

# SSS INTERNATIONAL

n. 268 – July 5, 2018

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



[www.ssscongregatio.org](http://www.ssscongregatio.org)



## Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament at Manila

The Archbishop of Manila, His Eminence Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, D.D., erected Santa Cruz Parish Church in Manila as Archdiocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament on **June 3, 2018**. This good news was announced during the Holy Mass of the Archdiocesan celebration of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. The date was chosen by the Cardinal himself.

It was the late Rufino Cardinal Santos (1908-1973) who invited the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers to establish a mission center at Santa Cruz Parish, and when the latter took over the administration of the parish in 1957, an intense Eucharistic evangelization began. The church became vibrant with liturgical celebrations and animation, most especially the Holy Eucharist, Sacrament of Penance and adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Thus, Cardinal Santos called Santa Cruz Church a shrine of the Blessed Sacrament.

After a thorough research, the Parish Pastoral Council did not find a document officially designating Santa Cruz Parish Church a shrine of the Blessed Sacrament. Consequently, the Parish Pastoral Council, on January 5, 2000, wrote to the then parish priest, Fr. Francisco Mendoza, SSS, to seek official recognition of this parish church as National shrine of the Blessed Sacrament.

With the full support of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, the parish community of Santa Cruz was prepared spiritually, and the church went through major renovation and construction. Thanks to the former parish priests for their support, namely, Fr. Felix Elverio, SSS and Fr. Joseph Matitu, SSS, currently the Provincial Superior of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation in the Philippines and its attached missions overseas.





In his homily, Cardinal Tagle invited the faithful to recognize the responsibilities of the faithful to keep alive the spirit of being a Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament.

A beautiful archdiocesan procession of Corpus Christi immediately followed the Mass. The Blessed Sacrament was received at the Manila Cathedral by the rector, Fr Reginald Malicdem, who also presided in the benediction.

The laity of Santa Cruz with their parish priest and parish vicars, together with the Blessed Sacrament local community and Province, worked hard towards the erection of this Shrine focused on educating the faithful on the Holy Eucharist, the center and summit of Christian life.

After eighteen years of monthly holy hours, signature campaign and collection of testimonies from the faithful, under the parish pastoral stewardship of the present parish priest, Fr. Rudsend Paragas, SSS, the petition was finally granted by the Archbishop of Manila. Fr. Genaro Diwa, head of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission, and his staff contributed a lot of help in tremendous ways to realize the dream of the parishioners and devotees. Fr. Miguel Garcia, SSS, a canon lawyer, was requested to write the Statutes of the Shrine.

MR. DANTE CHUA  
PARISH LAY LEADER

A Triduum Mass followed by solemn Vespers were celebrated as spiritual preparation of the parish community for the great event. The celebration started on May 31, 2018, the Memorial of the Visitation of Mary, with Fr. Rudsend Paragas, SSS, presiding over Holy Mass and Fr Reynaldo Capili sss, the Vicar Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of the Assumption, celebrating the solemn Vespers. On June 1, Fr. Felix Elverio, SSS, celebrated the Holy Mass and Fr. Alde Bureros, SSS, presided over Vespers. The last day of the triduum had the Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Joseph Matitu, SSS, and the Vespers by Fr. Marlon Reyes, SSS.

The big day came on June 3, 2018, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The program started with a talk by His Excellency Most Reverend Sofronio Bancud, SSS, D.D. of the Diocese of Cabanatuan followed by the Holy Eucharist celebrated by His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, D.D. Present at the celebration were Bishop Sofronio and Bishop Bernardino Cortez, D.D. of the Prelature of Infanta.

The decree of erection of Santa Cruz Parish church as archdiocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament and the appointment of Fr. Rudsend as Rector was read by the archdiocesan chancellor, Fr. Reginald R. Malicdem.



## Day of sanctification of priests

As scheduled in the diocesan calendar (Thiès), the celebration of the day of sanctification of priests was held on Friday 8 June 2018 at the parish of Saint Peter-Julian Eymard in Koudiadiène. Priests from the four deaneries of the diocese came in great numbers to celebrate this day.

The day was also the occasion for the whole presbyterate of Thiès to show its gratitude and recognition towards Father Nino Donda, who after 31 years of his presence as a missionary in Senegal, 13 of these years being in the diocese, will be definitively leaving Senegal on Sunday 17 June to undertake a new mission.

The following is a brief summary of the conference on the theme: **The mission of the Priest.**

### Paschal witness

The whole Eucharistic celebration begins with a very important gesture that for the most part has become banal insofar as we have become accustomed to carrying out the liturgy. It is however a gesture so symbolic: we kiss the altar, the altar that we then incense.

The altar recalls three events that are at the heart of the whole Christian life.

- The altar is above all the Table of the paschal meal around Jesus, recalling Holy Thursday.
- The altar is the Table of the sacrifice, signifying the cross, recalling Good Friday.
- Finally, the altar represents the empty tomb, humbly witnessing to the victory of the Risen Lord, thus indeed calling to mind Easter morning.



In the gesture of kissing the altar, as priests we underline the fact that we are men of Holy Thursday, of Good Friday and Sunday of the Resurrection. Apropos these three meanings the altar points to the triple identity of the priestly and diaconal ministry. A priest is a man of communion. Christ's expressed his meeting with us in friendship at the Last Supper: "I no longer call you servants, but friends," Jesus said at the moment of washing the disciples' feet. By this, Jesus implies two little questions: Do you want to love me? Do you want to make me loved?

The priest is also a man of Good Friday. He presents on the altar Christ's sacrifice at every Eucharist. Priestly ordination entails embracing Christ's Cross. This is what the rite of kissing the altar emphasises. Priestly holiness is linked to Calvary. A priest takes pride in the Cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus does not approach a person empty handed; he always brings his Cross. We are disciples of a crucified Teacher.

A priest is above all the witness of Easter morning. His mission consists in celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord until he comes, and of providing the sacramental signs of this. On behalf of everyone, a priest bears witness to the hope of this ascension towards the Father.

### **For the love of the Church**

We are priests because we desire to share a passion: that of Christ. If we are priests it is because of him and nothing else. It is of him that we want to speak. It is thanks to him that we have become servants of our brothers.

We base our life on him. And what we have left behind to follow him is the price of our passion for Christ. The life of Christ is the meaning of our life insofar as we adopt his way of life through renouncing what consists in an habitual stable condition in existence: life of marriage and family, a job, a social status... in order to be fully available for his service. For this reason our life as priests cannot be understood except as being a radical response to what Jesus asks of us: "to love him and make him loved." We have committed all our desires, our will to this choice, to this orientation of living so that our centre is no longer entirely ourselves, but henceforth Christ. Our life is Christ.



### **A Minister of the Church**

No one is a priest for himself. A priest is at the service of the Church's holiness. In celebrating the sacraments a priest underlines that the Church is Christ's Church. A priest's vocation is to bring the people of God who are entrusted to him into the holiness of God, which pertains to the Church's holiness.

### **On behalf of the Eucharist**

At every Chrism Mass a priest renews his priestly commitments. Christ has chosen from among his people those who through the laying on of hands will have a priestly ministry. The best catechesis about the Eucharist is the Eucharist itself, well celebrated. A priest has the responsibility to rediscover personally the beauty of the signs contained in the liturgy and to foster its rediscovery.

## The theological mission of the priest

Like all the baptised the priest must believe, hope and love. However, he has to do this in the manner of the apostles, namely, in teaching the people entrusted to him.

- A priest must first of all be a man of faith. He must have faith in his own ministry. The first loyalty required of a priest is to continue to believe in his own ministry.
- A priest is a man of hope. Hope is trust in God coming to find me. A priest's hope, his secret desire, which drives his prayer and endeavours, is so that each person may come to Jesus and that, through his ministry, Jesus be approached by each one.
- A priest is a man of charity.

FR. ANTOINE NDONG, SSS



## The Eucharistic Dove

We know that certain sensations like smells and tastes entices the memory into action, but also it seems do ceremonies and occasions.

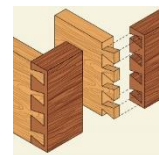
Recently I had the great privilege of joining Br. Raj Govinath as he made his first profession into the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament at the Blessed Sacrament Shrine, Liverpool, on **May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**. Both Raj and I had spent the last years apart. He was serving his novitiate within the novice community in the Philippines, whilst I was a scholastic in the USA. As Raj stepped forward to make his profession, my mind all of a sudden pictured the "Eucharistic Dove", a thirteenth century receptacle for the safe-keeping of the consecrated Host, which would have been suspended from the ceiling of the sanctuary.



As a novice in New York, I visited the Cloisters Museum on the northern edge of the city. Inside is found one of the largest collections of medieval ecclesial art in the United States. But, I always seem to go back to the Eucharistic Dove in my imagination, as I did as Raj vocalized his profession.

The symbolism of the dove is rich within Christian consciousness. The Eucharistic Dove is both the *epiclesis*, and the Spirit of the Church animated to go forward from the Eucharistic celebration: *Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life*. But I sense for Raj it has extra special value. Raj's first profession was on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. For me this was a perfect day for a person endowed with such practical wisdom as I remember Raj radiating when I first met him in Dublin; unlike me, he seemed to be able to lend his hand to anything. Religious Congregations are a rich combination of skills, dispositions and talents, and all the better when they are used. "St. Joseph approves of this", I remember muttering to myself as I looked at Raj, "Raj would have been a good carpenter."

I remember my dad telling me when I was very young about the dove tail joint. My father was also gifted with practical wisdom; he made all of the bedroom furniture for his three children. The dove tail joint is any carpenters pride and joy. Done correctly, the carpenter knows exactly how to craft the wood into the shape of the dove's tail, so that when the pieces are put together, the connection is so strong that no adhesive is necessary. There is an absolute sense of "union" to the pieces of the wood that is put together.



That is exactly how I understand what is happening in Raj's life. The making of Raj's first profession is also the expression of his desire to let the divine carpenter continue what has already begun. The Eucharistic Lord is shaping Raj, so that as his formation continues he will come to see the absolute value, for himself, of what was so central to God's Eucharistic Saint: in and through the Eucharist having interior union with God, from which everything else we do is made coherent.

Towards the end of his life, St. Peter Julian described this kind of dove tail with the exhortation, "*Let's be very supernatural in everything!*" Fr. Eymard continued to describe the practicalities to Mme Nathalie Jordan: It is "*the cooperation of our will to the grace which is given us. It is our fiat in God, it is the loving adherence of our soul to God. In a word, it's the love of God, the law, centre and the end of our lives. May God really grant it to us!*"

Praise be to God for Br. Raj, who is responding to the invitation that hung on my bedroom door as a child: "Carpenter from Nazareth seeks joiners!"

BR. DARREN MASLEN, SSS





## Province of Saint Jean Baptiste “Times of grace”

A week before the celebration of the Provincial Chapter, the confreres of the Province of St Jean Baptiste of Canada gathered at the community of Quebec for a retreat of five days from Sunday 27 May to Friday **1 June 2018**.

Reverend Father Alfred Couturier O.S.S.T., the retreat preacher, presented the theme: “the Covenant, the intimacy of God.” This theme enabled us to rediscover the word of God, a God who loves us unconditionally, who creates a relation with his people, a God of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

In speaking of the effectiveness of the word of God in our lives, Father Couturier recalled the prophet Isaiah’s words: “*For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.*” (Is 55:10-11)



This time of encountering the Lord by means of the retreat preacher’s words was for us a rich occasion of meeting between brothers and sisters, members of the charismatic family of Father Eymard. It was an occasion lived in unity and diversity, in which each one was called to live like a brother among brothers: young and old religious, the ill and healthy, among whom were two from Africa, Fathers Casimir Moukoubou and Augustin Mfwankama, and members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament of Quebec (cf. *Rule of Life*, n. 8).

This is an eloquent sign of belonging to one and the same eymardian family. All of us, focused by the same mission under the guidance of the same Holy Spirit, made the word of God a pathway for our communities (cf. *Rule of Life*, n.6).

This retreat renewed our energies, our passion for a Eucharistic mission, enabling each one to pursue his own ministry and live the word listened to and meditated. Since the celebration of the Memorial of the Lord is at the centre of our personal and communal life (cf. *Rule of Life*, n.21), we closed our annual retreat at midday with a thanksgiving mass commemorating St Justin the martyr.

We are indebted to Father Ghislain Cossette, the Provincial Superior, and to all the confreres of the Province for having welcomed us to be part of this annual retreat in Quebec.

FR. AUGUSTIN MFWANKAMA, SSS



## A Eucharistic explosion: Corpus Christi

From St Peter Claver to Holy Spirit of Mpaka at Pointe Noire, passing by St Benedict of Nganga Lingolo – all SSS parishes – *the hearth was set alight by the fire of the Eucharist*. It was the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The prelude to this Feast was the organisation of the “Eucharistic Week” on the theme proposed by the Regional Council: *The Church lives from the Eucharist*. During this week Christians of our parishes were well instructed and nourished, not with manna, but with solid teachings related to the Eucharist, and an enormous participation of the faithful was evident in the course of these Eucharistic days, showing how people are hungry and thirsty for the living God.

The culminating point was the solemnity of the Blessed Sacrament at the parish of St Peter Claver, where on the eve of Feast 259 catechumens were baptised, and then on Feast itself, presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio of the Congo and Gabon, Archbishop Francisco Escalante Molina, 366 baptised persons received Christ’s Body and Blood in Holy Communion for the first time.



Saint Benedict of Nganga Lingolo



Saint Pierre Claver

In his homily, after paying tribute to St Peter-Julian Eymard, the Nuncio highlighted the importance of the Eucharist in the life of the Church and in our life. He said in essence: *“The Church springs from the Eucharist, because from its beginning there is the Memorial that Jesus left to the apostles and that he told them to perpetuate or to continue... ‘take and eat, this is my body... this is my blood... do this in memory of me.’”* And he continued his homily, saying: *“the first community of the early Church lived from the Eucharist, indeed the first Christians were devoted in prayer, they lived in fraternal communion the Lord’s day, after having celebrated the Memorial of his passion they broke bread and shared it. This ancient practice of the celebration of the Eucharist continues to this day throughout the world.”*

The celebration reached its apotheosis with the procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the neighbourhood accompanied, as in the book of the Apocalypse of St John, by the “immense throng,”: *“God visits his people.”*

After the celebration the parish community shared a meal on the green grounds of the parish. This was a lovely feast!

FR JEAN DE DIEU PASSY, SSS  
PARISH PRIEST OF SAINT PETER CLAVER



## Chapters elections

### PROVINCE SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST Canada

7 June 2018

Superior Provincial	<i>Fr. Ghislain COSSETTE</i>
Vicar Provincial	<i>Fr. Jean RATTÉ</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Jean Marc RAYMOND</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. René POTHIER</i>
Treasurer Provincial	<i>Fr. Jean Marc RAYMOND</i>



fr. Jean-Marc fr. Ghislain fr. Jean fr. René

## PROVINCE *ST PETER JULIAN EYMARD*

North Europe

7 June 2018

Superior Provincial	<i>Fr. Maurits GIJSBRECHTS</i>
Vicar Provincial	<i>Fr. Eugene VAN HEYST</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Paul MOUGIN</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Hans VAN SCHIJNDEL</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Gerard DAIX</i>
Consultor Provincial	<i>Fr. Fons KUSTER</i>
Treasurer Provincial	<i>Fr. Fons KUSTER</i>



fr Eugene fr Paul fr Gerard fr Eugenio fr Maurits fr Fons fr Hans

The Province of St Peter-Julian Eymard (the SSS communities of Germany, Belgium, France, Mozambique, Holland and Switzerland) held its Provincial Chapter from 3 to 9 June 2018 in the Mother House of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, a magnificent and enormous setting at Steyl-Tegelen in Holland (Limbourg). The theme was "Living our spirituality today."

The group comprised 19 SSS delegated religious including the Father Superior General and Father José Antonio Rivera, 6 lay persons for translation and the secretary, as well as for the first time, for two days, 3 members of the Aggregation (one of whom though absent had sent her contribution).

All worked with seriousness, serenity, simplicity, good humour and fraternally in dealing with the various topics on the agenda: the state of the Province, topics to be dealt with during the Chapter, the message of the General Chapter of 2017, the laity and Aggregation, formation at all levels including that of superiors and the laity, the financial report, the situation of Mozambique, the future of the Province.

This was also the occasion to renew the Provincial government by the elections for the next four years. Congratulations to the new Provincial Council, which will have to implement the "road map" drawn up by the Chapter.

Thanks to all the participants for their involvement. All three of us have been glad to work together and for the Congregation.

May God be praised for this occasion of sharing and working together, in which he inspires each one to build up his Kingdom with enthusiasm and confidence.

HENNIE JANSSEN, ERIK HENDRIKS AND YOLAINE COUDER  
SECRETARIES OF THE CHAPTER

## PROVINCE *OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE*

Argentina-Brazil-Chile

3 July 2018

Superior Provincial *Fr. Marcelo Carlos DA SILVA*

4 July 2018

Vicar Provincial *Fr. Francisco Junior  
DE OLIVEIRA MARQUES*

Consultor Provincial *Br. Gilton  
FERREIRA DE HOLANDA*

Consultor Provincial *Fr. Vittorio Felice BAGGI*

Treasurer Provincial *Fr. Antonio Jackson  
ALCANTARA FROTA*



br. Gilton fr. Francisco fr. Marcelo fr. Antonio fr. Vittorio



## July 31, 1859

On July 26, the little community made a retreat preached by Fr. Eymard. He invited them to purity of love, humility and to live with Jesus, from Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. The retreat ended on July 31, 1859, which is now marked as the date of foundation of Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Herewith is an extract from the instructions of Fr. Eymard on the purpose of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament:

*“The Blessed Sacrament must be the center of your life. Note well my Sisters, what I am trying to say: ‘the Holy Eucharist is your unique and universal purpose, guiding and dominating everything. You must place yourself in your center, in your purpose. For you the Eucharist is both means and end: your life and virtues take their life from Jesus Christ Eucharistic. He is the model and the measure of your perfection in the life of God. You must live on the Eucharist so that it may be the soul of your soul. Your aim is to become like him in his Eucharistic presence of love. Let him be your habit, so to speak. To do this he must be your center, and if possible, he must be easily accessible and ever present.’”*

After mass and communion at the chapel of the Father, each sister took their turn in front of the Altar to pronounce loudly – in the presence of “Reverend Father Eymard, superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament”... The six Sisters who made their 1<sup>st</sup> Perpetual Vows were Marguerite Guillot and her sister Claudine Guillot, Benoite Richerd, Virginie Bonnefoy, Josephine Billard, Caroline de Boisgrollier.



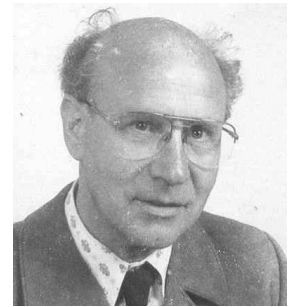
From the  
“Story of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament”  
Generalate, Sherbrooke, Canada  
December 2011



*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).*

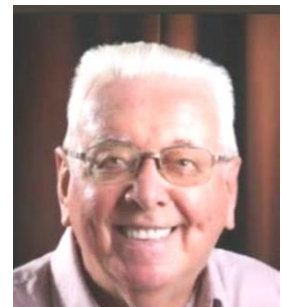
### N. 1540 - Father Theo BALK

Province: St Peter Julian Eymard  
Community: Amsterdam, Holland  
Death: 7 June 2018  
Age: 85  
Profession: 62  
Priesthood: 56



### N. 1541 - Father Teodoro CUYPERS

Province: Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Community: Fortaleza-José Walter, Brazil  
Death: 17 June 2018  
Age: 86  
Profession: 62  
Priesthood: 56



### N. 1542 - Brother John BARTABY

Province: Saints Peter and Paul  
Community: Liverpool, Great Britain  
Death: 18 June 2018  
Age: 77  
Profession: 51

