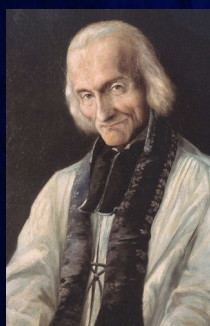


# Jean Vianney

HIS WORLD, HIS CHURCH, HIS MINISTRY

A Series of Lectures Presented by Fr. Chuck Talar  
Monday Mornings  
14, 21, 28 September 2015  
9:45am—11:00am ✦ Music Lecture Hall



Born in 1786, at the end of the *ancien régime*, Jean Vianney's life spanned the French Revolution, the Napoleonic era, the Restorations, July Monarchy, and the Second Republic, into the early years of the Second Empire (he died in 1859). The sheer listing of these successive regimes in France indicates the instability of those times. Political upheavals interacted with economic, social, and religious changes that had repercussions which, in turn, had an impact that extended far from the political epicenter in Paris and reached into the countryside where Vianney lived and served.

The French Church, tightly allied with the Bourbon monarchy and the system of privilege under that regime, shared its fortunes under the Revolution. That Church was soon swept away as the Revolution radicalized, and its fortunes fluctuated under the various governments that followed. It is difficult for us to appreciate the extent of the devastation wreaked upon the Church during the decade 1789 – 1799. The effects of the “regeneration” attempted by the revolutionaries were felt for the duration of the next century.



Although he never set foot in Paris and indeed never ranged very far from the region of his birth, and while he spent the major part of his life as pastor of a small parish near Lyons, Jean Vianney was not insulated from the effects of these larger events. Precisely because his ministry revolved around the sacramental and pastoral duties of a parish priest, his life provides access to the Catholicism of his day as it was lived out in the ordinary circumstances of the faithful. And while that ministry differs in significant respects from our own living out of the faith, there are recognizable bonds that connect us to him still.

“The Curé d’Ars remains for all countries an unequalled model both of the carrying out of the ministry and of the holiness of the minister.”—John Paul II

Hosted by/please respond to Saint John Vianney Adult Formation: [ygill@stjohnvianney.org](mailto:ygill@stjohnvianney.org)