

The Founder of the Order of Our Lady of Charity and Refuge (Good Shepherd).



THE Beatification of the Venerable John Eudes, which took place in Rome on the 25th of April, Good Shepherd Sunday, will be celebrated at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Ottawa, by a Solemn Triduum which will begin on the 13th of December next and end on the 15th.

Blessed John Eudes, the father and founder of the Order of Our Lady of Charity, whose members are known throughout the world as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, was born on November 14th, 1601, at Ri, in the Diocese of Seez, near Argentan, Normandy. The early life of our hero was distinguished for his piety and meekness, traits of character that lived with him until his death. He had a most intense devotion to Our Lady. So intense was it, that he chose her for his spouse, placing a ring on a finger of one of her statues and signing this marriage contract with his blood.

When he had reached the age of fourteen, he was placed under the care of those great educators of youth—the Jesuits—at their College, Royal du Mont, in Caen. Here his native ability and talent, allied to application and industry, won for him a premier place of honor. The years sped on, and it came to John Eudes to choose his state of life. Already in his heart the choice had been made. He would be a priest, he would dedicate himself to the service of God. He was ordained to the priesthood in Paris on the 20th of December, 1625. Now began in truth his Christlike mission. Never, his biographer tells us, since the days of St. Vincent Ferrer, did any Missioner attract such vast crowds. At one place 40,000 people gathered to hear him, and his words were clearly understood by all. He possessed in a marked degree all the qualifications which go to the making of the true Apostle of Christ. His learning was profound; his knowledge of the Scriptures far-reaching; his zeal indefatigable; his courage indomitable; his way winning, and his heart tender and compassionate to the faults of others. How like to the Master he was in his apostolate!

When the terrible plague scourged the towns of Argentan and Caen, John Eudes braved the danger of contagion, separated himself from his brethren that he might shed the Gospel light