

# My Daughters, What Name Shall I Give You<sup>1</sup>

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament  
Paris, Friday, June 11, 1858

**Shall we call you Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament?** No. We don't want anything that speaks of worldly nobility. Religious of the Blessed Sacrament? Again, no. There are, however, some who are called Sacramentine Religious in Rome, and others Reparatory. There are many houses where our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is adored; like the Benedictines, etc. But none of them have the adorable Eucharist as unique goal. The name that I have saved for you is great; it expresses your purpose – everything is there. But before I say it, here is the subject of our meditation.

**Three kinds of persons were serving our Lord.** We see Martha serving him when he visited her house (cf. Lk 10:38), and, in similar circumstances, Peter's mother-in-law (cf. Mt 8:15). The holy women followed him to Calvary, but then returned home. After the resurrection, Mary spent her life with several holy women serving our Lord, day and night, in a house separate from the apostles – a house that can still be seen today – they never moved away.<sup>2</sup> **In this Cenacle, Mary lived for Jesus Eucharistic.** Their goods, their thoughts, their desires, and their lives – everything was in common: their praise, adoration, thanksgiving and petitions – prayer was their life. My Daughters, this is what you are called to be; your name is that of your mother. She said: *I am the servant of the Lord* (Lk 1:38). These were the words that were so pleasing to God; they effected the great mystery of the incarnation.

Therefore you shall be **the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament**. My Daughters, what a beautiful name! Could you have any that would be more beautiful, more worthy of your vocation? **Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament**, that is to say, employed at the service of Jesus Eucharistic, with Mary, your mother and teacher. You must then live for Jesus, for adoration.

**But what is the end purpose of this adoration?** It is the hidden life of Jesus: that is your purpose. To adore and to serve Jesus Eucharistic – that is your purpose; to adore by a hidden life -- that is your end. My Sisters, your work must cover the world. As for us, we shall be apostles in the person and under the direction of St. John; but you, you shall be Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament, under the direction of Mary. You already belong to her through various associations in her honor. But here, you will imitate the most precious part of Mary's life – that of the Cenacle. And why is it the most precious? Because she had more love and more relationship with the permanent state of Jesus. My Sisters, in a work, the means are nothing; we must see the end.

To what does a servant commit herself? To devotion. What is she in the house of her master? She is faithful to her service. She is considered like a child in the house. What are your duties, your obligations? To live for Jesus Eucharistic and to die before the tabernacle. We must set aside all the distinctions of education, name, wealth, etc. God chooses the weakest in order to build on nothingness.

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<sup>1</sup> Number 26. *Quel nom, mes filles, vous donnerai-je?* Handwritten notes of M. Marguerite in her collection *Esprit de la Société [Spirit of the Society]*. This is the only instruction when she took notes during this retreat, relying on those of Mme Duhaut-Cilly. Therefore, there are two versions for this first (?) meditation.

<sup>2</sup> This legendary story serves as a paradigm for Father's teaching.

**Point for reflection:**

In this conference, as in the preceding one, St. Peter Julian tries to specify the originality of the Congregation. What seems important for you?