

Saint Anthony Mary Claret 24 October



About Saint Anthony Mary Claret [1807-1870]

Saint Anthony Mary Claret was born at Sallent in Catalonia, Spain in 1807. After he was ordained a priest, he spent many years preaching the Gospel to people throughout Catalonia and he extended this work of preaching to the Canary Islands. When he returned to Spain he founded a missionary order, known as the Claretians. He also founded a religious library and publishing house in Barcelona which published millions of cheap copies of Catholic works, both old and new. In 1851, Pope Pius IX appointed him Bishop of Santiago de Cuba. This diocese was in an absolute mess, requiring urgent and necessary reform and renewal. Saint Anthony Mary Claret set out to do exactly that, by reorganizing the seminary, enforcing clerical discipline and regularizing thousands of marriages. He also built a hospital and many schools. He met a lot of opposition as he set about to reform and renew his diocese, so much so that there were fifteen attempts on his life.

He was recalled to Spain in 1857 by Queen Isabella II to act as her confessor. Whilst back in Spain he continued to do great work for the Church. His health began to fail and he died at the Cistercian abbey at Fontfroide.

What can we learn from Saint Anthony Mary Claret's

Saint Anthony Mary Claret was a man in a hurry to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. He did not waste any time to reform his diocese. He knew there was a job to be done and he just got on with it. **The problems in his diocese extended beyond the confines of 'the Church' to society as well, with racism, slavery and anti-Christian persecution pervading his city at the time. He did not approach these problems with violence, but rather with the love of Christ in his heart and an extremely hard work ethic. He established credit unions to loan money to the poor, which also contributed to the fifteen assassination attempts on his life. Yet he didn't let anyone, or anything deter him, because he knew that with God as his companion worker, he would get God's work done.**

We are not all called to begin religious orders, set up credit unions or publishing houses. What we are called to do however, is to proclaim Christ in our daily lives and encounters by the way we live our lives. Saint Anthony set about righting wrongs and helping people. We too, in our families, work places and other community groups we are involved in can always help those in need and less fortunate than ourselves, so that Christ is always in our mind, on our lips and in our heart.

Saint Anthony Mary Claret
24 October



Collect

O God, who for the evangelization of peoples strengthened the Bishop Saint Anthony Mary Claret with admirable charity and long-suffering, grant, through his intercession, that, seeking the things that are yours, we may earnestly devote ourselves to winning our brothers and sisters for Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

I will make you into fishers of men

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. **'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'** As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, **'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.'** And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Saint Anthony Mary Claret
24 October



Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has laid down his life for his sheep.

Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Anthony Mary Claret .

Saint Anthony Mary Claret,
you worked for Christ throughout your life;
you left your home and family
to bring reform where sin was rife.

You spread the Gospel of the Lord
by words and deeds daily combined,
helping the needy in your care,
for many to their needs were blind.

You righted wrongs that did pervade:
slavery, racism and greed;
condemning those who by these acts
pretended to live out "The Creed".

Like you, may we serve Christ our Lord,
being alert to every sign
of someone in our midst in need,
as faithful branches of His Vine.

LM 88.88 (anacrusis)

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jerusalem Bible Translation of Scripture used in Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III* (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). All rights reserved.

COLLECT and ANTIPHON: *Roman Missal 2010* © International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

REFERENCES: Sourcebook 2019
Universalis App: 24 October 2020