The SSS group was guided right up to the front and were given seats at the right side of the Basilica, a prime post with a full view of all the ceremonies. I remember I felt very privileged and grateful for being allowed to be present at this historical event in the life of the Congregation.

After fifty years my mind is blank of all the ceremonies that took place. One minor detail still sticks in my mind. At one stage one of the dignitaries read out a large discourse in Latin giving all the reasons why Peter Julian should be canonized. As I was watching Pope John XXIII, who was seated by himself in the centre, I noticed that from time to time he made some shuffling movements of his feet. I remember that I smiled and thought I wonder whether he feels a bit bored. After the discourse he stood up, accompanied by some others, and proclaimed Peter Julian Eymard a saint. That is all I can remember at the moment. It was certainly a happy, joyful day.

Pope John XXIII at the papal throne, during the canonization of St Peter Julian

William Bracken, S.S.S.

I remember Archbishop Simonds giving the speech and telling the priests of his experiences during the years of enquiry. How he attended every session as Vice President and Archbishop Mannix was president, and attending the first and last sessions. They had those for the miracle led by Monsignor Hannon, PP of Sth Yarra and those against the miracle led by Dean Murray PP of Elwood. One of the heart specialists called before the commission was a non-Catholic who happened to do his training at the Blue Nuns' hospital at Lewisham. He was practising in Broken Hill and would not come down. He changed his mind, saying he had to come to Melbourne on business. When he came out of the commission after two hours of having to defend his diagnosis, he said he believed in miracles if they went so thoroughly into the whys and wherefores in the enquiry. One book I had to deliver to Dean Murray was three inches thick on the procedures they had to go through for the enquiry. Thank you.

Ed Wood, S.S.S.

Memories may be likened to the waves that roll up the seashore. At times they rush in with flurry and fury, at other times there are only ripples. Memories of the time of Eymard's canonization are only ripples on the shores of time. There was a quiet joy that our Founder had been acclaimed a saint, accompanied with the feeling of gratitude that one of the miracles needed for this event came from Melbourne, Australia.

This did not happen by chance but full credit must be given to our earlier community at St Francis' Melbourne that promoted knowledge and devotion to St Peter Julian. No doubt Dora Bartels had come to know our Founder through the SSS ministry at St Francis'.

Personal memories recall the happiness that our Founder was included in the universal calendar of the Church. The appellation of Apostle of the Eucharist was a most fitting tribute to Eymard and his love of the Eucharist. Time has erased further personal reflections so that not even a ripple remains. One may through the work of many SSS religious such as Don Cave of recent memory.

Raphael McKenna, S.S.S.

I used to deliver papers for my Dad. I delivered the paper every day to the Bartels family home. Mrs Bartels would be in bed very ill. I would knock on the door. She would say "Come in" in a very weak voice. I would go in and see her lying on the bed. She had blue lips from the heart disease. My mother had the same illness, so I recognized the symptoms. My mother died; but Mrs Bartels lived as a result of the Australian miracle which the Vatican accepted as one of the two required for Peter Julian's canonization.

I entered the Congregation in the early fifties and went to Bowral for my novitiate. I was surprised one day to see Len McKenna showing Mrs Bartels around the novitiate. I saw Mrs Bartels running up the steps of the sunken garden. There was no sign of the blue lips or the shortness of breath which I remember from the time I delivered the papers. She was cured.

Mrs Dora Bartels, well and healthy.