

Saint Alphonsus Liguori



Date of birth: September 27, 1696
Birthplace: Marianella, Campiana, Kingdom of Naples
Date of death: August 1, 1787
Canonization: May 26, 1839
Feast Day: August 1

**Patron Saint of: Arthritis, Lawyers, Confessors,
Moralists, Vocations**

About Alphonsus:

Alphonsus was born into a faithful family, headed by his father, a Naval officer and captain. As a child, he learned to fence, but was precluded from a future military career by poor eyesight and asthma. His father decided to instead educate his son in the legal profession. He graduated with Doctorates in moral and canon law at age 16. He was a very successful lawyer, but after losing his first case in 8 years at age 27, he decided to leave the profession and pursue the priesthood instead. He was ordained at the age of 29.

Liguori had a talent for making the faith accessible to the poorest of the poor, and became a popular priest. He experienced scruples much of his adult life, but saw them as a blessing. In 1729, Alphonsus began his missionary experience in the rural parts of the Kingdom of Naples. Two years later, he had a vision of the Blessed Mother, aged 13 or 14, dressed in a white veil while he served victims of an earthquake. One year later, he founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, with the goal to teach and preach to the slums and the poor. This religious order famously taught against the heresy of Jansenism.

Fr. Liguori was consecrated as Bishop of Sant'Agata dei Goti in 1762, despite his petitions of infirmity. He composed music, wrote sermons, books, and articles, and addressed ecclesiastical abuses in the diocese while bishop. This led to reforming the seminary, and rehabilitated the spirituality of the clergy and the faithful, though it made him unpopular among some of the priests. He was dismissed from the religious order he founded as a result. He suffered from painful illnesses at the end of his life, and resigned as bishop in 1775. He spent the rest of his life deaf, blind, and sick until his death in 1787. He was named a Doctor of the Church in 1871.

A word from St. Alphonsus:

"He who prays is certainly saved. He who prays not is certainly damned."

Find out more:

Books: *The Way of the Cross* and *How to Converse with God* by St. Alphonsus Liguori;
Formed.org: St. Alphonsus Liguori - Catholic Saints



Quotes from St. Alphonsus

“Let your constant practice be to offer yourself to God, that He may do with you what He pleases.”

“Remember that He permits everything for your good, and do not lose confidence.”

“Bear well in mind that you have neither friend, nor brother, nor father, nor mother, nor spouse, nor lover, who loves you more than God.”

“There are three devotions which you must treasure above all the others if you want to grow in holiness: devotion to the Passion, to the Most Blessed Sacrament, and to the Blessed Virgin.”

“Scruples are useful in the beginning of conversion... they cleanse the soul, and at the same time make it careful.”

“The devil does not bring sinners to hell with their eyes open: he first blinds them with the malice of their own sins. Before we fall into sin, the enemy labours to blind us, that we may not see the evil we do and the ruin we bring upon ourselves by offending God. After we commit sin, he seeks to make us dumb, that, through shame, we may conceal our guilt in confession.”

“Remember, then, frequently to think of, and long for heaven. Say to God that your life seems an endless span, so great is your desire to go to Him, to see Him face to face, and to love Him. Long to be set free from your exile, from this world of sin, from the danger of losing divine grace, that you may arrive at that land of love where your heart will be given wholly to God.”

