

## AUGUST 2, ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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St. Alphonsus was born of noble parents near Naples, Italy, in 1696, and died in 1787. In the midst of many evils he appeared with a three-fold mission as Doctor, Bishop, and founder of a new religious Order. As Doctor he became the great teacher of Moral Theology; he found the middle way between the two extremes of the lax and the over-rigorous, and by his ascetic writings he spread among the people Catholic piety, devotion to Our Lady, to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, to the Passion, and defended the supreme rights of the Church and of the Pope.

He was devoted in a special manner to the Holy Eucharist, and left a beautiful little book entitled *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament*.

Commemoration of St. Stephen: St. Stephen, by birth a Roman, was made Pope on May 3, 253, and governed the Church for three years. He decided the question of the validity of Baptism when administered by heretics, ordering that the tradition should be preserved according to which it was sufficient that they receive confirmation. He was murdered by the Emperor's soldiers while seated in his episcopal chair in the catacombs, during the celebration of Mass, August 2, 257.

### INTROIT Luke 4: 18

Spiritus Dómini super me: propter quod unxit me: evangelizáre paupéribus misit me, sanáre contrítos corde. (Ps. 77: 1) Atténdite, pópule meus, legem meam: inclináte aurem vestram in verba oris mei. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Spirítus Dómini super me: propter quod unxit me: evangelizáre paupéribus misit me, sanáre contrítos corde.

### COLLECT

Deus, qui per beátum Alfónsum Mariám Confessórem tuum atque Pontíficem, animárum zelo succésum, Ecclésiám tuam nova prole fæcundásti: quæsumus; ut, ejus salutáribus mónitis edócti et exémpis roboráti, ad te pervenire feliciter valeámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

*(Commemoration of St. Stephen I, Pope & Martyr)*

Gregem tuum, Pastor ætérne, placátus inténde: et, per beátum Stéphanum Mártyrem tuum atque Summum Pontíficem, perpétua protectióne custódi; quem totíus Ecclésiæ præstitisti esse pastórem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

### EPISTLE 2 Timothy 2: 1-7

Caríssime: Confortáre in grátia, quæ est in Christo Jesu: et quæ audísti a me per multos testes, hæc comménda fidálibus homínibus, qui idónei erunt et alios docére. Labóra sicut bonus miles Christi Jesu. Nemo militans Deo ímplicat se negotiis sæcularibus: ut ei pláceat, cui se probávit. Nam et qui certat in agóne, non coronátur, nisi legitime certáverit. Laborántem agrícolam opórtet primum de frúctibus percípere. Intélege quæ dico: dabit enim tibi Dóminus in ómnibus intelléctum.

### GRADUAL Psalms 118: 52-53

Memor fui judiciórum tuórum a sæculo, Dómine, et consolátus sum: deféctio ténuit me pro peccatóribus derelinquéntibus legem tuam. (Ps. 39: 11) Justítiam tuam non abscondi in corde meo: veritátem tuam et salutáre tuum dixi.

### LESSER ALLELUIA

#### Ecclesiasticus 49: 3-4

Allelúja, allelúja. Ipse est diréctus divínus in pæniténtiam gentis, et tulit abominatiónes impietátis: et gubernávit ad Dóminum cor ipsius: et in diébus peccatórum corroborávit pietátem. Allelúja.

### GOSPEL Luke 10: 1-9

In illo témpore: Designávit Dóminus et alios septuaginta duos: et misit illos binos ante faciém suam in omnem civitátem et locum, quo erat ipse ventúrus. Et dicébat illis: Messis quidem multa, operárii autem pauci. Rogáte ergo Dóminum messis, ut mittat operários in messem suam. Ite: ecce, ego mitto vos sicut agnos inter lupos. Nolíte portáre sæculum neque peram neque calceaménta; et néminem per viam salutáveritis. In quamcúmque domum intravéritis, primum dícite: Pax huic dómui: et si ibi fúerit filius pacis, requiescet super illum pax vestra: sin autem, ad vos revertátur. In eádem autem domo manéte, edéntes et bibéntes quæ apud illos sunt: dignus est enim operárius mercéde sua. Nolíte transíre de domo in domum. Et in quamcúmque civitátem intravéritis, et aspécérint vos, manducáte quæ apponúntur vobis: et curáte infirmos, qui in illa sunt, et dícite illis: Appropinquávit in vos regnum Dei.

### OFFERTORY Proverbs 3: 9, 27

Hónora Dóminum de tua substántia, et de primitiis ómnium frugum tuárum da ei. Noli prohibére benefácere eum, qui potest: si vales, et ipse benefac.

### SECRET

Cælésti, Dómine Jesu Christe, sacrificii igne corda nostra in odórem suavitátis exúre: qui beáto Alfónso Mariæ tribuísti et hæc mystéria celebráre, et per eádem hóstiam tibi sanctam seípsum exhibére: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

*(Commemoration of St. Stephen I, Pope & Martyr)*

Oblátis munéribus, quæsumus, Dómine, ecclésiæ tuam benígnum illúmina: ut, et gregis tui proficiat ubique succéssus, et grati fiant nómini tuo, te gubernánte, pastóres. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

### COMMUNION

#### Ecclesiasticus 50: 1, 9

Sacérdos magnus, qui in vita sua suffúlsit domum, et in diébus suis corroborávit templum, quasi ignis effúlgens et thus ardens in igne.

### POSTCOMMUNION

Deus, qui beátum Alfónsum Mariám Confessórem tuum atque Pontíficem fidelem divíni mystérii dispensatórem et præcónem effecísti: ejus méritis precibúsq; concéde; ut fidéles tui et frequénter percipiant, et percipiéndó sine fine colláudent. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

*(Commemoration of St. Stephen I, Pope & Martyr)*

Refectiõne sancta enutrítam gubérna, quæsumus, Dómine, tuam placátus Ecclésiám: ut, poténti moderatiõne dirécta, et increménta libertátis accipiat et in religiõnis integritáte persístat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, wherefore He hath anointed me: to preach the gospel to the poor, He hath sent me to heal the contrite of heart. (Ps. 77: 1) Attend, O My people, to My law: incline your ear to the words of My mouth. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, wherefore He hath anointed me: to preach the gospel to the poor, He hath sent me to heal the contrite of heart.

God, Who through blessed Alphonsus Mary, Thy Confessor and Bishop, fired with zeal for souls, didst cause Thy Church to bring forth a new progeny, we beseech Thee that, being taught by his wholesome precepts, and strengthened by his example, we may be enabled happily to come unto Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O Eternal Shepherd, do Thou look favorably upon Thy flock, which we beseech Thee to guard and keep for evermore through the Blessed Stephen, Thy Martyr and Supreme Pontiff, whom Thou didst choose to be the chief shepherd of the whole Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Dearly beloved, be strong in the grace which is in Christ Jesus, and the things which thou hast heard of me before many witnesses, the same commend to faithful men, who shall be fit to teach others also. Labor as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No man being a soldier to God, entangleth himself with worldly business: that he may please Him to Whom he hath engaged himself. For he also that striveth for the mastery, is not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboreth, must first partake of the fruits. Understand what I say: for the Lord will give thee understanding in all things.

I remembered, O Lord, Thy judgments of old, and I was comforted; a fainting hath taken hold of me because of the wicked that forsake Thy law. (Ps. 39: 11) I have not hid Thy justice within my heart. I have declared Thy truth and Thy salvation.

Alleluia, alleluia. He was directed by God unto the repentance of the nation, and he took away the abominations of wickedness: and he directed his heart toward the Lord; and in the days of sinners he strengthened godliness. Alleluia.

At that time, The Lord appointed also other seventy-two; and He sent them two and two before His face into every city and place whither He Himself was to come. And He said to them: The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send laborers into His harvest. Go, behold I send you as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes; and salute no man by the way. Into whatsoever house you enter, first say, Peace be to this house: and if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon him: but if not, it shall remain to you. And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they have: for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Remove not from house to house. And into what city soever you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you; and heal the sick that are therein; and say to them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Honor the Lord with thy substance, and give Him of the first of all thy fruits. Do not withhold him from doing good who is able: if thou art able, do good thyself also.

O Lord Jesus Christ, burn our hearts thoroughly with the heavenly fire of this sacrifice for an odor of sweetness, Thou Who didst grant to blessed Alphonsus Mary both to celebrate these mysteries and, through them, to offer himself to Thee a holy victim. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

In Thy loving kindness, we beseech Thee, Lord, and enlightened by the offering of our gifts, be moved Thy Church: that Thy flock may prosper everywhere and the shepherds, under Thy guidance, may be rendered acceptable to Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

A great priest, who in his life propped up the house, and in his days fortified the temple as a bright fire, and frankincense burning in the fire.

God, Who didst cause blessed Alphonsus Mary, Thy Confessor and Bishop, faithfully to dispense and preach this divine mystery: grant, by his merits and prayers, that Thy faithful may both frequently receive it, and, receiving it, praise it forever. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Since Thy Church has been nourished by the sacred repast, govern her in Thy clemency, we beseech Thee, O Lord, so that under the guidance of Thy mighty rule she may enjoy greater freedom and abiding integrity of religion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.