



Witnesses of our pilgrim brothers after their journey through the Eymardian places

“Our vocation is to walk, a journey, a pilgrimage. We are invited to be always on the move.”

To live this Blessed Sacrament charismatic experience draws its significance from the “facts of the life of Fr Eymard, the spirituality, the places he passed through, the landscapes, they are one thing, a coherent whole that speaks to us (cf. Annie Coppens-Baten, *When the cedars speak*). This means to live and remember baptism, the starting point, the vocational option. As it is well known, La Mure is a small town where Fr Eymard was born. The chapel recalls his baptism, his confirmation, his Eucharistic piety. This reality challenges my life, always on the road and in search, both with failures and successes. Eymard had a restless journey, moved by the Spirit, to respond to the significance of his baptism. To live a Blessed Sacrament charismatic experience is to go in pilgrimage with the Founder. It means:

To Depart: leave a home, like Abraham was told “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you” (Gen 12:1).

To walk: is to make the journey, to go from sanctuary to sanctuary, from place to place. This supposes to walk freely, like Israel in the desert, to journey like the disciples with Jesus, following him, knowing that in the end we are called to participate in his passion.

To Remain: to take time, his time: “Master, where do you live? – come and you will see, he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent the day with him” (Jn 1:38-40).

As an SSS religious, an important aspect of this experience was the constant invitation to be always on the move. This means, to be aware of our charism and to update it as a living reality. We are aware of its origin in history that challenges our present, motivates and moves us to be always seeking to renew and improve the path undertaken. We are invited to become protagonists and responsible for the journey of being a Blessed Sacrament religious. I discovered in each Blessed Sacrament community these features: attitude of being welcoming, simplicity, humility in living the charism, teaching the Renewed

Eucharistic Spirituality as well as possible, living in fraternity, prayer and service. Confreres who despite their advanced age actualize and live the charism, in the joy of table fellowship, in their fidelity to prayer and responsibility of service.

The Congregation and the Province provide the means to live this experience in the Eymardian places. Here the contents of what is offered are well organized, as is the presentation. The logistics and the organization are good. I think, after this experience, that some things could be improved. What is the contribution of the religious to the Province that lives the experience, in exercising of how to project the charism in his province today? Not to fall merely into repeating the story, it is good to remember and keep a record. Similarly: What interest does the religious have to learn the language (French) of the Founder and to deepen the studies about him? I think this is lacking on the part of a religious who goes through this experience.



The experience lived in the Eymardian places inspires me to contemplate and to undertake pastoral initiatives with a Blessed Sacrament colour, as for example, at a Provincial level, to strengthen the Blessed Sacrament laity, with the School of Eucharistic formation (pastoral workers); in the community, to nourish a Blessed Sacrament identity (history – memory); in the parish, to stimulate Formation in Eucharistic Spirituality. Finally, the content of Eymardian spirituality drew attention to keep on deepening more appreciation for the History and the developing of “Love” in Eucharistic catechesis.

FR ANYEL HUMBERTO MESA G., SSS
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'Once upon a time' at La Mure d'Isère

While all eyes in France were fixed on the event of the European Cup, an occasion of great excitement and enthusiasm for the French people, **from July 6 to 15, 2016**, some religious, sisters and laity of the Eymardian family chose this time to plunge deeply into Eymard's spirituality: "I have made the perpetual vow of my personality to Our Lord Jesus Christ".

All this took place in the intimacy of the family home of Father Eymard, a place of memory where he passed the last hours of his life; a true Bethlehem, a house of bread, a house of the word where we were adequately nourished by Father Manuel Barbiero, who is a great travel companion and experienced exponent on Father Eymard's teaching about the "gift of self".

A mixed international group comprised of brothers and sisters coming from different horizons: Fathers Bengui Claude Micky, Onuoha Cyriaque, Passy Jean De Dieu, from Congo Brazzaville; Father Anacleto Bambala, the Provincial Superior of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Sister Mary Ann Mateo, an SSS Sister Servant from the Philippines; Sister Agnès Không Thi Huyền, an SSS Sister Servant from Vietnam; Marie-Thérèse Joubert, from La Mure, and Sandrine Treuillard, from Paris, both French lay persons.



Through passages of the Great Retreat of Rome, like the disciples of Emmaus, we encountered Father Eymard, sharing his dream and his great discovery: the gift of his personality and the interior cenacle, which for Father Eymard represented the key of his whole life, a new way, and the characteristic virtue that he wanted to teach to all who desire to share his ideal in living. This can be summed up in a word: love, but the royal love. Threading through this great discovery was the text of Gal 2:20: "It is no longer I who live, but Jesus Christ who lives in me".

This was a great occasion of discussion, sharing, prayer and visits to the significant places that deeply shaped Father Eymard. First of all, Saint-Romans, where he touched "his mystic rock and his chapel", and contemplated the "oak of friendship", a secret witness of a pure friendship, recalling to us the house of Madam Nathalie Jordan. Then we visited the shrine of Our Lady of Laus, which recalled to us the famous pilgrimage, passing by the shrine of Our Lady of La Salette, the chapel of adoration at Grenoble, where Father Eymard celebrated his last Mass on 21 July 1868, the Calvary of La Mure and its three crosses overlooking the city. All these sites enabled us to enter, so to speak, into the mystical perspective of St Peter-Julian Eymard.

What we saw, what we heard, what we felt, we have interiorized as eloquently proclaiming the "gift of personality" that springs from this contemplation. Like the Roman Centurion, we can say: "Truly Peter Julian Eymard was a Saint". Thanks to Father Manuel Barbiero and to the Eymard Centre of Spirituality for welcoming and being available to us. We will eternally remember the experience.

FR JEAN DE DIEU PASSY, SSS
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5th Walk "in the footsteps of Father Eymard" 30 July 2016

Our walk this year took us to Monteynard where Father Eymard was parish priest from 1837 to 1839. Thirty-four walkers, accompanied by a welcoming logistic team, began the route after a time of prayer in the Eymard chapel. In keeping with the Year of Mercy we were inspired by a meditation of Father Eymard: "God assures us that he is infinitely merciful... His love is eternal... Mercy saves... this is the mercy of a father. The kindness of a tender father. Moreover, God's tenderness is all goodness: no one is so fatherly, no one is so caring".

The route, accessible to many people, led us to the old station, to arrive at Paradise, then to the Merlins and father Bonnet's hut (Treize Bises). We shared our picnic at the Arboretum. In the afternoon we reached the church of Monteynard by way of Ruisseaux, Béthoux along the railway track and the shore of the Crozet.

The prayer in the chapel with which our walk began followed a time of silence to foster the spirit of fraternal and friendliness of the group. "The most striking moment for me was that of praying in the chapel, which was a most moving time of recollection, and all along the way leading us to Monteynard there was an experience of empathy and cordiality". "A wonderful day of sharing, prayers, singing and working together". "This walk enabled me to converse and share with other persons whom I didn't know, so an opening up to others was very enriching".

Let's not forget the team that accompanied us or went ahead of us with physical comfort, encouragement and smiles. "Thanks for their enthusiasm, kindness, fresh water and watermelon". "This walk in 'the colours of Mercy' was very like our life: marked by pleasant moments, or on the contrary, by difficulties of journeying, many and varied; through smiles or lending a hand; because of a ray of unexpected light between the leaves, or unlikely traces of a little trail that makes us go on dreaming..."

In the end, "after the effort, the solace", near Jesus Eucharistic. A large gathering was waiting for us to take part at Mass and bring the walkers back to La Mure. In conclusion: "I needed this prayerful walk that enabled me to be in harmony with nature and other people in the Father's love and peace". "Thanks to the Association, the organisers, for this walk, the warm atmosphere, prayers and all these moments of sharing. It is a great joy that God gives us as an instant of eternity".

MRS BRIGITTE CASSARD
ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF FR EYMARD
IN MATHEYSINE



Eurocamp Yes... Eurocamp No...

*"Dear friends,
you are called to a particular service
of proclaiming, animating
and witnessing to youth,
that is characterized by the Eucharistic spirituality.
The Lord renews in you the gift of his Spirit
in order to strengthen you in your purpose
and to sustain you in his grace.
Receive this anointing on your hands:
conform your life to the Word that you will listen to,
make beautiful and useful what you'll do,
spread the fragrance of the Love that envelopes you."*



With these words and the gestures that accompanied them (anointing of hands with fragrant oil, handing on of the Project of Life for lay associates and the pin with the SSS logo) the Eucharistic celebration closed on **Saturday 6 August 2016**, at the conclusion of this 31st Eurocamp. This "special" meeting was necessary to verify the validity of this experience at the service of youth and to evaluate a possible future. The community of St Agatha welcomed us with its usual fraternity: some young people have called it "our home".

We weren't so many: about twenty people comprising the animators and some young people whom we called together, representatives from Italy, Scotland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Spain, who in recent years have shown their willingness to take on responsibility as animators. The fragrance of the oil of nard with which we anointed their hands (symbol of "doing") spread immediately through the church, just