

# Happiness of the Eucharistic Life. To Serve In Joy<sup>1</sup>

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament,  
Nemours, Friday, in the evening of December 8, 1865

***My lover belongs to me and I to him*** (cf. Sgs 2:16). My good Daughters, these words express the love of the spouse in the Song of Songs. She had searched for her beloved night and day, and no one could show him to her, except he himself; he had to appear to her. She takes a few more steps and cries out: *I found him whom my heart loves. I took hold of him and would not let him go* (cf. Sgs 3:4).

**My Sisters, you searched for our Lord with all the ardor of your soul**, and without doubt you found him in the world, but you could not hold on to him. In the desert of life, we have Jesus only in passing. Our Lord has taken the initiative; he has loved you, and while loving you he said: Do you want to live with me, do you want to follow me? Then you answered: *Ecce ancilla Domini – Behold the servant of the Lord* (cf. Lk 1:38), here I am. And you left your beloved family, your freedom to do good, even the good that you were doing, and the good that you could have done, and you came to the service of our Lord, to the service of the most Blessed Sacrament that has become the law of your life as your end. So you can say like the spouse: *My lover belongs to me and I to him!* (cf. Sgs 2:16)

It's true. You no longer have him only in passing as in the world; **in the Eucharist** he gives himself in love. He is our joy and our happiness, our divine host, a good friend. He wanted to veil his face, but the veil is transparent enough for us to enjoy him and his love. He is in his tabernacle, bound by his love. He tells you, as he tells the spouse: *Come, my beloved, come to my banquet hall, come and rest on my heart, come to the secret of my heart* (cf. Sgs 2:4,6). You have the advantage of living with him, in his house. The most fervent Christian can multiply visits, but will never be able to say: I dwell in the house of the Lord (cf. Ps 26:4).

**You are his cherished family**, the family of the King of kings, Lord of lords, and of the Father of our Lord. Love this family above all. You have given up your personal name, for you are a family, united in love. You are adorers, Servants of the Blessed Sacrament; this is your name. You are members of a divine family. Never try to have a family other than that of our Lord. All that matters for you, whether sent to East or West, North or South, is to follow the Lamb like the forty-four thousand virgins who sing as they follow the Lamb (cf. Rev 14:3). These are souls consecrated by their state of life.

**My Sisters, you have the joy of following the Lamb wherever he goes** (cf. Rev 14:4). The people of God in the desert followed the column of fire and walked in its path (cf. Ex 13:21-22). They set up their tents around the tabernacle that was their city, their palace, living for God. The tabernacle, your tent is your prie-dieu; your manna is the bread of life. You know what is written in the gospel: *Where the body is, the eagles gather*<sup>2</sup> (cf. Lk 17:37). This is the body of our Lord, the pledge of his love. Go from the body to the soul, and from the soul to God. While the body is our Lord, what about the eagles? Be like eagles, my good Daughters. With wings of love you have come to make your nest in the clefts of the rock (cf. Sgs 2:14). The eagle soars high and looks at the sun whose strongest rays cannot dim his eye. Be then like eagles around the body of our Lord.

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<sup>1</sup> Number 571. *Bonheur de la vie eucharistique. Servir dans la joie.*

<sup>2</sup> Modern translations give this text a completely different meaning.

My Sisters, don't be afraid. Never be afraid because the Eucharist yours with divine promises of perpetuity, according to the words of Jesus Christ: *I am with you always until the end of the world* (Mt 28:20). What else does he say? *Live on in my love* (Jn 15:9). What does that mean? You have the faithful promise of our Lord. You might say, Who knows if these promises are for me? Of course, since you loved him so much that you left everything for our Lord and that you want to live for him alone. You claim, *My lover belongs to me and I to him* (cf. Sgs 2:16). Besides, your promises are perpetual, as you are consecrated by your four vows. Since you are Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament, linked to the service of love by a chain of love, and you present yourselves three times, ten times a day before the Lord to adore him, it is impossible that the ring and chain that bind you to him could be broken. Even if one link is broken, there are still three others. No. Since you remain adorers, I can assure you of the promises of fidelity of our Lord.

**My good Daughters, listen well: our Lord** belongs to you. He will always be yours, ever growing in his love and his gift. The divine fire was lighted here this morning, this hearth, this fire that our Lord brought to the world (cf. Lk 12:49). He is that fire, and he takes care of it. Since he must shine in each of you, expose the crystal of your heart so that his light may shine in you, and reflect in you. Then you will become his multiplicands and his crown. Each of you will be both mother and servant. Our Lord has placed himself in the Eucharist in order to make each of us so many heavens, tabernacles, and mothers. If our Lord had not instituted the Holy Eucharist, we could be jealous of the Blessed Virgin and say, You are the mother of Jesus. Through the Eucharist, you become sisters of the Blessed Virgin, other Mary's. The incarnation is renewed, because by giving his grace to one creature, God communicates to all. Notice this text of the gospel: *Blest is the womb that bore you*. Our Lord answered: *Rather, blest are they who hear the Word of God* (cf. Lk 11:27-28). This is not any word, but the [Eternal] Word. It is through the Eucharist that this transformation takes place.

It is impossible for you to have regrets, since today you have been given heaven on earth through the Eucharist. It is impossible to aspire for anything else. Even if the chapel is humble, let the Lord's throne be noble. My poor Daughters, belong totally to our Lord, as he is totally yours. In the morning he is your friend and your savior, giving himself to you. During the day, he is your king on his throne of love, king of goodness and sweetness. May he truly be king on this throne that you have given him! Our Lord will take his delight in this little chapel<sup>3</sup>. He will be pleased because he seeks hearts that love and serve him.

[...]

What else? My good Sisters, increase and multiply (cf. Gn 9:1), not just for day and night adoration, but also in order to spread out. **Aspire to cover the world, to make the world into a single throne of adoration.** Adore; you must give only from your superabundance. In order to share fire, you must first possess it. You do have it; this is one of my greatest consolations. Of all my several foundations, I have never experienced such joy and happiness as in this one. I know that our Lord has plans of mercy for this one.

[...]

Do you know what I asked for you this morning? I will tell you: **I asked for peace, joy, and happiness in your service.** For you, peace of heart, peace in your service that says: God is pleased; the joy of serving God. Serve God with joy, because he is goodness itself. Joy and happiness; happiness in the service of God is [...] more what the psalmist wrote: *Serve the Lord with gladness* (Ps 99:2). I don't want to speak of a joy of sweetness and emotion, but of the joy that makes the soul strong, that makes her happy to give herself, at ease in the presence of our Lord. There will still be bodily suffering; but the soul rejoices even in those painful times.

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<sup>3</sup> A crossed-out phrase seems to be: in this country.

My Sisters, this is the happiness that I wish for you. Especially, there must be no sadness. Even in suffering which must come, I wish you joy, peace, and happiness. I don't mention holiness, for you already possess it. You are not here to become saints; your holiness is in your service. Serve well, and you will become great saints.

**Points for reflection:**

Three years before his death, St. Peter Julian expresses his feelings on the day of a new foundation, a foundation which would later bring him much suffering.

What ideals do you find expressed here

1. individually
2. as community

Which words of advice most echo in your heart at this time?

