

to bestow upon them the clothing of his sister. "I had to hide the money necessary for our household expenses," the pious young girl tells us, "and I thought myself very fortunate when his charity failed to discover my treasure."

When, one day, her brother had given to the poor the last coin he possessed, Marie Anne asked him: "What are we going to eat?" "What!" he exclaimed. "Oh, we still have some cheese! Isn't that enough?"

In five years Père Eymard had come to know all the difficulties attendant on his sacred functions as a priest, and he fully comprehended its duties and its dangers.

During his Retreat of 1835, he heard Our Lord's voice addressing him from the tabernacle in these words: "Pierre, lovest thou Me?" "Lord," he answered, "I dare not say '*I love Thee*', but I will try to love Thee!" And he wrote in his diary: "Oh, how happy I shall be when my heart, detached from everything, shall be united to God alone. I desire to make use of every means in my power to keep my heart free and to correct myself of my predominant imperfection, namely, my pride. These are the resolutions that I have signed with my own blood before the tabernacle." This, indeed, he had done.

That he might not be tempted to show partiality toward any of his parishioners, he would not accept presents from them. He even threatened those that continued to make them to have nothing more to do with them. They knew that he would keep his word, and so they respected the loyal pride of God's servant.

It was easily seen that God, jealous of his soul, willed that he should find all his joy in Him alone, and so He called him to the monastic life. Père Eymard shared the trials and difficulties inevitable to the beginning of every new work for God when, after repeated entreaties, he obtained from the Bishop of Grenoble permission to quit his diocese, in order to enter the Society of Mary. Mgr. de Bruillard, recognizing the will of God, gave the following testimony of Père Eymard: "I am indeed, showing my great esteem for the Society of Mary by permitting such a priest as you to enter it." He shared among the Marist Fathers all the trials of their early