

would never occur again. She added: "He always led a pure and irreprehensible life. I never saw him commit a voluntary venial sin."

First Communion was for Pierre Julien a decisive moment. Oh, with what care he prepared for it! During the catechetical instructions he could not restrain his tears, and he was astonished at not seeing his companions equally touched. When he mentioned it to them, they replied that they could not weep as he did. Ah, that is a privilege given only to chaste and deeply earnest souls! To angelic purity he joined sincere penance and mortification. He fasted during a whole Lent, secretly giving his breakfast to the poor, and sleeping on a plank. It was at this period of his life that he used to go barefoot to pray at the Calvary of "La Mure." Once, as he afterward related, he tried to imitate all that he had read about the saints. "Oh, how much I loved the good God when I was little. I would not have offended Him for all the gold in the world!"

At last, came the morning of the great day, March 16, 1823. "How many graces," he says, "did Our Lord grant me at my First Communion! Then it was that my conversion was sincere and entire. At the moment I received Jesus into my breast, I said to Him: One day I will be a priest. I promise Thee!" Oh, admirable promise! He did not say, "I ask it of Thee." but "*I promise Thee!*" He seemed, as it were, to have a presentiment of all that it was going to cost him to realize his desire. His devotion to the Blessed Virgin was ardent. While still a child, he went to cast himself at Mary's feet, a rough rope around his neck, and thus consecrated himself to that good Mother. It was to her that he confided the success of his cherished enterprise. At the age of ten, he went on foot to the chapel of Notre-Dame de Laus, about fifteen miles from La Mure, there to find out his vocation. He returned with the irrevocable resolution of becoming a priest. The Blessed Virgin gave Him the assurance of her protection in an extraordinary manner. Doubtless, she appeared to him. Discreet as he was, he rarely spoke of himself, and of his good qualities; yet,