

## *Venerable Pierre Julien Eymard*

Founder of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.



(Continued)

As soon as he was old enough he was sent to school, where he remained until his twelfth year, an example of application to study and modesty for all his companions. If sometimes a coarse word escaped their lips, he would say: "Stop that! Be silent! It is not nice of you and, besides, it is displeasing to the good God." If they were larger and stronger than himself, he would write to them as soon as he returned home from school; "If you go on speaking in my presence as you have done, understand that I will have nothing more to do with you, for it gives me too much pain." Soon he exercised over them so great an influence that even the boldest restrained themselves in his presence, and carefully avoided whatever might wound his modesty.

The thought of the priesthood spurred him on in his studies. Once he went very simply to the Curé and said to him: "M. le Curé, will you teach me my lesson? I want to be a priest." "What book have you?" asked the good Curé. "My treatise on politeness," answered the child. It was a Gothic manuscript, the *ne plus ultra* of the scholars of his day. He added that he wanted to go to Rome, to kiss the feet of the Holy Father, and obtain the pardon of all his sins. He himself acknowledged his great trouble every time he had to go to confession, for he knew not what to tell. He was inconsolable over this, and he used to say: "If I never commit sins, I shall not longer have the happiness of going to confession." He then recalled two rude words that he had pronounced, and took them to the confessional. His sister declared that she never saw him disobey but twice, and then he at once accused himself, promising that it