

questioner forbore to press the point as to whether he had really had an apparition of Our Lady, or merely an interior revelation. Whatever it may have been, from that moment he began to give himself with indefatigable courage and perseverance to the service of the Blessed Sacrament. His first idea was to institute an association of men and women, bound by spiritual ties to the *Third Order of Mary*, and consecrated to the worship of the Blessed Sacrament.

This plan he submitted to one of his venerable Superiors. "Permit me," he said, "to lay before you an idea against which I have struggled for a long time, but which incessantly pursues me, reproaching me with resisting the voice of God."

The Rev. Père Colin understood and heartily approved the plan, which he regarded as excellent, but the execution of which he thought it more prudent to defer. At La Seyne, Père Eymard spent four years of bitter trial, constantly pursued by Our Lord. On the one side his ardent desire for the institution of an Order of the Blessed Sacrament kept his soul in a state of unrest; and on the other, his vocation, the duties of his position, and the rules of prudence bade him resist the inspiration and hearken to the word of obedience to his Superiors.

Nevertheless, during this state of uncertainty he established in the chapel of the Institute one day of Adoration every month. "In my room" he tells us, "there was a window which looked down on the tabernacle, and it was there that I passed my nights."

"One day," he added, "the Feast of Saint Joseph, we had a holiday. After sending all my students out on an excursion, I went to say Mass. When it was over, and while making my thanksgiving, I felt my soul inundated with joy" (It was in July, 1868, that Père Eymard related this fact.) "It was then that Our Lord demanded of me the sacrifice of my vocation. I assented to the demand, promising, also, to devote myself until death to the institution of a Society of adorers. I promised God that nothing should deter me, even should I have to endure the greatest misery and die in a poorhouse." These are his own forcible words energetically uttered.