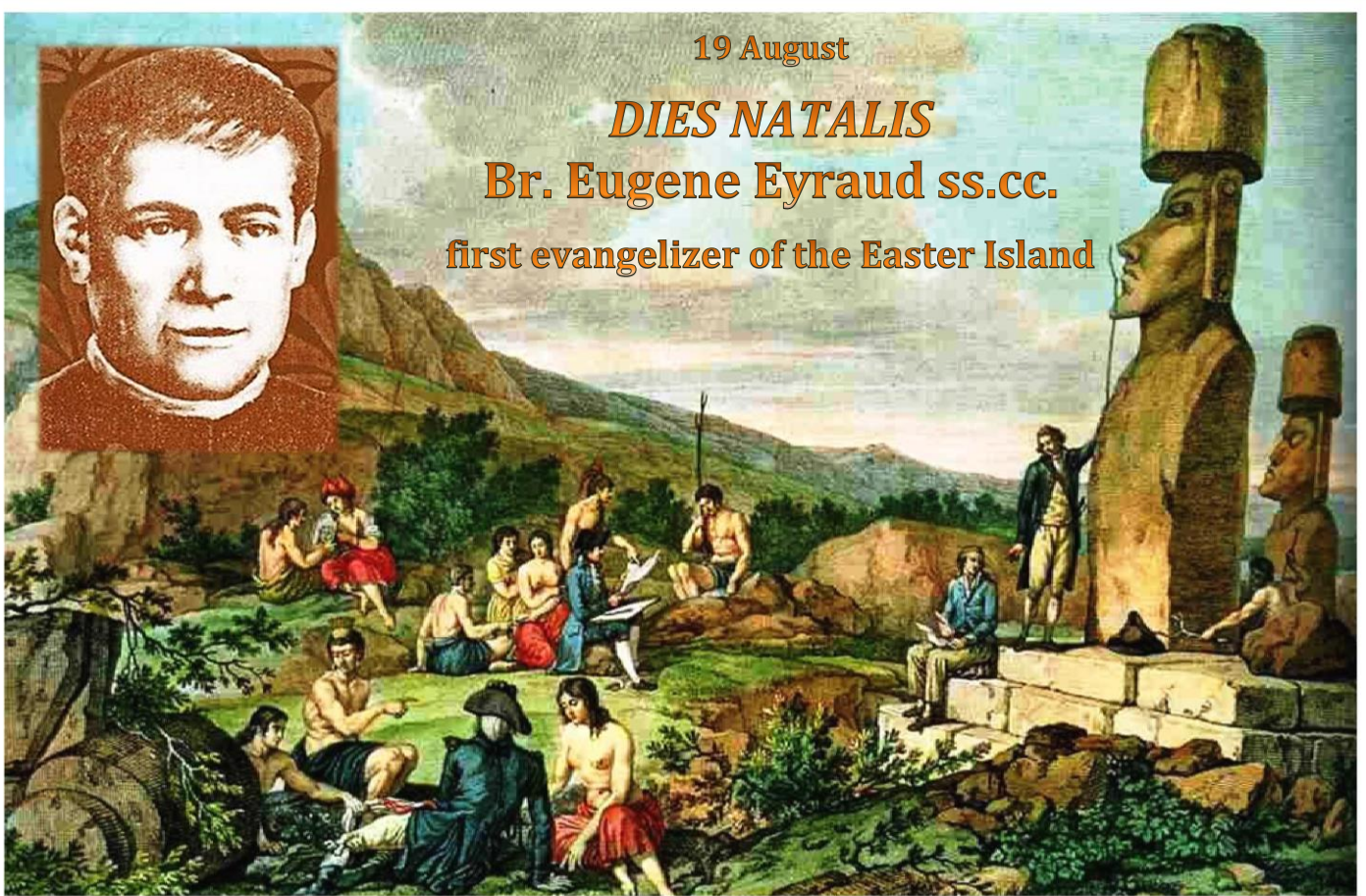


19 August

DIES NATALIS

Br. Eugene Eyraud ss.cc.

first evangelizer of the Easter Island



Brother Eugene Eyraud, was the first evangelizer of the Easter Island. Eugene was born in France on 5 February 1820. At the age of 25 he went to seek better fortune in America.

After working a few years in Argentina, he went to Copiapo (Chile) in 1849, where he established a workshop. There he met the brothers of the Sacred Hearts, and after spending some time in the Congregation during 1855-1857, which was interrupted by family situations that caused him to return to France, he became a novice in Valparaiso in the early 1862.

Before finishing his novitiate, he went as a missionary to Easter Island, arriving on 3 January 1864. He remained there alone for over 9 months, among a population who for the first time ever heard the Gospel preached. He was able to return to Valparaiso when a boat that took Fr. Barnabas Castán and Br. Hugo arrived.

Finishing his novitiate, he made his profession with the name Joseph. With a new group of missionaries led by Fr. Hippolyte Roussel, he then returned to the Easter Island. After many outreaches, in April 1868 he began to baptize the first islanders. By the time of his death on 19 August 1868 in Easter Island, he had baptized the entire population of the island. He is the evangelizer of Rapa Nui.

Father Alberto Montiton ss.cc., on a trip he made to Easter Island, chiseled in stone this inscription, in Spanish.

EASTER ISLAND

BROTHER EUGENE J. EYRAUD A SKILLED MECHANIC

WHO BECAME AN EVANGELIZER, TO CONQUER FOR JESUS CHRIST•

BORN: 5•II•1820 DIED: 19•VIII•1868