

2020 EDITION
DEPARTMENT OF EUDIST
SPIRITUALITY

Novena To Saint John Eudes

FORMING JESUS IN US

Content

Presentation -	02
Prologue -	04
First day -	07
Second day -	12
Third day -	17
Fourth day -	21
Fifth day -	26
Sixth day -	32
Seventh day -	37
Eighth day -	42
Ninth day -	48



CJM Virtual
DEPARTMENT OF EUDIST
SPIRITUALITY

PRESENTATION

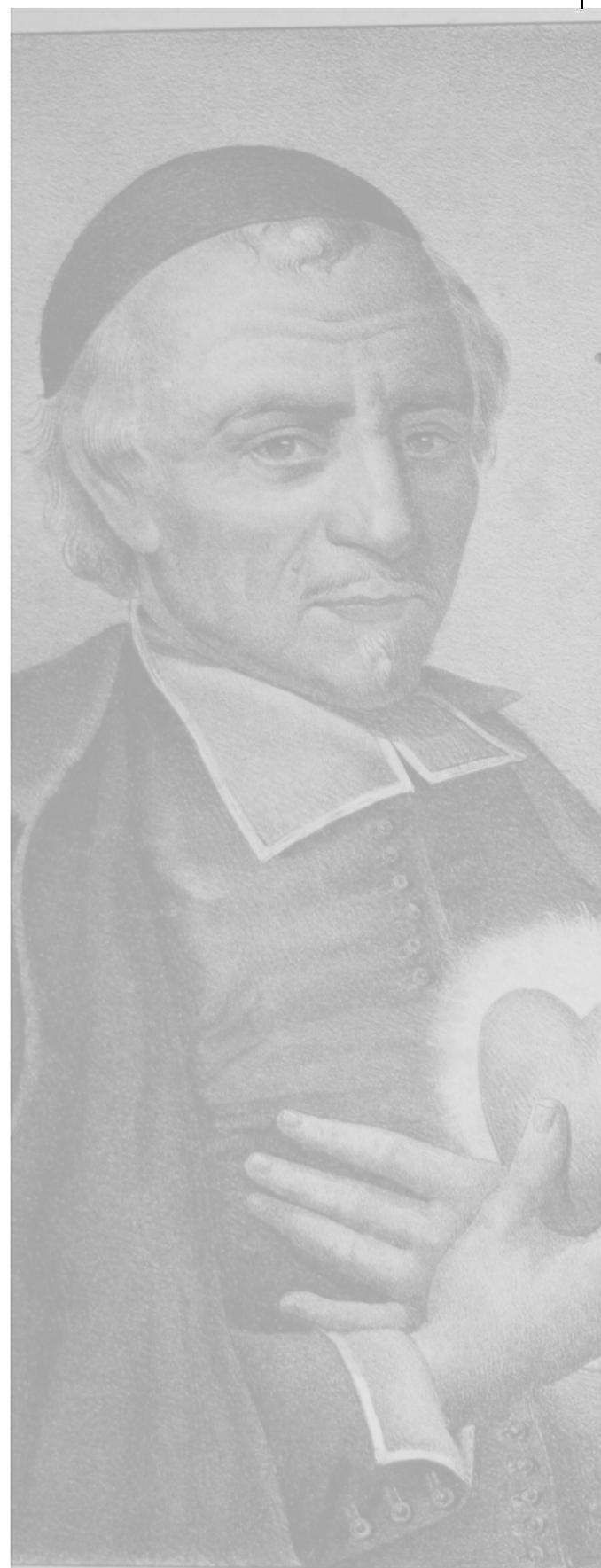
FR. JEAN-MICHEL AMOURIAUX, CJM SUPERIOR GENERAL

There are at least two good reasons to pray to St. John Eudes: his exemplary relationship with Christ, which is presented as a pedagogy for all Christians and his constant desire to adhere himself as closely as possible to God's will to accomplish the work of His grace.

There are, moreover, other reasons to admire him, for the mission honor him and ask for his intercession: his merciful attitude, always constant till the end of his life. In his zeal till he was almost 80 years old, his love both tender and passionate for the Virgin Mary and his immense desire to make others love the Heart of Jesus. The perfect manifestation of Trinitarian love spread throughout the world.

We could fill the page to sing the greatness of this man, certainly very alive, dynamic, bold, creative, and at the same time, deeply aware that, he can do nothing for himself but must await everything from the hands of his Lord. He knows with great clarity that pride is the worst obstacle for grace reaching himself and the world.

St. John Eudes has at times been reproached for using the term "self-emptying". This is perceived as having contempt of self, however, the example of St. John Eudes shows us the opposite and that is the secret he wants to share with us. Self-emptying means to be decentered from self . It is to free ourselves from the illusion we make of ourselves because we find in the relationship with God the personal fulfillment that we all seek.



JEAN EUDES

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...ix éloquentes, on vit, dans son

...tout quitter pour servir le

PRESENTATION

**FR. JEAN-MICHEL AMOURIAUX, CJM
SUPERIOR GENERAL**

The most decentered man from self is Jesus. His Heart is completely and constantly turned to the Father. Jesus fulfilled the will of the Father *Corde magno et animo volenti* and that is a revelation for us: our covenant with God is a source of life and strength to lead our life and fulfill our vocation as a response to the will of God. This is what we perceive in the life of St. John Eudes. He did great works because he gave up the illusions of his own foundations to find in a relationship with Jesus and Mary the most solid foundation and the most effective force. Renunciation and adherence are the breath of the baptized.

Therefore, Yes! Let us ask St. John Eudes to accompany us in our journey as missionary disciples; place us with him in listening to the Word of God; to nourish us with his writings and in him simply offer our prayers as proposed by the novena. In this way, we prepare ourselves to celebrate his feast on August 19th, effectively finding in him a model of Christian life and to be like him, "a faithful worker of the will of God."

St. John Eudes, pray for us!

**Fr. Jean-Michel Amouriaux, cjm
Superior General**

**Translated from the
Spanish: Fr. Eleuterio Mireles Jr, cjm**



PROLOGUE

BY FR. RAFAEL GARCIA HERREROS, CJM
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT JOHN EUDES (1)

The Congregation of Jesus and Mary was founded by a man that was essentially an evangelizer. Saint John Eudes spent his entire life tirelessly evangelizing, the fruit of a long preparation of profound prayer to the Holy Spirit and of a truly admirable charismatic strength that penetrated his whole being.

His piercing and poignant words were heard everywhere throughout the towns in Normandy, the big cities of France, Paris, the Royal Court, and villages, carrying an exceptional message of conversion and love of Christ. John Eudes formed, above all, an evangelizing community. As the Constitutions say: "The Eudists dedicate all their efforts to the service of Christ and his Church, working through the various duties of the ministry, their prayer life and witness of their lives at proclaiming the Gospel and renewing the faith". (Chapter 1, 5)

The very life of St. John Eudes is truly impressive. It was a continuous, uninterrupted life of love for Jesus Christ, a life of prayer at every moment. He lived an apostolic life of dialogue and preaching, as displayed through his example.

It was the powerful force of the Spirit that came over him to share the message of faith. The words of Pope Paul VI in "Evangelii Nuntiandi" find a perfect echo in the person of Saint John Eudes: "The Good News proclaimed by the witness of life sooner or later has to be proclaimed by the word of life. There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed" (No. 22).

When we see this exceptional and charismatic example of complete dedication by Saint John Eudes to proclaim the Gospel and when we realize that this is the mission of the Eudists, we cannot but yearn for a new, powerful and transforming force; an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives, so that we can be true proclaimers of the Gospel of Christ. "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature". (Mk 16: 15)



PROLOGUE

BY FR. RAFAEL GARCIA HERREROS, CJM
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT JOHN EUDES (1)

John Eudes knew the Scriptures like no other. It was his most loved book and his principle reading was the New Testament. Here is where we discover the treasures of the love of Jesus Christ and the mystery of his Heart. John Eudes had an amazing conviction and profound affinity with this time of renewal in the Holy Spirit.

The Eudists is primarily called to be an evangelizing community through the power of the Spirit. The Eudists inspire youth with a desire for an evangelical life and the desire to take the Gospel everywhere, creating a unique opportunity to bring the Word of God to unexpected places.

The person of Saint John Eudes is an incalculable example for us Eudists, an ideal that is unattainable, which we must all seek to approach with the power of the Holy Spirit.

John Eudes was an astonishing priest of 17th Century France, who discovered new ways to love, adore, praise and pray continually.

He never missed the opportunity to talk about Jesus Christ. His goal of evangelization, his purpose for existence, is summed up in his own words: "Jesus Christ must live in you; that you must not live except in Him; that His life must be your life, and your life must be a continuation and expression of His. Also, you have no right to live on earth except in order to bear, show forth, sanctify, glorify and cause to live and reign in you the name, the life the qualities and perfections, the dispositions and inclinations, the virtues and actions of Jesus". (Kingdom of Jesus, Ch. 1)

John Eudes was an evangelizer and founded an evangelizing community, forever following the impulse of the Spirit in every age.

A true Eudist, following the example of Saint John Eudes, must be, first and foremost, an evangelizer of Jesus Christ: "The Eudists feel called to proclaim the Gospel message to make of the human race a family of the Father, in which the fullness of the law is love" (Const. Ch.2 Vers. 11).



PROLOGUE

BY FR. RAFAEL GARCIA HERREROS, CJM
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT JOHN EUDES (1)

A Eudist should be a man who burns with love for Christ and communicates it to his neighbors, near and far, using all the means available at his disposal. The vocation of a Eudist must be an actualization of the following: evangelize with sincerity, with enthusiasm, and with the charismatic ardor of the Apostles.

It is incredible to think that if John Eudes should have been born in our time and use all the means available that we have now to spread the Gospel, what beautiful words, so full of fire, would be the words of John Eudes today! When the entire world is in need of God, in need of perfection, in need for truth, I think John Eudes would fit well in our time. We, the Congregation of St. John Eudes, need to reflect a great deal in order to reignite our passion for the Gospel and we must characterize ourselves in this world to possess the secret, the zeal, the enthusiasm of a new evangelization for today's world, inspired by a new understanding of the Holy Spirit.

Servant of God, Rafael García Herreros
Eudist Priest

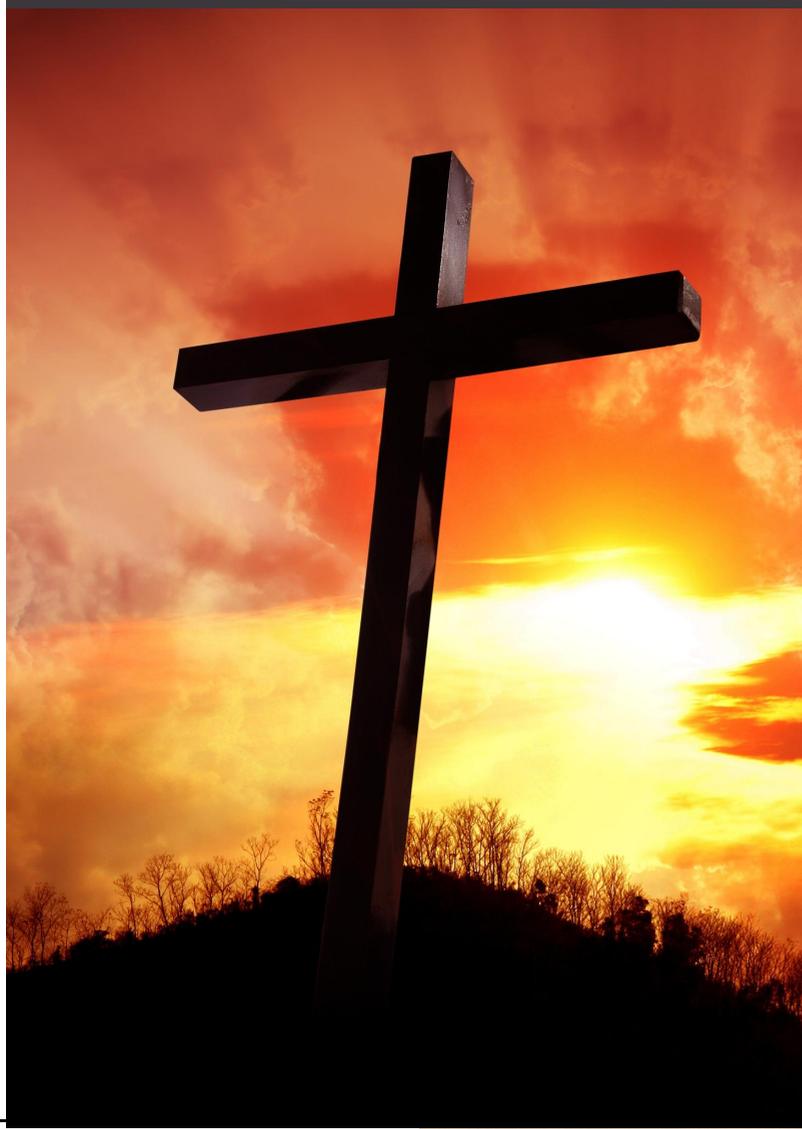
(1) This novena was first published in 1980 by Fr. Hipólito Arias Delgado and Fr. Álvaro Botero Álvarez. These texts have been revised by the Department of Eudist Spirituality.



Day One Saint John Eudes, Exemplary Model For Christians

INTRODUCTION

"The great work of forming Jesus within us is incomparably beyond our own capacities and therefore, we must have recourse to the power of divine grace and to the prayers of the Most Blessed Virgin and the saints" says St. John Eudes (cf. Life and Kingdom of Jesus). Today, he intercedes for us so that "Jesus might live and reign in us perfectly" helping us to realize this Christian ideal which he lived so profoundly.



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Brothers and sisters, the peace of Jesus Christ and the love of his Heart be with you all.

R/ And with your spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully chose the priest St. John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

R/ Amen

SCRIPTURE READING (GAL 2,19B-21)

I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.



EUDIST READING WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

"To be a Christian is to be a child of God, a brother of Jesus Christ, a temple of the Holy Spirit".

To be a Christian is to be a child of God and have the same Father as Jesus Christ, his only Son: To all who did accept him, he gave power to become children of God (John 1, 12). I am ascending to my Father and your Father ..., says the Lord (John 20, 17). Think of the love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children, and that is what we are, says John (1 John 3, 1).

Through creation, God is our maker and our principle, our efficient cause, our king and sovereign; and we are his creatures, the work of his hands, his subjects and servants. But through our regeneration and the new birth, which takes place in Baptism when we receive new being and a new life, this one divine, God is our Father and we are his children. This enables us to say: Our Father who is in heaven. As a result:

1) As we came out of the womb of God our Father in this new birth, we also remain forever within it, and it is necessary for him to carry us continually in his womb. Otherwise, were he to stop carrying us for an instant, we would lose the new being and new life received from him in Baptism.

EUDIST READING WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

2) We are brothers of Jesus Christ, of the same blood, of his royal and divine race, we enter into his genealogy. This is the basis on which a Christian, the new man and new creature that is born only of God, knows no other genealogy than that of Jesus Christ, no other Father but God: You must call no one on earth your father (Mat 23, 9). From now on, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh, says St. Paul (2 Cor 5, 16). And the Lord Jesus himself said: What is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3, 6).



EUDIST READING WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

3) We are coheirs with the Son of God and heirs of God. Oh marvel! Oh dignity! Oh greatness of being a Christian! Let us renounce Satan, give ourselves to God with a great desire to live henceforth as true children of God, and avoid degrading the nobility of our birth, harming our race and shaming our Father. A Christian is a member of Jesus Christ. As such, we have entered into an alliance and contracted a union with Jesus Christ which is much nobler, stronger and more perfect than what exists between members of a human and natural body and their head.



EUDIST READING WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

Let us give ourselves to Jesus as his members and profess henceforth to live of his life. For it would be a monstrosity for a member to live a different life from that of its head. This is why St. Gregory of Nyssa said that Christianity consists in professing to live of the life of Jesus Christ. A Christian is a temple of the Holy Spirit: Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?, asks St. Paul (1 Cor 6, 19). And again: The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts (Gal 4, 6). The Holy Spirit is given to us to be the spirit of our spirit, the heart of our heart, the soul of our soul, and to be always with us and in us as in his temple. Let us attentively reflect on these truths and engrave them in our hearts to incite us to bless and love God for the infinite obligations we have towards him for having made us Christians; to incite us also to detest our ungratefulness and our past sins, and henceforth to lead a life worthy of the perfection of the Father whose children we are, of the holiness of the head whose members we are and of the purity of the Spirit whose temple we are.

(St. John Eudes, Interior Colloquies, 9; O.C. 2, 168-173)



EUDIST PRAYER

Saint John Eudes, pray for us.

Saint John Eudes, chosen of God, pray for us.

Saint John Eudes, model of Christian life, pray for us.

Saint John Eudes, faithful worker of the divine will, pray for us.

Saint John Eudes, penetrated by love for Jesus, pray for us.

Saint John Eudes, who knows the divine mysteries, pray for us



LET US PRAY

Christ Jesus, meek and humble of heart, in the excess of your love, you humbled yourself, making yourself obedient even unto death on a cross. Grant us to live according to your humility, obedience, charity and meekness.

R/ Amen. Amen. Yes, Lord Jesus. By your grace and for the glory of your Name.

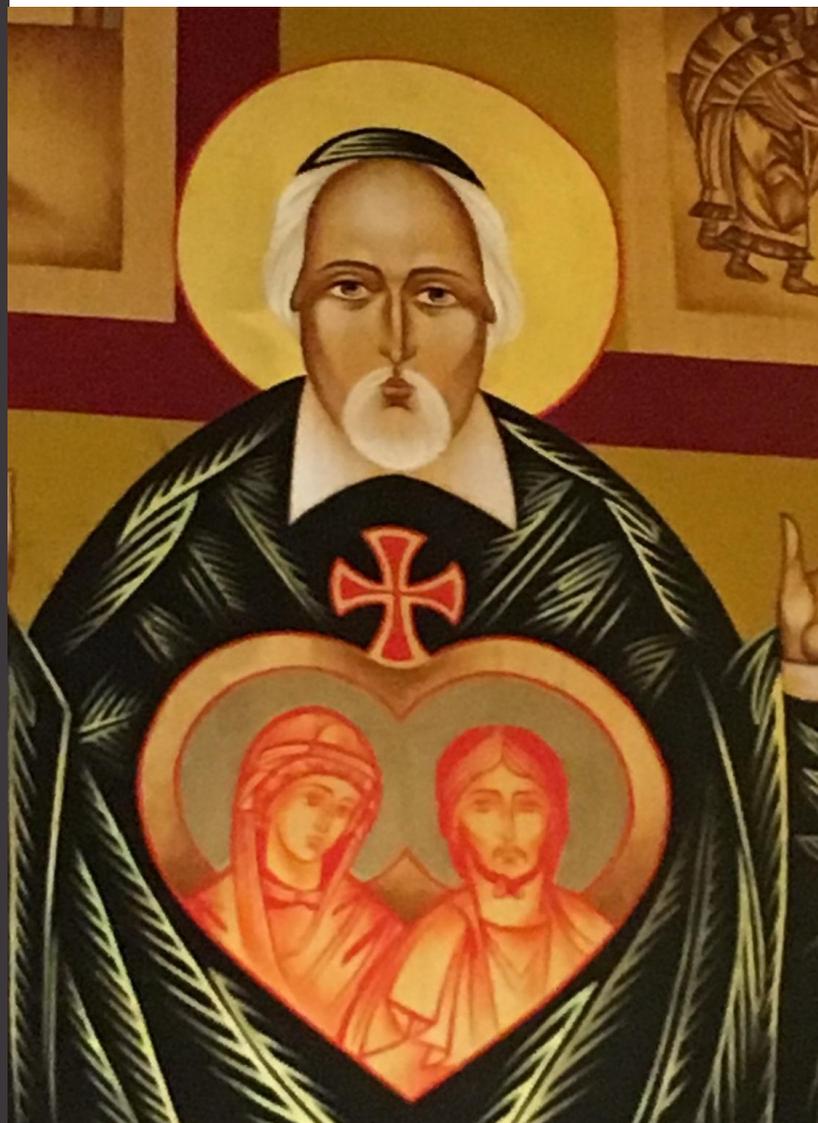


Day Two

Saint John Eudes And The Heart Of Jesus

INTRODUCTION

According to the Bull of Canonization, St. John Eudes shined for his extraordinary zeal in promoting the salvific devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Through divine inspiration, he was the first that thought of giving them a liturgical worship. Due to this, St. John Eudes is called, The Father, Doctor and Apostle of the devotion to the Sacred Hearts. Today, we gather to give thanks to God for this ineffable gift with which He deigned to enrich St. John Eudes. We are placed in the school of so great a doctor and teacher to increase our faith in the Lord Jesus and to ignite our love towards his Most Sacred Heart.



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Brothers and sisters, the peace and love of the Heart of Christ, the Lord, be with you all.

R/ And with your spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully chose the priest St. John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

...
R/ Amen

SCRIPTURE READING (EZ 36, 23-27)

I will show the holiness of my great name, desecrated among the nations, in whose midst you desecrated it. Then the nations shall now that I am the Lord—oracle of the Lord God—when through you I show my holiness before their very eyes. I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you back to your own soil. I will sprinkle clean water over you to make you clean; from all your impurities and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them.



EUDIST READING THE HEART OF JESUS IS GIVEN TO US TO BE OUR HEART

“Give yourself to Jesus to enter into the immensity of his great Heart”..

Oh my God, how excessive is your kindness and your admirable love for us! You are infinitely worthy of being loved, praised and glorified, and we have infinite obligations of doing so. But because our hearts and minds are neither worthy nor able to fulfill such obligations, your incomprehensible wisdom and boundless kindness found and gave us a means to do so completely and perfectly. You gave us the Spirit and Heart of your Son, who is your own Spirit and Heart, to be our own, as you had promised through your prophet: I will give you a new heart. I will place a new Spirit in your midst (Ez 36, 26).

And so that we might be able to identify this new spirit and this new heart you promised, you added: I will place my Spirit, who is my Heart, in your midst. Only God's own Spirit and Heart are worthy of loving and praising him, of blessing and loving him as he deserves. That is why, my Lord, you gave us your Heart, which is the Heart of your Son Jesus, as it is the Heart of his Blessed Mother and the hearts of all his Angels and Saints who together form but a single heart.

**EUDIST READING
THE HEART OF JESUS IS
GIVEN TO US TO BE OUR
HEART**

You who read these lines, take note that this Heart was given to you, that you might serve and honor God and do his will with a willing spirit and with generous love (2 Macc 1,3), that is, with a heart and love befitting his infinite greatness.



**EUDIST READING
THE HEART OF JESUS IS
GIVEN TO US TO BE OUR
HEART**

For that to take place, renounce your own heart, that is to say, your own spirit, your will and self-love. Give yourself to Jesus to enter into the immensity of this great Heart which contains his Mother's and the hearts of all the Saints. Lose yourself in this abyss of love, charity, mercy, humility, purity, patience, submission and holiness.



EUDIST READING

THE HEART OF JESUS IS GIVEN TO US TO BE OUR HEART

Do not be satisfied with loving God with your human heart for that is too little, it is really nothing at all. Love him rather with all your heart and willingly: Corde magno et animo volenti, with all the love of your great Heart, Jesus. When anybody asks if you love God, you can answer: "Yes, and I want to love him with all my great Heart and give myself to him with that in mind." If you love your neighbor and want to show him your love, do so in the charity of your great Heart. If you must suffer, let it be in a spirit of humility, patience, submission and love. If you intend to fulfill an obligation, make a gift or sacrifice something to God, whether it be your own person or something external to you, let it be done in a spirit of love and the zeal of your great Heart. When you say these holy words: I will praise you, Lord, with all my Heart (Ps 111, 1), let it be with the intention of speaking about your great Heart. Finally, whatever you do, do everything in the spirit and dispositions of your great Heart, putting aside your own and giving yourself to Jesus to act in the same spirit which animates his own.

(St. John Eudes, The Admirable Heart of Mary, Book 3, Chapter 2; O.C. 6, 261-265)



EUDIST PRAYER

Hail, Heart most holy,
Hail, Heart most meek,
Hail, Heart most humble,
Hail, Heart most pure,
Hail, Heart most devout,
Hail, Heart most wise,
Hail, Heart most patient,
Hail, Heart most obedient,
Hail, Heart most vigilant,
Hail, Heart most faithful,
Hail, Heart most blessed,
Hail, Heart most merciful,
Hail, most loving Heart of Jesus and Mary.

We adore you,
We praise you,
We glorify you,
We give you thanks,
We love you,
With all our hearts,
With all our soul,
With all our strength,

We offer You our heart,
We give it to You,
We consecrate it to You,
We sacrifice it to You,
Receive it and possess it entirely,
Purify it,
Enlighten it,
Sanctify it.

In it live and reign now and forever,
And in the ages of ages. Amen.



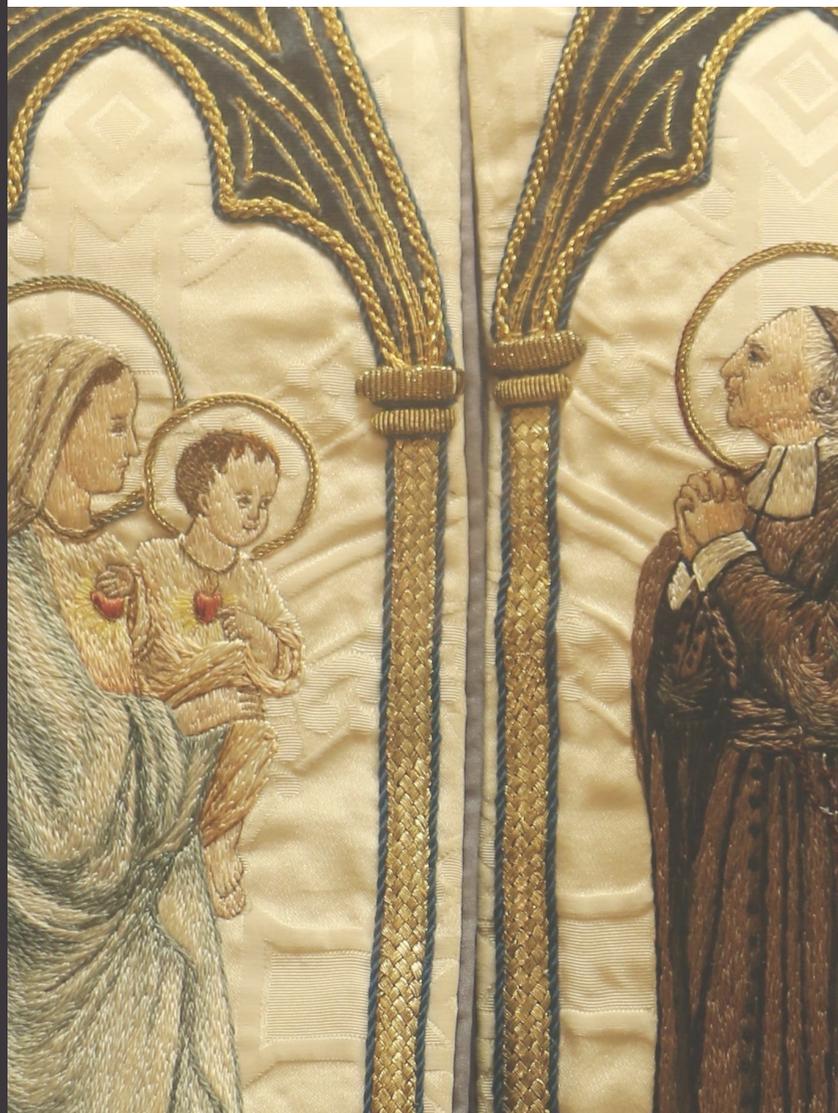
Day Three

Saint John Eudes And The Heart Of Mary

INTRODUCTION

The great love that St. John Eudes professed to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, is well known. In everything he did, he would allow himself to “be out-done”, however, he would never tolerate to “be out-done” in respect, trust and love of Her. St. John Eudes presented to the world the person of Mary under the symbol of the Heart, the Admirable Heart, which he liked to call her.

The example and words of St. John Eudes are for us a constant encouragement. The devotion to the Heart of Mary is a precious inheritance of the great Eudist family. With us and for us, St. John Eudes perpetuates his love and devotion to the Heart of the Virgin Mother today.



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Brothers and sisters, the love, grace and peace of Jesus, Son of Mary, be with you all.

R/ And with your spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully chose the priest St. John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

...

R/ Amen



SCRIPTURE READING (IS 61, 10-62,4)

I will rejoice heartily in the Lord, my being exults in my God; For he has clothed me with garments of salvation, and wrapped me in a robe of justice, Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

As the earth brings forth its shoots, and a garden makes its seeds spring up, So will the Lord God make justice spring up, and praise before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep still, Until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. Nations shall behold your vindication, and all kings your glory; You shall be called by a new name bestowed by the mouth of the Lord. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

No more shall you be called "Forsaken," nor your land called "Desolate," But you shall be called "My Delight is in her," and your land "Espoused." For the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be espoused.

EUDIST READING WHY WE MUST VENERATE THE HEART OF MARY?

"To approach the Heart of Mary is to encounter Jesus".

Although the heart represents the whole interior of a person, it is principally the symbol of love. So, in venerating the Heart of Mary, we wish to honor, not a particular mystery, action or quality, not her very worthy person, but the source and origin of what makes all that worthy and holy, that is to say, her love and charity.

That love did, in fact, sanctify all her actions, all her faculties, all her life, both internal and external, all her virtues and perfections. It made her worthy of becoming the Mother of Jesus and of all his members, and made her an inexhaustible source of blessings for us.

All you who thirst come and drink at this spring. Hurry! Why delay a moment longer? Are you afraid to offend the goodness of your Redeemer if you go to the Heart of his Mother? Don't you know that Mary is nothing, has nothing and can do nothing except from Jesus, through him and in him? Don't you know that it is Jesus who is everything in her, can and does everything in her?



EUDIST READING WHY WE MUST VENERATE THE HEART OF MARY?

Not only does Jesus live and remain continually in the Heart of Mary, he is himself the heart of her Heart. So, to have recourse to the Heart of Mary is to come to Jesus; to honor her Heart is to honor Jesus; praying to the Heart of Mary is praying to Jesus. This admirable Heart is the prototype and model of our own hearts. Perfection consists in transforming them into living reproductions of the most holy Heart of Mary.



EUDIST READING WHY WE MUST VENERATE THE HEART OF MARY?

Moreover, the eternal Father gave Mary the power to conceive his Son, first in her Heart, before conceiving him in her virginal womb. So too, he has given her the power to do the same in the hearts of the children of Adam.

This is why she cooperates in our salvation by her use of this special power with incredible love. Just as she carried her Son Jesus in her Heart and will continue to carry him eternally, she carries and will continue to carry the holy members of this divine Head, as her beloved children and the fruit of her motherly Heart which she offers up continually to God's divine Majesty.

(St. John Eudes, The Admirable Heart of Mary, Book 2, Chapters 4 and 5; O.C. 6, 148. 182; 8, 431)



EUDIST PRAYER

(Ave Maria, Filia dei Patris)

Hail Mary, daughter of God the Father,
Hail Mary, mother of God the Son,
Hail Mary, spouse of the Holy Spirit,
Hail Mary, temple of the whole Divinity.
Hail Mary, Immaculate lily of the
resplendent and ever-peaceful Trinity.
Hail Mary, Radiant rose of heavenly
fragrance.

Hail Mary, Virgin of virgins, faithful virgin,
chosen by the King of heaven to bear
Him to the world and to nourish Him at
your breasts.

Hail Mary, Queen of martyrs, whose soul
was pierced by a sword of sorrows.

Hail Mary, Queen of the universe, to
whom has been given all power in
heaven and earth.

Hail Mary, Queen of my heart, my mother,
my life, my sweetness, and my dearest
hope.

Hail Mary, Mother most lovable.

Hail Mary, Mother most admirable.

Hail Mary, Mother of Mercy.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with
you,

Blessed are you among women, And

blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus,

And blessed be your spouse, St. Joseph,

And blessed be your father St. Joachim,

And blessed be your mother St. Anne,

And blessed be your son St. John,

And blessed be your angel St. Gabriel,

And blessed be the Eternal Father who
chose you,

And blessed be the Divine Son who loved
you,

And blessed be the Holy Spirit who
espoused you,

And blessed be forever all those who
bless and love you.

Amen.



Day Four Saint John Eudes, Servant Of The Church

INTRODUCTION

St. John Eudes was infused with the highest concepts of the Church: he saw her as the Beloved Daughter of the eternal Father, who was given to his only Son as Spouse with His divine Spirit to guide . . . He honored her like a mother who had conceived him through Baptism and carried him in her womb, nourishing him with the celestial bread of the divine Word and with the Body and Blood of the Savior. That is why he has left to the communities he founded the motto of "Serving Christ and his Church with enthusiasm and courage."



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Brothers and sisters, the mercy and peace of God the Father and Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, be with you all.

R/ And with your spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully chose the priest St. John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

...

R/ Amen

SCRIPTURE READING (EF 5, 25B-27)

Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.



EUDIST READING LOVING AND SERVING THE CHURCH

"Men who lived not for themselves, but for the Church."

Adore the Most Holy Trinity in all that it is in the Church. Adore its incomprehensible love and lofty designs upon her from all eternity. Adore and bless all that the Trinity has accomplished and continues to do in her. Abandon yourself to the love and zeal the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have for her.

To prompt you to love and serve her, consider that she is the beloved daughter of the eternal Father, who loves her so much that he gave her his only Son to be her spouse, and his Holy Spirit, that is to say, his very heart, to be her own heart and soul. She is Christ's sister, mother and spouse, as well as his body and his fullness, as St. Paul puts it, that is to say, his complement and perfection, his inheritance, his kingdom, his dwelling place, his treasure and crown, his glory and delight.

EUDIST READING LOVING AND SERVING THE CHURCH

The Church is your mother having engendered you for God through holy Baptism and she still carries you in her womb. She is your nursemaid who feeds you the heavenly bread of the divine Word, the deified body and precious blood of her spouse. She is your queen, your governess and directress who rules, governs and guides you most carefully and surely on the road to paradise. She is your teacher who instructs you in heavenly truths concerning all you need to know and do to be pleasing to God.



EUDIST READING LOVING AND SERVING THE CHURCH

How you should love and respect her! With what zeal you should honor her and serve all her interests! What submission you should have to her teachings! What obedience to her dictates! What veneration for all her sacraments, ceremonies and customs! What sorrow when she suffers!

What a duty you have to thank God for all the blessings with which she has been favored! How you must pray God to preserve her, develop and sanctify her day by day, and especially bless her with pastors and priests according to his heart!



EUDIST READING LOVING AND SERVING THE CHURCH

Picture the burning love of the holy Apostles and all holy priests for the Church. Study how zealous and vigilant they were about the sanctification and growth of the Church; how faithful they were to her laws and with what holiness and fidelity they administered her sacraments; how they applied themselves to preaching the Word of God with sincerity; how worthily they discharged all their duties, especially anxious at all times to ensure the salvation of her children.

See what sacrifices and sufferings they endured on the Church's behalf. See how they lived, not for themselves, but solely for the Church, using their affections, thoughts, words and actions, their possessions, strength and time, their minds, bodies and souls, their life, all they had, all they knew and all that was in their power for the Church. Truly each one of them could say with St. Paul, when speaking to the faithful: I will gladly spend myself and be spent in the interests of your souls (2 Cor 12, 15).

Pray the holy Apostles and holy priests to obtain for you a share in their zeal and love for the Church and entertain in your hearts the desire to follow them along that road.

(St. John Eudes, Memorial of Priestly Life, Part 5, 28; O.C. 3, 218-222)



EUDIST PRAYER

We
adore you, O Christ, Head of your
Church, which is your Body and we your
members. We thank you for this gift
that surpasses all understanding. We
ask
forgiveness for our lack of obedience
and for not always living according to
your example and your word. We give
ourselves to you to participate in your
life, to share in your sentiments,
following your Gospel and to be guided
by
your Spirit. You who live and reign
forever and ever. Amen.

Day Five

Saint John Eudes, Model For Priests

INTRODUCTION

The reading for today, from one of the pages of St. John Eudes, is enough to give us an idea of the high esteem he had towards the priestly ministry.

St. John Eudes, however, was not content to write beautifully about the priesthood or to exhort the ministers of the Church to live according to the dignity of their sublime vocation. He was above all an outstanding example of Christian and priestly virtues.

Today, recalling his example of life, we come together to pray for the ministers of the Church, especially for bishops, priests and deacons, who by the Sacrament of Holy Orders are made stewards of the mysteries of God, configured to Christ. We pray so they may themselves be models of faith and love for the faithful entrusted to their pastoral care.



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Brothers and sisters, the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, faithful witness, who has made of us a kingdom of priests for God the Father, be with you all.

R/ And with your spirit: to Him glory and honor for ever and ever. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully chose the priest St. John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
...

R/ Amen

SCRIPTURE READING (ACT 20, 17-32)

From Miletus he had the presbyters of the church at Ephesus summoned. When they came to him, he addressed them, You know how I lived among you the whole time from the day I first came to the province of Asia. I served the Lord with all humility and with the tears and trials that came to me because of the plots of the Jews, and I did not at all shrink from telling you what was for your benefit, or from teaching you in public or in your homes. I earnestly bore witness for both Jews and Greeks to repentance before God and to faith in our Lord Jesus.

But now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem. What will happen to me there I do not know, except that in one city after another the holy Spirit has been warning me that imprisonment and hardships await me. Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the gospel of God's grace.

But now I know that none of you to whom I preached the kingdom during my travels will ever see my face again. And so I solemnly declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God.

Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears. And now I commend you to God and to that gracious word of his that can build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are consecrated.



EUDIST READING THE PRIEST: AN ASSOCIATE OF THE TRINITY

" I look upon you as the associates of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Oh priests, you are the noblest part of the Mystical Body of Christ. You are the eyes, the mouth, the tongue, and the heart of the Church of Jesus; better still, you are Jesus' very eyes, mouth, tongue and heart.

You are his eyes. It is through you that the Good Shepherd continually watches over his flock. Through you he enlightens and guides his sheep. Through you he weeps over those of his flock who are in the snares of the infernal fox, the devil.

You are his mouth and his tongue. It is through you that he speaks to his people. Through you he continues to preach the gospel that he preached in person when he was on earth. You are his heart. Through you he imparts life: the life of grace on earth and the life of glory in heaven to all the true members of his body.

I look upon you and respect you as the associates of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in most sublime and admirable intimacy.

For the eternal Father associates you with himself in the highest of all functions, the ineffable generation of his divine Son whom he causes to be born from all eternity in his fatherly bosom. He embraces you in the most excellent of his attributes, namely: his divine fatherhood, making you, in a way and a most admirable one, fathers of that very Son since he gives you the power to form and generate him in Christian souls. He has chosen you to be the fathers of his members, the faithful, their real fathers. You bear within you a living image of the heavenly Father's divine fatherhood.



EUDIST READING THE PRIEST: AN ASSOCIATE OF THE TRINITY

The Son associates you with himself in his noblest perfections and the most divine of his actions. He makes you participate in his role of mediator between God and man, in his dignity of sovereign judge of the universe, in his name and office as Savior of the world. He gives you power to offer with him to his eternal Father the same sacrifice he offered on the cross and renews daily on our altars, the most sublime and holiest action he ever did and ever will perform.



EUDIST READING THE PRIEST: AN ASSOCIATE OF THE TRINITY

The Holy Spirit associates you with him in the greatest and most admirable action he has performed and continues to perform daily. Why, indeed, did the Holy Spirit come into the world? Wasn't it to dispel the darkness of ignorance and sin, which covered the earth? Wasn't it to enlighten men's minds with celestial light, enkindle their hearts with the sacred fire of divine love, reconcile sinners to God, destroy sin, communicate grace, sanctify souls and establish the Church? Wasn't it to apply to mankind the fruits of the passion and death of the Redeemer, destroy the "old man" and bring to life and form Jesus within us? Now, isn't it your duty and ordinary occupation to concern yourselves with all these functions? Haven't you been sent by God to form his Son Jesus in the hearts of his people?



EUDIST READING THE PRIEST: AN ASSOCIATE OF THE TRINITY

Truly, you have a marvelous alliance with the three eternal Persons. You are their associates and cooperators of the Almighty in his greatest works.

(St. John Eudes, Memorial of Priestly Life, Part 1; O.C. 3, 14-16)

EUDIST PRAYER

The priests present make their renewal of priestly promises according to the following formula composed by St. John Eudes. Others remember their baptismal priesthood by which we all have been configured to Jesus Christ the priest, prophet and king.



Adorable Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I adore you for what you are in yourself, for the works of creation, for the Church and for the divine priesthood which you have established for your glory and for our salvation. You are the beginning and the source of power and sanctity of the priesthood. You are the end of all their functions. You are the consecration and sanctification of priests in the Church.

Holy Father, through the communication of your admirable paternity, you have constituted parents of the children of light, by the participation of your priesthood, Lord Jesus Christ, they are sanctifiers for the glory of the Most High. Holy Spirit, through a special outpouring of your infinite holiness, they are the sanctifiers of all people. In them and through them, you make yourself visible on earth carrying out works that only belong through your power and goodness.

I give you thanks because you have chosen me, in your mercy, to exercise the priesthood and thus destine me to the ministry of salvation.

I ask pardon and wholeheartedly repent for the faults and negligence I have committed in the exercise of the priesthood. I offer you as satisfaction, the passion, death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, the High Priest, and the honor given to you by Jesus himself, Mary and all the priests that have served and continue to serve in your Church. I promise, with your grace, from now on to live according to the holiness of my vocation and therefore, I now renew the profession I made when I was ordained.

EUDIST PRAYER

I promise to completely and forever to renounce to sin, the world and my own self; united to the love which chose me and consecrate me through the priestly anointing, today once again, I choose you as my inheritance, my treasure, and my all. "The Lord is my portion and cup, you have made my destiny secure."

As You are to me, I want to be for You, that my heart rest in you as it's treasure, that my life be used and consecrated for your glory and that my joy be to carry out in a holy manner, for love of you, the priestly duties and always your adorable will.

Holy Virgin, Mother of the High Priest, Holy Apostles and priests, I beseech you to associate me to the perpetual thanksgiving they offer to God. May they offer me to the High Priest Jesus Christ and ask forgiveness for my ingratitude and beg him to make me share of the spirit and the dispositions with which He exercised his priestly duties. That he may communicate to me his humility, patience, goodness and apostolic charity to carry out the ministry of sanctification entrusted to me.

R/ Amen. Amen Yes, Lord Jesus. By your grace and for the glory of your Name.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, glory of your priests, you gave us your Son as High Priest and vigilant Shepherd of our souls, and has associated him to offer you a pure host through the priests and ministers of your Church: we pray, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, and all your holy priests and ministers, to reawaken in your Church the grace of your Spirit, to love those whom they loved and to live like they taught us through their words and deeds. Through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.



Day Six Saint John Eudes, Evangelizer

INTRODUCTION

John Eudes had made his own the words of St. Paul: "Woe to me if I do not evangelize" (1 Cor 9: 16). His dedication to the proclamation of Jesus Christ in his missions, by which he devoted his best efforts for more than 50 years, is well known.

When the Church in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, in Puebla, or by any other means, invites us to a renewed evangelization, the person of St. John Eudes stands out as a model and a constant encouragement



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Brothers and sisters, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

R/ To Him glory and honor for ever and ever. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully chose the priest St. John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

...

R/ Amen

SCRIPTURE READING (1CO 9, 16-23)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside." Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles..

EUDIST READING PREACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD

" Preaching is making God speak"..

Preaching is making God speak. Having spoken to mankind of old through the prophets of the Old Testament and by his Son in the new Law, God now wants to speak to us through the members of his Son, to make known his desires and prompt us to act accordingly.

Preaching is giving God's children the bread of life, and of eternal life, to enrich, strengthen and perfect in them the divine life they received from the heavenly Father in their new birth in Baptism: You have the words of eternal life (John 6, 69).

Preaching has its origins in the bosom of God himself, from which emanated the divine Word, Christ, the first preacher. From this source flowed all the truths he preached himself on earth and wants to see preached even now.

The end and purpose of this heavenly office is to give birth to Jesus Christ and form him in the hearts of men as well as to cause him to live and reign there. It is to dispel the darkness of hell and replace it in men's souls with the light of heaven. It is to attack and destroy sin and open the floodgates of divine grace. It is to overthrow Satan's tyranny in the world and establish God's kingdom, to reconcile men with their God, transforming them into his children.



EUDIST READING PREACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD

Because it is so important and so holy, this office must be carried out with the holiest of intentions.

Being associated with Jesus' Apostles and the greatest saints, preachers should walk in their footsteps and imitate their holy lives.

Likewise, as God's heralds and Jesus' ambassadors, dispensers of his mysteries and oracles of the Holy Spirit, they must be clothed with the virtues of the Son of God, possessed and animated by the love, zeal and strength of his divine Spirit.



EUDIST READING PREACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD

They must study and assiduously practice what St. Paul says: We speak as envoys of God and, in his presence; we speak in Christ (2 Cor 2, 17).

As God's envoys means preachers should not preach their own thoughts or ideas, but should find their material in Holy Scripture and in prayer.

In God's presence means that preachers should have no other aim or object in mind save God and his glory and the salvation of souls..



EUDIST READING PREACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD

We speak in Christ means preachers should make a complete renunciation of self and give themselves to Christ in order to speak in him, preach in his spirit, with the same dispositions and intentions he had when he preached himself and wants to continue to preach today through them.

(St. John Eudes, The Apostolic Preacher, Chapter 2; O.C. 4, 12-16)

EUDIST PRAYER

We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, messenger of the Gospel of Salvation.

We give you thanks because you are the light of the world and chose us to help our brothers and sisters get to know you.

We ask forgiveness for our lack of faith and generosity in the proclamation of the Gospel.

We give ourselves to you so that our spirit may be filled with your grace and give us courage and love to proclaim your name.

You who live and reign forever and ever.

R/ Amen.

LITANY OF SAINT JOHN EUDES

Saint John Eudes, pray for us.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, pray for us.

Messenger of love for Christ, pray for us.

Moved by special love for sinners, pray for us.

Tireless missionary, pray for us.

Saint John Eudes, vehement defender of the faith, pray for us.

Evangelist and Apostle, pray for us.

Burning and shining torch, pray for us.

Burning for your love of God, pray for us.

Shining for love of neighbor, pray for us.

Burning by your continual prayer, pray for us.

Shining by the preaching of divine word, pray for us.

Saint John Eudes, tireless worker for the Kingdom of God, pray for us.

Living image of Jesus Christ, pray for us.



LET US PRAY

God our Father, who chose Saint John Eudes to distribute the bread of the eternal Word and to form Jesus Christ in the hearts of all, grant we pray your Church worthy heralds of the Gospel, that following the example of Saint John Eudes and imitating his virtues, they may proclaim today the message of salvation as ambassadors for Jesus Christ and for the glory of your name.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
R/ Amen.



Day Seven

Saint John Eudes, Lover Of The Poor

INTRODUCTION

“The preferential option for the poor” that the documents from Puebla refer today, was a permanent norm in the life of St. John Eudes, who, since childhood, vowed to aid them and following the example of Christ, devoted his heart and consecrated himself to their service. Remembering his behavior and attitude during the plague that struck his province of Normandy is more than a sufficient example of such devotion.

He always fulfilled what was contained in the primitive constitutions of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary: “The true children of the congregation will have a special affection for the poor, always being their protectors and defenders, ready to help them, educated them and visit them.”

His word and example help us today to better understand and fulfill this ecclesial commitment to love the poor.



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Brothers and sisters, that Christ the Lord, who became poor to make us rich with his gifts, be with you all.

R/ And with your spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully chose the priest St. John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

...

R/ Amen

SCRIPTURE READING (MT 25, 31-45)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’

Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’

He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’



EUDIST READING THE HEART OF THE MOTHER OF MERCY

“Mother of mercy, look kindly on so many miserable, defenseless, anguished heart”.

Oh most meek and pious Virgin, cast your eyes kindly upon the misery and the pitiful people that fill the world. There are so many poor people, widows, orphans and all sorts of sick people, so many captives and prisoners, so many who have been subjected to the malice of men, so many travelers and pilgrims exposed to danger on land or sea, so many laborers for the Gospel exposed to thousands of hazards to save souls in peril, so many anguished hearts, so many assailed by temptation, so many who suffer the torments of purgatory; above all, there are so many souls in a state of sin and perdition, the greatest of all tribulations.

Finally, Oh most good Virgin, look kindly upon the practically infinite number of miserable people all over the world whose misery constitutes as many voices crying out to you: Oh Mother of mercy, consoler of the afflicted and refuge of sinners, open the eyes of your clemency to our desolation. Open the eyes of your kindness to hear our supplications. These are the miserable children of Eve, banished from their heavenly Father's house, moaning and crying in this valley of tears, appealing to your incomparable kindness. Listen to our sighs and our pleas and see our tears.



EUDIST READING THE HEART OF THE MOTHER OF MERCY

Oh most kind and powerful Advocate, show that you really are the Mother of Mercy. Turn the merciful eyes of your maternal pity upon us and deliver us from misery in this world and the next. And once our earthly pilgrimage is over, obtain for us the delight of seeing the face of Jesus, the blessed fruit of your virginal womb. Oh clement, Oh merciful, Oh sweet Virgin Mary!



EUDIST READING THE HEART OF THE MOTHER OF MERCY

Oh most merciful Mary, let us feel the effects of your clemency. Oh most pious Mary, have pity on us. Oh sweet Mary, let us enjoy the ineffable sweetness of your Heart.

(St. John Eudes, The Admirable Heart of Mary, 5, 2; O.C. 7, 32-33)





EUDIST PRAYER

Lord

Jesus, we adore you and give you thanks
for becoming poor to make us rich.

We

ask forgiveness for having loved our
comfort, our interest, our desire for
power and dominion.

We

ask you to free us from all selfishness,
and to make us aware of the well-being
of our brothers and sisters, especially
the poor and needy, so that finding you
and serving them, we may be made
worthy to enter the Kingdom of your
Father.

You

who live and reign for ever and ever.

R/ Amen.

Day Eight

Saint John Eudes And The Formation Of Pastors According To The Heart Of God

INTRODUCTION

“The most divine work is to cooperate with God in the salvation of souls”, would repeat St. John Eudes, but nonetheless there is one that surpasses it: “Working in the salvation and sanctification of the Church because it amounts to saving the saviors, directing the directors, teaching the teachers, shepherding the shepherds, enlightening those who are the light of the world . . .” That is why the work of the seminaries has always been for the Eudist community an important priority, like the first and principle objective of the Congregation, as noted in the original Constitutions.

Today, as we remember the service that St. John Eudes performed in the preparation and formation of good ministers of the Church, we pray that the Lord sends laborers to his abundant harvest and to grant perseverance till the end of those whom he has constituted dispensers of the sacred mysteries.



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Hermanos, que el gozo y la paz de Cristo, Supremo Pastor de la Iglesia, estén con ustedes.

R/ Y con tu espíritu.

OPENING PRAYER

Brothers and sisters, the joy and peace of Christ, the Supreme Shepherd of the Church, be with you all.

R/ And with your spirit.

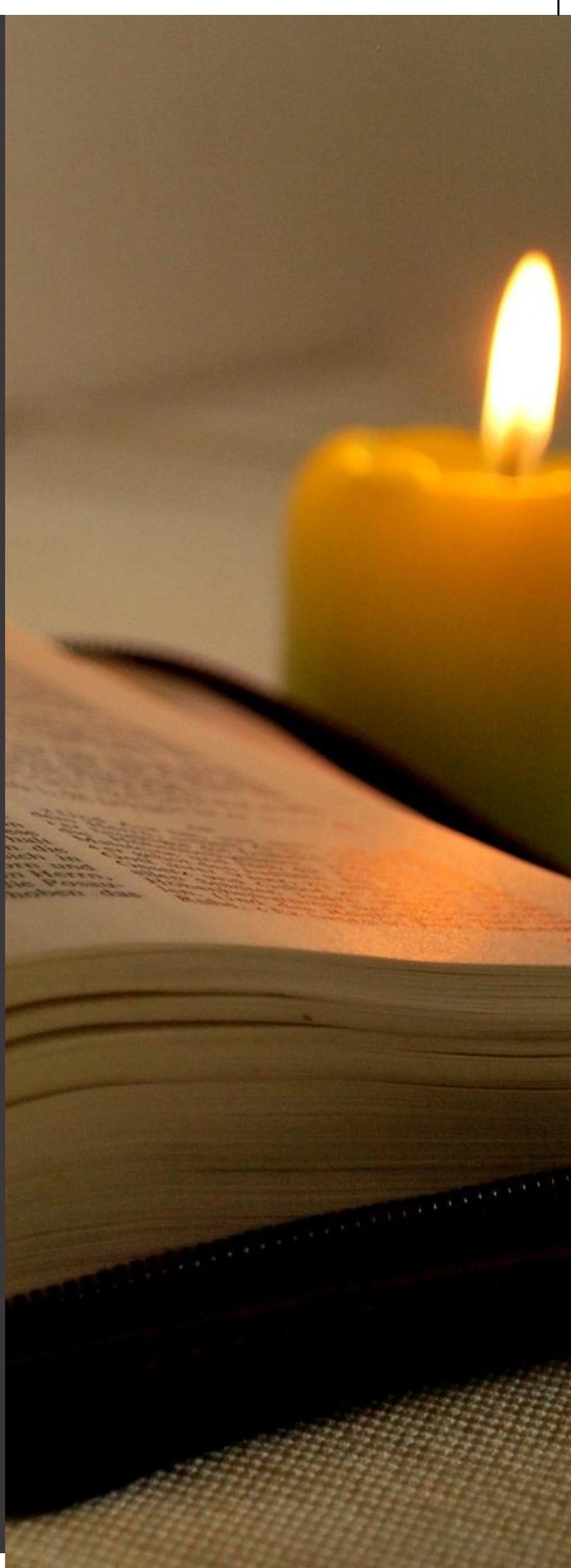
SCRIPTURE READING (1TM 3, 1-12. 5, 21-22)

This saying is trustworthy: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. Therefore, a bishop must be irreproachable, married only once, temperate, self-controlled, decent, hospitable, and able to teach, not a drunkard, not aggressive, but gentle, not contentious, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, keeping his children under control with perfect dignity; for if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of the church of God?

He should not be a recent convert, so that he may not become conceited and thus incur the devil's punishment. He must also have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, the devil's trap.

Similarly, deacons must be dignified, not deceitful, not addicted to drink, not greedy for sordid gain, holding fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. Moreover, they should be tested first; then, if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. Women, similarly, should be dignified, not slanderers, but temperate and faithful in everything. Deacons may be married only once and must manage their children and their households well.

I charge you before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels to keep these rules without prejudice, doing nothing out of favoritism. Do not lay hands too readily on anyone, and do not share in another's sins. Keep yourself pure.



EUDIST READING A PASTOR AFTER GOD'S HEART

" Ever ready to give his blood and sacrifice his life."

What is a pastor after God's heart? He is a real father to God's people, with a heart filled with truly fatherly love for his children. That love prompts him to work unceasingly to nourish his flock with the bread of the sacred Word and of the sacraments, to clothe the faithful with Christ and the Holy Spirit, to enrich them with all possible advantages regarding their eternal salvation.

He is an evangelist and an apostle whose chief work is to preach, both publicly and privately, by word and example, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is to continue and perpetuate the functions the Apostles were commissioned to perform, and to practice the virtues they practiced.

He is the sacred bridegroom of the divine Spouse, that is, the Church of Christ. So consumed with love for her is he that his only thought is to seek all sorts of means to embellish and adorn the Church, enrich and make her worthy of the eternal love of her heavenly and immortal Spouse.



EUDIST READING A PASTOR AFTER GOD'S HEART

He is an ever burning and shining light set on the candelabra of Mother Church, burning before God and shining before men; burning with his own love for God, shining by his charity for his fellowman; burning with the perfection of his inner life, shining by the holiness of his exterior conduct; burning in continual prayer to God for the needs of his people, shining by his preaching of the Word of God.



EUDIST READING A PASTOR AFTER GOD'S HEART

A holy priest is a savior and another Christ, taking the Master's place on earth, representing him, clothed with his authority, acting in his name, adorned with his qualifications, exercising his judgment on earth in the tribunal of Penance. He is consecrated to exercise the highest functions Christ ever performed on earth, to continue the work of salvation. In imitation of his Redeemer, he gives himself: mind, heart, affections, strength, time, all for God. He is ever ready to sacrifice his very blood and even life itself to procure the salvation of souls, particularly those of his own flock.



EUDIST READING A PASTOR AFTER GOD'S HEART

He is a living image of Christ in this world, the Christ who watched, prayed, preached, catechized, worked, went from town to town and village to village, suffering, agonizing, dying and sacrificing himself for the salvation of all the souls created in his image and likeness.

(St. John Eudes, Memorial of Priestly Life, Part 1; O.C. 3, 24-31)

EUDIST PRAYER

Let us pray to Jesus, our High Priest. Let us say to him:
R/ Keep us in your ways, Lord.

Eternal Shepherd, who watches over your flock, grant your Church the pastors that it needs to enlighten its way.
R/ Keep us in your ways, Lord.

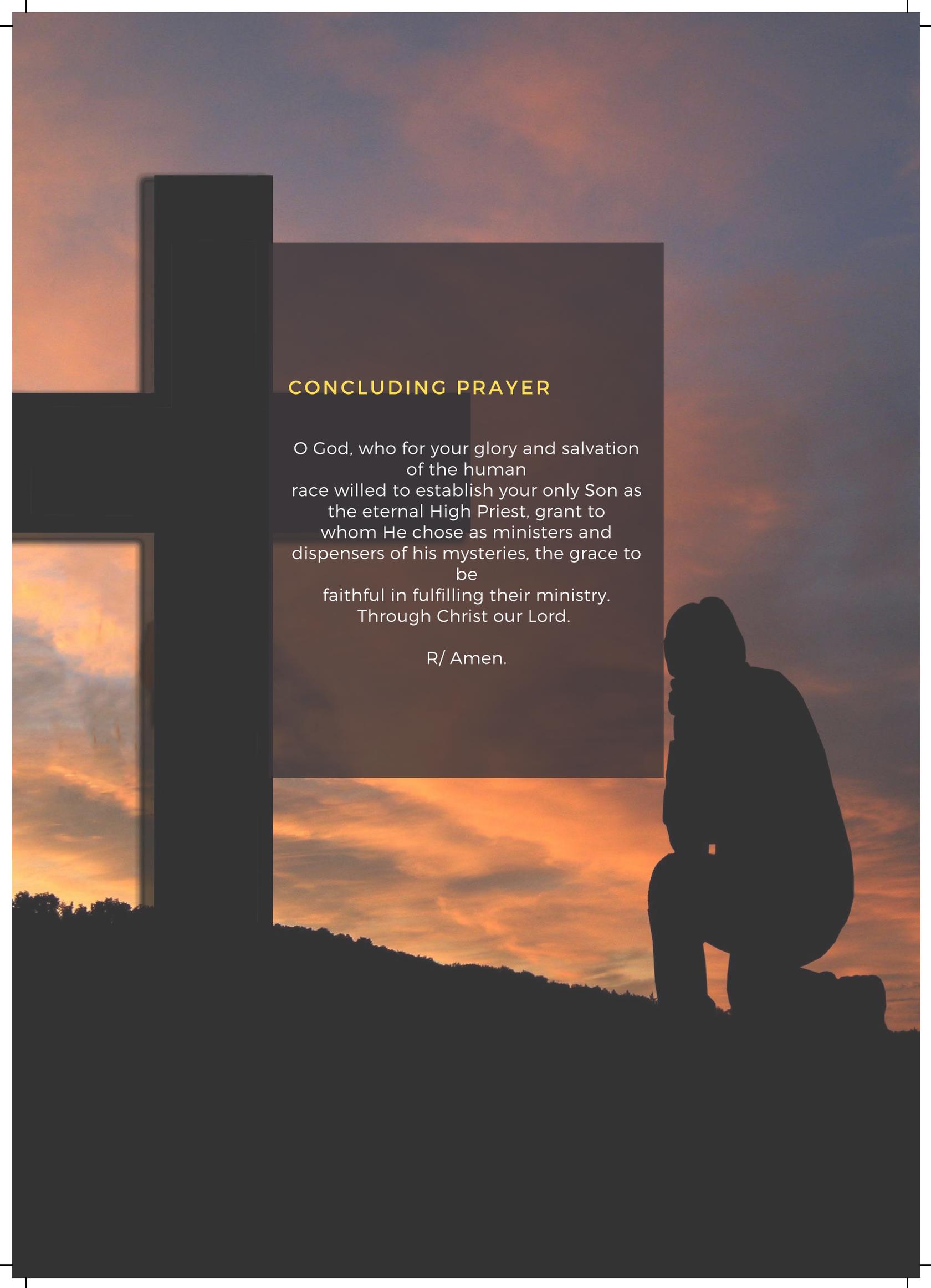
Lord, you who have given us your Word to be our light, grant your ministers to proclaim it with integrity, diligence and to live it fully.
R/ Keep us in your ways, Lord.

Lord, you who wanted to be the father of the poor, grant those you have chosen as pastors, to defend their brothers and sisters from all oppression.
R/ Keep us in your ways, Lord.

Chief Shepherd, who has promised a crown of glory to your faithful servants, place near you all the priests who during their life have served with love, by their word, prayer and deeds.
R/ Keep us in your ways, Lord.

You can add other petitions.



A person is kneeling in prayer on a hillside, silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky. A large, dark cross is visible on the left side of the image. The text is centered in a dark, semi-transparent box.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, who for your glory and salvation
of the human
race willed to establish your only Son as
the eternal High Priest, grant to
whom He chose as ministers and
dispensers of his mysteries, the grace to
be
faithful in fulfilling their ministry.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

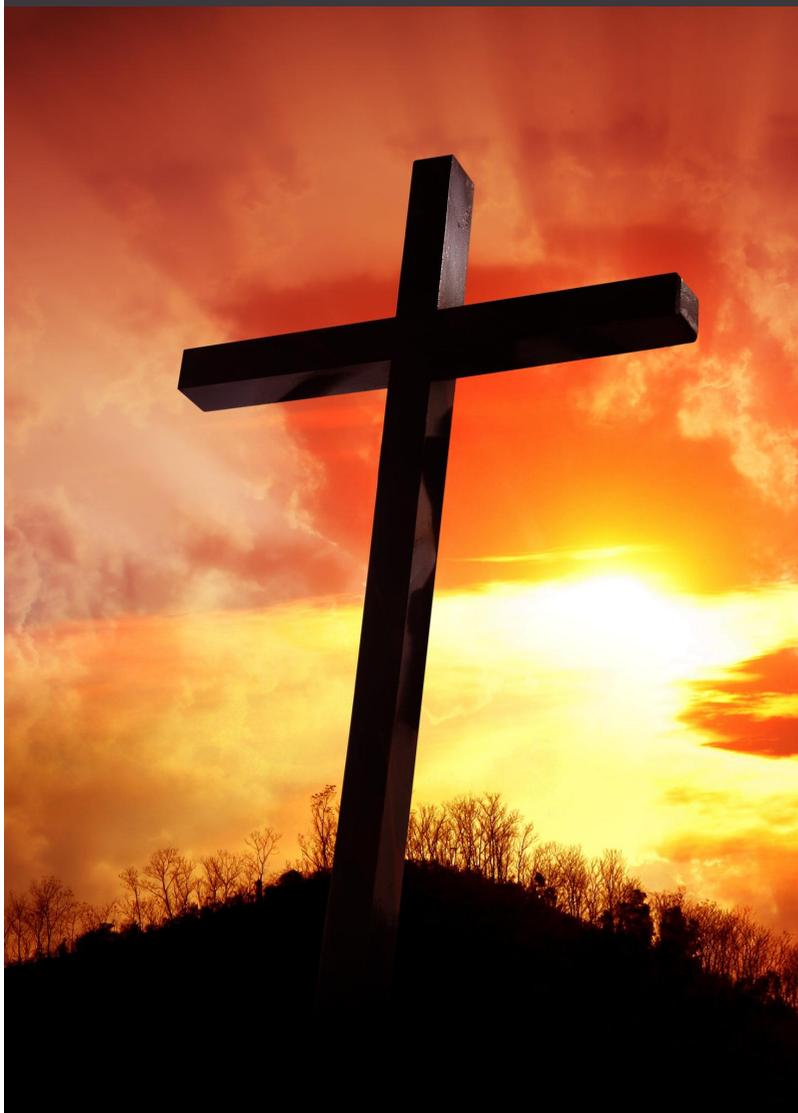
Day Nine

Saint John Eudes, Founder

INTRODUCTION

St. John Eudes continues in the Church the work of evangelization through the children of the communities he founded: The Congregation of Jesus and Mary (Eudist Fathers), The Order of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, who under the guidance of St. Mary Euphrosia Pelletier spread the initiative of the St. John Eudes throughout the world, and the association of ladies of the third order, called the Eudistines. Outside of these three major branches, there are other foundations that today boast of being part of the "Great Eudist Family".

To all of them, today we dedicate this final day of the novena with a vocational intention, in an effort that the Lord can bless these communities with abundant vocations and to a call to holiness, devotions and fidelity for those whom already belong to this great Eudist family.



PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Brothers and sisters, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your thoughts in the love of Christ.

R/ Amen. Glory to God.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who wonderfully chose the priest St. John Eudes to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ, grant us, by his example and teachings, that, growing in knowledge of you, we may live faithfully by the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
...

R/ Amen

SCRIPTURE READING (2CO 6,1.3-7^a)

Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God.



EUDIST READING MISSIONARY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

"Go in the name of the Blessed Trinity, to make it known and adored."

Go in the name of the Blessed Trinity, to make it known and adored in places where it is neither known nor venerated.

Go in the name of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, to bring to souls the fruits of his Precious Blood, which he shed for them.

Go under the protection and in the safe-keeping of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to imbue those hearts with the respect and veneration due her, and under the guidance of blessed St. Joseph, St. Gabriel, your guardian Angel, and the holy apostles of the places where you are going, to work with them for the salvation of lost and abandoned souls.

Go in the name and on behalf of our little Congregation, to accomplish in China and the other places where Providence directs you what we should like to do throughout the whole world, even to shedding our last drop of blood: destroy Satan's tyranny there and establish the kingdom of God.

EUDIST READING MISSIONARY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

But remember that, because this work is entirely an apostolic mission, you need to have a very pure intention of seeking only the glory of God, and a most profound humility and mistrust of yourself, boundless confidence in his infinite goodness, complete submission to his most adorable will and that of the prelates placed over you in his stead, unconquerable patience in your labors, an ardent zeal for the salvation of souls, and a most sincere charity towards other ecclesiastics.



EUDIST READING MISSIONARY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Meditate frequently on these virtues, earnestly asking God for them, and try to practice them faithfully. May God in his divine goodness grant you them in their perfection, together with all the other graces necessary and expedient to accomplish perfectly his most holy will, and to conduct yourself everywhere both as a true missionary of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary and as a true child of their most lovable Heart.



**EUDIST READING
MISSIONARY TO THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH**

May Jesus and Mary grant you their holy blessing for that purpose. May it remain always with you and precede, accompany and follow you everywhere and in all things.

With this wish do we pronounce over you, in the name of Jesus and Mary, and in the sacred love of their most charitable Heart, these precious words of Holy Mother Church: *Nos cum prole pia benedicat Virgo Maria* - May the Blessed Virgin Mary and her divine Child bless us.

(Letter to Mr. de Sesseval, when he left for the foreign missions. St. John Eudes, Letters, 1, 60; O.C. 10, 449-450)



THE APOSTOLIC VOCATION OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY

" You have but one and the same vocation with the Mother of God."

My dearest daughters, you have, in a way, but one and the same vocation with the Mother of God. For, just as God chose to form his Son within her, and in the hearts of the faithful through her agency, so too he called you to the holy community in which you are now so that his Son might live in you, and through you restore him to life again in the souls in which he has been allowed to die. What a holy vocation! How prodigious is God's goodness to have called you to a truly apostolic Order!

But, remember that the evil spirit will not fail to tempt you regarding your vocation, since this kind of work is singularly displeasing to him and there is no one he hates so much as those who labor for the salvation of souls.

He will remind you of the troubles and difficulties you must suffer. But, remember, my dearest daughters, that there is no state in life exempt from work and suffering. Remember, if you do not suffer with Jesus, you will not reign with him. Remember that all our happiness on earth consists in being crucified with him.

That is why there is nothing we should fear more than being without a cross. Cast your eyes on a crucifix and see what Christ suffered to save souls. Is it reasonable that you should be associated with him in the greatest work for which he came into the world, namely: to save sinners, a work which cost him so dearly, and yet that you should expect to be spared any trial?

Should we not die of shame at the sight of our own weaknesses and cowardice? The slightest difficulties dishearten us, the smallest trials discourage us, flies become elephants for us. We are saddened by what should cause us to rejoice; we tremble when there is no reason to fear. We want to enjoy the advantages of our holy religion, but want no share in its crosses. How badly we deceive ourselves! Any devotion which is not based on self-denial, repudiation of one's own will and satisfactions, on bearing one's cross, following in the footsteps of Jesus when he himself was seeking out lost souls, is nothing else but pure illusion and fraud.



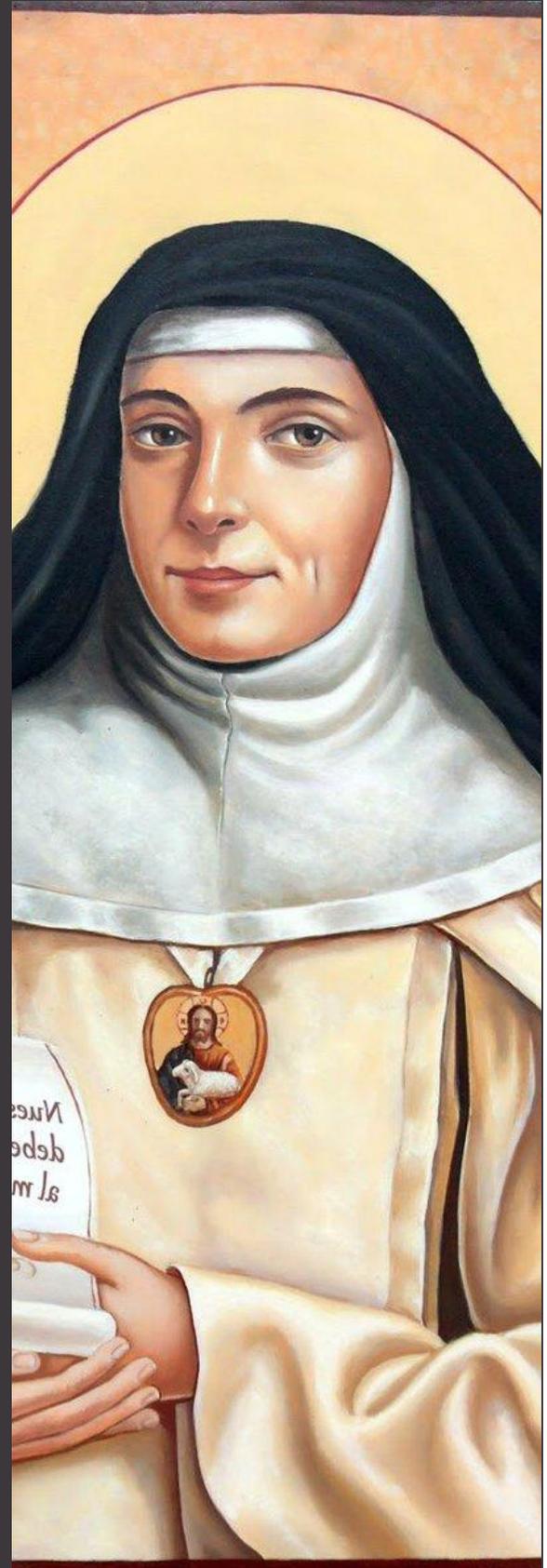
THE APOSTOLIC VOCATION OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY

Don't you know, my dearest Sisters, that the broad road leading to heaven is the way of the cross, that it is the only one, and that the true and stable virtues necessary for us to be pleasing to God are acquired only through a great deal of trials, labors, self-imposed mortification and penance? Don't you hear the Lord telling us that because the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, only those who do themselves violence can take it by force? Don't you hear him tell us that he himself had to undergo an infinite number of tribulations to enter into the glory which is rightfully his by virtue of so many claims?

How can you be numbered among his members and spouses unless you conform to him? Must a new Gospel be written for you or do you want God to send another Messiah, one of honey and roses? Would you prefer to go to heaven by a different path from the one the Mother of God and all the saints traveled? Or is it your wish to go there alone leaving your poor sisters on the road to hell because you are so frail that you are afraid to make the effort to lend them a helping hand?

I tell you, my dearest daughters, it is impossible for Our Lord to allow anyone to fall who, out of love for him, helps others to rise. Purity, when allied with true charity, can never be sullied, any more than rays of sunlight can be contaminated by mud. So, cast aside these futile fears and trust in him who has called you to this divine work. If you mistrust yourselves and rely wholly on him, he will not withdraw and allow you to fall.

(St. John Eudes, Letters, 2, 8; O.C. 10, 511-514) Letter to the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity at Caen.



SAINT JOHN EUDES' LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

" I bequeath this Heart as something which belongs to me."

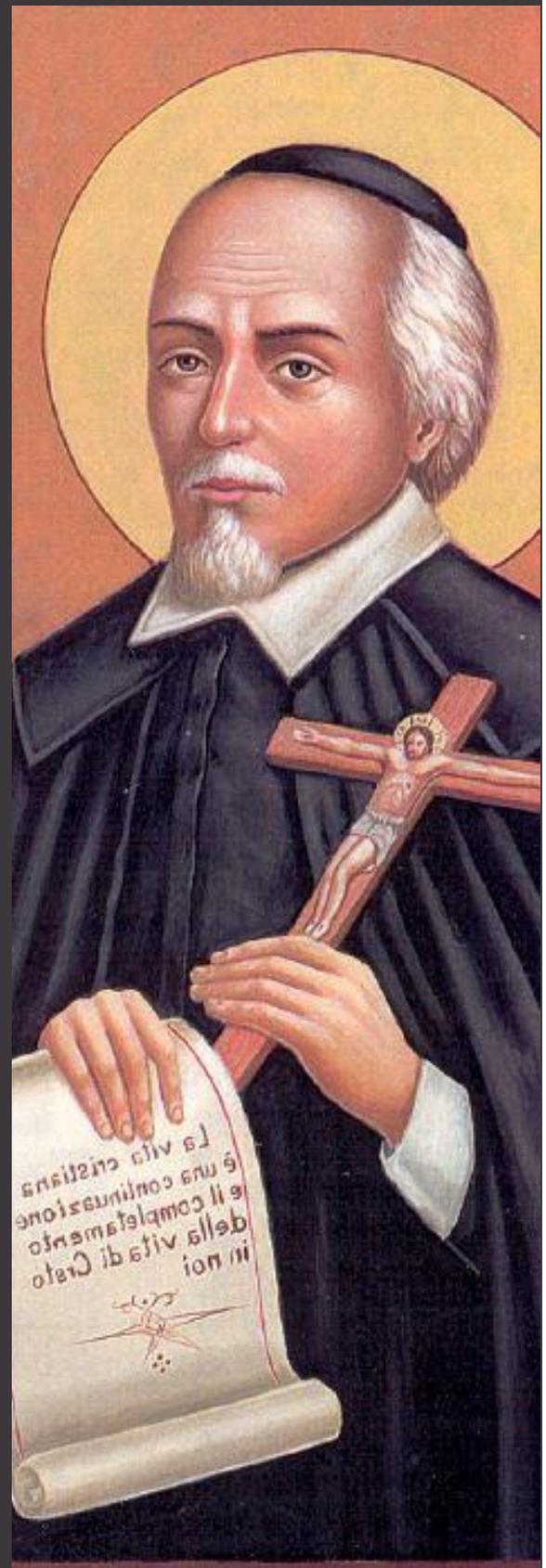
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and in honor of and union with the last will and testament made by my Jesus on the final day of his mortal life on earth, I am drawing up this will solely for the glory of my God, and in the following form:

I bequeath myself with all my heart to my Savior, that I may unite myself with the perfect faith of his most Holy Mother, his Apostles, his saints and the entire Church. And, in union with this faith, I protest before heaven and earth that I wish to die as a child of the Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church, and in the belief of all the Christian truths she teaches. I offer myself to God so that I may suffer, with the help of God's grace, all imaginable torments and all possible deaths to that end.

With all my heart I bequeath myself to the infinite love through which my Savior died on the Cross for me and for all men. In union with this love, I accept and embrace my death, whenever and however it may please him to send it, in honor of and thanksgiving for his holy death and that of his glorious Mother. I most humbly beseech him, by the Holy Heart of this Blessed Mother, and by his own adorable Heart broken and shattered for love of us and by his sufferings on the Cross, to grant me the grace to die in his love, through his love and for love of him.

To the fullest extent of my will, I give myself to that incomprehensible love through which my Jesus and my all-good Mother gave me their most lovable Heart in a special manner. In union with this same love, I bequeath this Heart as something which belongs to me, and of which I can dispose for the glory of my God.

I bequeath it, I repeat, to the little Congregation of Jesus and Mary, to be the portion, the treasure, the chief patron, the heart, life and rule of the true children of this Congregation. In like manner, I offer and dedicate the Congregation to this divine Heart, to be consecrated to its honor and praise for time and eternity.



SAINT JOHN EUDES' LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

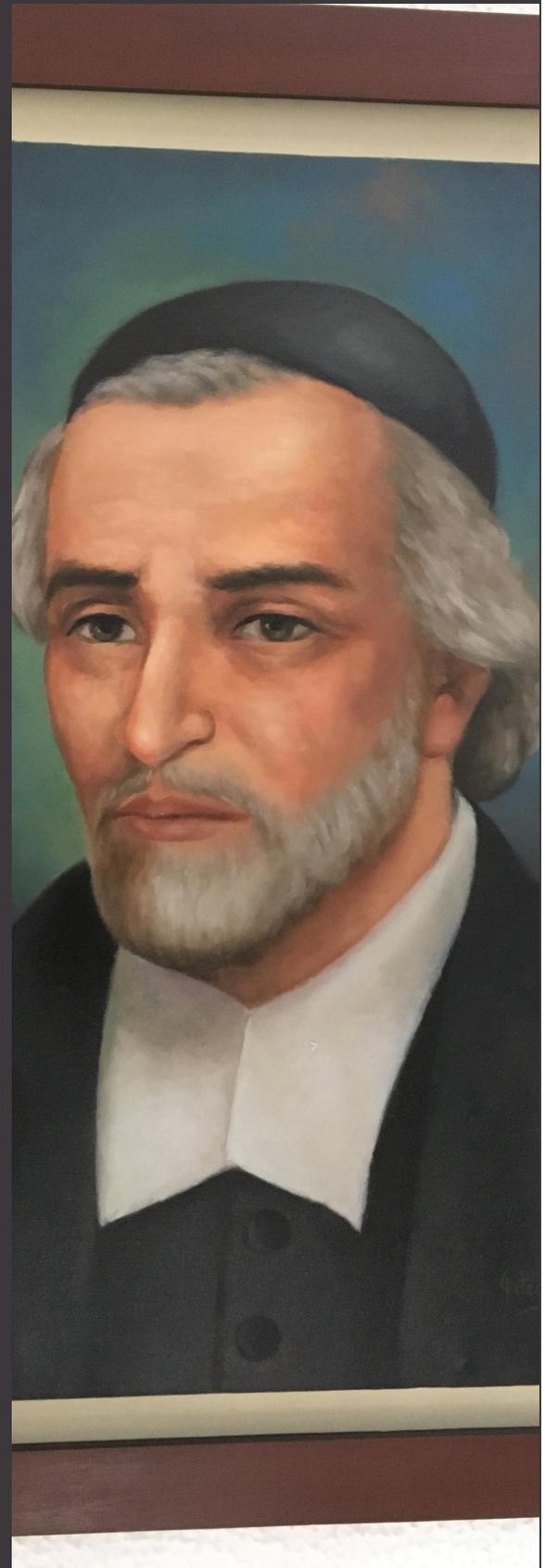
I beseech and urge all my beloved brothers to strive to render to it and have rendered to it all the honor within their power; to celebrate with the most fervent devotion possible its Feasts and Offices on the days indicated in our Proper, and to give exhortations on this subject in all their missions; to strive to imprint on their hearts a perfect likeness of the virtues of this most Holy Heart, and to look upon it and follow it as the pristine rule of their lives and conduct.

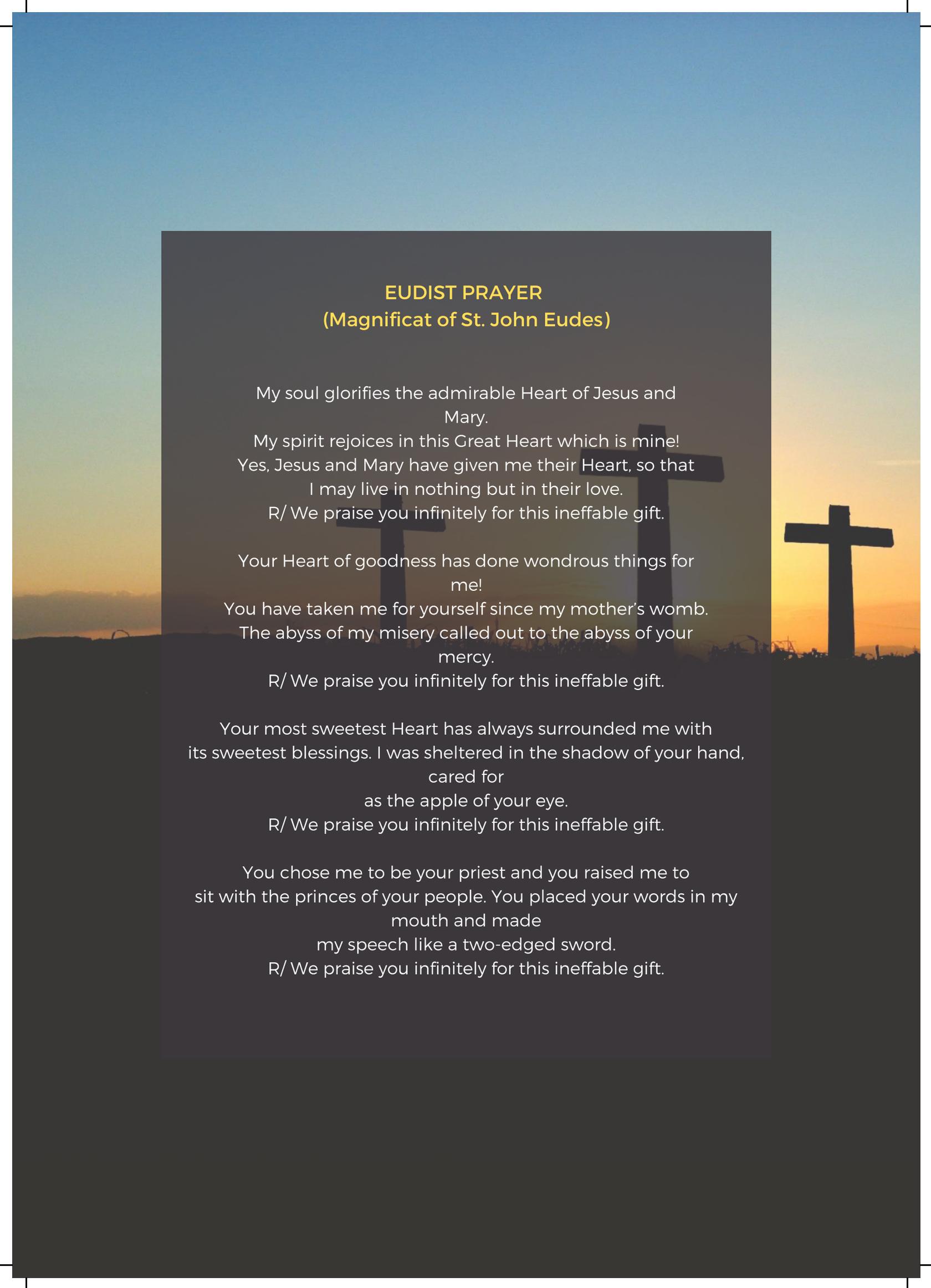
I entreat them to give themselves to Jesus and Mary in all their actions and exercises, in order to perform them in the love, humility and all the other dispositions of their Sacred Heart, so that, by this means, they may love and glorify God with a Heart truly worthy of God, *Corde magno et animo volenti*, and that they may be like unto the Heart of God and true children of the Heart of Jesus and Mary.

I likewise bequeath this most precious Heart to all my dearest daughters, the Religious of Our Lady of Charity, to the Carmelites of Caen, and to all my other spiritual children, particularly those who have a special love for their most unworthy father and whose names are written in the book of life. I give all of them, and each one individually, to this most kind Heart for the aforesaid intentions indicated in the preceding article, and I promise them that, if my Savior grants me forgiveness, as I hope from his infinite mercy and the incomparable charity of his Blessed Mother, I will take very special care of them in heaven. I hope that God may grant me the grace to assist them in their hour of death, in company with the most kind Virgin.

In conclusion, I bequeath myself with my whole heart to my dearest Jesus, that I may unite myself with all the holy dispositions with which he, his most Holy Mother and all the saints died, embracing for love of him all the pains of mind and body which may be mine during my last days, protesting to him that I wish my final breath to be an act of purest love for him, and imploring him to accept and reserve for my hour of death all the sentiments and acts of religion indicated here.

(St. John Eudes, *Last Will and Testament*, O.C. 12, 169-175)





EUDIST PRAYER
(Magnificat of St. John Eudes)

My soul glorifies the admirable Heart of Jesus and
Mary.

My spirit rejoices in this Great Heart which is mine!
Yes, Jesus and Mary have given me their Heart, so that
I may live in nothing but in their love.

R/ We praise you infinitely for this ineffable gift.

Your Heart of goodness has done wondrous things for
me!

You have taken me for yourself since my mother's womb.
The abyss of my misery called out to the abyss of your
mercy.

R/ We praise you infinitely for this ineffable gift.

Your most sweetest Heart has always surrounded me with
its sweetest blessings. I was sheltered in the shadow of your hand,
cared for

as the apple of your eye.

R/ We praise you infinitely for this ineffable gift.

You chose me to be your priest and you raised me to
sit with the princes of your people. You placed your words in my
mouth and made

my speech like a two-edged sword.

R/ We praise you infinitely for this ineffable gift.

EUDIST PRAYER
(Magnificat of St. John Eudes)

You have made me die, you have made me live, you are
with me in all my ways. You have been the enemy of my enemies,
and delivered me
from all my trials.

R/ We praise you infinitely for this ineffable gift.

O most loving Heart, source of all goodness, from you
have I received gifts without measure! To you all praise, all love,
and all
glory! May every mouth sing your praise, and every heart cherish
you!

R/ We praise you infinitely for this ineffable gift.

May your glory sing out in your mercy, in the wonders
of your love. May you be eternally blessed, praised and glorified for
your
great deeds.

R/ We praise you infinitely for this ineffable gift.

May the Father of Mercies be mindful of your
sacrifice, may He accomplish all your desires!

O Heart of Jesus, on the Cross you were broken in love
and suffering for us. May our heart be consumed in the fire of your
love until
the end of time!

O Heart of Mary, pierced by the sword of sorrow, grant
that our heart may also be pierced by the love which comes from
God!

O Heart of Jesus and Mary, furnace of love, may our
hearts blaze in you forever.

May they be consumed in your flames, and may they be
one heart with the Heart of Jesus and Mary for ever.

Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy
Spirit,...

R/ Amen.