

Recollection. Definition¹

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Paris, Tuesday, August 9, 1859

[...]

You have the mission from God to live from him and for him. For this, you need recollection. This is the principal science that you must learn. It is a grace, and also a virtue. Acquire this science – we will teach you – and, with the help of grace, you will do it on your own. **To recollect oneself means to draw from the outside to the inside**, to offer oneself to our Lord within us, as in a tabernacle where he receives the homage of heart, mind, will, and senses. This is how to continue what Jesus Christ does in offering himself to his Father on the altar. Be vigilant and deliberate. Begin by making room for the presence of God in you, by leaving aside the world, its symbols, your own external senses. Let our Lord reign in you like the bridegroom of your soul. Accept him in faith; don't expect to grasp him through your senses in a palpable way. We will come back on this next time.



Points for reflection:

Take note of the details in this definition; every phrase is important. Isn't it a formula for "making our entire life into a Eucharist"?

Notice that this definition comes at the beginning of a series of 7 instructions on the subject of recollection given in August and September 1859. (August 3, 9, 12, 17 and September 2, 9, 16, 1859) He will return to this same subject in May, June, and July 1860. If possible, take note of the differences and development in the mind the Founder in these instructions. What are the main points?

¹ Number 169. *Sainte Philomène. Nécessité du recueillement. Définition. (St. Philomena. Need for recollection. Definition.)*