

infant when one day he was missed for the space of several hours and was discovered kneeling on a stool, which he had managed to drag close up to the altar. His hands were clasped, and his eyes riveted on the Tabernacle. To his mother's question as to his business there, he replied, "I am listening to Jesus." Another time the little fellow took off his shoes, put a cord around his neck, and candle in hand came up to the altar to make reparation to the Prisoner there. The memory of his First Communion used to bring tears to his eyes in later life. Pierre made that day a solemn promise to His Guest that he would be a priest, which promise he faithfully kept, though his father's opposition, a severe illness, and finally his father's death, made it no easy task.

He was ordained at the age of 23, having spent only three years in the theological seminary at Grenoble. Who shall tell the delights of his first Sacrifice? We know from his beloved sister that in his two first missions, Chatte and Monteynard, he prepared for two hours before offering Holy Mass, and his thanksgiving was scarcely any shorter. Five years later he entered the noviciate of the Marists. As a lad he had passed ten months in that of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, but sickness had compelled him to leave. His Heavenly Mother now summoned him again to her side, that she might make him ready for the apostolate as yet curtained from sight in the mists of the future. What his new superiors thought of him we may surmise from his appointment as Provincial six years afterwards. One day,—1851,—he had gone to Fourvières, Our Lady's shrine at Lyons, though not to the gorgeous Basilica that now looks down on the fair city by the Rhone. There he received a supernatural communication from her whom in after years he was to glorify under the title of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. She made him understand her intense desire for the creation of an order of men who would devote themselves exclusively to the worship and the interests of the Eucharist. None such existed, and he must undertake the foundation. He consented to be her instrument. Five years, however, passed away, then Jesus asked of him the sacrifice of his Marist vocation. That, too, he laid on the altar of holocaust, vowing to found a society of adoration, even if he should have "to eat stones for bread and should die in a hospital."

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