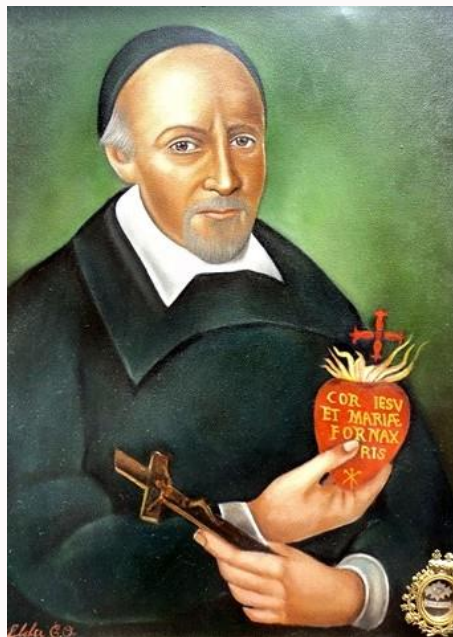


91 YEARS OF THE CANONIZATION OF SAINT JOHN EUDES



**“Jesus, you are the Saint of Saints
and Sanctity Itself”**

(The Kingdom of Jesus, Part VII)

**DEPARTMENT OF EUDIST
SPIRITUALITY**

WHAT IS THE PERFECTION OF CHRISTIAN LIFE AND HOLINESS?

“The perfection of Christian life and holiness consists in ceaselessly uniting yourself to Him as His members, and in continuing to do what He did, as He did it, uniting yourself with His dispositions and intentions, in forming all your behavior with that of Jesus, carefully imitating all of His examples, without separating yourself from our Divine Master and Model: Christ, our Lord.”

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(The Kingdom of Jesus, Part VII, At the Moment of Your Birth)

THE PATH TO HOLINESS OF JOHN EUDES

Invoking the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and having encouraged his brothers to fraternal communion, John Eudes breathed his last on August 19, 1680, at the age of seventy-nine. On his tombstone were the last words of his epitaph, which read: *“He lived piously, he died holy.”* The opinion of his holiness was never interrupted but on the contrary grew day by day.

On February 26, 1874, Pope Pius IX signed the introduction for the cause of the Venerable Servant of God. On January 6, 1903, Pope Leo XIII, before publicizing his thoughts said, *“When it comes to John Eudes, we are talking about an extremely outstanding man, who by the sanctity of his life constituted himself not only by his shining example but by his lasting works towards humanity by his illustrious zeal for the salvation of souls . . .”*

Miracles confirmed the fame of his holiness such as the healing of Sister Augustine Chassé, of Our Lady of Charity, in Rennes, who suffered from stomach cancer. Likewise, Sister Lucia, found herself cured of multiple paralysis caused by an organic cerebrum-spinal injury.

Finally, Louis Bourdon received a divine miracle after having completely lost his sight. He implored the intercession of the Servant of God and gained instant and perfect healing. These miracles allowed Pius X, in May 1903, to solemnly declare that, *“there was certainty regarding the proposed miracles”*. On the Third Sunday of Advent of the same year, the decree was published that affirmed, *“. . . with all certainty we could proceed to the solemn beatification of the Servant of God John Eudes”*. This occurred on April 25, 1909.

Two more miracles would be the cause for the elevation to sainthood of John Eudes as a saint of the Church. First, the healing of Sister Juana Beatriz Londoño, of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Presentation of Tours, in the city of Manizales (Colombia), of gastralgia disease, severe diabetes with renal complications, nephritis, furunculosis and abscesses. The second miracle was obtained by Buenaventura Romero, in Guasca, also Colombian territory, which was diagnosed with traumatic peritonitis and a skull fracture. After praying devoutly to Eudes he managed to recover. Once these miracles were approved, the date was set for the canonization on May 31, 1925, the Solemnity of Pentecost.

(Bull of Canonization of John Eudes)

THE WORDS OF POPE PIUS XI DURING THE CANONIZATION OF JOHN EUDES

“His voice echoed throughout France, beginning as a fruitful preacher of the eternal truth, countless prey to the ancient enemy of humankind to be restored to the divine Redeemer. And, leaving aside all the rest, left as heirs to his apostolate the Society of Religious of Jesus and Mary, and inflamed with his zeal the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, to which, in addition to the three vows accustomed, forced a fourth vow to host and guide back to the practice of an honest life the sinful women, not forgetting the mercy that Jesus Christ showed the Samaritan woman and the sinful and adulterous woman.”

(Directory of Church History, Vol. 19/2010/287-289)

OUR CALL TO HOLINESS

“Whoever is baptized is likewise obligated to be holy for many reasons:

Holy, because of the name he bears: that of Christian, which is most holy. Holy, because he is a child of him who is holiness itself and the source of all holiness. Holy, because through Baptism he received divine grace, a participation in the holiness of God, making all who are baptized and remain faithful to this holy grace sharers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1, 4). Holy, because through Baptism he is a member of a Head who is the Holy of holies, and of a most holy body, that is, a member of Jesus Christ and his mystical body, most holy Church. Holy, because he must be animated by the same spirit as his Head, that is to say the Holy Spirit. St. Paul declares: If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ (Rom 8, 9).

Holy, in so much as he must be clothed with Jesus Christ, that is, with his holiness and all his virtues: All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with him (Gal 3, 27). Holy, in so far as he is fed a most holy and divine food, the deified body and most precious blood of the Son of God.

What must we do then? Only one thing and one that is most delightful. What, indeed, is easier and more delightful than to love? What is more pleasant than to love the one who is infinitely good, beautiful, perfect, and lovable; the one who is all goodness, beauty and perfection, who never caused any harm, but rather an infinite amount of good; the one who is all heart, all charity, all love for you? Love the most good and lovable God and you will be holy.”

(Extracts from *The Admirable Heart*, O.C. VI, 386-394)



“If you love the things of this earth, says St. Augustine, you become earthly. If you love divine things, you become heavenly. So, love the Holy of holies and you will become holy. Love God and you will become one with God by participation and resemblance.”

(St. John Eudes, *The Admirable Heart*, Book 4, Chapter 4, O.C. VI, 386-394)

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