

# FEAST OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



Mass and Office composed by Saint  
Jean Eudes

November 13, 2016

DEPARTMENT OF EUDIST  
SPIRITUALITY

## INTRODUCTION

The Eudists and Sulpicians, however, did have a complete Mass and Office composed by Saint Jean Eudes in 1652 for the Feast of the Priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, kept on 15 November 1653 for the first time in the seminary of Coutances. The Eudists abandoned the Feast of the Priesthood toward the middle of the 19th century. The Priests of Saint-Sulpice kept it until the liturgical reforms of Pope Pius X.

(Information of [vultuschristi.org](http://vultuschristi.org))

## PREACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD

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

*"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.

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.

They must study and assiduously practise 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.

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.

## **PASTORS AFTER GOD'S HEART**

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

*“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 practise the virtues they practised.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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