

Saint Alphonsus Mary
de' Liguori,
(Bishop, Doctor)
1 August



About Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696 - 1787)

Saint Alphonsus Liguori was born in Marianella near Naples on 27 September 1696. He was the first born of a rather large family, who belonged to the Neapolitan nobility of the day. His education included humanities, classical and modern languages, painting, and music. He composed a Duetto on the Passion, as well as the most popular Italian Christmas carol in Italy, Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle, and many other hymns. He finished his university studies earning a Doctorate in both civil and canon law and thereafter began his practice in the legal profession.

In 1723, after a long period of discernment, Alphonsus abandoned his legal career and, even though his father did not want him to, began his seminary studies. He was ordained a priest on December 21, 1726, at the age of 30. He spent his first years as a diocesan priest with the homeless and marginalized young people of Naples.

On November 9, 1732 Alphonsus founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, better known as the Redemptorists. He did so to follow the example given by Christ of announcing the Good News to the poor and the most abandoned. From that time on, he gave himself entirely to **this new mission. Alphonsus' time as a Redemptorist was not an easy one. He faced internal and external opposition.**

Alphonsus was consecrated bishop of St. Agatha of the Goths in 1762. He was 66 years old at the time and he tried to refuse this appointment because he felt too old and too sick to properly care for the diocese. In 1775, he was allowed to retire from his office and went to live in the Redemptorist community in Pagani where he died on 1 August 1787.

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What can we learn from Saint Alphonsus' life?

Alphonsus was a lover of beauty and this showed in his music, painting, poetry, and writing. He put all his artistic and literary creativity at the service of the mission of the Redemptorists and he asked the same of those who joined his Congregation. In other words, all he did was for God's glory and the service of His people, not Alphonsus' glory or his own personal gain.

We always need to make sure that our exercising of a liturgical ministry is not about ourselves but for God's glory, the service of His people and to help people worship God. If we are fulfilling a liturgical ministry so that we receive praise, then we are not really doing it for the right reasons. God has blessed us all with gifts and talents which we must use, but firstly for God, secondly others and thirdly ourselves.

The other interesting fact about Saint Alphonsus is that as a leader he did not ask anything of others that he was not prepared to do himself. A leader who follows the example given by Alphonsus is truly a Christ-centered leader.

Quote:

"When we see a beautiful object, a beautiful garden, or a beautiful flower, let us think that there we behold a ray of the infinite beauty of God, who has given existence to that object."

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Collect

O God, who constantly raise up in your Church new examples of virtue, grant that we may follow so closely in the footsteps of the Bishop Saint Alphonsus in his zeal for souls as to attain the same rewards that are his in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-19

Your light must shine in the sight of men

Jesus said to his disciples:

'You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again?

It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden.

No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub;

they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house.

In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men,

so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.

'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets.

I have come not to abolish but to complete them.

I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear,

not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law

until its purpose is achieved.

Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments

and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the

man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.'

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Antiphon

He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night
will yield his fruit in due season.

Hymn for the

1. Saint Alphonsus you have shown us
to use our gifts for our God's praise,
not to increase our own status,
so to give meaning to God's Ways.

2. Saint Alphonsus, many you served
by taking them into your care,
proclaiming to them the Lord's Word
and guiding them in daily prayer.

3. O Lord, You chose this saint for us,
a model of the virtuous life,
who served You with humility,
and saved Your people from their strife.

4. O Lord, help us to live a life,
seeking out those in greater need,
to share with them our time and wealth,
while praising You in word and deed.

88.88 LM (Angels Song)

Music Links to the Scripture Readings

[Servant Song](#)

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Universalis App: 1 August 2020