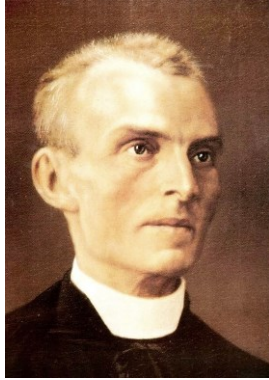


Meetings and exchanges between Saint-Pierre-Julien Eymard and Blessed Antoine Chevrier



(1811-1868)



(1826-1879)

A few biographical references

Saint Pierre-Julien Eymard <i>Founder of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers</i>	Blessed Antoine Chevrier <i>Founder of Prado</i>
<p>1811 Pierre-Julien is born on February 4th in La Mure.</p> <p>1834 Ordained priest on July 20th for the diocese of Grenoble: five years of ministry.</p> <p>1840 On February 16th, at the end of his novitiate with the Marists in Lyon, Pierre-Julien made his religious profession.</p> <p>1845 He is appointed director of the Third Order of the Society of Mary in Lyon.</p> <p>1851 Appointed Superior of Collège de La Seyne-sur-Mer (83).</p> <p>1856 In Paris, released from his Marist vows, he founded the Congrégation du Très-Saint Sacrement.</p> <p>1858 Foundation in Paris of the Servantes du Saint Sacrement.</p> <p>1868 On August 1st, Pierre-Julien died at La Mure.</p>	<p>1826 Antoine was born on April 16th, in Lyon.</p> <p>1850 Ordained priest, and appointed curate at Saint-André de la Guillotière (Lyon).</p> <p>1856 Christmas Eve: Fr. Chevrier's "conversion".</p> <p>1860 On December 10th, Fr. Chevrier acquired the infamous "Prado" ballroom to take in poor local children and young people.</p> <p>1877 Ordination of four seminarians to Rome, prepared by Père Chevrier.</p> <p>1879 October 2nd, Antoine Chevrier dies: he is buried in the Prado chapel in Lyon.</p>

Blessed Antoine CHEVRIER

Antoine Chevrier was born in Lyon on April 16, 1826. He was an only child. His father was a octroi clerk; his mother, a silk worker, ran a small workshop. The child was baptized in the parish church, Saint François de Sales, on April 18, 1826.

Antoine Chevrier became a pupil at the parish clerical school. In 1843, he entered the diocesan minor seminary at l'Argentière, then in 1846 the major seminary in Lyon.

Ordained a priest on May 25, 1850, he was appointed curate at Saint André de la Guillotière, in a working-class neighborhood. It was here that he discovered the great misery of the working class.

At Christmas 1856, praying in front of the Manger, he felt called to “follow Our Lord Jesus Christ more closely, to make himself more capable of working effectively for the salvation of souls”. He consulted Jean-Marie Vianney, the Holy Curé of Ars, who encouraged him in his project...

In August 1857, he left the parish and became chaplain to the Cité de l'Enfant Jésus, a charity founded by a layman, Camille Rambaud, to rehouse many of the homeless victims of the terrible floods of May 1856 that ravaged the left bank of the Rhône. It was here that the Abbé Chevrier became known as Père Chevrier. Camille Rambaud leaves for Rome, where he prepares to become a priest. Père Chevrier remained there from 1857 to 1860, until Camille Rambaud's return, devoting himself mainly to poor children who had neither schooling nor catechism classes.

On December 10, 1860, Father Chevrier took possession of premises in La Guillotière. Until then, it had been a disreputable dance hall known as the Prado Ball. The name Prado would remain for the house and the spiritual family. In this building, the Father set up a catechism program for poor children, who were completely taken care of for six months. A number of young men and women, known as “brothers” and “sisters”, helped Father Chevrier.



In 1866, still at the Prado, he opened a “clerical school” to enable children of the people to become priests, but also to train priests dedicated to evangelizing the poor. From 1869 to 1871, Father Chevrier was put in charge of the parish of Moulin à Vent in the diocese of Grenoble, close to the Lyon metropolitan area. It was a precious field of experience for his main goal: “the work of poor priests for parishes.

In 1874, the ailing Father Chevrier (with a stomach ulcer) set up a small community in Limonest, in the countryside near Lyon, where he himself was a frequent visitor.

In October 1876, the Archbishop of Lyon authorized four Prado seminarians to be sent to Rome. They are deacons and will form a small autonomous community to live, as far as possible, according to the directives of Father Chevrier, who will spend two months with them in Rome in April-May 1877. The Archbishop promised the Father that he would leave these four new priests to him.

The first Prado priests were ordained in Rome on May 26, 1877. Father Chevrier died at Prado on October 2, 1879.