

to God — to adore the Heart of Jesus and to honor His Blessed Mother. At twelve years of age John Eudes was allowed to make his First Communion: up to this time he was of a delicate constitution, and was under the care of a private tutor, but now day by day his health became stronger, and when he had completed his fourteenth year, his parents no longer having any reason to fear the effects of study, sent him to the Jesuit College at Caen. There he was a model of virtue to all the students and was distinguished for his fear of sin, his docile obedience to his Superiors and his great attraction for *purity, prayer and charity*, the virtues which were to shine so brightly in his after-life. He was remarkable for his tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, of whose Sodality he was a fervent member.

John Eudes went through his rhetoric and philosophy with the greatest success. By the advice of a prudent director he resolved on embracing the ecclesiastical state, and having received tonsure entered the Congregation of the Oratory, a pious community of ecclesiastics, in which however no religious vows were taken.

He received subdeaconship, Dec. 21st, 1624. He was ordained deacon in the Lent of 1625, and in Dec. of the same year he received the holy unction of priesthood from Mgr. Boivin, Bishop of Tarsus and coadjutor of the Bishop of Avranches.

John Eudes had then completed his 24th. year. At his first mass which was said on Christmas night in a Chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he seemed to be quite filled with God and with the holiness of the Sacrifice he was offering.

He was afterwards accustomed to say — "We should need three eternities to say mass right — the first to prepare for it, the second to say it, and the third to make our thanksgiving for it."

Such was the instrument that God, in his mercy and goodness chose as the founder of a pious congregation, whose sole object was to be, the reformation of fallen women, — the most necessary, the most noble, and the most difficult