

From the time of receiving his First Holy Communion, Peter Julian Eymard knew he wanted to be a priest.ⁱ At the age of 23 (1834), he was ordained as a diocesan priest for Grenoble in France but found he was not well suited for the work. Five years later he joined a religious order, the Marists, and within another 5 years he became the provincial of the Society of Mary.

In his years as a Marist, his prayer life in front of the Blessed Sacrament deepened. “Inspired at first by the idea of reparation for indifference to the Eucharist, Peter Julian was eventually attracted to a more positive spirituality of Christ-centered love.”ⁱⁱ

Peter Julian wanted to establish a Marist community devoted to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, but his religious superiors vetoed the idea. He left the Marist order and founded the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in 1856. Together with Marguerite Guillot, he also helped to form a group of contemplative women religious as Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr Peter Julian held that “Solemn Exposition is necessary to awaken the dormant faith of so many honest people. ... Society dies when it no longer has a center of truth and charity, when it no longer has family life. When everyone is isolated, focused on themselves, wanting to be self-sufficient, disintegration is imminent. But society will be reborn with vigor when all of its members come together and are united around our Emmanuel.”ⁱⁱⁱ

In a meditation on the Lord’s Prayer, Fr Peter Julian wrote^{iv}:

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven
Grant us the grace to find all our joy in wanting You alone, in desiring You alone,
and in thinking of You alone. Grant that by denying of ourselves always and in all
things, we may find light and life in obeying Your good, acceptable and perfect
Will. I will what You will. I will it because You will it. I will it as You will it.
I will it as long as You will it. Perish our thoughts and desires if they are not
purely from You, for You and in You...

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
Deliver us Jesus, from the demon of pride, impurity, discord and complacency.
Deliver us from the cares and worries of life so that with a pure heart and a free
mind we may joyfully spend our life and devote all that we are and all that we
have in the service of our Eucharistic Lord.”

Fr Peter Julian Eymard died August 1st, 1868. He was canonized a Saint by Pope John XXIII in 1962. The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament today numbers some 875 priests and brothers devoted to the Eucharist as the center of the life of the church and society.^v Known as the Apostle of the Eucharist, Peter Julian is reported to have said, “You take communion to be holy, not because you already are.”^{vi}

ⁱ vaticannews.va/en/saints/08/02/st--peter-julian-eynard--priest-founder-of-the--sacramentini.html

ⁱⁱ <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-peter-julian-eynard>

ⁱⁱⁱ vaticannews.va/en/saints/08/02/st--peter-julian-eynard--priest-founder-of-the--sacramentini.html

^{iv} acfp2000.com/Trinity.html

^v Ordo, August 3, Peter Julian Eymard

^{vi} Ibreviary, Memorial of Peter Julian Eymard.