Patron Saint of Parishes:
Lessons in Prayer Ministry

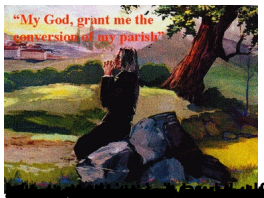
It was a time of indifference. There was no God, only the state.

The year was 1818 as a young, newly assigned priest felt his way in the dark along the rough track that led to a remote parish called Ars, in the heart of France. During the previous thirty years, France had become a country devoid of religious influence. Man was now the architect, guided by reason and science. It was to become the blueprint for the modern, secular state. The priest's first call was to the church.

The Light in the Sanctuary had gone out

Trochu wrote in his biography that what chilled Fr. John most was that the light in the sanctuary had gone out and the tabernacle was empty.

First he prayed, *"My God, grant me the conversion of my parish"*. Later he wrote, "*My people had forgotten the way to the church. Whatever the cost I must get them there, but haven't I got prayer at my disposal!*



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Prayer Ministry, Prayer Card [redacted] St. John Vianney [redacted] HERE