



Congregation of the
Blessed Sacrament

Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum!

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On route to La Mure: Ecclesial prophetic experience and charism of St Eymard

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We are a group of friends, unpretentiously called 'Group St Peter-Julian', meeting at least four times a year, particularly during the important liturgical times, for a catechesis with a wide scope whether regarding its content or contributors. The items of faith are also transmitted in real itineraries of faith or pilgrimages, focused each year in a kind of journey and a pilgrimage taking 6-8 days.

We thus organized a pilgrimage (23-29 August 2014) towards the birthplace of St Peter-Julian Eymard, La Mure d'Isère (40 km to the south of Grenoble) and the group prepared all the significant stages of this route.

Here are some of these arranged according to their content.

1. Three stages underlining the Prophetic Character of the contemporary Church

At *Sotto il Monte* we were invited to rediscover the simple roots of Pope John XXIII's holiness, synthesized in the famous 'Decalogue of daily events', which was particularly stimulating by its concreteness. The visit to places recalling Pope John XXIII (house of his birth, Ca' Maitino) was crowned for some of the group by meeting Cardinal Loris Capovilla.

At *Bose*, a community that was born on the same day as the closing of the Second Vatican Council and under its sign, ecumenical monasticism was presented to us by two young monks. We participated with numerous guests, mainly young, to their communal Eucharistic celebration, which was made solemn by the presence of long lines of monks and nuns in white robes and poignant liturgical music a feature of the community.

Taizé: there was much expectation regarding this meeting-experience of the principal worldwide point of reference for youth, and our hopes weren't disappointed. The great number of youths who were searching, the numerous groups gathered for reflection and prayer spread across open air places, and also in the church, the great collective prayer characterized by deep silence, and even the self-service meal, all these features were various components made for an experience that gave us the taste of a life of a different intense and simple world, an alternative to the common life to which we are 'constrained' in contrast. The group in harmony with the groups present took part in the prayer-reflection on the theme of mercy.

Cluny, with its imposing ruins, reminded us of the great medieval monasticism that marked, at the level of Christianity, all Europe as the spiritual and juridical reference point of 1500 monasteries.

2. the places linked to St Peter-Julian Eymard

Lyons-Fourvière

Apart from the classic visit to the historical centre and the Cathedral of St John (a setting of two Ecumenical Councils, commemorated by the Apostolic Nuncio of Francis Monsignor Giuseppe Roncalli) and the visit to the imposing Basilica of Fourvière, we emphasize an intense moment of prayer in the 'Chapel of the Virgin.' A marble inscription recalls that in this chapel Father Eymard on 21 January 1851, while praying, received a singular grace: "*The Eucharist had no religious institute to honour and make it known. There should be one.*" His Eucharistic vocation had its origin from this.

We prayed praising the Virgin through whom Father Eymard – *ad Jesum per Mariam* – felt lead by the hand to the Eucharist. Thanksgiving and intercession were made so that the Institute he founded may in the future always be more faithful to the eymardian charism.

La Mure

The wise used to say once that "the end is first in intention and the last to be accomplished". Thus La Mure is the furthest point, but always present and recalled in various circumstances of the journey. We are grateful to Father Manuel Barbiero sss, the superior of the local community, for his presentation of Father Eymard and his 'souvenirs': the house-museum where he died, the Eymard chapel in course of being restructured, the family tomb in the nearby cemetery. The body of St Peter-Julian is no longer at La Mure. Reflection and prayer to St Peter-Julian, whose name the group has taken, ended our visit there.

Ars

The visit to the church and house of the holy Curé Jean-Marie Vianney is also the occasion to recall the strong spiritual friendship between the two saints and their common devotion to the Eucharist. They had also devotion to Our Lady of La Salette, while Father Eymard has a privileged place among the numerous pilgrims of that Shrine.

Our Lady of La Salette (1846)

Father Eymard defended the authenticity of the apparitions to Maxim and Mélanie (1856) at La Salette at Forman and he was the first to make known at Lyons (end of 1846) the message of the Virgin. As a fervent and faithful pilgrim he would go to La Salette at least a dozen times, but not before the official approbation by the Church of these apparitions. On 18 August 1852 he wrote in the register of pilgrims:

"If I didn't have the opportunity of being a Marist, I would ask my bishop as a special favour to be consecrated body and soul to the service of

Our Lady of La Salette... I am glad today to embrace with love and gratitude this blessed place, this mountain of salvation." (Signed: Eymard, Marist.)

I like to think that Father Eymard has accompanied and favoured us in the movingly strong experience that we lived at the Shrine: the prayer and torchlight procession in the evening, the celebration in the morning, the devotional path outside the Shrine and... the splendid mountains!

To end the pilgrimage there were some interesting stages comprising historical, cultural and artistic features: Provence with Avignon, Arles and Nîmes to taste especially the characteristic roman aspect of 'Gaul'.

Protected by Our Lady of Loreto, to whom we entrusted ourselves at the start of our pilgrimage, sustain by a spirit of a friendly group and faith, animated by Father Leopoldo Cristinelli and Father Silvano Nicoli, the pilgrimage of our 'Group St Peter-Julian' came to a close in joy with the litany of Loreto.

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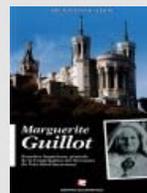


With joy, I wish to inform you of our upcoming Amplified General Council (AGC) which will be held in Rome from the 13th till the 29th of April 2015.

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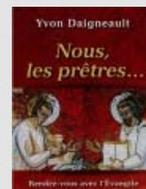
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