

## REDISCOVERING ST. PETER JULIAN EYMARD IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY FRANCE



*IP4 participants together with members of the communities of Grenoble and La Mure in the church where Father Eymard celebrated his last Mass.*

A unique journey recently commenced in the birthplace of Saint Peter Julian Eymard. Eight of us, Blessed Sacrament Scholastics from Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the United States and the Philippines, began our three month preparation for perpetual vows. What was unique was not only the international dimension of our preparation program but our particular itinerary. We were given the great opportunity to travel to France and visit the numerous important locations in the life of our founder. Along this spiritual route we were accompanied by Rev. Manuel Barbiero SSS and Rev. Andre Guitton SSS who presented us with a tremendous wealth of material about Father Eymard's life and spirituality. Also indispensable on our journey was Rev. Dominic Nguyen Dat Tam SSS who translated our frequent dialogues and questions. Additionally we received great warmth and hospitality from all the Blessed Sacrament communities we visited. Blessed Sacrament lay associates, parishioners, families and friends also greeted us kindly and aided us in our pilgrimage.

We stayed two weeks in La Mure and two weeks in Paris. Many enjoyed the opportunity to stay in the very house where Eymard lived and died. Brother Anthony Marcus in particular found this experience moving and discovered in it an enrichment of his Eucharistic spirituality. In our little mini bus we climbed and descended the numerous mountains of southern France chasing the spirit of the inexhaustible "apostle of the Eucharist" as we read about his ministry and his spirituality. From La Mure we visited sites in Grenoble, Lyon, and the great number of Marian shrines known to Father Eymard: Le Laus, L'Osier, and La Salette. From Paris we visited the sites of the initial foundations, parishes where Eymard preached, the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and important locations that shaped the Paris of Eymard's time.

On a typical day we would be given a presentation in the morning accompanied by pertinent writings of Saint Peter Julian Eymard on the day's topic. After the presentation we would then visit the location discussed in the presentation. Once on site the conversation would continue as we experienced the places firsthand. What emerged over time was a much richer picture of Eymard. What we knew before through books we now knew in a deeper way through personal experience. Brother Ferdinand, for example, spoke of the important personal link he discovered between Eymard's work of the first communion of adults and his own vocation story in the Philippines. Brother Zaldi was touched by Eymard's great love for priests as we visited the tiny town of Ars where Eymard shared his dreams and sorrows with Saint John Marie Vianney. Brother Paul and I were struck with the splendid beauty

*continued on back page...*



## REDISCOVERING...

continued from front page

of St-Bonnet and the inspiration Eymard found there.

Throughout this journey we also had the opportunity to build relationships with each other; to be the "one family of Father Eymard" as Brother Anscar eloquently put it. Despite our different cultures and languages we lived together and shared our lives and stories, building relationships for our future together in the Congregation. Through the writings of Eymard, the insights and example of Father Barbiero, Father Guittou and others we were inspired to face today's challenges in order to live out our Eucharistic mission. We are filled with gratitude to the Congregation and our provinces for making this pilgrimage possible.

*Brother John Christman, SSS  
Perpetualist*

We welcome and pray for Tom Calvey (right), from Garfield Heights, OH and Frank Cianciotto (left), from New York, NY. They will begin the novitiate at St Jean Baptiste Church, New York, NY. Let us pray for them during their two year formation journey.



## vocationNEWS

John Thomas Lane SSS,  
Editor

Kay Vincent, Layout & Design  
P. Tomás Luna, Copy Editor  
& Photographer

SSS Vocation Office  
5384 Wilson Mills Road  
Cleveland OH 44143  
440-442-3410 x111  
www.blessedsacrament.com



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NOTRE DAME NOVICE

by Sister Angela Marie Salazar, NND

*We shall never be able to do enough for a  
God who is so good towards us.*

*-St. Julie Billiart*

A novice of Notre Dame strives to grow in her love for God and in her trust in God's goodness and provident care.

In the community of the Sisters of Notre Dame, a novice's day begins with Morning Prayer which is prayed together with all of the sisters living in the novitiate. Morning Prayer is followed by breakfast and preparations for the day at which time a novice may engage in personal prayer, spiritual reading, or the praying of the rosary.

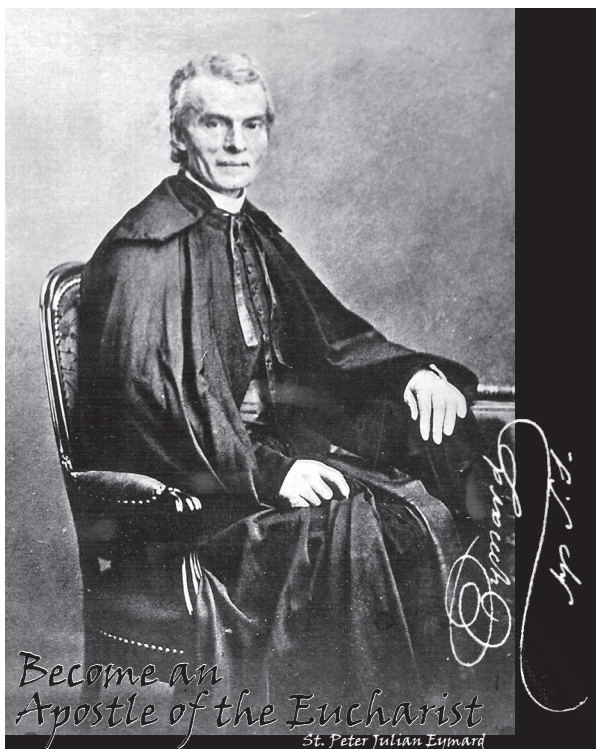
A novice usually holds a part-time ministry which may include teaching, hospital ministry, parish work, outreach to the poor, etc. A novice also meets with the novice director once a week in order to grow in the religious life. During these meetings, the novice and her director discuss articles on the vows, prayer, community, the apostolate, the history of the congregation and other aspects of religious life.

In the evening a novice is asked to attend the community liturgy, evening prayer, followed by supper. Later in the evening, the novice may work on ministry preparations, or enjoy community recreations. Before concluding the day, a novice prays night prayer either alone or with the

other sisters in the novitiate.

Additional responsibilities which a novice undertakes include house chores, grocery shopping, singing in choir, cooking and outreach to the older sisters.

In conclusion, a day in the life of a novice of Notre Dame is filled with prayer, work, ministry and community living. Throughout the novitiate a novice develops a deeper prayer life learning to integrate her gifts within the community in order to help build the Reign of God.



Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament  
sssvocations@blessedsacrament.com  
www.blessedsacrament.com/vocation

