



Anniversary of Jean-Pierre Medaille's Death

VESPERS

Gathering Prayer



ROSEMARY: Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you on this night nearing the end of 2023. We gather with hearts that have, throughout the year, known deep lament and holy longings. In our families and communities, we have mourned the deaths of our loved ones and celebrated the births of cherished infants. In this Christmas season, we desire to deepen our dependence upon You, the Source of all Love. You came in the lowliness and poverty of a manger to guide us into the 'hidden treasures' such Divine dependence teaches us. Release us from the sorrows we have borne in unison with others around the world. Enkindle holy longings for peace and blessing upon all humanity as we enter this **New Year 2024**.

354th Anniversary (1610-1669)



KATHY: This night marks the anniversary of Jean-Pierre Medaille's death. From his birth in Carcassonne, France on October 6, 1610, to his death on December 30, 1669, in Billom, France, he lived an exemplary life. At the time of his death at age 59, he was already considered 'a saint' and 'an apostle' by the bishops and laity who had come to know him.

"The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord." (Romans 14:7-8)

May we, the daughters and sons who have found our home within the spirituality he taught and wrote, give thanks for his wisdom and steady guidance throughout our journeys. Tonight, we celebrate this wise and saintly man of God with thanksgiving and hope. We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pause and reflect ...



We come to **VESPERS** with our intentions!

What grace does your heart desire tonight
from Father Medaille's intercession?

October 6, 1610: Carcassonne, France
his birthplace



Jean-Pierre was the firstborn son to Jean and Phelippe Medaille.

Antiphon #1



Kathy:

Where could I go from your Spirit?
Or how could I flee from your presence.
Everywhere I go,
Your hand will lead me
and your Love will embrace me.

Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...



Psalm 139:

O my Beloved, You have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You discern my innermost thoughts.

You find me on the journey and guide my steps;

You know my strengths and my weaknesses.

Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...



Even before words rise up in prayer,
Lo, You have already heard my heart call.
You encompass me with love wherever I go,
and your strength is my shield.
Such sensitivity is too wonderful for me;
it is high; boundless gratitude is my soul's response.

Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...



For You formed my inward being,
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise You, for You are to be revered and adored.
Your mysteries fill me with wonder!
More than I know myself, do You know me,
My essence is not hidden from You.

Jean-Pierre, holy is your birth...



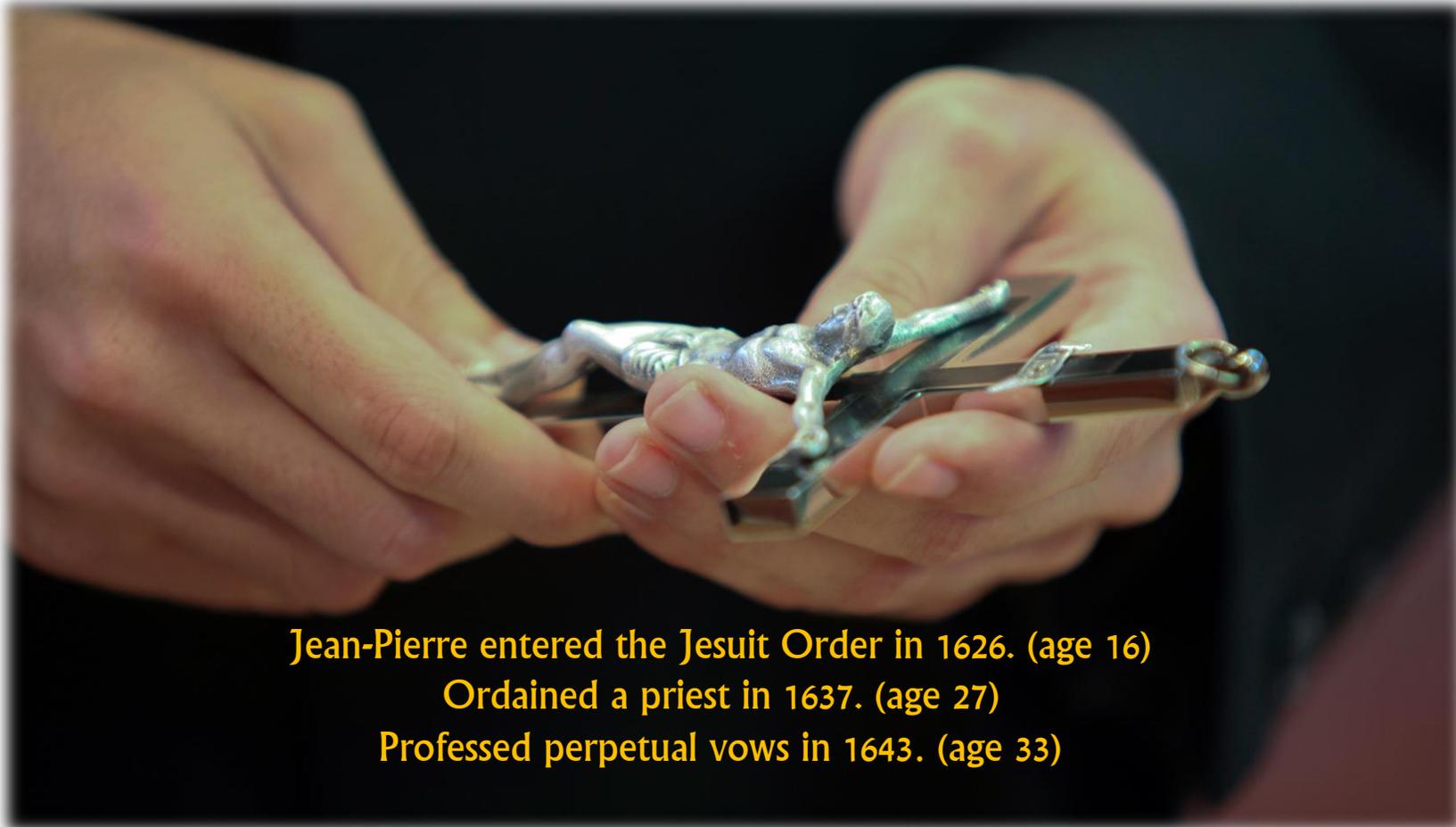
When I was being formed in secret, intricately fashioned,
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;
in your records were written the days that were numbered for me.
How precious to me are your creations, O Blessed One!
How vast is the sum of them!
Who could count your innumerable gifts and blessings?
At all times, You are with me.

Antiphon #1



Where could I go from your Spirit?
Or how could I flee from your presence.
Everywhere I go,
Your hand will lead me
and your Love will embrace me.

Commitment to following Christ



Jean-Pierre entered the Jesuit Order in 1626. (age 16)

Ordained a priest in 1637. (age 27)

Professed perpetual vows in 1643. (age 33)

Antiphon #2



Erin:

We are God's handiwork,
created in Christ,
to do good works.

Jean-Pierre, holy is your commitment



Psalm 119

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who live with spiritual integrity!

Blessed are those who honour the Inner Being,
who follow You with their whole heart.

Who enfold the world with love,
and walk on peaceful paths!

Jean-Pierre, holy is your commitment



You have shown us the way of Truth,
the way that leads to freedom.

O that I might ever reflect the Light!

Then I shall know inner peace, as
I surrender myself into your Hands.

I praise You with a grateful heart,
as I lean on your great kindness.

Jean-Pierre, holy is your commitment



I offer myself into your Hands,
that I may live fully into your Life.
Open my heart's eyes,
that I may see the wondrous blessings of Creation.
I am a sojourner on earth;
yet I know myself as a spiritual being!
My soul is consumed with an intense longing
to be blessed and sustained by You, O Divine Lover!

Jean-Pierre, holy is your commitment



Help me to know, O Teacher, the path to follow;

Lead the way and I will come.

In your love is the power to calm the storms of adversity;

show me the power of your forgiving Love.

O that I might learn to bless others selflessly,

to be a silent benediction!

Incline my heart to Love Consciousness, and not to gain!

Antiphon #2



We are God's handiwork,
created in Christ,
to do good works.

A life of self-emptying love ...



*Love Love
and
let LOVE
love though you.*

Antiphon #3



Agnes:

Thanks be to God for
His indescribable gifts!

Jean-Pierre, holy is your contemplation



Psalm 120

I meditate on the words that I hear as You whisper in my heart,
words that refresh and renew my soul.

This is my comfort when doubts arise, the secret Promise of Life.

Though others do not understand me,
assurance and peace in You, sustain me.

Let my self-made spirit decrease,
that I may be rich in your Divine Spirit!

Jean-Pierre, holy is your contemplation



Let me carry the crosses that come to me,
With your strength to bear me up.
May I become hollow like a reed,
So You may play your melody through me.
For I long to be attuned
to the great song of the Cosmos,
to know the song of inner praise!

Jean-Pierre, holy is your contemplation



Feel your heart expand in gratitude,
and learn from the earth of humility.
I will sing praises to You throughout the day
and meditate on Love during the night.
For You are Companion and Friend
to all who reverence your ways.
The earth is filled with Divine Love;
O that I might know You in all things!

Jean-Pierre, holy is your contemplation



O, how I love your friendship!

As we open our hearts to the spiritual life,
we will be filled with wisdom and freedom, ready to serve.

O, how glorious are the ways of the Spirit!

How wondrous are your Works!

The path of love is sure,
unhurried and filled with mystery.

Antiphon #3

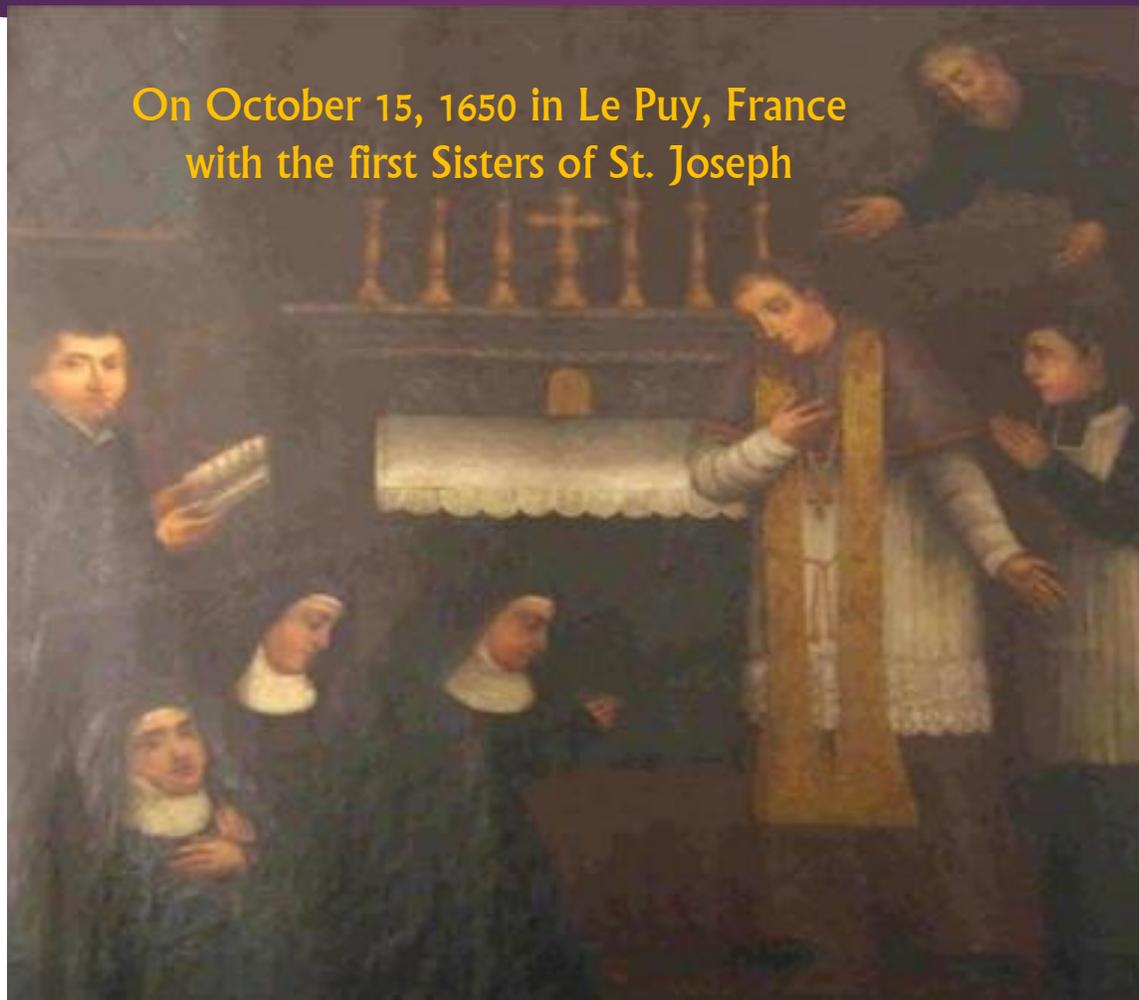


Thanks be to God for
His indescribable gifts!

Jean-Pierre, obedient to grace



On October 15, 1650 in Le Puy, France
with the first Sisters of St. Joseph



Antiphon #4



Kristine:

O sing to the Beloved a new song,
For Love has done marvellous things!

Jean-Pierre, beloved founder, author, spiritual guide



Psalm 98

O sing to the Beloved a new song,
for Love has done marvellous things!

By the strength of your Indwelling Presence,
we, too, are called to do great things:

We are set free through Love's forgiveness and truth.

Jean-Pierre, beloved founder, author, spiritual guide



Yes, your steadfast Love and faithfulness
are ever-present gifts in our lives.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the glory of Love's Eternal Flame.

Jean-Pierre, beloved founder, author, spiritual guide



Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth:

Break forth into grateful song

and sing praises!

Yes, sing songs of praise extolling

Love's way;

Lift up your hearts with gratitude and joy!

Antiphon #4



○ sing to the Beloved a new song,
For Love has done marvellous things!

Jean-Pierre, “saint and apostle”



In 2023 there are:

7,850 CSJ Sisters,

5,700 associates,

34 aggregates,

unknown number of
Little Design communities
in 43 countries
around the world.

Antiphon #5



Liz:

I know well the plans
I have in mind for you;
plans to give you
a future full of hope.

Jean-Pierre, “le grand missionnaire”



Psalm 67

The Beloved is gracious to us,
a loving Presence within us;
The Radiant One shines in us,
O, that Love's Way would be lived
throughout the earth,
Love's abiding power
embraced by all nations.

Jean-Pierre, “le grand missionnaire”



May the people ever rejoice in You
singing songs of appreciation
for all that You, O Beloved, freely give to us.
Let the nations listen and heed;
We are all called to live
with integrity and justice.

Jean-Pierre, “le grand missionnaire”



For You, O Blessed Counselor,
will guide every nation on earth
as the leaders and people
open their hearts and respond.

Jean-Pierre, “le grand missionnaire”



Abandoning ourselves into the Heart of Love
we need not worry or fret;
for Love's grace abides wherever we are.
In Love let us make our home.

Antiphon #5



I know well the plans
I have in mind for you;
plans to give you
a future full of hope.

Death comes... on December 30, 1669



At the Jesuit retirement home in Billom, France.

Going Home...



Rosemary: Médaille lived his dream, shared his dream, wrote down his dream for all times and cultures to discover. His Maxims and Eucharistic Letter share timeless wisdom.

In the fall of 1669, his spiritual journey on earth was climaxing to its apex in his personal death. This “traveller on the road of God’s glory” came home to rest at his Jesuit retirement home in Billom after fifteen years of active missionary service to his own people in southwestern France.

A Reading from the Writings of Father Medaille



We have some insight into his expansive soul when he shares his Contemplation on the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus:

“Above all, good Jesus, grant that throughout my life, and especially at the time of my death, I may fulfill in every instance the last will of your Father, and with such exactitude that with my last breath I may be able to say: **“Consummatum est.”** It is finished. I have fulfilled the designs of divine Providence concerning my life and my death. I have spent myself in the service of my Creator and in the gratitude I owe to the boundless love of my Saviour Jesus. This is the only desire of my soul.”

Conversation with Fr. Medaille for 10 minutes...



Imagine yourself sitting with Father Medaille in conversation ... pouring out your heart ...



Intercessions



Kathy: Gracious God, we pray for the grace of...

- fidelity and perseverance in our spiritual practices.
- healing of old wounds and ruptures in our primary relationships.
- discernment to hear, know, and trust God's daily direction in our lives.
- surrender in accepting what we cannot change in our present circumstances.
- peace of heart that calms fears, loneliness, and softens grief.

We ask these graces through the intercession of Father Medaille who prayed
“effect in me a miracle of love.”

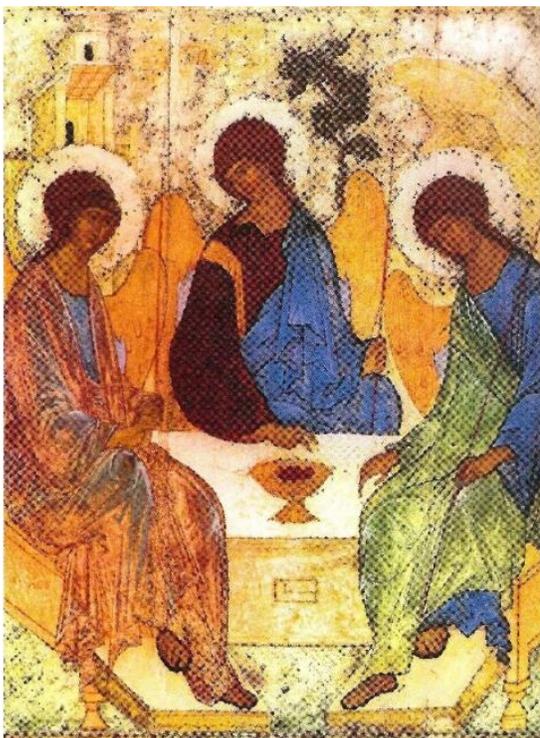


Consecration to the Two Trinities



**Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit,
Source of All Holiness,
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
I unite myself with you today.**

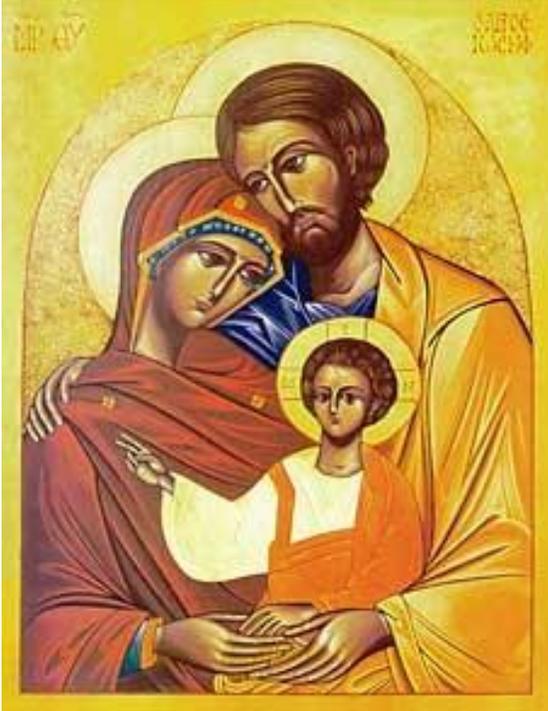




Consecration to the Two Trinities



To honour you, Father,
I ask the grace to do what is pleasing to you.
To honour and imitate you, Jesus,
I strive to practice true humility,
inviting you to fill me with your life-giving love.
To honour you, Spirit of Love,
I will make every effort to live in true freedom,
allowing you to guide my actions.



Consecration to the Two Trinities



Mary, my Mother, you lived God's plan faithfully.

**In the same manner, I seek to respond
to the movement of grace in my own life.**

**Joseph, in your honour, I will attempt to serve the dear neighbour
with the same humility, gentleness and charity with which
you served Jesus and Mary.**



Consecration to the Two Trinities

Finally, I keep in mind today all the saints and angels and ask them to surround me with strength to serve God and neighbour faithfully.

Today, I pray to:

- seek peace and unity in my life and with all creatures
- practice charity and patience in all my relationships
- work toward emptying myself of needless attachments
- remain open to your will in the changing circumstances of my life.

All for your glory, my God. Amen.

Closing Prayer



Rosemary: Loving God of the universe, you pour forth your goodness and kindness upon all of us gathered here tonight. You set Your seal upon our hearts and we commit to remaining faithful and constant in all our undertakings. Through the loving intercession of Jean-Pierre Medaille, our spiritual father and guide on the journey, we embrace the newness of each day of 2024 with ready hearts and keen minds, open to whatever the Spirit desires for us. We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Father Jean-Pierre Medaille, pray for us.

Happy New Year 2024 ...



Beloved,

I pray that you
may prosper
in all things
and be in health,
just as
your soul prospers.

III John 1 : 2

Credits



PSALMS from the book: (Psalms 139, 119, 119, 98, 67)

PSALMS FOR PRAYING: AN INVITATION TO WHOLENESS

by Nan C. Merrill

MEDAILLE READING from the book:

WORDS FOR LIFE, BOOK THREE

by Rosemary O'Toole, csj

CONSECRATION from the book

RESPONDING TO THE MAXIMS

by Claire Olivier, CSJ, Orange, CA.