

SSS INTERNATIONAL

n. 229 – 8 April 2014

SSS Generalate
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Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament in Viet Nam

In the light of our RL 43, we are invited to share our passion for the Eucharist with the laity: *“Following in the steps of Father Eymard, we invite all those whom the Spirit directs to the Eucharist, both priests and lay people, to become associated with our family and share in its mission.”* This call has been realized by our SSS brothers in many parts of the world. Many lay associates have been established with different names, such as, Eucharistic Fraternity, Eucharistic Association, Eucharistic League, etc.



Responding to the invitation of the RL and the message of the 34th General Chapter *“To rekindle our passion for the Eucharistic mission in order to become, in the footsteps of Father Eymard, disciples and apostles of the Eucharist for a world that challenges us”*, the Province of Vietnamese Martyrs, in their first Provincial Chapter (2008-2012) included in their Mission Statement the development of the Eucharistic Association or Aggregation as one of the main goals for the newly born Province. From that day on, the Province has tried to expand this mission as widely as possible. Fortunately, Viet Nam has a

long tradition of devotion to the Eucharist. From north to south, from parish to parish, there are many pious groups dedicated to the Eucharist. In some parishes, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed all day and night or at least once a week. Many adorers from different groups and different parishes have been longing to learn and to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist. However, their activities were generally limited to their own parish.



It is in this conducive atmosphere that the Aggregation of Blessed Sacrament appeared as a new and fresh wind blowing on a hot day. With the international character of the new edition of the *Project of Life*, along with tireless efforts of our Vietnamese Sacramentinos, especially with the dedication of Fr. Anthony Nguyen Minh Thuan SSS, animator of the Aggregation and his assistant Fr. Dominic Tran Dung SSS, the Aggregation is warmly welcomed by many parishes in different dioceses. At present, the Aggregation is present in all three regions of Viet Nam; in 16 out of 26 dioceses. Its membership had increased significantly; there are

3,197 members belonging to 5 dioceses in the North, 2,098 in 2 dioceses in the Central Regions , and 2,813 in 9 dioceses of the South. According to the statistics as of February 15, 2014, there are 8,108 Aggregates in the whole of Viet Nam.

We thank God for the blessings bestowed on this country steeped in the blood of martyrs. We are aware that the increase in numbers is not our only goal, but also to try to help them as much as possible to live our charism radically and put into practice their Eucharistic convictions. We firmly believe that the Eucharist can change the human heart, nurture family life and certainly change the whole world. The more the people who believe in the healing power of the Eucharist, the better our world would be!

FR JOSEPH VU QUOC BINH, SSS
GENERAL CONSULTOR



Second Meeting of the SSS International Mission Commission

The International Mission Commission (IMC) held its second meeting in Rome at the General Curia SSS, from 3rd to 6th March 2014, with the participation of all its members: Fathers Sebastian 'Bong' Luistro sss, Vicar General; Joseph Vu Quoc Binh sss, General Consultor; Vittore Boccardi sss, Secretary for International Eucharistic Congresses; Marcelo Carlos da Silva sss, Brazil; Peter Fernandez Antonyamy sss, India; Olivier Ndong sss, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Miss Maria Novani from Scotland and Mr Jim Brown from the United States. The Commission welcomed with joy the presence and participation of the Very Reverend Superior General, Father Eugênio Barbosa Martins.

The Commission opened its work in the morning of Monday, March 3rd, with an opening prayer led by Father Bong, coordinator of the Commission, after having read the biblical image of the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish (Mk 6, 33-40). In his welcome address, Father General thanked each member for their participation and presence. He launched a powerful appeal to the Commission which shall, in its discussions and exchange of opinions keep in mind the follow:

- Always refer to the message of our last General Chapter: "*Rekindle our passion for the Eucharistic mission in order to become, in the footsteps of Father Eymard, disciples and apostles of the Eucharist for a world that challenges us.*"

- Take into account the internationality of the Congregation and our collaboration with the laity.
- Let itself be illumined by the message of our current pontiff Pope Francis, who invites us to go out of our comfort zone to the outskirts.

We recall that the SSS International Mission Commission had held its first meeting in December 2012, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. After this first meeting, at the request of our last General Chapter, the Commission had proposed some general criteria (ecclesiological, liturgical and historical charismatic) in the task of evaluating the mission of the Congregation, that is, Eucharistic works that already exist and those being born in the Provinces and Regions of the Congregation, as a response to the different hungers of humankind in the world today. These criteria had been sent to the different SSS Provinces and Regions to be evaluated. After collecting the different responses of Provinces and Regions, the Commission's task was to think how to offer clear paths that can help the Congregation to make its mission more effective and efficient and also to reflect on our collaboration with the laity, gathered together under the title of "Aggregation". This was the main topic of our meeting in Rome. To achieve this, two groups of reflections were formed on a linguistic basis (one English and one French-speaking group).



From left to right : Bong Luistro, Joseph Binh, Eugênio Barbosa Martins, Maria Novani, Vittore Boccardi, Olivier Ndong, Marcelo da Silva, Peter Fernandez, Jim Brown.

After reading the various personal accounts of Provinces and Regions and the spontaneous exchange of views that followed, the Commission noted that the mission of the Congregation is one and plural, as the hungers of men to whom we must give response are also numerous. However, the Commission is pleased to note that the activities and ministries included in the various reports indeed meet the three criteria proposed to the Congregation. That is why the Commission proposed to the Congregation several tracks that will help to make its mission more successful, among other things, that the SSS Provinces and Regions hold specialized training of confreres or laity in the different areas of our mission (Eucharist, Founder, Liturgy, Spirituality). For this, we are all called to a deeper communion and

collaboration within our great Eymardian Family, both at the level of personnel and other resources, also between Provinces/Regions, and between us and our lay associates, who have so much need of our formation and our support.

The afternoon of the last day was reserved for experience what it means to “follow in the steps of the Founder” in the city of Rome, by visiting its different historical sites.

May the Lord give us all the love of our great Eymardian Family so that we can live in true communion, rekindling our Eucharistic passion and becoming, every day and in every circumstance, disciples and apostles of the Eucharist, so desperately needed by our world and our Church. That we may never lack the blessing and help of God, through the intercession of Saint Peter Julian Eymard and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.

I wish you all a good preparation for the approaching Easter festivities.

FR OLIVIER NDONDO, SSS
CIM MEMBER



Meeting of the Commission of Study on the Founder and his Work Rome, 24-25 March 2014

The International Commission of Study on the Founder and his Work (Commission d'Étude sur le Fondateur et son Œuvre [CEFO]) met in Rome at the General Curia on the 24th and 25th March.

Mrs Annie Coppens-Baeten, who is a lay person working with us at the Centre of pastoral spirituality in Nijmegen, Holland, was unable to take part in this meeting because of her husband's health condition. Those participating were the following: the Superior General, Father Eugênio Barbosa Martins, who wanted to follow all the work, Father Giulio Maccali, a General Consultor who starting from this meeting became a member of the Commission, Father Fiorenzo Salvi, coordinator of the Commission, Father André Guitton, Father Manuel Barbiero and Sister Edith Bula, who represents the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and who also took part in the Commission for the first time.

Father Guitton updated Sister Edith of the work undertaken by the Commission so far. But she hadn't wasted her time and on behalf of the Commission has translated into English the book “A thought for the day”; she also told us about the work that the Sister

Servants are at present carrying out in view of the second centenary of the birth of Mother Marguerite Guillot (December 2015). The Sister Servants have also drawn up a chart about the history of the Congregation that could be very useful.

The CEFO submitted to the General Council the work completed regarding a new book, “Counsels of the Spiritual Life”, which presents a series of Father Eymard's letters to the public at large, with a general introduction and an introduction to each letter. This is intended to help the spiritual life of people today. The CEFO has also drawn up a programme of its work, which ought to bring out another monograph focused on Father Eymard's preaching at the chapel of Faubourg St Jacques in Paris (67 sermons). This is aimed at suggesting topics that could be of help in the prayer of adoration.



From left to right: Edith Bula, Giulio Maccali, Manuel Barbiero, Eugênio Barbosa Martins, Fiorenzo Salvi, André Guitton.

Regarding the request of the Formation Commission for bringing up-to-date the Dossier Proposal 1990 and the Document of SSS First Formation 2006, the Commission undertook to propose a programme to accompany all the stages of First Formation apropos the life, work and spirituality of Father Eymard.

As regards the calendar, the CEFO invited the Superior General to keep in mind when programming two anniversaries in 2015: 150 years since the Founder's making the vow of his personality (21 March 2015) and 200 years since the birth of Marguerite Guillot (4 December 2015).

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for the 24th to the 26th November 2014, in Rome.

FR MANUEL BARBIERO, SSS
MEMBER OF CEFO



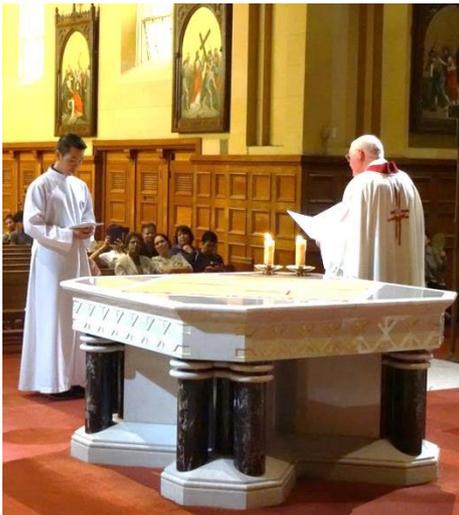
Holy Spirit Province Rejoicing

The date for Ben Ho's profession was agreed upon in late 2013. It was to be 5th February 2014. This proceeded as planned and Ben made his vows before Fr. Graeme Duro, members of the SSS community and members of the public at the 5:30 pm Eucharist at St. Francis'. It was a positive event in spite of it being overshadowed by the death of Fr. Peter Collins.

Below are some excerpts from the occasional homily preached by Fr. Graeme Duro.

"Today being the 5th of February is the anniversary of Father Eymard's baptism. It was a date he treasured and honored because he came to understand it as the day of his new birth in Christ...

Ben your life is not a replica of Fr. Eymard's but there are similarities. Your attendance at Eucharist at an early age and your serving as an altar boy, and eventually seeking to join the diocesan priesthood, these correspond to the events in the life of Fr. Eymard. Your entering the Congregation tonight ties you to Fr. Eymard in a very special bond. We do however take this opportunity to thank God for Archbishop Hickey's recommendation that you do not proceed to the diocesan priesthood in Perth when you applied at a young age...



Ben Ho

Fr Graeme
Duro

As you would have observed we are a fragile and ageing community but we are profoundly strengthened by your decision. I know tonight will be a bitter-sweet time for you with the death of Fr. Peter last Saturday. He was a close friend and mentor to you for some considerable time.

I hope we can support you in your journey of love and service. I ask the Lord's special blessings upon you tonight and always."

The Vineyard, march 2014



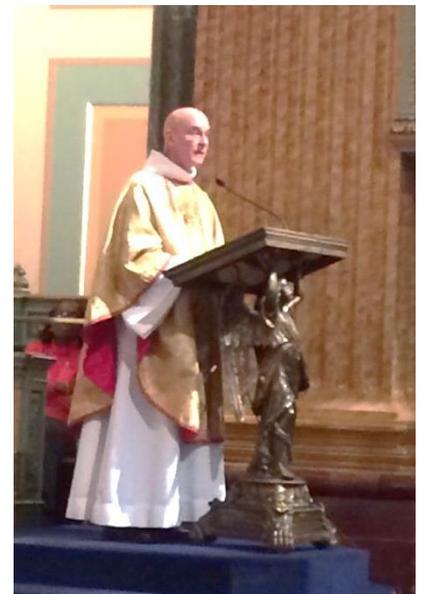
The Eucharistic Community at Saint Jean Baptiste

Greetings from the "Big Apple"! The news of the day here is that the Archdiocese of New York is in the process of assessing its parishes and schools. We've been gathering in clusters of four or five parishes to discern our mission and our effectiveness. We have been asking ourselves: "Why are we here?" It's a challenging process, but a very healthy one.

Called "*Making All Things New*", the process has been quite stimulating for the community at Saint Jean Baptiste. We've been very busy for the past seven months – encouraged by the energy generated by the Archdiocesan process. A lot of reorganization has been going on – people retiring and new people coming in – new hires and a great deal of pastoral assessment. We're working on a new face for the Community, including presenting the parish high school in a new and fresh way. We're also constructing a new website. We've adopted a new name – *The Eucharistic Community at St. Jean Baptiste*.

This reflects a partial reality of who we are, but it's primarily visionary. *Making All Things New* will go on for another year or so.

Father John
Kamas



We're working on two fronts: renewal of the faith community, and the renewal of old structures. The energy is building little by little among the People of God. That's the main thing. We had a wonderful celebration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the church. It opened on the Feast of the Epiphany, so we celebrated the event on the Epiphany. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, celebrated the Mass and encouraged the SSS, the CNDs (religious sisters serving in the parish and high school) and all the People of God at the Church of Saint Jean Baptiste to continue the work of evangelization. His message was so positive and supportive.



Cardinal Timothy Dolan

This anniversary celebration of the Eucharist fanned the fire of renewal for the entire Community.

FR JOHN KAMAS, SSS
PASTOR

<http://stjeanbaptisteny.org>



Sponsoring SSS Formation at Dakar

The Seminarians of the Saint Peter Julian Eymard Baobab Home, in collaboration with the Blessed Sacrament laity aggregation, held a "Xaware" on January 19th 2014, in the grounds of the old church of Saint Peter of the Baobabs.

The charism of the Congregation of the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament is not closed or restricted only to consecrated persons. It is also shared by the

faithful who have great devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist. These people belong to groups called the "Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament" where they nourish their faith through prolonged prayer of adoration. These are associates as lay faithful followers who, in collaboration with the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament, ensure the perpetuity of the act of accompanying Christ before the Blessed Sacrament. This collaboration between the Religious and Associates of the Blessed Sacrament led them to reflect on possible projects, in this particular case the organization of a "Xaware", to offer financial support for the training of young future candidates for the priesthood. This also gives an opportunity to gather the faithful around their future priests through a day of fellowship and communion. Father Antoine Ndong sss, Vicar of the parish of Saint Peter of the Baobabs, has spared no effort to achieve this great project.

Sunday, January 19th 2014 was a great day of fellowship. Cards supporting the event were sold in advance at the price of 2000 or 2500 CFA Francs. The message was well received by the faithful of the surrounding parishes and by other people.

"Xaware" in the local language refers to a moment of relaxation, to meeting in the form of joy and brotherhood of God's children. There was first of all the welcoming of the guests, namely "the Cenacle", that is the International Novitiate Community accompanied by the Father Master Bernard Tine sss and the Vicar of the parish of Saint Peter Julian Eymard of Kouidiadiène. Members of the lay Aggregation of the same parish were also present. Others came from Thies, 70 km from Dakar, and there were also people from the Aggregation of the Saint Joseph Medina parish, run by the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament.



At the Mass the faithful parishioners and guests gathered at the Church of St Peter in Baobabs. Novices animated the celebration with their beautiful songs. Just after the Eucharistic celebration it was time to organise the faithful. This was done by the youth of the Eymard Home. These young people were responding to the theme of the 2013-2014 academic year "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:

4), in offering their entire service to communicate to the guests a better sharing in their joy.

The meal included a variety of menus presented with refreshment available for sale. The day continued in a great atmosphere of sharing by all: clergy, members of religious communities and lay parishioners. After lunch the novices presented a number of songs and dances and received great applause.

In the joy of living and in fraternal communion, in the atmosphere of reunion, the beauty of this day will remain in the heart of all. The parishioners could well understand that their priests are not closed into themselves and that they participate in the general fraternity. This was a first encounter and it will remain etched in people's memories. To God be the glory for ever. Deo Gratias !

FR. ABRAHAM FAYE, SSS
RESPONSIBLE OF THE HOME



Team of Reflection and Study on Father Eymard and the RES

A team comprising Blessed Sacrament religious and laity has begun the praiseworthy task of studying, reflecting upon and translating paragraphs from the spiritual works of Father Eymard and the contents of the Renewed Eucharistic Spirituality, so as to be able to offer this as a basis for retreats, talks, Eucharistic Tridiums and Weeks, opportunities for prayer and meditation etc.. This will contribute to the formation of our communities from the riches of our Blessed Sacrament charism. The work-team that will commence its tasks in an official way as from the 6th March is made up of four lay persons of the community of Corpus Christi, two members of the pre-novitiate stage, one scholastic and Father Wilson Durán Cruz, the coordinator.

NotiBIP March 2014



Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

The website of the Servants SSS in the USA is updated. The address is the same:

www.blesacrament.org



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. 1453 - Brother Anthony ORNELAS

Province : Saint Ann
Community: Houston, USA
Died: 19 March 2014
Age : 58
Profession : 21

N. 1454 - Father Dana PELOTTE

Province : Saint Ann
Community: Cleveland, USA
Died: 30 March 2014
Age : 68
Profession : 37 Priesthood : 14

N. 1455 - Father Frans GELENS

Province : Saint Joseph
Community: Nijmegen, Holland
Died: 30 March 2014
Age : 87
Profession : 65 Priesthood : 61

Easter 2014

*The Secretariat
of the General Curia SSS
sends to all of you,
fraternal greetings
for a Happy Easter.*

