



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 2-4, 2017

*Memorials of St. Peter Julian Eymard (August 2) and St. John Vianney (August 4)*

Dear Brothers:

St. Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868) and St. John Vianney (1786-1859) were contemporaries and friends. Given their apostolic friendship and the proximity of their Memorials on the liturgical calendar, we can seek their intercession together for the deepening of our priestly holiness and mission and a rich new harvest of vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

St. Peter Julian Eymard intercedes for each one of us to be priests who “rekindle Eucharistic amazement” through that reverence of our facial expression, our tone of voice and our body language at the Altar. He teaches us that Eucharistic evangelization and catechesis are catalysts of *dramatic missionary growth* and the reform of the Church at every moment of history.

Thank you for the hours upon hours you spend in silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. These hours are reflected in your pastoral charity, your spirit of evangelization and the Eucharistic radiance of your kind and welcoming faces.

St. John Vianney intercedes for each one of us so that we can be both humble penitents who make frequent use of the Sacrament of Penance and wise and understanding confessors.

St. John Vianney also intercedes for us at moments of discouragement. It was his spirit of penance, tenacious interior life and mysticism, and his Eucharistic charity that was the instrument of the Divine Mercy to transform a listless and dysfunctional post French Revolution parish into a beachhead of *dramatic missionary growth*.

Thank you for your compassion, generosity and availability in the confessionals of Long Island from Montauk to Elmont. It is a great inspiration.

Thank you for the inspiration you provide to me each day. St. Peter Julian Eymard and St. John Vianney, pray for us!

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre