

RELIC

ST. PETER-JULIAN EYMARD

- ❖ Born of poor parents in the mountains of France in 1811. He died in 1868 at the age of 57 years old from over work and exhaustion. He was canonized in 1962 by Pope John XXIII.
- ❖ His mother inspired in him a special love for the Blessed Sacrament and for the Blessed Virgin. He always wanted to become a priest and his mother encouraged that but his father was opposed since he was the only son and priesthood would leave no one to assume the father's business.
- ❖ He entered the novitiate in 1829 at the age of 18 shortly after his father died. Almost immediately he became violently ill and was given the Last Rites. He prayed that he would live long enough to say just one Mass and the Lord honored his prayers and cured him.
- ❖ He went from one order of priests to another over the next few years searching for an order that would fulfill his longing and love of God. Finally he entered a new order, the Marist Society of Lyons.
- ❖ Working in the order he progressed through three important posts finally becoming the spiritual Director of the college of Belley. Here he became a master in the direction of souls for both the religious and lay. The families of the students, in addition to the professors and students soon found their piety miraculously flourishing under his gentle influence.
- ❖ But God had another path for him. He called him to found a Congregation dedicated uniquely to promoting the glory and reign of Jesus in His Sacrament of Love. He was reluctant to leave the Marist and they wanted him to stay, but God prevailed.
- ❖ He founded his new society in Paris and struggled to keep it doing the good work he was accomplishing preparing adults for First Communion. This was in 1857, a troubling time in France with many Catholics not even receiving First Communion.
- ❖ During these years of unrelenting trials, he was exhausted by difficulties of founding two new Communities –Sister-Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and an Association of Priest-adorers. He had little success but after his death all his works expanded prodigiously. He was the fertilizer that made the tree grow.