian family and ardently committed themselves for Eucharistic mission by the first profession.



THE PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF VOWS

As the traditional Vietnamese Province, on 2 August each year, we celebrate the feast day of our Founder at Khiet Tam Church, Provincialate; during this special mass there is also the religious rites for the perpetual profession. This year, it was joyfully celebrated of 6 religious who took their definitive commitment for the consecrated life in the Eymardian religious family by the perpetual profession.

These are the beautiful fruits that we offer to God and ask him to transform them as disciples-apostles of the Eucharist following the footsteps of St. P.J. Eymard.

ENTRY OF THE 2017 POSTULANCY

It is worth to notice that on 4 August 2017, at An Phu Community, there were 14 young men attracted by the SSS spirituality and charism joined in the SSS Congregation in the Postulancy. Along with the members of the An Phu community and Postulant director was the presence of the Vicar provincial superior who presided over the initial rite of acceptance. So, welcome to join us!

The seed of our confrere Fr. Peter and of many others felt into the rich soil are continuing to produce the abundant fruits with the grace of God.

May God through the intercession of St. P.J. Eymard inspire in their heart of our young religious the passion for the Eucharistic mission by raising the awareness of belong to the Eymardian Family, deepening to understand the Gift of self and courageously breaking of their life for the world, following with greater fidelity the example of our Founder, the Apostle of the Eucharist.

THE PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATION



Eurocamp 2017 “Through the Mirror”

We celebrated the 32nd Eurocamp from **July 30th to August 6th 2017**, in Coatbridge, near Glasgow, at the Conforti Institute (Centre for “European Dialogue” for Saverian Missionary Youth), thanks to the precious collaboration and enthusiasm of Maria Novani, Mishal and other Scottish youth. Even though there were Italians, French, Spanish and German, the majority of participants were local; there were also a priest and two adult animators coming from Pakistan, who have heard of the Eurocamp from Mishal and wanted to live this experience so they can take it to their parishes. With their joyous and serene presence, they helped us to question ourselves and understand more the difficulty of Christians who, living in countries with an Islamic majority, are subjected to violence, torture, prison and terrorist attacks to force them to abandon their faith to convert to Islam.



Again, this year, the first two days of the camp were dedicated to meeting each other and examining everyone’s personal situation and journey of faith. At the homily of the first Mass, Monday 31 July, Fr Maurizio, referring to the daily readings, underlined that *“the Eurocamp is an occasion – among others – to verify the thoughts and desires of our heart. It is, from the beginning, an experience that invites us to look inside ourselves, to read our lives in the light of the Eucharist, to return to daily life transformed by the strength of God’s love, that is manifest in the Eucharist Beyond the mirror we find again the mustard seed and that pinch of yeast as the “logic” of life that opens up an unexpected future...”*.

For the journey in the desert, Tuesday, we were at Carfin Grotto, one of the most important British Marian sanctuaries, in the diocese of Motherwell, in the West of Scotland. In the afternoon, we prayed a meditated rosary to get to know Mary in a better way, a young girl who, as the Gospels tells us, had her life project clear but was available to change it to respond to God's invitation to be Jesus' Mother. We asked her to accompany us to discover our identity and to have the courage to bring about the changes the Lord suggests us.

Wednesday, August 2nd, we visited Glasgow and in the afternoon we celebrated with the Blessed Sacrament Community present there the memorial of Saint Peter Julian Eymard, with a Mass concelebrated by all the priests and animated by the youth of the Eurocamp, all followed by a simple supper organized by the Parish.

Thursday was dedicated entirely to the celebration of the Eucharist, to help us to understand that our whole life, everything we are and live, can be a Eucharist. In remembering Jesus' words at the last supper "*I have desired to eat the Pasch with you*" we are invited to live every moment as an answer to "Jesus' ardent desire" of letting our lives be filled with love.

"Reconciled identity" was the topic on Friday, in which, after remembering that in Baptism we received our identity as Christians, we stopped to reflect on the sacrament of reconciliation, "instrument, place of encounter with the Father, where we receive his forgiveness and, hence, recover our identity". In the afternoon we walked the "Path of reconciliation": a meditation to welcome God's unconditional love, which doesn't take into account our sins and "*forgives us, not as someone who doesn't remember, as someone who forgets evilness, as if it would have not happened and would have not offended him, but as a creator, enlarging his heart, making more room, lighting it up*" (E. Ronchi). From 9 p.m. we took turns in the prayer of Eucharistic Adoration, which finished at 12:30, with all of us together. We wanted to be in Jesus' presence to treasure all that we lived, to thank him for preparing us for the last day of the Eurocamp.

Saturday's reflection was introduced by the reading of a passage from the book "Giada e quei Benedetti misteri della vita", by F. Garagnon. Starting from the "pillars" of the philosophy of life belonging to little Giada (Carpe Diem, Alleluia, Eureka and a Spirit of Wonderment) we were invited to reflect over the

philosophies that rule our lives, our projects and the image we desire to have of ourselves.

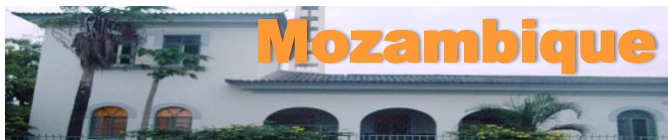
In the homily of our Last Mass Fr Milos, calling into mind the Gospel (Mt 17:1-9) invited us to welcome "*that 'listen to Him' from God's part as an invitation to embrace with strength his words, his lifestyle, to let our identity be shaped by his. Facing the temptation of staying up on the mountain, to build up tents to remain in beautiful and encouraging experiences, Jesus is the first one to descend. In the same way he comes before us, after this Camp, which in many ways resembles the experience on the mountain ... He is always there, a step ahead, in our daily life, in the encounters we will live, in the challenges we will have to face ... and knowing how to recognize him there, in the faces and events of our tomorrow, we shall be able to bring the strength and joy that, on the mountain, we experienced.*"



Returning home, enriched by this beautiful experience, we can dedicate ourselves with more light / strength/ courage/ generosity to build up the Kingdom. Beyond the mirror, we found the newness of our selves and took up our path again – like the people in the desert – to arrive at that promised land, that is, history recreated and renewed by Jesus' Gospel and by the Eucharist, the bread of the poor, support for the weak, strength for the wanderers.

We are already looking forward to our next Eurocamp, from July 29th to August 5th 2018, in Belgium, at Thy-le-Chateau. Until then, we say Goodbye!

MRS DANIELA BAGGI



Priestly Ordination at Maputo

The SSS community of Maputo, in Mozambique, has just had the great joy of the ordination of a confrere, Father Silvério Ernesto, on **6 August 2017** in the diocese of Gurúè, in the north of the province of Zambézia, more than 2500 kilometres from Maputo.

The diocese of Gurúè is one of the last dioceses set up in Mozambique and it is preparing to celebrate its 25th jubilee. However, this diocese and the whole northern region of the country provide most of the vocations in our house of formation, that is, the foyer St Peter-Julian Eymard. For more than fifteen years, numerous youth have come to test their vocation without persevering.

Father Silvério Ernesto is the first to have persevered throughout the course. We hope that this will encourage others coming from this region and elsewhere to persevere in their response to the Lord's call. For there are still too



many people who do not know Jesus Christ and his message of salvation.

The bishop of the place, Monsignor Francisco Lerma, mc, said among other things that the diocese was glad to see one of its members set out for

the mission *ad gentes*. But he also took the occasion to invite the Congregation to be open to setting up a community in his diocese. In spite of the numerous diocesan and religious vocations, the diocese has only two male and six female congregations. There are parishes that are not served in a diocese that according to the statistics contains the greatest number of Catholics in Mozambique.

The Eucharistic celebration was truly thronged by numerous faithful, priests and sisters. The former bishop, Monsignor Manuel Chuanguira, who authorized the then young Silvério Ernesto to come to the Foyer Saint Peter-Julian Eymard, was also present. The Eymardian family was represented by a delegation of three scholastics and two priests, apart from the Vaz family from the parish of Sante Anne de Munhuana.

On behalf of the SSS Maputo community we would like to say a big 'thank you' to the Good Lord, the Congregation, the Provincial and his Council, the various formators and all those who spared no effort in forming our colleague, Father Silvério Ernesto. May God bless you!

FR AGOSTINHO MAHOLELE, SSS
Superior



POLA's 60th Foundation Anniversary

As early as January 2016, the Province of Our Lady of the Assumption (POLA) had set off with enthused anticipation its upcoming 60th Foundation anniversary in August 2017. The theme for this big celebration is "60 Years of Shaping Eucharistic Communities and Parishes". Ever grateful to our Source, Jesus Himself, our Eucharistic Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and the guidance of our Holy Founder, St. Peter Julian Eymard, we become what we are now. Amidst the challenges of our world today, we constantly exert conscious effort to "make our parishes into authentic communities shaped by the Eucharist source and center of their life..." (RL 41).

Looking back at 1957, when the first Blessed Sacrament missionaries arrived in Sta. Cruz Church, Manila, the Eucharistic flame had been lit in this part of the world, and keeping it afire has been the task of and the challenge for many people, both religious and lay collaborators alike. Together with the later Sacramentino religious, they laid the groundwork in transforming the parish of Sta. Cruz into a *de facto* Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, where the Eucharist and the adoration of the Lord as its prolongation were given utmost importance.

His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the former archbishop of Manila, gave this affirmation of the Congregation's ministry at Sta. Cruz Parish: "Since

1957, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament fathers and brothers has administered the Parish of Sta. Cruz and has taken care of the pastoral needs of the community.



They [the Blessed Sacrament fathers and brothers] have instilled in the people who frequent this historical church the devotion and love to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Their availability to hear confessions and to pray with the people before the Blessed Sacrament have given flesh to the unfathomable mercy and abiding presence of Jesus”.

From the single foundation in Sta. Cruz Church, the Province has grown to 16 Communities, 1 Mission Station and 14 Parishes. Thus, with the 60 grace-filled years of shaping Eucharistic parishes and communities, we are called, as put forth by St. John Paul II, “to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm, and to look forward to the future with confidence”.

In order to make our 60th Foundation anniversary more meaningful and relevant, the Province had launched certain events which commenced in August 2016 and culminated in August 2017.

**The Grand Day: August 15, 2017
Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption**

The Mass started a few minutes pass 10:00 a.m. with Most Rev. Sofronio A. Bancud, SSS, D.D., Bishop of Cabanatuan, as presider and homilist.

August 15, 2017 marked the multi-celebration of:

- the 60th Foundation Anniversary of POLA;
- the 25th Religious Profession Anniversary of Fr. Melchor “Choy” Castañeda, Fr. Robin Custodio and Fr. Joseph Matitu;
- the Silver Jubilee of the Priesthood of Fr. Wilfredo “Willy” Vallar and Fr. Apolinario “Poli” Ty;

- the 40th Presbyteral Ordination Anniversary of Most Rev. Sofronio “Ronnie” Bancud;
- and the Perpetual Profession and Diaconal Ordination of Rev. Marco Divine and Rev. Alde.

Isn't it great and noteworthy that our kick-off for the 60-year foundation anniversary began with perpetual profession and diaconal ordination and culminated with another perpetual profession/diaconal ordination? Indeed, God is never outdone in generosity in terms of vocation. We are truly blessed to have these young men— talented and generous in serving God's people. May God grant them strength and steadfast commitment in their respective assignments.

After the Mass, the lunch reception was held at the Manila Grand Opera Hotel. Guests included bishops, priests, religious, associates, parishioners, benefactors, friends and family members. Also present were Fr. Anthony Schueller, Provincial Superior of the Province of St. Ann, and Fr. Norman Pelletier, the previous Provincial Superior of the Province and the Congregation's 13th General Superior under whose term we became the Province of Our Lady of the Assumption on May 27, 1993.



Fr. Provincial Joseph Matitu welcomed the guests and concluded his speech with a toast. The video prepared by Fr. Allen Peña was shown. Then some novices sang the anniversary theme song composed by Fr. Marc Bryan Adona. The duo of Fr. Junvic Diolata and Dante Chua served as emcees and kept a lively banter throughout the affair. Overall, from the looks on their faces, everyone had a grand time on this grand day.

Laudetur Jesus Christus!

REV ALDE BUREROS, SSS



REMINDER

The website of the General Curia SSS

We inform you that work is in progress for the creation of the new site managed by the General Curia SSS. The websites you already know:

www.curiasss.net
www.sssinternational.net

do not exist anymore and they became a single website:

<http://www.ssscongregatio.org>

At the moment this website is available only in English.

the reserved area is still available in various languages on the following link:

RESERVED AREA

As it was previously, the reserved area is available only for the SSS religious and the codes are still the same. If you do not have the access codes, you can ask for them at the SSS Secretariat:

segretariato@curiasss.net

We are currently working on the pages of the website in French, Italian and Spanish. They will be available soon.

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. 1521 - Brother Harrie MAESSEN

Province: Saint Peter Julian Eymard
Community: Nijmegen, Holland
Death: 11 August 2017
Age: 76
Profession: 33

N. 1522 - Father John MORTON

Province: Holy Spirit
Community: Sydney, Australia
Death: 27 August 2017
Age: 92
Profession: 62
Priesthood: 57

N. 1523 - Father José Martín EGUIGUREN

Province: Our Lady of the Bl. Sacrament
Community: Madrid-S.de Baranda, Spain
Death: 9 September 2017
Age: 81
Profession: 62
Priesthood: 56



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