

# 95 YEARS OF THE CANONIZATION OF SAINT JOHN EUDES



G. Francis, S. Giovanni Eudes consacra le sue famiglie religiose ai Sacri Cuori, 1909, Charlesbourg (Québec)

**May 31st**

**“Every baptized person is obliged to be a saint”**

(St. John Eudes, O.C. VI, 386)

**DEPARTMENT OF EUDIST  
SPIRITUALITY**

## WHO CAN BE HOLY?

“This has not been said only for those who live in cloisters and monasteries. For it is true that the religious, by their profession and by the means available to them, must be saints and models of holiness, also every baptized person is also obliged to be holy...”

(St. John Eudes, O.C. VI, 386-387)

## THE PATH OF ST. JOHN EUDES TOWARDS CANONIZATION

Invoking the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and having encouraged his brothers to fraternal communion, John Eudes took his last breath on August 19, 1680, at the age of seventy-nine. On his tombstone were the last words of his epitaph, which read: *“He lived piously, he died holy.”* The opinion of his holiness was never interrupted but on the contrary grew day by day.

On February 26, 1874, Pope Pius IX signed the introduction of the cause of the Venerable Servant of God. On January 6, 1903, Pope Leo XIII, before publicizing his thoughts said, *“When it comes to John Eudes, we are talking about an extremely outstanding man, who by the sanctity of his life constituted himself not only by his shining example but by his lasting works towards humanity by his illustrious zeal for the salvation of souls . . .”*

Miracles confirmed the fame of his holiness, such as the healing of Sister Augustine Chassé, of Our Lady of Charity, in Rennes, who suffered from stomach cancer. Likewise, Sister Lucia, found herself cured of multiple paralysis caused by an organic cerebrum-spinal injury. Finally, Louis Bourdon received a divine miracle after having completely lost his sight. He implored the intercession of the Servant of God and gained instant and perfect healing. These miracles allowed Pius X, in May 1903, to solemnly declare that, *“there was certainty, regarding the proposed miracles.”* On the Third Sunday of Advent of the same year, the decree was published that affirmed, *“. . .with all certainty we could proceed to the solemn beatification of the Servant of God John Eudes.”* This occurred on April 25, 1909.

## HOW WAS HE RAISED TO THE ALTARS?

Two more miracles would be the cause for the elevation to the altars of John Eudes as a saint of the Church. First, the healing of Sister Juana Beatriz Londoño, of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Presentation of Tours, in the city of Manizales (Colombia), of gastralgia disease, severe diabetes with renal complications, nephritis, furunculosis and abscesses.

The second miracle was obtained by Buenaventura Romero, in Guasca, also Colombian territory, which was diagnosed with traumatic peritonitis and a skull fracture. After praying devoutly to Eudes he managed to recover. Once these miracles were approved, **the date was set for the canonization on May 31, 1925, the Solemnity of Pentecost.**

*(Bull of canonization of John Eudes)*

## “THE FOUNDATIONAL PAINTING” REPRESENTED AT THE BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION OF SAINT JOHN EUDES

In his journal, which narrates the events that took place in Rome on the occasion of the Beatification of Fr. Eudes on April 25, 1909, Fr. Roland describes in detail the decorations placed on the facade of St. Peter’s Basilica.

This is how we have information of this painting from 1909. This is the description:

*“Under the portico and above the doors of the Basilica, we see a painting representing Fr. Eudes standing in front of an altar and consecrating the Institutions he founded to the Sacred Hearts of*



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*Jesus and Mary. The*

*head of the Blessed is covered with radiance, standing or kneeling, we see the Eudists, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge and the Good Shepherd, the Tertiaries of the Admirable Heart, and behind the group is Marie des Vallées, the saint of Coutances, whose influence was so great for the Blessed.”*

## **Other painted canvases were also hung:**

*“On the facade of the portico, in the central nave of the balcony that overlooks St. Peter’s Square, a painted canvas is suspended, shaped like a flag, on which Fr. Eudes are represented, kneeling at the foot of Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin and on the open chest of each of them, you can see a heart from which rays emanate. In one hand, the Blessed holds the pen with which he wrote the Constitutions of his religious families and the Virgin seems to say to him: “it is necessary to go through my Heart to the Heart of my Son Jesus.”*

*(Taken from: Monthly magazine Les Saints Coeurs de Jésus y de Marie, Paris, 1909, p. 269).*

## ON THE OCCASION OF THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED JOHN EUDES ON MAY 31, 1925

As the entrance procession begins to move, the journalist takes another look at the new paintings that adorn the entrance of the Basilica. Here he gives a brief description of the same painting, indicating the name of the artist who painted it, which allows us to believe that the painting, which was used at the Beatification in 1909, or a copy of, was used again at this time.

*“(…) All the Eudist Fathers present in Rome, gathered around their Superior General, M.H.P.A. Lucas in the covered spaces that separates the royal staircase from the entrance of the Basilica, in front of the banners of the new Saints. The painting of Fr. Eudes was done by the painter Francisi. One represents the new saint who offers to the Sacred Hearts his religious families; the other presents, on his knees, the constitutions of these same congregations to the Holy Heart of Mary, who receives them with the right hand and points with the left hand to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in who everything finds its end. Per Cor Mariae ad Cor Jesu is the synthesis of the devotion of our Holy Founder.”*

*(Taken from: Monthly magazine Les Saints Coeurs de Jésus et Marie, Paris, 1925, pp. 263-264)*

N.B. We still don't know exactly how and when this painting arrived in Canada. It seems that it was shortly after the Canonization of Fr. Eudes, since we have in the Archives of Charlebourg a photo (1925?) where you can see this painting hanging on the wall of a room in the juniorate in Bathurst. It is an investigation that needs to continue. R.C.



Image taken from: [jean-eudes.com](http://jean-eudes.com)

## THE IMAGE OF SAINT JOHN EUDES IN THE VATICAN

The image of St. John Eudes that adorns St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, celebrated 88 years of being there these days. The Father, Doctor and Apostle of the liturgical devotion of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary arrived in 1932 joining the few images of the prominent founders in the central nave of the Basilica.



*“Love the Saint of Saints and you  
will become a saint; love God and  
you will become God by  
participation and likeness.”*

*(St. John Eudes, O.C. VI, 393)*



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