

“The inner gift of self is the real gift, because then our Lord becomes our Saviour . . . by giving us his own form of life.” (To Mme. Lepage, February 4, 1865)

“Be the apostle of the divine Eucharist, like a flame which enlightens and warms, like the Angel of his heart who will go to proclaim him to those who don’t know him and will encourage those who love him and are suffering.” (To Mme Antoinette de Grandville, July 4, 1859)

St. Peter Julian Eymard.

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Foreword

Before St. Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1854) founded the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, he belonged to the order named, the Marist Brothers. An order with Mother Mary as their pattern and model. It was not surprising that the Saint has joined this order. From his childhood he had a great love and admiration for our Lady. As a child he went for pilgrimages to a sanctuary of Our Lady in Le Laus. The distance to Le Laus from La Mure was not nearby, but a 80 km fare. But the little Peter Julian was so devoted to make this journey. In his writings he refers many times to this sanctuary of our Lady in Le Laus. A few days before his death, he said to one of the brothers of his congregation: *'Le Laus! If I only I think about it, I'm happy. Because I received there so many graces. The Holy Virgin has been so good for me. It makes me happy to go there as much as I want to pray. In my thoughts I see the pillar, where I have cried after a general confession at the age of 13. Oh yes on that day I cried because I had so many sins. On that moment I became religious. O Le Laus, there is no place that is so solemnly quiet'*¹.

On May the 13 of the year 1856 he founded his order called the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in which the center is formed by the Eucharist, the adoration and the devotion to the Holy Virgin. After his death his works were translated in to English and published in America. One of these works was a meditation book called: Fathers Eymard's, Month of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament².

¹ A.Tesniere, Spread memories, APSS, Rome S2, 15, woensdag 15 juli 1868, p264.

² Eymard Pierre Julian, Our lady of the Blessed Sacrament, By the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament, New York Sentinel Press, 1903, p332

The purpose of this publication was to do meditations in the Marian month (the month of May) to understand Mother Mary's role in God's salvation plan, but also to live in her example. According to his memoirs St. Peter Julian Eymard gave these meditations to his followers a few months before he died.

This work has inspired me to write Christmas meditations in his spirit. The meditations that I have written are reflections on Christmas with Mother Mary and the Holy Eucharist. We are living in a time where the true essence of Christmas is pushed away. A Christmas in which the birth story of Jesus has been replaced by fairy tales like Santa Claus or other cosmetic believes; a society where cosmetic appearances have become more important than the true meaning of Christmas.

The meditations that I have written are focused on our inner self to receive the true meaning of Christmas by Mother Mary and the Holy Eucharist. The contents of these meditations are as follows: a Bible reading followed by a consideration on the Eucharist and Mother Mary as center themes. Each meditation ends with questions that you may ask yourself regarding Christmas.

May you be guided during these meditations by Mother Mary Our Lady as St. Peter Julian Eymard did during his lifetime. There is no other person who can guide us better to Christmas than the mother of our Lord, she is full grace of the Holy Spirit.

A. Bon Rue