

**2015 International Conference
Lay Associates of The Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata
of Our Lord Jesus Christ**



**Presentation of the Lay Associate Stigmatines
of the
Province of the Holy Espousals of Mary and Joseph
Waltham, Massachusetts - USA**

***Santana Farm
Corumbataí, São Paulo, Brazil
August 24-31, 2015***

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1. HOW THE GROUP WAS CREATED

- It was the year 1998. Because the Stigmatine community of the American Province was dwindling and there are no new vocations coming in, the Province decided to establish a group of dedicated lay people to assist them in praying for vocations and assisting them in various lay ministries.
- Father Bob Masciocchi, CSS was appointed to this ministry, and this group was called the Lay Associate Stigmatines.
- Six months of discernment were provided to those who answered this call.
- Those who decided to go on to becoming Lay Associate Stigmatines then attended a year of formation in 2000.
- On Jan. 23, 2001 the first Lay Associate Stigmatines made their 'promises' at a Mass celebrated in the Stigmatine Retreat House (in Waltham, MA) by Fr. Gregory Hoppough, Superior Provincial, welcoming these first Lay Associate Stigmatines.
- This original group was composed by 9 ladies (I was one of them).
- Our meetings are always in the campus of the Province of the Holy Spouses, in Waltham, Massachusetts, USA.

2. OUR RULES AND GUIDELINES¹

- Attend the monthly formation days for Lay Associate Stigmatines
- Attend the Community feast day celebrations
- Attend the annual retreat for Lay Associate Stigmatines
- Renew the PROMISE² annually
- Assist the Stigmatine priests
- Support the charism of the Stigmatine Community in the American Province
- Assist at the Retreat House and other buildings on the Waltham campus
- Ministry in our local parishes
- Ministry in our local community

¹ Translated from an Italian document.

² Presented here in Appendix I.

3. ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

- When one decides to become a Lay Stigmatine, he/she is accepted as a candidate for a period of a year. At the conclusion of the year, on one of the Stigmatine feast days, the candidate takes the Promise* at the altar in the presence of the Stigmatine Father Provincial and the entire Stigmatine Community.
- After taking the Promise, you sign a copy of it on the altar, and are presented with a cross, which we wear whenever we have meetings and Feast Days.

4. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- The Spiritual Development is an ongoing process.
- We have a formation meeting on the morning of the first Saturday, every month. The presenter is one of the Stigmatine Fathers, in regular basis the Spiritual Director of our group.
- We also gather on the Stigmatine Feast days, when, after the afternoon Mass, we are invited for a dinner with all the Stigmatine community.
- Each member is asked to find a personal spiritual director, preferably one of the Stigmatine Fathers.

5. OUR CURRENT GROUP

- We have only one group, in Waltham, MA, including 'remote' members.
- Our current group is formed by 12 members in Waltham, 2 in Texas and 1 in California.
- The 2 members in Texas are originally from the Province of the Holy Cross in Brazil.
- The member in California is parishioner of the Holy Cross Parish, under the care of the Stigmatines from 2005 to 2013.
- Our current Spiritual Director is Father Joseph Henchey, CSS.

6. OUR ACTIVITIES

As Lay Stigmatines, we are asked to find a ministry, something along the lines of the spirituality of the Founder St. Gaspar Bertoni. Likewise, we have our Catholic life in our parishes, communities and in our midst. So, let us consider our activities under these 2 approaches.

6.1. AS LAY STIGMATINES (specifically)

[a] In the Stigmatine Campus

- Serving/leading programs at the Retreat House
- Staffing the Gift Shop
- Assisting the Stigmatine retired priests at St. Joseph's Hall
- Assisting priests in their academic pursuits
- Visiting Stigmatines in nursing homes
- Updating Stigmatine Computers
- Organizing Stigmatine offices
- Making Stigmatine "souvenirs" (magnets, handbags, prayer cards)

[b] Through Internet

- Co-Authoring the HISTORY of the AMERICAN PROVINCE (for the bicentennial in 2016)
- Establish the website of the Province (www.stigmatines.com)
- Establish the website "A Tribute to St. Gaspar Bertoni" (www.st-bertoni.com), with Stigmatine works by Father Joseph Henchey, CSS
- Establish a **BLOG** (www.stigmatines.com/blog), for greater communication

[c] International

- Teaching **English** at the Stigmatine Seminaries in **Thailand** – from December to March - since December, 2011
- Visited Stigmatine Seminaries in India and in the Philippines
- Attended 1st International Conference of Lay Associate Stigmatines in **Verona, Italy 2010**

- Helping the interchange of information between the Stigmatines in Brazil and in the U.S. (members from Brazil were Lay Stigmatines of the Province of the Holy Cross in Brazil)
- Translation of documents (English <-> Portuguese)

6.2. IN OUR CATHOLIC LIFE, IN GENERAL

[a] In our local Parishes

- Teaching: RCIA, Marian Consecration, The Consoling Heart of Jesus
- Assist with Liturgy: Eucharistic Ministers, Altar servers, Lectors, etc; assist Holy Day services;
- Parish Service Organizations: Knights of Columbus (founded by a Lay Associate Stigmatine in Waltham, MA); Parish Council Membership; planning committees, etc;
- Attend diocesan meetings when asked;
- Participation on a pastoral in assistance to a home-school for abandoned and/or under-nourished children in Honduras.

[b] In our Communities

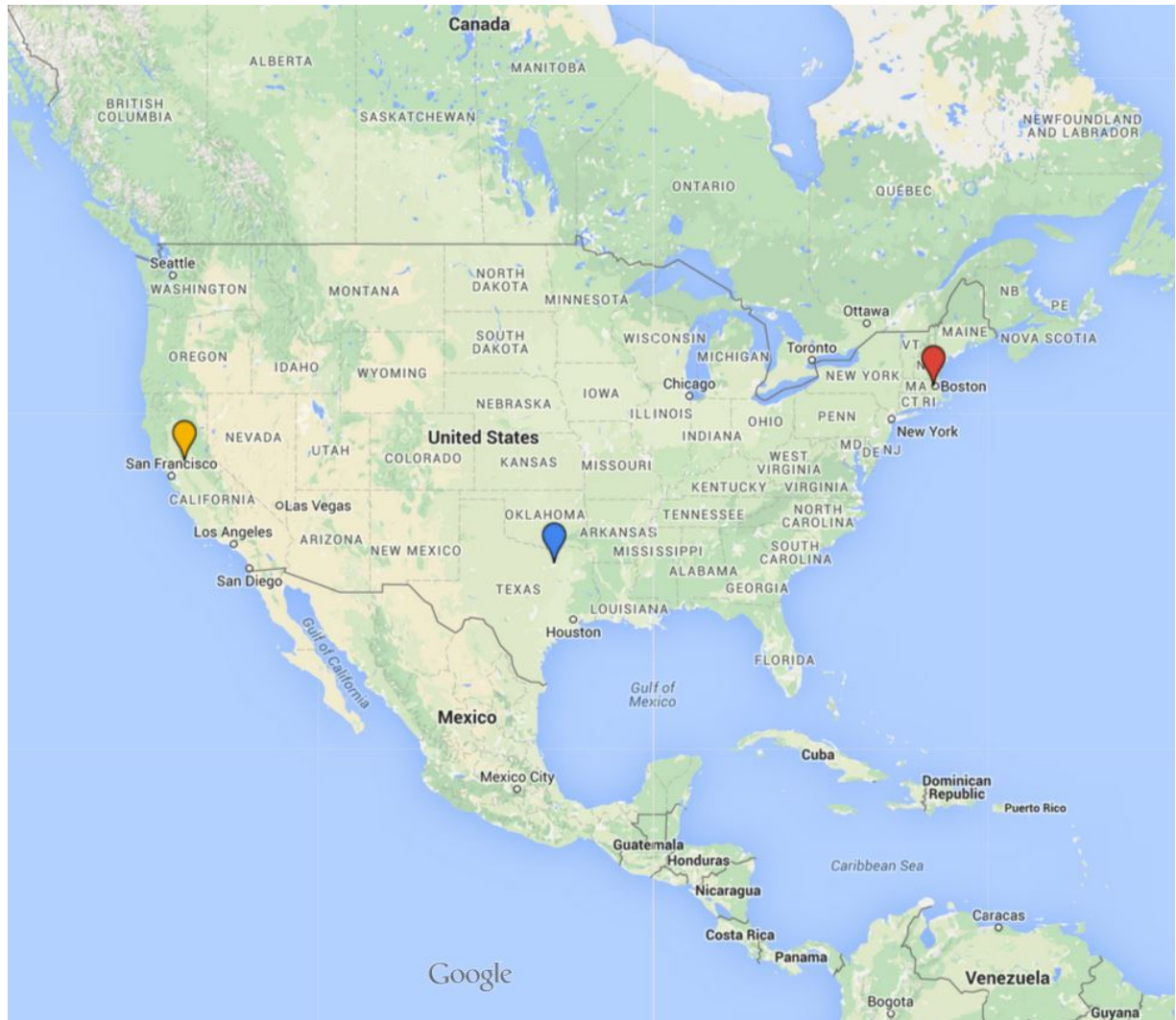
- Visiting the sick; praying the Rosary in local nursing homes; assisting adults with disabilities;
- Patient and Family Advisory Council @ St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Boston, MA;
- Participation in the 'Plano Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association'³
- Annual nation-wide programs:
 - "America Needs Fatima" Rally;
 - Hike for Life;
 - Parades against abortion on the anniversary of Roe x Wade, that came to legalize abortion in all the country (on January 22, 1973).⁴

³ PCPAAA is a non-profit organization of certified citizens in assistance to the Police of Plano, Texas.

⁴ Since the mentioned date, abortion has killed about one million lives every year.

7. SOME PICTURES

a. LAY STIGMATINE LOCATIONS IN USA:



Waltham, Massachusetts

12 lay Stigmatines



Sacramento, California

1 lay Stigmatine



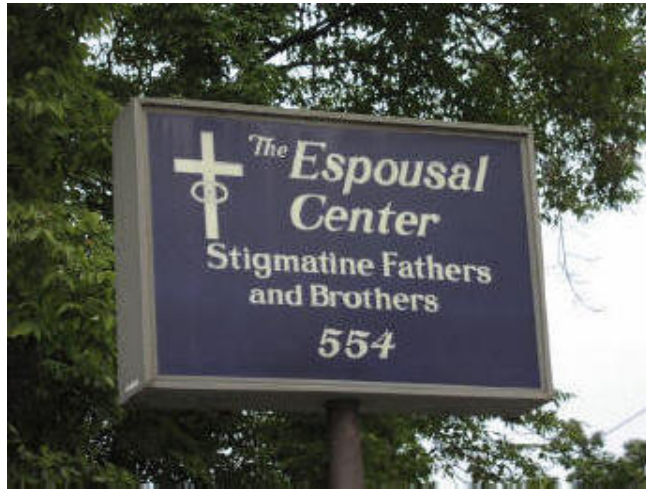
Plano, Texas

2 lay Stigmatines

b. THE STIGMATINE CAMPUS IN WALTHAM, MA
ESPOUSAL CENTER
554 Lexington Street Waltham, MA 02452



The Entrance of the Campus:



The sign at the Espousal Center's entrance



Jesus' warm welcome!



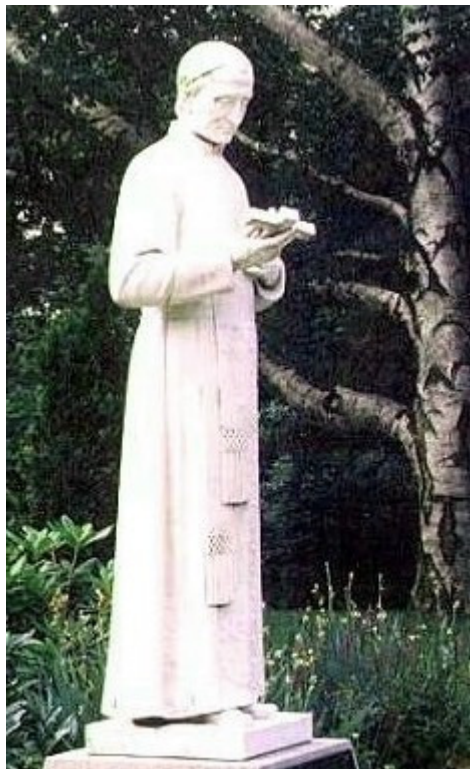
The Provincial House (that incorporates the Gift Shop)



St. Ann Hall (Mission Office)



Front view of Bertoni Hall, with St. Gaspar Bertoni's statue



Closer view of the statue of
St. Gaspar Bertoni
in front of
Bertoni Hall



Side view of Bertoni Hall with the Our Lady of Lourdes' Shrine



Our Lady of Lourdes' Shrine in closer view



St. Joseph Hall (the residence of retired Stigmatines)



The Chapel in St. Joseph Hall



The Holy Espousals of Mary and Joseph's Shrine



The Retreat House and Conference Center

c. Some of the Stigmatine Fathers:



Rev. Gregory Hoppough, CSS
Superior Provincial and
Professor of Theology in the Blessed
Pope John XXIII National Seminary in
Weston, MA.



Rev. Geoffrey Deeker, CSS
Provincial Councilor and Parish Vicar
in Pittsfield, MA, where he served as
Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Parish for over 20 years.



Rev. Richard Scioli, CSS
Provincial Councilor and Pastor of
Sacred Heart Parish in Milford, MA. He
is also former pastor of Our Lady of
Mount Carmel Parish in Springfield, MA

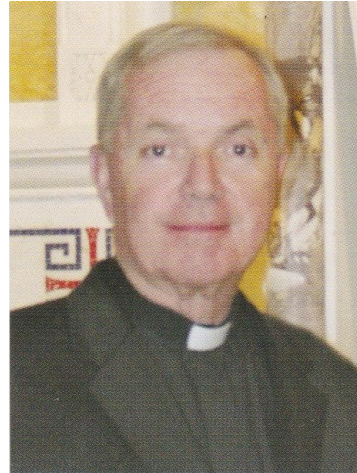


Rev. Joseph Henchey, CSS
Spiritual Director of the Stigmatine Laity
and Superior of the Stigmatine Community at
St. Joseph's Hall; former Superior Provincial;
former Spiritual Director and Professor of
Theology in several Seminaries, among them:
Angelicum and North American College in
Rome, and Pope John (Weston), Mundelein
and Dunwoodie in the U.S.

The Retreat House and Conference Center



Rev. Bob Masciocchi, CSS
Long-time Director of the Retreat House; former Spiritual Director of the Lay Associate Stigmatines (1998-2014).



Rev. Bob White, CSS
Long-time Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Springfield and former Superior Provincial.



Rev. Donald Higgins, CSS
Retired at St. Joseph's Hall.



Rev. Leonard Ferrecchia, CSS
(Fr. Lenny)
Economus in the community of St. Joseph's Hall



Rev. Albert Azrack, CSS
Former Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in White Plains, NY; and former parish vicar and pastor of several other Stigmatine parishes.

A Saint in our Community:



This photo taken on early 2005 shows **Rev. James Cunningham, CSS** joyfully playing his accordion.

He always spread-out joy and kindness to all around him. But because of his advanced age and the fragility of his health, about 2 years ago he had to be moved into a nursing home.

He is 95 years old.

Please pray for him.

And everybody should someday know: Joseph Desir!



(L-R) Tereza Lopes (lay Stigmatine), Joseph Desir and Father Albert Azrack, CSS in the yard of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in White Plains, NY, in 2009.

Joseph Desir is a long-time employee at St. Joseph's Hall. He is care-giver for all the sick and/or old priests. His always joyful character always cheers-up all around him!

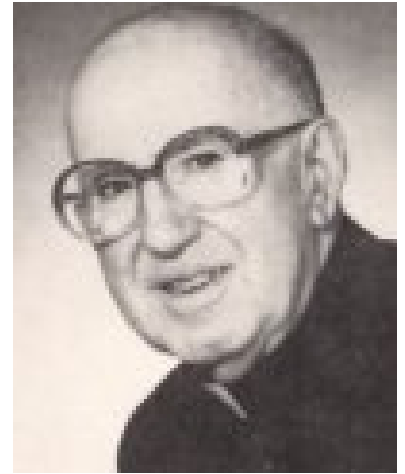
d. A Tribute to our much-missed Stigmatine Beyond-the-Seas Missionaries:



Rev. Donald Toner, CSS
1932 - † 2005
BRAZIL



Rev. John Ford, CSS
1927 - † 2003
BRAZIL – SOUTH AFRICA



Rev. Samuel Chameal, CSS
1914 – 1993
BRAZIL



Rev. Leo Geraci, CSS
1916 - † 1966
BRAZIL - GUAM



Rev. Gerald Goggin, CSS
1919 - † 1999
GUAM



Rev. Paul Daly, CSS
1912 - † 1971
CHINA - THAILAND



Rev. Richard Woodarek, CSS
1928 - † 2011
ETHIOPIA - THAILAND



Rev. Charles Sinesi, CSS
1924 - † 1996
THAILAND



Rev. Joseph Flood, CSS
1916 - † 1996
THAILAND



Rev. Charles Dolan, CSS
1927 - † 2011
THAILAND



Rev. Rocco Leotilo, CSS
1926 - † 2002
THAILAND



Rev. Donald Saulnier, CSS
1938 - † 1994
THAILAND

e. Events of the Lay Associate Stigmatines:



Group photo in a Day of Recollection given by Father Joseph Henchey, CSS (2008)



Father Joseph Henchey, CSS offering Mass during a Day of Recollection (2008)



Formation class offered by Father Joseph Henchey, CSS (2008)



During a day of recollection in 2009, there concelebrated with Father Henchey (L-R): Father Charles Dolan, Father Henry Linse and Father Anthony Corigliano



Formation class given by Father Joseph Henchey, CSS (2009)



(same as above)



Lunch break during a Day of Recollection (2008)



(same as above)



In this coffee-break, the nice presence of Father Jim Cunningham, CSS



Always having fun getting together!

**f. 2010 International Conferences of the Stigmatine Laity
Verona, Italy**

**The American Province was represented by:
Page Vandewater, Christine Khor and John Marzilli**



SPECIAL THANKS

- To the Stigmatines, for the creation of the groups and support to the Stigmatine Laity;
- To our Spiritual Directors: Father Bob Masciocchi, CSS, our 'founder' and first Spiritual Director, and to Father Joseph Henchey, CSS, our Spiritual Director since last year;
- To our Superior Provincial, Father Gregory Hoppough, CSS, for the support to our group;
- To the Stigmatines in Brazil for hosting this international event and warm welcome to all of us!

*Submitted by Page M. Vandewater
Lay Associate Stigmatine,
Stigmatine Province of The Holy Espousals of Mary and Joseph
(American Province)*

Waltham, MA, July, 2015.

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APPENDIX I**The PROMISE FORMULA (renewed annually)**

I, (name),

called by the love of God

to live in faith and charity,

in union with my baptismal consecration and

to witness in the world

to the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

promise to the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata

of Our Lord Jesus Christ

to commit myself to live the Gospel plan

of the Lay Associate Stigmatines, that is:

- *To be a faithful disciple of Christ in the Church;*
- *To work for the coming of the Reign of God, especially for youth, priests, married couples and the least in society;*
- *To deepen my understand of, and witness to the spirit of St. Bertoni;*
- *To collaborate in service to the local Church*

In so doing, I open myself to the power of the Holy Spirit, that I may be faithful to this dedication of my life.

May the Holy Spouses Mary and Joseph, and St. Gaspar Bertoni, and our Stigmatine confreres, assist and guide me.

AMEN.

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APPENDIX II

Prayer to the Immaculate Conception, Principal Patroness of the United States⁵

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!"

Pray, O Mother, for all of us.

Pray for humanity for those who suffer poverty and
injustice, violence and hatred, terror and war.

Help us to contemplate Jesus who "is our peace",
so that we will all feel involved
in a persevering dedication of service to peace.

Look with special attention
upon the land in which you gave birth to Jesus,
a land that you loved together with Him,
and that is still so sorely tried today.

Pray for us, Mother of hope!

"Give us days of peace, watch over our way.

Let us see your Son as we rejoice in heaven". Amen!

⁵ *Prayer by Pope John Paul II on the Second Sunday of Advent, 8 December 2002. Given at Piazza di Spagna.*

APPENDIX III
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Washington, D.C.⁶



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is a prominent Roman Rite Catholic basilica located in Washington, D.C., United States of America, honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary as Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, the principal Patroness of the United States of America. The shrine is the largest Catholic church in the United States, and the tallest habitable building in Washington, D.C.

In 1847, Our Lady of Immaculate Conception was proclaimed the principal patroness of the United States by Pope Pio IX. In the following years, some priests considered to built a sanctuary honoring the patroness of the country.

The construction of the church, notable for its Neo-Byzantine architecture, began in 1920. It opened unfinished in 1959. An estimated one million pilgrims visit the basilica each year.

The basilica is designated both as the national and patronal Catholic Church of the United States, honoring the Virgin Mary, under the *Immaculate Conception*, by which Pope Pius XI donated a mosaic of the same image in 1923.

⁶ Sources: website of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Wikipedia.

The Shrine was visited by Popes John Paul II, who designated the National Shrine as a Minor Basilica on October 12, 1990, and Benedict XVI, who bestowed the honor of a Golden Rose on the Basilica. Pope Francis plans to visit the shrine this fall in late September, where he will say a Mass on the mall of The Catholic University of America.



The basilica houses 70 chapels honoring Mary and reflecting the origins of the Catholic immigrants and religious orders whose generosity erected them. Its Greek-styled interior is crowned with numerous domes decorated in mosaics, similar to the Basilica of St. Mark in Venice, Italy, but much larger. The mosaics feature American renditions of traditional Catholic images.

The shrine was built in the style of medieval churches, relying on masonry walls and columns in place of structural steel and reinforced concrete.



The shrine was designed to hold 3,500 worshipers sitting (6,000 in the total), and includes modern amenities such as a basement cafeteria, hidden public address speakers to carry speech at the altar to the rear of the building, air conditioning and the largest (in 1959) radiant heating slab in the world.



In all, 70 chapels and sacred images flank the sides of the upper church and crypt. It contains many works of art. There are arches outlined with iridescent Pewabic Pottery tile, large ceramic medallions set in the ceiling, and 14 Stations of the Cross for the crypt.



The Altar of the Crypt Church



The Golden Rose
bestowed by Pope
Benedict XVI

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