

SALESIAN
PROPER OFFICES

PROPER OFFICES

CALENDAR AND LITURGICAL TEXTS

Society of Saint Francis de Sales
Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
Secular Institute of the “Don Bosco Volunteers”

R O M E

2011

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DIREZIONE GENERALE OPERE DON BOSCO
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THE RECTOR MAJOR

In these last few years the Church has recognised a number of new Blesseds and Saints belonging to various groups of the Salesian Family. This has necessitated an updating of the Salesian Liturgical Calendar and also the preparation of the proper liturgical texts for the Liturgy of the Hours. Contributing to this work of revision and updating has been a Liturgical Commission which I set up and which I sincerely thank. Among the new Blesseds and Saints introduced into the Salesian Calendar have also been considered some figures of note who have had close links with Salesian history such as for example Blessed Pope Pius IX.

The Salesian Family represents within it a variety of vocations which reflect the wonderful creativity of the Holy Spirit in raising up charisms in the Church and who all have Don Bosco as father. We are grateful to God, because we recognise that indeed the Salesian Family is a "Family of Saints". The different examples of holiness offer us a multiplicity of forms of Salesian spirituality, which have their origins in the same source and offer us the possibility of choosing among so many models of holiness. We therefore have shining examples to imitate and a great variety of intercessors to invoke.

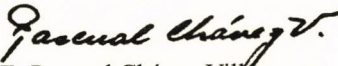
The Proper Calendar and Liturgy of the Hours have received on the part of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments a specific approval for each of the three groups of the Salesian Family which have requested it: the Salesian Society of Saint Francis de

Sales, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the Institute of the Volunteers of Don Bosco. The respective decrees of approval are reproduced.

These texts can be of help to all the groups and the members of the Salesian Family in living to the full the Gospel according to the style which is proper to the charism received, to celebrate the wonders of God in his saints, to continue the commitment to holiness in the liturgy of life. All, therefore, can draw strength and grace from these overflowing riches of the liturgy.

“In the various types and duties of life, one and the same holiness is cultivated by all who are moved by the Spirit of God and who obey the voice of the Father, worshipping God the Father in spirit and in truth. These souls follow the poor Christ, the humble and cross-bearing Christ in order to be made worthy of being partakers in his glory. Every person should walk unhesitatingly according to his own personal gifts and duties in the path of a living faith which rouses hopes and works through charity” (Lumen gentium, 41). We are all therefore called to holiness. May this liturgy inspire in us resolutions of holiness.

May Mary Help of Christians, Don Bosco and the Saints and Blesseds of the Salesian Family support us in our efforts.


Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva
Rector Major

Rome, 8 September 2010.

Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary

CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot, 1443/93/L

SOCIETATIS SANCTI FRANCISCI SALESII
INSTITUTI FILIARUM MARIAE AUXILIATRICIS
INSTITUTI SAECULARIS VULGO DICTI
“VOLONTARIE DI D. BOSCO”

Instante Reverendissimo Domino Ægidio Viganò, S.D.B., Moderatore Generali Societatis Sancti Francisci Salesii, nomine etiam Instituti Filiarum Mariæ Auxiliatricis necnon Instituti sæcularis vulgo dicti “Volontarie di Don Bosco”, litteris die 20 iulii 1993 datis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice IOANNE PAULO II tributarum, Calendarium proprium atque Proprium Liturgiæ Horarum, exclusis vero hymnis et aliis lectionibus quæ peculiari signo typographico indicantur, lingua italica exaratum, ad usum eiusdem Societatis necnon Instituti Sororum Mariæ Auxiliatricis et Instituti sæcularis vulgo dicti “Volontarie di Don Bosco” prout exstant in adiecto exemplari, libenter probamus.

In textu imprimendo inseratur ex integro hoc Decretum, quo ab Apostolica Sede petita approbatio conceditur. Eiusdem vero textus impressi duo exemplaria ad hanc Congregationem transmittantur.

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex ædibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 23 decembris 1994.

Antonius M. Card. Javierre
Præfectus

✠ Gerardus M. Agnelo
Archiepiscopus a Secretis

CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot, 280/08/L

SOCIETATIS SANCTI FRANCISCI SALESII

Instante Reverendo Patre Francisco Maraccani, Societatis Sancti Francisci Salesii Procuratore generali, litteris die 22 mensis februarii datis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice BENEDICTO XVI tributarum, textum *latinum* et *italicum* orationum collectarum atque *italicum* lectionum alterarum Liturgiae Horarum in honorem Beatorum nuper in Calendario Proprio inscriptorum, prout in adiecto exstat exemplari, perlibenter probamus seu confirmamus.

In textu imprimendo mentio fiat de approbatione seu confirmatione ab Apostolica Sede concessa.

Eiusdem insuper textus impressi duo exemplaria ad hanc Congregationem transmittantur.

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex aedibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 12 mensis iunii 2009.

(✠ Albertus Malcolmus Ranjith)
Archiepiscopus a Secretis

(R. P. Antonius Ward)
Subsecretarius

CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot, 529/09/L

INSTITUTI FILIARUM MARIAE AUXILIATRICIS

Instante Reverenda Madre Ivona Reungoat, Instituti Filiarum Mariae Auxiliatricis Superiorissa Generali, litteris 7 aprilis 2009 datis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice BENEDICTO XVI tributarum, textum *latinum* et *italicum* orationum collectarum atque *italicum* lectionum alterarum Liturgiae Horarum in honorem Beatorum nuper in Calendario Proprio inscriptorum, prout in adiecto exstat exemplari, perlibenter probamus seu confirmamus.

In textu imprimendo mentio fiat de approbatione seu confirmatione ab Apostolica Sede concessa.

Eiusdem insuper textus impressi duo exemplaria ad hanc Congregationem transmittantur.

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex aedibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 12 mensis iunii 2009.

(✠ Albertus Malcolmus Ranjith)
Archiepiscopus a Secretis

(R. P. Antonius Ward)
Subsecretarius

CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot, 530/09/L

INSTITUTI SAECULARIS
v.d. «VOLONTARIE DI DON BOSCO»

Instante Reverendo Patre Francisco Maraccani, Societatis Sancti Francisci Salesii Procuratore generali, litteris die 22 mensis februarii datis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice BENEDICTO XVI tributarum, textum *latinum* et *italicum* orationum collectarum atque *italicum* lectionum alterarum Liturgiae Horarum in honorem Beatorum nuper in Calendario Proprio inscriptorum, prout in adiecto exstat exemplari, perlibenter probamus seu confirmamus.

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Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex aedibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 12 mensis iunii 2009.

(✠ Albertus Malcolmus Ranjith)
Archiepiscopus a Secretis

(R. P. Antonius Ward)
Subsecretarius

CALENDAR

When the liturgical rank of a celebration is not indicated, it is to be considered an *optional memorial*.

JANUARY

- Memorial* 15 Blessed LOUIS VARIARA, priest.
For FMA and VDB: *Optional memorial*.
- 22 Blessed LAURA VICUÑA, adolescent.
For the FMA: *Memorial*.
- Feast* 24 Saint FRANCIS de SALES,
bishop and doctor of the Church
Titular and Patron
of the Society of Saint Francis de Sales.
- 30 Blessed BRONISŁAS MARKIEWICZ, priest.
- Solemnity* 31 Saint JOHN BOSCO, priest.
Founder of the Society of Saint Francis de Sales,
of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help
of Christians of the Association of the Salesian
Cooperators and of the Association of Mary
Help of Christians.

FEBRUARY

- 1 Commemoration of all deceased Confreres.
- 7 Blessed PIUS IX, Pope.

9 Blessed EUSEBIA PALOMINO YENES, virgin.
For the FMA: *Memorial*.

Feast 25 Saints LOUIS VERSIGLIA, bishop,
and CALLISTO CARAVARIO, priest.
Salesian Protomartyrs.

MAY

Feast 6 Saint DOMINIC SAVIO, adolescent.

Feast 13 Saint MARY DOMENICA MAZZARELLO, virgin.
Co-founder of the Institute of the Daughters of
Mary Help of Christians.
For the FMA: *Solemnity*.

15 BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF FATIMA.

16 Saint LOUIS ORIONE, priest.
Founder of the Little Work of Divine Providence.

18 Saint LEONARD MURIALDO, priest.

Solemnity 24 BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
HELP OF CRISTIANS.
Principal Patron of the SDB, the FMA and the
VDB.

Memorial 29 Blessed JOSEPH KOWALSKI, priest and martyr.
For FMA and VDB: *Optional memorial*.

JUNE

12 Blessed FRANCIS KESY and companions, martyrs.

Memorial 23 Saint JOSEPH CAFASSO, priest.

JULY

7 Blessed MARIA ROMERO MENESES, virgin.
For the FMA: *Memorial*.

AUGUST

2 Blessed AUGUSTUS CZARTORYSKI, priest.
26 Blessed ZEPHYRINUS NAMUNCURÁ.

SEPTEMBER

Memorial 22 Blessed JOSEPH CALASANZ
and HENRY SÁIZ APARICIO, priests
and companions, martyrs.

OCTOBER

5 Blessed ALBERT MARVELLI.
13 Blessed ALEXANDRINA MARY DA COSTA, virgin.
24 Saint LOUIS GUANELLA, priest.
Founder of the Servants of Charity.
Solemnity 25 Anniversary
of the Dedication of a Particular Church
(when the date is not known).

Memorial 29 Blessed MICHAEL RUA, priest.

NOVEMBER

Memorial 13 Blessed ARTEMIDES ZATTI, religious.
For FMA and VDB: *Optional memorial.*

15 Blessed MADELEINE MORANO, virgin.

DECEMBER

Memorial 5 Blessed PHILIP RINALDI, priest.
Founder of the Secular Institute of the Don Bosco
Volunteers.
For the Institute of the Don Bosco Volunteers:
Feast.

NOTA: The texts (HYMNS and/or alternative SECOND READINGS) marked with ★ which are not specifically approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, have been inserted as permitted by the Decree of the same Pontifical Congregation dated 23 December 1994, Prot. 144/93/L (cf. page 7 of the present publication).

15 January

Blessed LOUIS VARIARA, priest

Memorial

(For the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and
the Volunteers of Don Bosco: *Optional memorial*)

Louis Variara was born at Viarigi (Asti, Italy) in 15 January 1875. At twelve years of age he entered the Oratory at Valdocco, four months before the death of Don Bosco. The memory of Don Bosco had such an influence on the boy as to direct him towards Salesian life. He began the Novitiate in 1891 and he completed it with religious profession in the hands of Blessed Michael Rua.

In 1894 he met Fr Michael Unia, the missionary of the lepers in Agua de Dios, in Colombia, who invited him to follow him. Just over a year after his arrival in Agua de Dios, Fr Unia died and the cleric Variara took up his inheritance. In 1898 he was ordained priest. With the model of the Oratory at Valdocco in his thoughts he transformed that place of suffering into a small city of joy, where it was possible to live a deep spiritual life. As their spiritual director, he perceived in some young leper girls the dispositions for the religious life; and since no Congregation accepted a leper or even the daughter of a leper, the first idea came to him of young consecrated women, even though lepers. In this way he began a new religious Institute, which he named and placed under the protection of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

In the meantime, there began for Fr Louis a period of suffering and misunderstandings so that the Superior transferred him to different places. But his health was deteriorating. On medical advice taken to Cúcuta, in Colombia, he died on 1 February 1923, at 48 years of age. Buried in Cúcuta, his remains were taken in 1932 to Agua de Dios, where they now are.

John Paul II beatified him in Saint Peter's Square on 14 April 2002, the third Sunday of Easter.

From the Common of Saints: Saints noted for works of mercy; or from the Common of Pastors. Psalms of the day, from the psalter.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the "Letter" 34 of Blessed Louis Variara, priest
(Barranquilla, 29 November 1919; Generalate, Central Archives)

Doing everything with Jesus, for Jesus and in Jesus.

My beloved daughters in the Heart of Jesus, [...] see to it that whatever you do, is done *in ipso, cum ipso et in ipso*, I mean that you ought to see to it that you do everything *with Jesus, for Jesus and in Jesus*; if I might, I would say to you that Jesus ought to be like the condiment which gives taste to all your work. Remember that the various practices of piety prescribed by the Holy Rule and also the devotions which each one practises personally are only like small fountains from which each one has drawn in order to nourish the spirit of piety which ought to sanctify all the other moments of your life.

If you were to think of spending a considerable length of time without in any way exteriorising this spirit, or if by some serious misfortune you were to suffocate it in your heart, how would it be possible to sustain that intimate relationship, that ineffable family connection which Jesus himself has decided to establish between Himself and our souls by means of Holy Baptism?

There would not exist any communication between that God, whom we call with the sweet name of Father, and we who have the good fortune to be called his children. In that sad situation that spirit of living faith by which we are deeply convinced of the truth of our Holy religion would begin to grow weak; in this way in whatever situation we may find ourselves, we feel the influence of this faith. Without this spirit of piety, we would not obey the Holy Spirit who very often visits us,

instructs us, consoles us and supports us in our weakness.

On the contrary, if this spirit is well cultivated, then, thanks to its influence, our union with God is never interrupted, but is communicated to all our actions even the most ordinary, giving them an intimately religious character and raising them to a supernatural merit making them participate like a sweet smelling incense in that never-ending worship which we ought to offer to God. In doing this, as Saint Gregory the Great says, our life becomes the foundation of that happiness which the blessed enjoy in heaven.

However, if this relationship exists between God and the Christian soul, what might not happen between God and the religious soul from the moment that the ties which bind them by religious profession are so solemn and intimate? At the moment the Holy Vows are pronounced the soul is wedded to Jesus Christ, to him one is consecrated without reserve, to him one offers all one's faculties, one's feelings, one's life. The soul therefore belongs entirely to God. For these reasons there is nothing more important that the religious ought to cultivate than the spirit of piety; she ought to possess it to such a high degree as to be able to communicate it to those at her side.

RESPONSORY

1 Pt 3,8-9; Rm 12,10-11

R. You should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing; * that is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing.

V. Love each other as much as brothers should, and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit;

R. that is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.
The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

V. His steps will never falter

* his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. If there is love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples.

INTERCESSIONS

United in the liturgy of praise, let us invoke Christ the Lord, so that following the example of Blessed Louis Variara, we may serve him in holiness and justice all the days of our life:

Sanctify your people O Lord.

You were tempted in every way that we are, but you did not sin,

– Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

You came to serve and not to be served,

– Lord Jesus, teach us to serve you in our brothers and sisters

You call everyone to perfect love,

– Lord Jesus, sanctify your people.

You have told us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,

– Lord Jesus, enlighten your people.

In Blessed Louis Variara you have given us a model of total self-giving to our brothers and sisters weighed down in body and in soul,

– Lord Jesus grant to the “Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary” and all the members of the Salesian Family love for those most in need.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God of infinite goodness, who through the death and resurrection of your Son has saved the world, graciously grant, through the intercession of the priest Blessed Louis, that we too, called to share in the mystery of suffering, may be fervent witnesses to your Father’s love. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has

called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is good; * he loves good deeds.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. Anything you did for the least of these who are mine, you did for me.

Come you blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

INTERCESSIONS

Blessed Louis Variara looked to Christ the good Samaritan, who came to the assistance of every one weighed down in body and in soul; trusting in his intercession, we make our prayer with confidence:

Listen O Lord and have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, you healed the leper, with him we pray:

— If you want to you can heal us.

Lord Jesus, you healed the servant of the Roman centurion; with him we pray:

— Say but a word and we shall be saved.

Lord Jesus, you walked on the water; with Peter we pray:

- You are the Son of God: come to us sinners.

Lord Jesus, you listened to the Canaanite woman; with her we pray:

- Come to our help and give us the bread of children.

Lord Jesus, you pardoned the thief who was dying on the cross with you; with him we pray:

- Remember us when you come into your kingdom. Admit our deceased brothers and sisters to the contemplation of your face.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God of infinite goodness, who through the death and resurrection of your Son has saved the world, graciously grant, through the intercession of the priest Blessed Louis, that we too, called to share in the mystery of suffering, may be fervent witnesses to your Father's love. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 January

Blessed LAURA VICUÑA
adolescent

Optional memorial

(For the Institute of the Daughters
of Mary Help of Christians: *Memorial*)

Laura Vicuña was born at Santiago, Chile, on 5 April 1891, and was educated according to the *preventive system* of St John Bosco at the “Mary Help of Christians” College in the Argentinean Andes. As a happy and joyful adolescent she soon became a model of friendship with Jesus, of apostolic charity among her companions, and of fidelity to her daily duties.

In complete trust she endured with heroic fortitude physical and moral sufferings well beyond her age. Faithful to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, she did not hesitate to offer herself as a victim to bring her mother back to the way of salvation. She died on 22 January 1904 at Junín de los Andes, Argentina.

John Paul II beatified her on 3 September 1988 at Castelnuovo Don Bosco, Asti, on the *Hill of the youthful beatitudes*.

From the Common of Women Saints. Psalms of the day, from the psalter.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the “Life of Laura Vicuña” written by Augusto Crestanello, priest

(*Sacra pro causis sanctorum Congregatio, Beatificationis et Canonizationis Servae Dei Laurae Vicunia, Summarium, Rome 1969, 227ss, passim*)

The will of God is the best prayer

From her entrance to the College, says the Sister Superior, there was evident in Laura a degree of common

sense above her age and a true inclination to piety. Her innocent heart found no peace or rest except in the things of God. Even though still a young child, her devotion was profound without any affectation or exaggeration.

In everything she was simple and natural. While praying it was clear that her mind was fixed on what she was doing. Rarely was she aware of what might be going on around her, and it was frequently necessary to tell her that someone was calling her or that it was time to leave the chapel.

The same attention she showed in fulfilling all her other duties. She had well understood and she applied to herself the saying: "Age quod agis" ("Do well whatever you are doing"), and with a holy freedom of spirit she moved joyfully and willingly from church to classroom, and from there to workshop or any other activity, or to recreation.

"For me", she used to say, "praying or working is the same thing; it is all the same to me whether I am praying or playing, praying or sleeping. By doing as I am told I am doing what God wants me to do, and that is what I too want to do; this is my best way of praying".

"After she had got to know what piety really means", wrote her Sister Superior, "she loved it and attained so high and constant a gift of prayer that even in recreation she was evidently absorbed in God".

"It seems to me", she used to say, "that it is God himself who keeps alive in me the awareness of his divine Presence. Wherever I am, in class or in the playground, this knowledge is with me, and it helps me and strengthens me".

"But", objected her confessor, "will it not happen that if you have such thoughts always in your mind it will lead you to neglect your duties?"

“Ah no, Father”, she replied. “I know that this thought helps me to do everything better and does not disturb me at all, because it is not that I am always thinking of it but that without thinking of it directly at all, the memory makes me happy”.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Ps 70,17; 74,2; 88,1; Is 49,2

R. O God, you have taught me from my youth: * I proclaim your wonders still.

V. He held me safe in the shelter of his hand:

R. I proclaim your wonders still.

The concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. God is her support * with the light of his face.
God is her support with the light of his face.

V. She can never waver: God is with her,

* with the light of his face.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

God is her support with the light of his face.

Ant. At the Ben. God has revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us make our prayer in filial exultation to God our Father, the source of all holiness, and let us say:
You are our life, O Lord

Father, in every age you enrich the Church with ever new models of youthful holiness:

- grant that we may be faithful to our baptismal promises, and so experience the joy of following Christ.

You inspire the making of courageous decisions in imitation of your Son:

- accept the offering of our life that we may grow in communion with you and with our neighbour.

You willed that the Christian family should be an image of your love:

- grant that parents may live their self-donation with faithful generosity.

By the gift of your Spirit you rendered the young Laura strong in faith, pure in heart, and heroic in love:

- stir up in adolescents and young people the will to serve you through joyful dedication to their companions.

You who nourish and renew us with your word and sacraments:

- make us a sign of your loving kindness for those we meet today on our path through life.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, in your infinite tenderness, you united strength of spirit and purity of innocence in the young girl Laura Vicuña; through her intercession give us courage to overcome the trials of life and to show the world the happiness of the pure of heart. Through Our Lord.

Evening Prayer**SCRIPTURE READING****Rm 8,28-30**

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. God has chosen her * He chose her before she was born.

God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.

V. He brought her to live in his own dwelling place,

* He chose her before she was born.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.

Ant. At the Magn. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give thanks with joy to God our Father for the wonders he has worked in his saints, and let us say:

Father, hear our prayer.

Raise up in your Church wise and enlightened leaders:

- that they may help young people to know and courageously embrace your plan of life.

Protect the young who live amidst the difficulties and temptations of the present day:

- that they may not be overcome by selfishness, loneliness and confusion.

Give to those who are suffering in body and spirit the wisdom of the cross:

- that following the example of Blessed Laura they may come to know the purifying and redeeming value of affliction.

Strengthen and sustain the missionaries of the Gospel:

- that they may foster authentic human and Christian values for the progress of peoples.

Remember those who have today closed their eyes to this earthly life:

- admit them to your heavenly dwelling with the angels and saints.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, in your infinite tenderness, you united strength of spirit and purity of innocence in the young girl Laura Vicuña; through her intercession give us courage to overcome the trials of life and to show the world the happiness of the pure of heart. Through Our Lord.

24 January

**Saint FRANCIS DE SALES,
bishop and doctor of the Church
Titular and Patron of the Society
of Saint Francis de Sales**

Feast

When celebrated with the rank of Solemnity, the First Vespers are from the Common of Pastors or of Doctors of the Church; the texts (all or in part) can be taken from Vespers of the feast.

Francis was born in Savoy, France, on 21 August 1567. Ordained Bishop of Geneva in 1602, he dedicated all his apostolic activity to bringing back to the Catholic faith the people of the Chablais who had accepted the Protestant Reform. Through his many-sided activities he educated the Christian people and showed them that spirituality was attainable in every walk of life. He dedicated himself completely to his mission as a pastor, making himself simple with the simple, discussing theology with the Protestants, introducing to the “devout life” souls wanting to serve Christ, opening to them the secrets of the love of God, careful to put the spiritual life within the reach of the laity and making devotion pleasant and desirable. He made good use of the printed word and promoted work and culture, treating everyone with loving kindness and unpretentious wisdom.

He died at Lyons on 28 December 1622 and was canonised in 1665. Pius IX proclaimed him a Doctor of the Church in 1877.

Inspired by his “apostolic charity” and by his “evangelical kindness and patience”, St John Bosco chose him as the model and protector of his own mission among the young. At the conclusion of the IV centenary of his birth, Paul VI gave him the title of *Doctor of divine love*.

INVITATORY

Ant. Come let us adore the supreme shepherd,
Christ the Lord.

Or:

Ant. On the feast of St Francis de Sales,
let us praise Christ the Lord, the source of all wisdom.

Invitatory psalm as in the Ordinary – cf Appendix p. 355.

Office of readings★ **HYMN** *Iste Confessor*

He, whose confession God of old accepted,
Whom through the ages all now hold in honour,
Gaining his glory this day came to enter
Heaven's high portal.

God-fearing, watchful, pure of mind and body,
Holy and humble, thus did all men find him;
While, through his members, to the life immortal
Mortal life called him.

Thus to the weary, from the life enshrined,
Potent in virtue, flowed humane compassion;
Sick and sore laden, howsoever burdened,
There they found healing.

So now in chorus, giving God the glory,
Raise we our anthem gladly to his honour,
That in fair kinship we may all be sharers
Here and hereafter.

Honour and glory, power and salvation,
Be in the highest unto him who reigneth
Changeless in heaven over earthly changes,
Triune, eternal.
Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 If anyone wishes to be first,
he must make himself last of all and servant of all.

Psalm 20 (21):2-8,14

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king;*
how your saving help makes him glad!
You have granted him his heart's desire;*
you have not refused the prayer of his lips.

You came to meet him with the blessings of success,*
you have set on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked you for life and this you have given,*
days that will last from age to age.

Your saving help has given him glory.*
You have laid upon him majesty and splendour,
you have granted your blessings to him for ever.*
You have made him rejoice with the joy of your presence.

The king has put his trust in the Lord:*
through the mercy of the Most High he shall stand firm.
O Lord, arise in your strength,*
we shall sing and praise your power.

Ant. If anyone wishes to be first,
he must make himself last of all and servant of all.

Ant. 2 When the chief shepherd appears,
you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

Psalm 91 (92)

I

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,*
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning*
and your truth in the watches of the night,
on the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,*
with the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;*
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works!*
How deep are your designs!
The foolish man cannot know this*
and the fool cannot understand.

Though the wicked spring up like grass*
and all who do evil thrive:
they are doomed to be eternally destroyed.*
But you, Lord, are eternally on high.

Ant. When the chief shepherd appears,
you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

Ant. 3 Well done, good and faithful servant;
come and join in your Master's joy.

II

See how your enemies perish;*
all doers of evil are scattered.

To me you give the wild-ox's strength;*
you anoint me with the purest oil.
My eyes looked in triumph on my foes;*
my ears heard gladly of their fall.
The just will flourish like the palm-tree*
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord*
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,*
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just;*
in him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Ant. Well done, good and faithful servant;
come and join in your Master's joy.

V. You will hear the word from my mouth.

R. You will speak to them in my name.

FIRST READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

4,1-7,11-18a,20-24

*Maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace*

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to
lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have
been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with

patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.

Now this I affirm and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds, alienated from the life of God. You did not so learn Christ! – assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus. Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds; and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

RESPONSORY

Col 3,12.15.14

R. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience. * And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

V. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

R. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

SECOND READING

From the "Treatise of the love of God" by St Francis de Sales, Bishop

(Ed. R. Balboni, Milan 1989, V, 1, *passim*)

Love of God

Love, as we have said is no other thing than the movement and outflowing of the heart towards good by means of the complacency which we take in it; so that complacency is the great motive of love, as love is the great movement of complacency.

Now when we have brought our understanding to be very attentive to the greatness of the goods that are in this Divine object, it is impossible that our will should not be touched with complacency in this good, and then we use the liberty and power which we have over ourselves, provoking our own heart to redouble and strengthen its first complacency by acts of approbation and rejoicing.

He is the God of our heart by this complacency, since by it our heart embraces him and makes him its own: he is our inheritance, because by this act we enjoy the goods which are in God, and, as from an inheritance,

we draw from it all pleasure and content; by means of this complacency we spiritually drink and eat the perfections of the Divinity, for we make them our own and draw them into our hearts.

O God! what joy shall we have in heaven, Theotimus, when we shall see the well-beloved of our hearts as an infinite sea, whose waters are perfection and goodness! Then as stags, long and sorely chased, putting their mouths to a clear and cool stream draw into themselves the coolness of its fair waters, so our hearts, after so many languors and desires meeting with the mighty and living spring of the Divinity, shall draw by their complacency all the perfections of the well-beloved, and shall have the perfect fruition of them by the joy which they shall take in them, replenishing themselves with his immortal delights; and in this way the dear spouse will enter into us as into his nuptial bed, to communicate his eternal joy unto our souls, according as he himself says, that if we keep the holy law of his love he will come and *dwell within us*. The love which the great Apostle St Paul bore to the life, death and passion of our divine Saviour was so great that it drew the very life, death, and passion of this divine Saviour into his loving servant's heart; whose will was filled with it by delectation, his memory by meditation, and his understanding by contemplation.

RESPONSORY

Eph 4,32-5,1; Mt 11,29

R. And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. * Be imitators of God, as beloved children.

V. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

R. Be imitators of God, as beloved children.

★ *Or:*

SECOND READING

From the "Introduction to the Devout Life" by St Francis de Sales, Bishop

(Ed. R. Balboni, Milan 1989, I, 3)

*Devotion must be practised
in different ways*

In the creation God commanded the plants to bring forth their fruits, each one after its kind. So does He command all Christians, who are the living plants of His Church, to bring forth the fruits of devotion, each according to his character and vocation.

Devotion must be exercised in different ways by the gentleman, the workman, the servant, the prince, the widow, the maid, and the married woman. Not only this, but the practice of devotion must be also adapted to the strength, the employment, and the duties of each one in particular.

I ask you, Philothea, is it fit that a bishop should lead the solitary life of a Carthusian? Or that married people should lay up no greater store of goods than the Capuchin? If a tradesman were to remain the whole day in church, like a member of a religious order, or were a religious continually exposed to encounter difficulties in the service of his neighbour as a bishop is, would not such devotion be ridiculous, unorganized, and insupportable? Nevertheless, this fault is very common.

No, Philothea, true devotion does no harm whatever, but rather gives perfection to all things. But when it goes

contrary to our lawful vocation, then without doubt it is false.

The bee extracts honey from flowers without injuring them, and leaves them as whole and fresh as she found them. True devotion does still better. It not only does no injury to any vocation or employment, but on the contrary it adorns and beautifies it. So also every vocation becomes more agreeable when united with devotion. The care of the family is rendered more peaceable, the love of the husband and wife more sincere, the service of the prince more faithful, and every type of employment more pleasant and agreeable.

It is an error, or rather a heresy, to try to banish the devout life from the regiment of soldiers, the shop of the mechanic, the court of princes, or the home of married folk. It is true, Philothea, that a purely contemplative, monastic, and religious devotion cannot be exercised in such ways of life. But besides these three kinds of devotion, there are several others adapted to bring to perfection those who live in the secular state.

Wheresoever we are, we can and should aspire to a perfect life.

RESPONSORY

Rm 12,2; Eph 4,23-24

R. Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, * that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

V. Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature,

R. that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Te Deum

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

★ HYMN

For gentle Francis, Lord,
Who strove for you to live,
Who fought for you, proclaimed your word,
Our grateful hymn receive.

For our dear Patron Saint,
Whose name we proudly bear,
We thank you, Lord, as you have deigned
To place us in his care.

He gazed upon your face,
your love his soul renewed;
He then proclaimed your saving grace
In words with power endued.

For this your name we bless,
And humbly pray that we
May follow him in holiness,
and so your face may see.
Amen.

(A.J. Lenti)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 The Lord filled him
with the spirit of wisdom and understanding.

*Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week 1 – cf Appendix
p. 359.*

Ant. 2 Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord!
 Holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord!

Ant. 3 The Lord bestowed on him
 the wisdom of the saints.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor 2,1.4-6a.7.9-10a

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. My speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age; but we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glorification. It is written, "*What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him*" (Is 6,43; Jer 3,16). But God has revealed it to us through the Spirit.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. Your Church, O God, * hymns the wisdom of the saints.

Your Church, O God, hymns the wisdom of the saints.

V. The assembly proclaims their praises,

* hymns the wisdom of the saints.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Your Church, O God, hymns the wisdom of the saints.

Ant. At the Ben. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars in heaven.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give thanks to God our Father, the origin and model of all holiness, and with filial hearts let us say:
Increase in us your love, O Lord.

In St Francis de Sales you have given us a living image of Christ your Son, who is meek and humble of heart:

- grant that we too may be signs and bearers of your loving kindness.

You made St Francis a model of tireless apostolic work in the service of the Gospel:

- grant that we may receive with faith and proclaim with courage your words of life.

You enabled the holy Doctor to enjoy the beauty and goodness of your creation:

- lead us to discern the good things in the many circumstances of life.

You gave to our Patron an efficacious skill in discussions;

- grant that we too may be able to understand and welcome others.

You made him an outstanding exponent of the art of spiritual direction:

- help all of us to guide young people in the ways of holiness.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Great and merciful God, you have raised up in the Church Saint Francis de Sales as a zealous shepherd and gracious tutor: grant that we too may work diligently in our mission to the young with the same apostolic spirit.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer during the day

An appropriate hymn. Antiphons and psalms from the occurring weekday.

Before Noon

SCRIPTURE READING

Col 3,16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

V. The Lord made with him an everlasting covenant:
R. and established him as a priest in the midst of his people.

Midday

SCRIPTURE READING

Eph 5,1-2

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

V. In the generosity of his love:
R. God filled him with wisdom.

Afternoon

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Ts 5,14-16

And we exhort you, brethren, admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always.

V. The Lord chose his servant:

R. as the guide and teacher of his people.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer II

When celebrated with the rank of Solemnity these are Second Vespers.

★ HYMN

As at the office of Readings or Morning Prayer or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 I shall be the shepherd of my flock:
I shall seek out the lost, and bring back the strayed.

Psalm 14 (15)

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent*
and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;*
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;*
he who does not slander with his tongue;

he who does no wrong to his brother,*
 who casts no slur on his neighbour,
 who holds the godless in disdain,*
 but honours those who fear the Lord;

he who keeps his pledge, come what may;†
 who takes no interest on a loan*
 and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
 Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Ant. I shall be the shepherd of my flock:
 I shall seek out the lost, and bring back the strayed.

Ant. 2 Like a radiant sun,
 Francis shines in the house of the Lord,
 alleluia.

Psalm 111 (112)

Happy the man who fears the Lord,*
 who takes delight in his commands.
 His sons will be powerful on earth;*
 the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;*
 his justice stands firm for ever
 He is a light in the darkness for the upright:*
 he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,*
 he conducts his affairs with honour.
 The just man will never waver:*
 he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;*
 with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
 With a steadfast heart he will not fear;*
 he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor; †
his justice stands firm for ever.*
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry, †
grinds his teeth and fades away;*
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant. Like a radiant sun,
Francis shines in the house of the Lord,
alleluia.

Ant. 3 To me this grace was given:
to preach to the Gentiles
the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Canticle - Revelation 15:3-4

Great and wonderful are your deeds,*
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways*
O King of the ages!

Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord?*For you alone are holy.
All nations shall come and worship you,*
for your judgments have been revealed.

Ant. To me this grace was given:
to preach to the Gentiles
the unsearchable riches of Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thess 2,6-8.11-12

We did not seek glory from men, whether from you
or from others, though we might have made demands

as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse taking care of her children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. As a true friend of your brethren, * pray for your people.

As a true friend of your brethren, pray for your people.

V. You dedicated your life to others,

* pray for your people.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As a true friend of your brethren, pray for your people.

Ant. At the Magn. O bishop Francis, afire with charity, God made you the father of many people; lead us too to the pastures of eternal life, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray with tranquil confidence to God our Father, who has constituted in Christ the people of the new covenant, and let us say:

Sanctify your Church, O Lord.

In St Francis de Sales you have raised up a shepherd full of zeal and prudence:

— assist all bishops, priests and deacons in their pastoral ministry.

You kindled in the heart of St Francis, a burning zeal for the unity of the Church:

- grant that Christian communities may follow the path of ecumenical dialogue.

You gave to St Francis a mind open to humanistic ideals:

- help writers and publicists to be valid educators in people's culture.

You raised up our holy Patron as a founder and a master of the spiritual life replete with wisdom:

- bless the Visitation Sisters and all the members of the Salesian Family.

You received the holy bishop Francis into your glory:

- through his intercession be merciful to all the faithful departed.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Great and merciful God, you have raised up in the Church Saint Francis de Sales as a zealous shepherd and gracious tutor: grant that we too may work diligently in our mission to the young with the same apostolic spirit. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Night Prayer

As in the psalter for the day. When it is a solemnity Night Prayer of Sunday is said.

30 January

**Blessed BRONISŁAS MARKIEWICZ,
priest**

Optional memorial

Bronisław Markiewicz was born on 13 July 1842 at Pruchnik, Poland, in the present day archdiocese of Przemyśl, in which he was ordained priest on 15 September 1867. After eighteen years of zealous and fruitful service in the Archdiocese, feeling himself called to religious life, in 1885 he left for Italy and entered among the Salesians, having the joy of meeting Saint John Bosco, into whose hands, on 27 March 1887, he made his religious profession.

As a Salesian he undertook various tasks. Having returned to Poland he took up the role of parish priest at Miejsce Piastowe, in his diocese of Przemyśl. In addition to the ordinary parish activities he devoted himself to the formation of poor and orphaned youth. Along these lines he began two new religious Congregations, one male and one female which he placed under the protection of Saint Michael the Archangel, with a spirituality inspired by that of Saint John Bosco. Full of love for God and for his neighbour and acting in the spirit of the motto “work and temperance”, he dedicated his whole life to the forgotten and rejected orphans, to poor children and to youth abandoned and morally neglected.

Worn out by work, on 29 January 1912 he ended his earthly pilgrimage. Both before and after his death he was considered a saintly man. On 2 July 1994, in the presence of John Paul II, the decree on the heroicity of his virtues was promulgated. His beatification took place on 19 June 2005.

From the Common of Saints: for religious; or from the Common of pastors. *Psalms of the day, from the psalter.*

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the "Writings" of Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz, priest

(*Powściągliwość i praca* [Temperance and work], 1904, pp. 73-74)

Two pillars of social life

The world is collapsing because men have destroyed the two pillars of social life. In education and in life they have prevalently placed the emphasis on intellectual instruction and on knowledge, neglecting "work and temperance". On the other hand, our Creator who knows better than us what we need, recommends, at the risk of the loss of bread and of salvation, that we work with the sweat of our brow and that we be temperate. He says expressly to our first parents in paradise: "With sweat on your brow shall you eat your bread; until you return to the soil as you were taken from it" (Gen 3,19). Jesus Christ in his Gospel adds: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mt 16,24). This means: "Not only I your Saviour have to suffer and labour but also all of you my disciples, if you want to be with me in paradise, have to suffer and labour, submitting your intellect, your will and your actions to the prescriptions of the commandments of God".

You have to engage your body with all its senses and inclinations in continuous divine service, fighting and working day and night for your whole life until death for his glory. "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh" (Gal 5,17).

Work and temperance are not easily acquired. So as not to concede in the fight, it is necessary to firmly control our body and all our natural inclinations, just as a coachman firmly controls an untamed horse to prevent both going over the precipice.

The Son of Man in human flesh walks before us with his example to lighten the burden which the Creator has placed on us and to exhort us to voluntarily deny ourselves. Jesus works willingly and with sweat on his brow in St Joseph's workshop, supports patiently the sufferings and the deprivations of daily life, and finally dies on the cross with atrocious pains. He does not spare himself, nor make any concessions in order to teach us in everything how we ought to live. Following him closely is his Mother, the Mother of Sorrows who works and suffers all her life. Following her come the thousands of Saints who "have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5,24).

Nowadays, on the other hand, throughout the world and unfortunately also in our Christian countries one seems to hear the order of the day: "We are trying to enjoy to the full life on this earth, and to work as little as possible". Money, power, rest, entertainment, pleasure and honours nowadays constitute the ideal of the whole human race, while working with the sweat of one's brow and Christian temperance are totally despised. Only those who are forced to, work and suffer. Only very few men work freely and are temperate in the spirit of Jesus Christ. The majority of people nowadays do not know that work and Christian temperance already obtain on this earth a hundredfold. Putting aside temperance, on the other hand, produces, in addition to the risk of the eternal punishment of hell, also earthly misfortunes [...].

Work and temperance are therefore the most important pillars of social life. Only where they are sound is it possible to have well-being, health, strength, peace, freedom, independence.

It is necessary not only to teach the young about these two pillars of social life but also make them put them actively into practice, encouraging them with one's own example. It is necessary to pray, and several times a day, in order to understand and to realise these two conditions for happiness. It is necessary to place our school system and the whole of education soundly on these two pillars. Then abundant means will be found for the social improvement of our people and also those near by. In this way throughout the earth brotherhood among the nations will spread and there will arise a more glorious period in the history of mankind.

RESPONSORY**Eph 5,8-9; Mt 5,14.16**

R. You are light in the Lord; be like children of light.
* for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth.

V. You are the light of the world: Your light must shine in the sight of men.

R. For the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer**SCRIPTURE READING****Rm 12,1-2**

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and

heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.
The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

V. His steps will never falter

* his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. Whoever does the will of my Father, says the Lord, is my brother, and sister and mother.

INTERCESSIONS

United in the liturgy of praise, let us invoke Christ Our Lord that, following the example of Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz, we may serve him in holiness and justice all the days of our life:

Sanctify your people, O Lord.

You were tempted in every way that we are, but you did not sin,

— Lord Jesus have mercy on your people.

You came to serve and not to be served,

— Lord Jesus teach us to serve you in our brothers and sisters.

You call everyone to perfect love,

— Lord Jesus make your people holy.

You wanted your disciples to be salt of the earth and light of the world,

– Lord Jesus, enlighten your people.

In Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz you have given us a model of dedication to orphans, to poor children and to youth abandoned and morally neglected:

– Lord Jesus, grant that we and all the members of the Salesian Family may show in our lives the same love for those most in need.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, who chose the priest Blessed Bronisław, to be the father and protector of abandoned youth, grant that we, encouraged by his example of untiring work and temperance, may faithfully carry out your will and be assiduous in your service. 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.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is good; * he loves good deeds.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. You have left all things and have followed me; you will be repaid a hundred times over, and gain eternal life.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us ask the Father the source of all holiness, that through the example and the help of the saints we may live according to our baptism.

Lord make us holy as you are holy.

Holy Father, it was your will that we be called your children and that is what we are,

— may you Church all over the world glorify you with the light of its holiness.

Holy Father you have called us to walk in your light in a way worthy of our vocation and to do always the things that please you,

— may our lives be rich in every kind of good work.

Holy Father, you call some to follow more closely Christ poor and humble,

— grant that they may reach the perfection of love.

Holy Father, Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz personified in his life the spirit of “work and temperance” learned at the school of Don Bosco;

- grant to the members of the religious Institutes he founded, under the protection of Saint Michael the Archangel, and all of us to live in the same spirit.

Holy Father, bring our deceased brothers and sisters to the contemplation of your face,

- make us too worthy of your glory.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, who chose the priest Blessed Bronisław, to be the father and protector of abandoned youth, grant that we, encouraged by his example of untiring work and temperance, may faithfully carry out your will and be assiduous in your service. 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.

31 January

**Saint JOHN BOSCO,
priest**

**Founder of the Society of Saint Francis de Sales,
of the Institute of the Daughters
of Mary Help of Christians,
of the Association of the Salesian Cooperators,
and of the Association of Mary Help of Christians**

Solemnity

The life of Saint John Bosco is marked in particular by interventions of divine Providence and by the presence of the Virgin Mary. He was born at Castelnuovo d'Asti on 16 August 1815 into a poor peasant family, and from his childhood felt a call to devote his life to the young. He was ordained priest at Turin in 1841 after years of sacrifice, and spent all his rich natural talents and tireless zeal in setting up works for the education of abandoned youth, in defending the faith of the common people from danger, and in contributing to the evangelization of distant lands.

He entrusted the continuation of his immense work to the three branches of his Family: the Society of St Francis de Sales (1859), the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (1872), and the Association of Salesian Cooperators (1876), passing on to them as the key to success the treasure of the *preventive system*: reason, religion, loving kindness: a system totally inspired by a charity rooted in a living encounter with Jesus Christ, especially in the Eucharist, in boundless trust in the Virgin Mary, and in fidelity to the Church and its teaching.

He died at Turin on 31 January 1888. He was canonized by Pius XI at Easter 1934, and on the centenary of his death was proclaimed by John Paul II as the *Father and teacher of youth* (24 January 1989).

Evening Prayer I

★ HYMN *Iste Confessor*

He, whose confession God of old accepted,
Whom through the ages all now hold in honour,
Gaining his glory this day came to enter
Heaven's high portal.

God-fearing, watchful, pure of mind and body,
Holy and humble, thus did all men find him;
While, through his members, to the life immortal
Mortal life called him.

Thus to the weary, from the life enshrined,
Potent in virtue, flowed humane compassion;
Sick and sore laden, howsoever burdened,
There they found healing.

So now in chorus, giving God the glory,
Raise we our anthem gladly to his honour,
That in fair kinship we may all be sharers
Here and hereafter.

Honour and glory, power and salvation,
Be in the highest unto him who reigneth
Changeless in heaven over earthly changes,
Triune, eternal.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 God has raised you from the dust,
and given you a place
among the great ones of his people.

Psalm 112 (113)

Praise, O servants of the Lord,*
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed*
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting*
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,*
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,*
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,*
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,*
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,*
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home*
and gladdens her heart with children.

Ant. God has raised you from the dust,
and given you a place
among the great ones of his people.

Ant. 2 Through you the Lord
has given bread to the hungry,
a father to orphans, a friend to the young.

Psalm 145 (146)

My soul, give praise to the Lord;†
I will praise the Lord all my days,*
make music to my God while I live.
Put no trust in princes,*
in mortal men in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, they return to clay*
and their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,*
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who alone made heaven and earth,*
the seas and all they contain.

It is he who keeps faith for ever,*
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,*
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,
the Lord who gives sight to the blind,*
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger*
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just*
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,*
Sion's God, from age to age.

Ant. Through you the Lord
has given bread to the hungry,
a father to orphans, a friend to the young.

Ant. 3 God has raised you up in the Church
to the praise and glory of his grace
to reveal his love to young people.

Canticle - Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father*
 of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who has blessed us in Christ*
 with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him*
 before the foundation of the world,
 that we should be holy*
 and blameless before him.

He destined us in love*
 to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
 according to the purpose of his will,†
 to the praise of his glorious grace*
 which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,*
 the forgiveness of our trespasses,
 according to the riches of his grace*
 which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us†
 in all wisdom and insight*
 the mystery of his will,
 according to his purpose*
 which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ,*
 as a plan for the fulness of time,
 to unite all things in him,*
 things in heaven and things on earth.

Ant. God has raised you up in the Church
 to the praise and glory of his grace
 to reveal his love to young people.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Thess 2,13-17

We are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord loved him, * and bestowed on him all honour.

The Lord loved him, and bestowed on him all honour.

V. He invested him with glory, * and bestowed on him all honour.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord loved him, and bestowed on him all honour.

Ant. At the Magn. My every breath and all my strength will be at the service of the young.

Or: My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching; Bind them always upon your heart.

INTERCESSIONS

Our faith receives encouragement from the witness of the Saints; they are signs of the presence of the Spirit in the Church. United with them in prayer let us invoke God our Father, the source of all holiness:
Increase in us our faith, hope and charity.

You raised up St John Bosco in your Church as the father and teacher of youth:

- grant that all of us may love young people and joyfully dedicate our lives to their good.

You enabled the Saint of youth to unite tireless activity with an intense life of prayer:

- help us with the power of your Spirit that in our apostolic work we may always remain united to you.

It is your wish that parents be the first and principal educators of their children:

- may they find in you the strength and joy to be always aware of the grandeur of their task

To our Founder you gave the Virgin Mary as Mother and Guide:

- grant that the members of the Salesian Family may trust in her help and always experience her motherly presence.

On those who have died after spending their best energies for the education of the young according to the Salesian charism:

- bestow the fullness of happiness and eternal light.

Our Father.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Compline

Compline of Sunday after Evening Prayer I. It can conclude with the antiphon: "Sub tuum praesidium confugimus", or:

"O Maria, Virgo potens

Tu magnum et praeclarum in Ecclesia praesidium;

Tu singulare Auxilium Christianorum:

Tu terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.

Tu cunctas haereses sola interemisti in universo mundo.

Tu in angustiis,

Tu in bello,

Tu in necessitatibus nos ab hoste protege,

atque in aeterna gaudia in mortis hora suscipe".

INVITATORY

Ant. Let us give praise to the Lord our God
on the Feast of St John Bosco.

Invitatory psalm as in the Ordinary – cf Appendix p. 355.

Office of readings

★ HYMN

Praise the Lord of all things living,
Praise the God who gives us life.
Praise to Him who brought His people
Out of darkness into light.
Unto us His Son was given
To redeem unbroken sin;
His command of love He left us
Till the day He comes again.

Out of love He raised a shepherd,
 Father, teacher of the young.
 Gave to him a hopeful vision
 of the Kingdom Jesus won.
 Leading youthful hearts to heaven,
 Modelling a life of grace,
 Showing how a joyful spirit
 Earns our heav'nly dwelling place.

Sign of all that God has given,
 Bearer of the Father's love,
 Pray that we proclaim the promise
 Of our heav'nly home above.
 Show us how to praise the Father,
 How to praise His only Son,
 Living, reigning with the Spirit,
 E'er eternal, ever one!

(C.J. Lieby)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 God gave him wisdom and understanding
 and a heart as vast as the sand on the seashore.

Psalm 20 (21):2-8,14

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king;*
 how your saving help makes him glad!
 You have granted him his heart's desire;*
 you have not refused the prayer of his lips.

You came to meet him with the blessings of success,*
 you have set on his head a crown of pure gold.
 He asked you for life and this you have given,*

days that will last from age to age.
Your saving help has given him glory.*
You have laid upon him majesty and splendour,
you have granted your blessings to him for ever.*
You have made him rejoice with the joy of your presence.

The king has put his trust in the Lord:.*
through the mercy of the Most High he shall stand firm.
O Lord, arise in your strength,*
we shall sing and praise your power.

Ant. God gave him wisdom and understanding
and a heart as vast as the sand on the seashore.

Ant. 2 He believed against all hope
and became the father of many peoples.

Psalm 91 (92)

I

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,*
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning*
and your truth in the watches of the night,
on the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,*
with the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;*
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works!*
How deep are your designs!
The foolish man cannot know this*
and the fool cannot understand.

Though the wicked spring up like grass*
 and all who do evil thrive:
 they are doomed to be eternally destroyed.*
 But you, Lord, are eternally on high.

Ant. He believed against all hope
 and became the father of many peoples.

Ant. 3 He trusted in the Lord and did good works;
 in him he placed all his joy.

II

See how your enemies perish;*
 all doers of evil are scattered.

To me you give the wild-ox's strength;*
 you anoint me with the purest oil.
 My eyes looked in triumph on my foes;*
 my ears heard gladly of their fall.
 The just will flourish like the palm-tree*
 and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord*
 they will flourish in the courts of our God,
 still bearing fruit when they are old,*
 still full of sap, still green,
 to proclaim that the Lord is just;*
 in him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Ant. He trusted in the Lord and did good works;
 in him he placed all his joy.

R. You will hear the word from my mouth,
V. and pass it on to your brethren.

FIRST READING

From the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

1,2-6; 2,7-9a.10-12

*Our behaviour was holy,
righteous and blameless*

We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; for our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit.

But we were gentle among you, like a nurse taking care of her children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. For you remember our labour and toil, brethren.

You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our behaviour to you believers; for you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

RESPONSORY

1 Thess 3,12-13a; 4,2

R. May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do to you, * so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father.

V. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

* so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father.

SECOND READING

From the "Regulations for the Oratory of St Francis de Sales" (1854) written by St John Bosco, priest

(Pedagogical and spiritual writings, Rome 1987, 41-44, *passim*)

A new way for evangelizing the young

"[...] to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad" (Jn 11,52). These words of the holy Gospel show us that the Divine Saviour came down from heaven to earth to gather together all God's children scattered over the face of the earth, and I think we can apply them literally to the young people of our time. This portion of human society, the most precious and at the same time most delicate on which rest the hopes for a happy future, is not of itself of a perverse disposition. Were it not for the neglect of parents, idleness, meeting with bad companions, to which they are prone especially on Sundays and Feastdays, it would be quite easy to insert into their tender hearts principles of good order and behaviour, of respect and of religion, because it sometimes happens that those who are already lost at that age have become so through thoughtlessness rather than through ingrained wickedness.

These youngsters really need a kindly helper who will take care of them, encourage them and lead them to virtue, and to keep them away from vice. The difficulty lies in finding a way to gather them together, to talk to them and teach them good morals.

This was the mission of the Son of God, and only his holy religion can bring it about. But this religion which in itself is eternal and unchangeable, which has been and will always be the mentor of mankind, contains a law so perfect as to be adaptable to changing times and to the different characteristics of all persons.

Among the means best suited to disseminate the spirit of religion in the hearts of the uneducated and abandoned the Oratories stand high. They are places which provide youngsters with pleasing and honest recreation after they have been present at sacred functions in church.

The encouragement I have received from civil and ecclesiastical authorities, the zeal shown by many people who have helped me by temporal means and by their own hard work, are without any doubt signs of the blessings of God and of public satisfaction.

I do not intend to give either laws or precepts. My only purpose is to describe what is done in the Boys' Oratory of St Francis de Sales at Valdocco, and the manner in which it is done.

Some may think from what I say that I am looking for honour and glory. Don't you believe it! It is just that I have a duty to describe things that have really happened and continue to happen still.

When I gave myself to this part of the sacred ministry, my intention was to consecrate all my energies to the greater glory of God and the good of souls; I intended to work to produce good citizens in this world

so that in due time they would be worthy citizens of heaven above. May God continue to help me to continue in this work till my last breath.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Col 3,17; 1 Cor 16,14

R. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus * giving thanks to God the Father through him.

V. Let all that you do be done in love,

R. giving thanks to God the Father through him.

★ *Or:*

SECOND READING

From the letter "Iuvenum Patris" of John Paul II, pope
(AAS 80 [1988] 969-987)

St John Bosco
"Father and Teacher of Youth"

St John Bosco felt within himself that he had received a special vocation and that in the carrying out of his mission he was assisted and almost led by the hand by the Lord and the motherly intervention of the Virgin Mary. His response was such that the Church has officially proposed him to the faithful as a model of holiness.

His stature as a Saint gives him a unique place among the great Founders of religious Institutes in the Church. He is outstanding from many points of view: he initiated a true school of a new and attractive apostolic spirituality; he promoted a special devotion to Mary, Help of Christians and Mother of the Church; he displayed a loy-

al and courageous ecclesial sense manifested in the delicate mediation work he carried out between Church and State at a time when the relations between the two were difficult; as an apostle he was both realistic and practical, always open to the implications of new discoveries; he was a zealous organizer of foreign missions with truly Catholic sensitivity; he was an eminent example of a preferential love for the young, and especially for the most needy among them, for the good of the Church and society; he was the exponent of an efficacious and attractive pedagogical method which he has left as a precious legacy to be safeguarded and developed.

An interchange between "education" and "holiness" is indeed the characteristic aspect of his personality: he was a "holy educator", he drew his inspiration from a "holy model" - Francis de Sales, he was the disciple of a "holy spiritual director" - Joseph Cafasso, and he was able to form from among his boys a "holy pupil" - Dominic Savio.

For St John Bosco, founder of a great spiritual Family, one may say that the peculiar trait of his brilliance is linked with the educational method which he himself called the "preventive system". In a certain sense this represents the quintessence of his pedagogical wisdom and constitutes the prophetic message which he has left to his followers and to the Church, and which has received attention and recognition from numerous educators and students of pedagogy.

The substance of his teaching remains intact; the unique nature of his spirit, his intuitions, his style, his charisma are unchanged, because they draw their inspiration from the transcendent pedagogy of God.

In the Church and in the world the integral educative vision that we see incarnated in John Bosco is a re-

alistic pedagogy of holiness. We need to get back to the true concept of "holiness" as a component of the life of every believer. The originality and boldness of the plan for a "youthful holiness" is intrinsic to the educational art of this great Saint, who can be rightly called the "master of youth spirituality". His secret lay in the fact that he did not disappoint the deep aspirations of the young (the need for life, love, expansiveness, joy, freedom, future prospects) but at the same time led them gradually and realistically to discover for themselves that only in the "life of grace", i.e. in friendship with Christ, does one fully attain the most authentic ideals.

RESPONSORY **Phil 3,17; 4,9; cf. 1 Cor 1,10; 10,31**

R. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do * and the God of peace will be with you.

V. I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to do all to the glory of God.

R. and the God of peace will be with you.

Te Deum

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Vigil celebration

Those who desire to extend the celebration of the Vigil should first celebrate the Office of Readings; after the two Readings and before the Te Deum they should add the canticles and Gospel as indicated below.

Ant. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord.

CANTICLE I **Jer 17,7-8**

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord.

CANTICLE II **Sir 14,20-21; 15,3-6**

Happiness of the wise man.

CANTICLE III **Wis 9,1-6.9-11**

Lord, give me the wisdom that is pleasing to you.

GOSPEL

An extract from the Gospel is read, taken from those proposed in the Lectionary for the Mass of St John Bosco:

1. Mt 5,13-19: You are the light of the world.
2. Mt 18,1-6.10: Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.
3. Mt 22,34-40: You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour.
4. Mk 9,34-37: Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.
5. Mk 10,13-16: Let the children come to me.
6. Lk 22,24-30: I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom.
7. Jn 10,1-11: The Good Shepherd.
8. Jn 15,9-17: You are my friends if you do what I command you.

If convenient a homily may be given.

Te Deum

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

★ HYMN

Living source of all creation,
 Grateful songs to you we raise.
 In our joyful celebration
 Of your love poured out always.
 For our Father, Lord, we thank you,
 For our unity in love,
 For the brothers, for the sisters
 rusted to us from above.

Take our hearts, our love's devotion,
 On our Father's festal day;
 And in mercy give your blessing,
 As with reverence we pray:
 May we all, your life possessing,
 Steadfast be in work and word;
 By Christ's charity enamoured
 May we be to service spurred.

May we, true to our vocation,
 For our Father's sake now grow,
 Showing forth Christ's healing kindness,
 As Don Bosco's heart might show.
 May we burn with zeal and ardour
 For the work which Christ has blest.
 Guided by our storied banner:
 "Give me souls and take the rest".

Living source of all creation,
 Guide and friend of all the weak,
 Let us know Christ's true salvation
 And the Spirit's grace unique.
 By the Virgin's intercession,
 By Don Bosco's prayers so kind,

May your children know your healing,
May we peace and mercy find. (A.J. Lenti)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 Glory and praise to you, O God of my fathers,
for you have given me wisdom,
humility and strength.

*Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week 1 – cf Appendix
p. 359.*

Ant. 2 Praise our God with dancing;
praise him with lute and harp, alleluia.

Ant. 3 You have filled him with joy before your face:
and to the young he proclaims your blessings.

SCRIPTURE READING

Heb 13,17.20-21

Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you.

May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is my shepherd, * there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

V. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me
repose,

***** there is nothing I shall want.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Ant. At the Ben. Blessed are the meek, for they shall
inherit the earth. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they
shall see God.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us bless God our Father who called St John Bosco
to proclaim the gospel of joy. In his memory, let us
pray:

Lord, bless your people

In St John Bosco you have manifested your love for the
young and the poor:

- help us to recognize in them the countenance of
Christ your Son and to serve them with true pastoral
charity.

You made him the apostle of the sacraments of the
Eucharist and Reconciliation;

- grant that we may be able to lead young people to
these sure fountains of life and grace.

You opened the mind and heart of St John Bosco to the
great horizons of the Church:

- bestow on us a missionary spirit and apostolic cre-
ativity for the building of your Kingdom.

In your providence you gave him serenity and trust in
the trials of life:

- impart also to us a complete confidence in your
assistance and faithful perseverance in your service.

In St John Bosco you have given to your Church a living image of Jesus the good shepherd:

- grant that not one may be lost of those you have entrusted to our mission as educators.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Lord our God, in your providence you have given us Saint John Bosco, the father and teacher of youth, who under the guidance of the Virgin Mary worked with untiring zeal for the good of the Church; inspire us with that same apostolic charity, to seek the salvation of our neighbour and so serve you, the one and only good. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son...

Prayer during the day

A suitable hymn and complementary psalmody; Ps 121 may be replaced by Ps 128, and Ps 126 by Ps 130. When the solemnity falls on Sunday the Sunday psalms are used.

Before noon

Ant. Serve the Lord with joy, alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thess 5,16-22.28

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

V. Praise the Lord and call upon his name,

R. proclaim his works among the peoples.

Midday

Ant. Adore the Lord at all times: in joy and in sorrow.

SCRIPTURE READING

Phil 2,1-4

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

V. Celebrate the Lord with me,
R. together let us magnify his name.

Afternoon

Ant. May God be our help
and our companion on the way of heaven.

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,9-13

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practise hospitality.

V. Lord, you are good and the source of all goodness:
R. everlasting is your mercy.

Prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer II

★ HYMN

Thou who didst befriend the friendless
Toiling here with heart so brave.
By thy love and labour endless
Fondly striving souls to save.

Refrain:

Saint John Bosco, guard and guide us.
We our hearts now pledge to thee.
Grant that we, whate'er betide us,
True to God shall ever be.

Unto youth you were a father,
Loving teacher, loyal friend.
Grant that we may round you gather
At our earthly journey's end. *Refrain.*

Grant that we may, sin defying,
With the strength that faith can bring,
Bravely living, bravely dying,
Win the fight for Christ our King. *Refrain.*

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 My glory is in the Lord:
let the humble listen and rejoice.

Psalm 14 (15)

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent*
and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;*
 he who acts with justice
 and speaks the truth from his heart;*
 he who does not slander with his tongue;

 he who does no wrong to his brother,*
 who casts no slur on his neighbour,
 who holds the godless in disdain,*
 but honours those who fear the Lord;

 he who keeps his pledge, come what may;†
 who takes no interest on a loan*
 and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
 Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Ant. My glory is in the Lord
 let the humble listen and rejoice.

Ant. 2 The source of wisdom is the fear of the Lord;
 wise is the man who is faithful to him.

Psalm 111 (112)

Happy the man who fears the Lord,*
 who takes delight in his commands.
 His sons will be powerful on earth;*
 the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;*
 his justice stands firm for ever
 He is a light in the darkness for the upright:*
 he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,*
 he conducts his affairs with honour.
 The just man will never waver:*
 he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;*
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;*
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;†
his justice stands firm for ever.*
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,†
grinds his teeth and fades away;*
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant. The source of wisdom is the fear of the Lord;
wise is the man who is faithful to him.

Ant. 3 Great and wonderful are you, Lord,
in all your saints.

Canticle - Revelation 15:3-4

Great and wonderful are your deeds,*
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways*
O King of the ages!

Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord?*

For you alone are holy.
All nations shall come and worship you,*
for your judgments have been revealed.

Ant. Great and wonderful are you, Lord,
in all your saints.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor 13,4-8a.13

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; It is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. Faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The just man speaks * words of wisdom.
The just man speaks words of wisdom.

V. The law of God is in his heart;
* words of wisdom.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The just man speaks words of wisdom.

Ant. At the Magn. To save your souls I will gladly spend all my life.

INTERCESSIONS

United in the love of Christ at the close of this festive day, let us present to God our Father our hopes and expectations. Let us say:

Protect this your family, O Lord.

Through St John Bosco you have raised up new religious families in your Church:

— grant that in them may flourish evangelical life and prophetic witness.

You inspired our holy Founder to involve many others in work for the salvation of the young:

- increase the number of new vocations and keep our Salesian Family united.

It is your will that all peoples should attain to a knowledge of the truth:

- through the intercession of the Virgin Mary bless the work of missionaries of the Gospel and render it productive.

You made St John Bosco outstanding in the formation and education of the young, and especially of those who are poor and abandoned:

- in the way you have marked out for each one of us help us to imitate his pedagogical wisdom.

You have called to yourself many brothers and sisters who have dedicated their own lives to the spreading of your Kingdom:

- bestow on them the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Lord our God, in your providence you have given us Saint John Bosco, the father and teacher of youth, who under the guidance of the Virgin Mary worked with untiring zeal for the good of the Church; inspire us with that same apostolic charity, to seek the salvation of our neighbour and so serve you, the one and only good. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son...

Compline

Of Sunday. The concluding antiphon can be “Sub tuum praesidium” as in the Ordinary, or the antiphon “O Maria, Virgo potens”.

1 February

Commemoration of all deceased Confreres

*If 1 February is a Sunday the commemoration is omitted;
it cannot be transferred to another day.*

Prayer for our deceased confreres is a duty of gratitude and fellowship. The memory of those we have known and with whom we may have perhaps shared for years in the same vocation and mission can provide an eloquent and efficacious stimulus for preserving in the Salesian Family the commitment to holiness.

In the commemoration of the deceased confreres the Congregation celebrates the love the Lord has manifested in the lives of his children, and sees the realization of the promise of continuity made to St John Bosco.

INVITATORY

Ant. The Lord is the light of all the living:
come let us adore him.

Invitatory psalm as in the Ordinary – cf Appendix p. 355.

Office of readings

★ HYMN

As at Morning Prayer or from the Common, or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody**Ant. 1** Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**Psalm 39 (40):2-14,17-18****I**

I waited, I waited for the Lord†
and he stooped down to me;*
he heard my cry.

He drew me from the deadly pit,*
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock*
and made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song into my mouth,*
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear*
and shall trust in the Lord.

Happy the man who has placed*
his trust in the Lord
and has not gone over to the rebels*
who follow false gods.

How many, O Lord my God,†
are the wonders and designs
that you have worked for us;*
you have no equal.
Should I proclaim and speak of them,*
they are more than I can tell!

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,*
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.*
 Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written*
 that I should do your will.
 My God, I delight in your law*
 in the depth of my heart.

Ant. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Ant. 2 Lord, guide me with your justice,
 make your way level before me.

II

Your justice I have proclaimed*
 in the great assembly.
 My lips I have not sealed;*
 you know it, O Lord.

I have not hidden your justice in my heart*
 but declared your faithful help.
 I have not hidden your love and your truth*
 from the great assembly.

O Lord, you will not withhold*
 your compassion from me.
 Your merciful love and your truth*
 will always guard me.

For I am beset with evils*
 too many to be counted.
 My sins have fallen upon me*
 and my sight fails me.
 They are more than the hairs of my head*
 and my heart sinks.

O Lord, come to my rescue;*
Lord, come to my aid.

O let there be rejoicing and gladness*
for all who seek you.
Let them ever say: "The Lord is great",*
who love your saving help.

As for me, wretched and poor,*
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,*
O God, do not delay.

Ant. Lord, guide me with your justice,
make your way level before me.

Ant. 3 My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

Psalm 41 (42)

Like the deer that yearns*
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning*
for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God,*
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see*
the face of God?

My tears have become my bread,*
by night, by day,
as I hear it said all the day long:*
"Where is your God?"

These things will I remember*
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd*
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,*
the throng wild with joy.

Why are you cast down, my soul,*
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still,*
my savior and my God.

My soul is cast down within me*
as I think of you,
from the country of Jordan and Mount Hermon,*
from the Hill of Mizar.

Deep is calling on deep,*
in the roar of waters;
your torrents and all your waves*
swept over me.

By day the Lord will send*
his loving kindness;
by night I will sing to him,*
praise the God of my life.

I will say to God, my rock:*
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning*
oppressed by the foe?”

With cries that pierce me to the heart,*
my enemies revile me,
saying to me all day long:*
“Where is your God?”

Why are you cast down, my soul,*
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still,*
my saviour and my God.

Ant. My soul is thirsting for the living God:
when shall I see him face to face?

R. Great is your mercy, O Lord;
V. make me live in accordance with your word.

FIRST READING

From the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

4,16-5,1-10

*After death we shall receive from God
an eternal dwelling-place in heaven*

Brothers, we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we sigh with anxiety; not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God,

who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage; we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. We are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Psalm 50,4

R. Do not judge me, O God, according to my actions: for in your sight I have done nothing good. I beg your majesty: * in your love cleanse me from my sin.

V. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, blot out my transgressions.

* in your love cleanse me from my sin.

SECOND READING

From the "Spiritual Testament" of St John Bosco, priest
(Constitutions of the Society of Saint Francis de Sales, 1984, 255-256)

*In eternity the reward for trials
borne for the love of Christ*

My dear and beloved Sons in Jesus Christ, before leaving this world for eternity I wish to fulfil a duty towards you and so satisfy an ardent desire of my heart.

First of all, I thank you with the most ardent affection of my soul for the obedience you have given me, and for all you have done to sustain and propagate our Congregation.

I leave you here on earth, but only for a short time. I hope the infinite mercy of God will enable us all to meet one day in heaven; there I await you.

Do not grieve over my death. This is a debt we must all pay; but afterwards, every fatigue sustained for the love of our Master, the good Jesus, will be greatly rewarded. Instead of weeping, make firm and efficacious resolutions to remain staunch in your vocation until death.

Watch, so that neither the love of the world, nor the affection of parents, nor the desire of a more agreeable life induce you to make the great mistake of profaning the sacred vows, and so transgressing the religious profession by which you are consecrated to God. Let none of us take back that which we have given to God.

If you have loved me in the past, continue to love me in the future by the exact observance of our Constitutions.

Your first Rector is dead. But our true Superior, Jesus Christ, will never die. He will always be our Master, our guide, our model; but remember that he, in his own time, will also be our judge and the rewarder of our faithfulness in his service.

Your Rector is dead, but there will be another elected, who will have care of you and of your eternal salvation. Listen to him, love him, obey him, pray for him as you have done for me.

Adieu, dear children, adieu. I wait for you in heaven. There we shall speak of God, of Mary, the Mother and support of our Congregation; there we shall bless eternally this our Congregation, the observance of whose rules will have powerfully and efficaciously contributed to our salvation.

Sit nomen Domini benedictum, ex hoc nunc et usque in saeculum.

In te, Domine, speravi; non confundar in aeternum.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Phil 3,20.21; Col 3,4

R. Our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. * He will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body.

V. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

R. He will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body.

★ *Or:*

SECOND READING

From the writings of the Venerable Fr Joseph Quadrio, Salesian priest

(Ed. R. Bracchi, Don G. Quadrio, *Risposte*, Rome 1992, 236-238)

For the Christian, death is the beginning of true life

Faith sheds on death a soft and gentle light, adducing also its positive and consoling aspects. For a Christian, death is not the end but the beginning; it is the beginning of the true life, the gate which opens onto eternity. It is like hearing from behind the barbed wire of a concentration camp the longed-for announcement: "You are going home". Dying is like pushing open the half-closed door of a house and saying: "Father, here I am, I'm home!" It is a leap in the dark, it is true, but with the certainty of falling into the arms of the heavenly Father.

Anyone who really believes in eternal life cannot fail to repeat with St Paul: "For to me to die is gain. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better" (cf. Phil 1,21.23). We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the

Lord" (cf. 2 Cor 5,5-6). After death our eyes that have closed see again. The dead are not creatures that have been annihilated; they are super-alive.

An obsessive fear of death could also be caused by uneasiness about sins that have been committed and fear of the divine judgement. In this case the fear must be opposed by a most firm hope in the infinite mercy of the heavenly Father. The one who will judge us and decide our eternal destiny is not an enemy or a stranger; he is our elder brother, who in order to save us endured the agonies of Calvary and who loves us more than we love ourselves. St Francis de Sales used to say that on the day of judgement he would rather be judged by God than by his own mother. One has only to acknowledge one's sins and abandon oneself with trust to the immeasurable loving kindness of God to ensure pardon and salvation. It is a wonderful thing to feel that one is so far from his level and in need of his mercy: to feel that one is lost and at the same time saved by him who "came to save the lost".

Finally the root cause of disturbance at the approach of death could be the thought of the pains and agonies which frequently make it so bitter. There is an infallible remedy, not for overcoming this thought but for overcoming it and making it less unpalatable: it is that of offering each day one's own sufferings and death, with all the physical and moral agonies that will accompany it, to the heavenly Father in union with the death of Christ, and with the same love and the same intentions which Jesus had on the cross. What great light and comfort stem from this anticipated loving celebration of one's own death offered to the Father as a small victim united to the great Victim, who is Jesus immolated on Calvary and in every Mass! Our death then acquires the

significance and value of a "co-redemption", i.e. a co-operation with Jesus in glorifying the Father in making expiation for sins and in saving the world.

Death, when made in this way the object of faith, hope and charity, may not succeed in driving away all fear; but the fear itself will be lovingly accepted as a precious part of the supreme sacrifice.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 30,20; 1 Cor 2,9

R. How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you, * that you show to those who trust you.

V. What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, these things you have prepared, O God, for those who love you.

R. That you show to those who trust you.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

★ HYMN

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
To rest my soul he leads me,
Where fresh and fertile pastures grow,
With heav'nly food he feeds me.

Perverse and foolish I have strayed,
But he with love has sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With you, dear Lord, Beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross will ever guide me.

You spread a banquet in my sight,
My head with oil anointing,
And let me taste the sweet delight
From your pure chalice flowing.

And so through all my length of days
Your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house for ever.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 Look, O Lord, on my weakness;
pardon all my sins.

Psalm 50 (51)

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.*
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt*
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;*
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;*
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence*
and be without reproach when you judge,
O see, in guilt I was born,*
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart,*
 then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
 O purify me, then I shall be clean,*
 O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,*
 that the bones you have crushed may thrill.
 From my sins turn away your face*
 and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,*
 put a steadfast spirit within me.
 Do not cast me away from your presence,*
 nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;*
 with a spirit of fervor sustain me,
 that I may teach transgressors your ways*
 and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God, my helper,*
 and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
 O Lord, open my lips*
 and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,*
 burnt offering from me you would refuse,
 my sacrifice, a contrite spirit,*
 a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favour to Sion:*
 rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
 Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,*
 holocausts offered on your altar.

Ant. Look, O Lord, on my weakness;
 pardon all my sins.

Ant. 2 I will call upon the Lord of joy;
from death and evil I shall be set free.

Canticle Is 38:10-14,17-20

I said, In the noontide time of my days I must depart;†

I am consigned to the gates of Sheol*
for the rest of my years

I said, "I shall not see the Lord*
in the land of the living;
I shall look upon man no more,*
among the inhabitants of the world.

My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me*
like a shepherd's tent;
like a weaver I have rolled up my life,*
he cuts me off from the loom;

From day to night you bring me to an end;*
I cry for help until morning;
like a lion he breaks all my bones;*
from day to night you bring me to an end.

Like a swallow or a crane I clamour,*
I moan like a dove.
My eyes are weary from looking upward.*
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security.

Lo it was for my welfare*
that I had great bitterness;
but you have held back my life*
from the pit of destruction;
for you have cast all my sins*
behind your back.

For Sheol cannot thank you,*
 death cannot praise you;
 those who go down to the pit*
 cannot hope for your faithfulness.

The living, the living – he thanks you, †
 as I do this day;*
 the father makes known to the children
 your faithfulness.

The Lord will save me,*
 and we will sing to stringed instruments
 all the days of our life*
 at the house of the Lord.

Ant. I will call upon the Lord of joy;
 from death and evil I shall be set free.

Ant. 3 The name of the Lord I will praise in song,
 in exultation I shall celebrate his glory.

Psalm 145

My soul, give praise to the Lord; †
 I will praise the Lord all my days,*
 make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes,*
 In mortal men in whom there is no help.
 Take their breath, they return to clay*
 and their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,*
 whose hope is in the Lord his God,
 who alone made heaven and earth,*
 the seas and all they contain.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,*
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,*
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

the Lord who gives sight to the blind,*
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger*
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just*
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,*
Sion's God, from age to age.

Alt Psalm 150

Praise God in his holy place,*
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,*
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,*
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,*
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,*
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes*
give praise to the Lord.

Ant. The name of the Lord I will praise in song,
in exultation I shall celebrate his glory.

SHORT READING

Wis 2,23-3,1.5-6.9b

God created man for incorruption, and made him in the image of his own eternity. but through the devil's envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his party experience it.

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. Those who trust in him will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. I will praise you, Lord, * for you have rescued me.
I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

V. You turned my sorrow into joy,
* for you have rescued me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Ant. At the Ben. I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Or: Our true home is in heaven;
from there we await the coming of our Saviour,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

INVOCATIONS

God, the Father almighty, raised Jesus from the dead, and he will give life to our own mortal bodies through the Holy Spirit; sustained by this hope, we pray:
Lord of the living and the dead, hear our prayer.

Father, through baptism we have been buried with your Son and have risen with him in his resurrection:

- grant that we may walk in newness of life so that when we die, we may live with Christ for ever.

Father, in our body we carry always and everywhere the death of Jesus your Son:

- grant that his life be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Father, in the resurrection of Jesus your fidelity is proclaimed for evermore:

- enable us to live in hope, despite the mystery of death.

Father, let us not be discouraged as our body slowly decays:

- grant that day by day our spirit may be renewed.

Father, we know very well that neither death nor life, neither things present nor future, can separate us from the love you have revealed in Christ Jesus:

- while we entrust to you our dead confreres, renew in us the certainty that you are faithful to your promises.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, whose mercy knows no limit, you have promised unending happiness to those who seek first the kingdom of heaven. We ask you to take to yourself our

deceased confreres (all deceased Salesians), who have spent their lives in the service of the Gospel, following the way marked out by Saint John Bosco; grant that they may enjoy the vision of your countenance and that we may continue faithfully on our pilgrimage. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Prayer during the day

Hymn and Psalms from the Office of the Dead.

Before noon

Ant. You give great joy and happiness to those who seek you; and your salvation, O God, to those who love you.

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 19,25-27a

This I know: that my Redeemer lives, and he the last. will take his stand on earth. After my waking he will set me close to him, and from my flesh I shall look on God. He whom I shall see will take my part; these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof.

V. Why are you cast down, my soul, and why groan within me?

R. Hope in God; I will praise him still.

Midday

Ant. Show us, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation.

SCRIPTURE READING

Wis 1,13-15

Death was not God's doing, he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living. To be – for this he created all; the world's created things have health in them, in them so fatal poison can be found and Hades holds no power on earth; for virtue is undying.

V. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil.

R. For you are with me, Lord.

Afternoon

Ant. For ever I will give glory to your name, O Lord, for great has been your mercy to me.

SCRIPTURE READING

Is 25,8

God will destroy death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so.

V. O God, hear my prayer.

R. To you all flesh must come.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

When 2 February falls on a Sunday, the first Vespers of the Presentation of the Lord are celebrated.

★ HYMN

As at Morning Prayer or from the Common, or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

Psalm 120 (121)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;*
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord*
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!*
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,*
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;*
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you*
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil,*
he will guard you soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming*
both now and for ever.

Ant. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

Ant. 2 Do not abandon, Lord, the work of your hands.

Psalm 129 (130)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,*
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive*
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,*
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:*
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.*
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord*
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak*
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy*
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem*
from all its iniquity.

Ant. Do not abandon, Lord, the work of your hands.

Ant. 3 As the Father raises up and gives life,
So also the Son gives life to those who love

Canticle Phil 2,6-11

Though he was in the form of God,*
Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.
He emptied himself,†
taking the form of a servant,*
being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form,*
he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,*
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him*
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,*
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,*
to the glory of God the Father.

Ant. As the Father raises up and gives life,
So also the Son gives life to those who love.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor 15,20-24a.25-27a

Christ, in fact, has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive, but each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, "for God has put all things in subjection under his feet".

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. Lord, in your steadfast love, * give them eternal rest
Lord, in your steadfast love, give them eternal rest.

V. You will come to judge the living and the dead:
* give them eternal rest.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your steadfast love, give them eternal rest.

Ant. At the Magn. I go to prepare a place for you - says the Lord; I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Or: All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn away.

INTERCESSIONS

We know that when our body, our earthly abode, has been dissolved, we shall receive from God an eternal dwelling in heaven. Full of trust, we proclaim:

You are the resurrection and the life!

Christ, our Lord, giver of life, you are the light which never fades:

- may the light of your countenance shine on us, that by our life we may bear witness to your love.

Christ, our Lord, you have conquered death and become the first fruit of the resurrection:

- give to our dead confreres [deceased Salesians] the reward you promised to your faithful servants.

Lord Jesus, you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

- look on us with eyes of mercy at the time of our judgement.

You who have made all things new:

- open to the faithful departed who entrust themselves to you, the new heavens and a new earth where dwell justice and peace.

In our remembrance of those who have gone before us you fill us with hope and encouragement:

- grant that one day we may find ourselves in heaven to sing with them your love and glory.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, whose mercy knows no limit, you have promised unending happiness to those who seek first the kingdom of heaven. We ask you to take to yourself our deceased confreres (all deceased Salesians), who have spent their lives in the service of the Gospel, following the way marked out by Saint John Bosco; grant that they may enjoy the vision of your countenance and that we may continue faithfully on our pilgrimage. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Compline

As on Sunday after Evening Prayer II. A suitable closing Antiphon would be: "O Maria, Virgo potens".

7 February

**Blessed PIUS IX,
pope**

Optional memorial

John Maria Mastai Ferretti (Pius IX) was born at Senigallia on 13 May 1792. Ordained priest in 1819, between 1823 and 1825 for two years he was a missionary in Chile. At just 35 years of age he was appointed Archbishop of Spoleto, and then in 1832 of Imola. In 1840 he was created Cardinal and on 16 June 1846 was elected Supreme Pontiff at only 54 years of age.

Don Bosco had a first audience with Pius IX on 9 March 1858. Both had the impression of meeting a saint. Pius IX supported and guided Don Bosco in the foundation of the Salesian Congregation. He suggested to him to call it a "Society" so as to be in tune with the times, to make simple vows, he advised a simple habit and practices of piety intense but not too complicated.

He persuaded Don Bosco to write his memoirs to be left as a spiritual inheritance to the Salesians. During his pontificate he approved the Constitutions of the Salesian Society, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the Pious Union of Salesian Cooperators of which he was the first enrolled member.

Don Bosco loved Pius IX greatly and accepted all his advice even when it cost him great sacrifice: "No effort should be spared", he used to say, "when the Church and the Papacy are at stake". The Pontiff too had great esteem for Don Bosco and on different occasions called him to Rome to ask his help with various very delicate issues.

On 8 December 1854 he defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. In 1869 he called the First Vatican Council. On 8 December 1870 he declared Saint Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. On 16 June 1875 he consecrated the Church to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He died on 7 February 1878, after 32 years Pontificate. John Paul II proclaimed him Blessed on 3 September 2000.

From the Common of Pastors: for a Pope.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the «Letters» of Blessed Pius IX, Pope, to his beloved son Father John Bosco

(7 January 1860 and 23 June 1869;
Memorie Biografiche VI [1907] pp.472-473;
 IX [1917] pp.667-668)

*With perseverance bear with tribulations:
 our hope rests in God*

Beloved Son, Our greetings and Apostolic Blessing. In the letter which you wrote to Us on 9 November, We find further proof of your singular faith, piety and reverence towards Us and towards Our Supreme dignity. We can easily understand, Beloved Son, your sorrow and that of other ecclesiastics at this great confusion in Italy and the upsetting of public order and the rebellion in some Provinces of our temporal domains [...].

In this fierce storm raised up by Satan, in humility of heart We greatly thank God that with his grace he strengthens and comforts the Bishops of Italy so that each one with his own flock may fearlessly safeguard the deposit of faith. Our heart is comforted by the profound harmony of spirit with which the clergy too in these saddest of times labour for the care of souls and the firmness and constancy of spirit with which for the cause of God and of the Church they bear with and support every adversity.

We cannot put into words the consolation which that part of your letter gives Us from which We know that the present calamities of these days prompted your immediate response, My Beloved Son, and that of other ecclesiastics. Therefore by preaching the word of God,

and by distributing good books and other good writings united in spirit and in zeal you do all that is in your power to oppose the machinations of the enemies of the Church.

There is nothing more excellent than doing this, and there is nothing more useful for fostering and enlivening the piety of the people. Nor was your outstanding solicitude without fruit, through which many young people going to the sacred Oratories on feast days and daily to the schools at the appropriate time become ever more fervent through both Christian instruction and the frequentation of the Sacraments.

May the care which you have for the poor young people you have saved day by day obtain more happy success and increase the number of those who can then become in time useful ministers of the Church. Continue, Beloved Son, the way of life which you have taken up to the glory of God and the benefit of the Church. If you should meet with any serious tribulation bear with it, and support with firmness of spirit the tribulations of these times. Our hope is placed in God, who through the protection of the Queen of Heaven and Mistress of the world, the Mother of God, Mary the Immaculate Virgin, will free us from these great evils, and will console his afflicted Church, making her triumph over her enemies.

We have no doubt at all that to this end, and to beg for Our weakness the immediate assistance and the help of God, you will continue O Beloved Son, together with the pupils and the disciples of your hospice, to you and to Ourselves most dear, to beseech the same God with ever greater fervour in all kinds of prayer. We most earnestly pray the same God that he will preserve you and them in his peace, cover you with his right hand and defend you with his holy arm [...].

The many tokens of faith and devotion which you have given Us have certainly acquainted us with your firm attachment to the Apostolic See and to Ourselves. They show too that not only do you diligently strive to arouse in others the love you bear Peter's Chair, but also that many feel as you do.

Another splendid token of this We have received on the occasion of Our golden jubilee of ordination and First Mass in the very affectionate letter you sent Us in your name and in behalf of the oratories and institutes you direct.

We need not tell you how welcome these filial congratulations are to Us. We will appreciate it if you share Our sentiments with your priests and boys. Indeed, you may add that, in response to their wish, We remembered them in Our Holy Mass as We particularly recommended to Our Lord all who pray for Us.

We shall be grateful if they continue to pray, as We hope, for the conversion of souls gone astray, that they may all know and love Our Heavenly Father and Him whom He sent, Jesus Christ. Him albeit unworthy, We represent on earth. Meanwhile, in token of Our particular benevolence and a sign of divine grace, We most affectionately impart Our Apostolic Benediction to you and your beloved sons.

RESPONSORY

Mt 16,18; Sal 47,9

R. Jesus said to Simon: You are Peter and it is upon this rock that I will build my Church, * and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

V. God has built it to endure for all eternity,

R. and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Heb 13,7-9a

Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever. Do not let yourselves be led astray by all sorts of strange doctrines.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. I placed watchmen on your towers, * they watch over your Church.

I placed watchmen on your towers, they watch over your Church.

V. They will never cease to tell of the name of the Lord, by day and by night.,

* they watch over your Church.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

I placed watchmen on your towers, they watch over your Church.

Ant. At the Ben. It is not you who speak; the Spirit of your Father speaks in you.

INTERCESSIONS

To Christ, the Good Shepherd, who gave his life for his sheep, with confidence we pray:

O Lord, guide your people to the pastures of eternal life.

Christ our Lord, in Blessed Pius IX you have given us a living model of your merciful love,

- bless our Pope N.N. and increase in him the gifts of the Spirit to show to the world the sweetness of your love.

Through your sacred ministers you are present in our midst as the shepherd of our souls,

- never cease to guide us through their teaching and encouragement.

In the holy pastors who serve your people you manifest your power of healing souls and bodies,

- remain always with us to renew our lives in holiness.

In Blessed Pius IX, you O Lord gave Don Bosco a support and guide in the founding of the Salesian Society,

- grant that we may be always faithful to our mission of educators and pastors, handed on to us by our holy Founder.

Pius IX was ever trusting and untiring in glorifying Mary Immaculate;

- in Her, sign of sure hope, may the Church always find the strength to be renewed in fidelity.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who gave your servant, Blessed Pius IX, Pope, the spirit of fortitude in adversity, and enabled him to enter more deeply into the pure faith of the Church, grant through his intercession, that we may be filled with the same spirit and live with the same devotion. Through Our Lord.

Evening Prayer II

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Pt 5,1-4

Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you; watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. This is a man who loves his brothers, * and intercedes for the people.

This is a man who loves his brothers, and intercedes for the people.

V. He laid down his life for his brothers,
* and intercedes for the people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

This is a man who loves his brothers, and intercedes for the people.

Ant. At the Magn. I thank you Christ for honouring me by leading me to this glory, You are the good shepherd; I pray that the sheep which you have placed in my charge will share with me in your glory for ever.

INTERCESSIONS

Glory to Christ, the high priest who was appointed to represent men in their relations with God. United in evening prayer we invoke his name:

Lord save your people.

You raised up in your church wise and holy leaders,

- grant that the Christians community may always be guided by wise and generous leaders.

In the presence of their brothers and sisters you anointed the leaders of your people and poured on them your Spirit:

- fill with His gifts all those you have called to guide the Holy Church.

In Pius IX you gave us a Pope who loved and defended with zeal the freedom and the rights of the Church;

- grant that through his intercession, she may everywhere carry out her mandate of proclaiming and safeguarding the faith.

To Pope Pius IX Don Bosco expressed his gratitude and his devotion to the Successor of Peter;

- grant to us O Lord, that following the example of our Founder, we may have a great love for the Pope and for the Church, and educate our young people to the same love.

Through the pastors of your Church you assist your faithful so that no one can steal them from your hands,

- grant that the bishops, priests and the faithful departed may all be reunited in the joy of your Kingdom.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who gave your servant, Blessed Pius IX, Pope, the spirit of fortitude in adversity, and enabled him to enter more deeply into the pure faith of the Church, grant through his intercession, that we may be filled with the same spirit and live with the same devotion. Through Our Lord.

9 February

**Blessed EUSEBIA PALOMINO YENES,
virgin**

Optional memorial

(For the Institute of the Daughters
of Mary Help of Christians: *Memorial*)

Eusebia Palomino Yenes was born at Cantalpino (Salamanca, Spain) on 15 December 1899 in a family which was quite poor but rich in faith and harmony. Her early life was marked by daily hard work, as a child-minder with families in the countryside and then in the city. From her father she eagerly learned the rudiments of the catechism, which enabled her to receive the “Bread of heaven “ at nine years of age. At that moment Eusebia experienced deep within her something very special: she felt drawn by a deep love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, and from then on every holy communion was for her a moment of “great happiness”.

Overcoming numerous difficulties she fulfilled her dream of consecrating herself to the Lord, and in 1924 she became a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. In the house of Valverde in Camino, in the diocese of Huelva, she was assigned to the kitchen and to various other community services, which she undertook with cheerfulness and joy. In the festive oratory she was entrusted with the smallest little girls, but little by little the older ones and the adults used to go to her captivated by her spirit of faith and of prayer. In her letters she spread everywhere the devotion of “Marian slavery”, according to the teaching of St. Louis M. Grignon de Montfort which she herself practised. In 1931, on the eve of the revolution, Sr Eusebia offered herself to the Lord as a victim for the salvation of her brothers and sisters in Spain and in the world.

Her offering was accepted: for three years she lived with indescribable suffering, which the doctors were unable to diagnose or to cure, until she entered into eternal Life on 10 February 1935. On 25 April 2004 the Holy Father John Paul II proclaimed her Blessed.

From the Common of virgins. Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the «Autobiography» of Blessed Eusebia Palomino

(Edited by Manuel Garrido Bonaño OSB, Seville 1985;
tr. by Domenica Grassiano FMA, Rome 1987, p. 10-11)

An irresistible and great desire to become a saint

At school I remember perfectly that along the walls there was a Bible History in pictures. On one of the first days the teacher explained a picture which was in front of my bench and contained the story of Isaac. I was sitting there making little tubes of paper, but I liked the explanation very much and I didn't miss a word.

The following day I went with my mother to the forest nearby looking for wood. She gathered together a great bundle of wood and as is usual she carried it on her back tied to her belt, with a cord round her shoulders. She also gave me a small bundle, and I came down the hill full of joy and very satisfied as I remembered the story of the sacrifice of Isaac, and along the way I told it to my mother.

When I felt tired I said to her: «Now let's rest a little like Isaac, because we still have a long way to go»; so we rested a little, then we carried on further until we stopped to rest a second time.

I said to my mother: «Isaac was a victim: if he had died he would have gone straight to heaven. I am not a victim, but I would very much like to be one, if it were pleasing to God, because in my heart I feel such a great desire to become a saint that I can't stop thinking about it».

And as my mother went on under the weight of the bundle I saw a tear run down her face. I would never

have thought that, as in the picture that made such an impression on me in my early years, as time passed I would have the same fate of consecrating myself as a victim of love for the salvation of souls and for the Kingdom of my Mother and of Jesus!

RESPONSORY

1 Cor 7,34; Psal 72,26

R. God is the rock of my heart. God is my possession for ever: * apart from him I want nothing on earth.

V. A virgin is concerned with the Lord's claim, intent on holiness, bodily and spiritual:

R. apart from him I want nothing on earth.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Song of Songs 8,7

Love is a fire no waters avail to quench, no floods to drown; for love a man will give up all that he has in the world, and think nothing of his loss.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. My heart has said of you: * I have sought your presence, Lord.

My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord.

V. It is your face I will continue to seek:

* I have sought your presence, Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord.

Ant. At the Ben. You have given your heart to Christ,
wise virgin;
now you live with him,
shining like the sun in the assembly of the saints.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us thank God Our Father for having given us in
Blessed Eusebia Palomino a living image of his love
and of his mercy.

Grant us your love O Lord.

Father you chose us from all eternity,

- make us aware of your call to holiness and make our heart taste in its fullness the joy of belonging to you in imitation of the holy virgins.

Open, O Father, the gates of your kingdom to the poor, to the little ones who place their trust in your Providence:

- grant us to know how to follow the life traced out by Blessed Eusebia in humility and poverty, so that you may reveal the glory of your face also to us.

Increase in us hunger for the Word of life,

- so that every day we may grow in love for the Truth and we may know how to pass it on to those most in need.

Give us the light and strength of your Spirit,

- to meet the trials of life with peace and to give the reason for the hope we have.

In her ever-ready and calm service Sr Eusebia experienced the joy of giving:

- grant that we too may recognise you in every brother and sister and serve with joy in all the different circumstances of life.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who shaped the heart of the Virgin Blessed Eusebia according to the paschal mystery of your Son even to the giving of her life grant that strengthened by her example of humility and joy we may grow constantly in your love and in the service of the poor. Through.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor 7,32.34

He who is unmarried is concerned with God's claim, asking how he is to please God; a woman who is free of wedlock or a virgin, is concerned with the Lord's claim, intent on holiness, bodily and spiritual.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The virgins come before the king * They sing for joy.
The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy.

V. They pass within the palace of the king,

* They sing for joy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy.

Ant. At the Magn. Come, bride of Christ,
and receive the crown which the Lord has prepared for you.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us make our prayer to Christ the Lord who in Blessed Eusebia made the love of service and of poverty a shining example:

Renew your Spirit within us, O Lord.

You inspired Sister Eusebia to offer you her life for peace,

- help us to live generously a spirit of sacrifice in all difficult circumstances with the certainty of cooperating in the coming of your Kingdom.

You enriched the humble Sr Eusebia with the gift of wisdom and counsel:

- guide and enlighten those who are called to guide young people in the discernment of their vocation.

Remember those who in your name come to the aid of those in need:

- may they reflect your love and discover your presence in the little ones and in the least.

Renew in us the gift of your Spirit:

- may the eucharistic zeal which shone in the heart of Blessed Eusebia inflame and renew our ability to love you and to seek your will in everything.

You who consider as done to yourself every good and charitable deed,

- grant the joy of the eternal reward to all those who strove to live their lives according to the beatitudes of the gospel

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who shaped the heart of the Virgin Blessed Eusebia according to the paschal mystery of your Son even to the giving of her life grant that strengthened by her example of humility and joy we may grow constantly in your love and in the service of the poor. Through.

25 February

**Saints LOUIS VERSIGLIA,
bishop
and CALLISTUS CARAVARIO,
priest
Salesian Protomartyrs**

Feast

Louis Versiglia, born at Oliva Gessi, Pavia, 5 June 1873, entered the Valdocco Oratory at the age of 12 years, and there got to know Don Bosco. He was ordained priest in 1895 and for some years was Master of Novices at Genzano, Rome. In 1906 he led the first Salesian missionary expedition to China, fulfilling a repeated prophecy of Don Bosco. In 1918 the Salesians received from the Vicar Apostolic of Canton the mission of Shiu Chow. Fr Louis Versiglia was appointed Vicar Apostolic, and on 9 January 1921 was consecrated Bishop. He was a true pastor, totally dedicated to his flock. He gave the Vicariate a sound structure with a seminary, formation houses, planning himself various residences and homes for the elderly and those in need. He took particular care in the formation of catechists. He writes in his notes: "The missionary who is not united to God is a pipe detached from the fountain". "The missionary who prays a great deal will also do a great deal". Like Don Bosco he was a model of work and temperance.

Callistus Caravario was born at Cuorné, Turin, 8 June 1903. He was a pupil at the Oratory of Valdocco. In 1924, while still a cleric, he left for China as a missionary. He was sent to Macao, and then two years later to the island of Timor, edifying everyone with his kindness and apostolic zeal. On 18 May 1929, having returned to Shiu Chow, Bishop Versiglia ordained him a priest and entrusted to him the mission of Linchow. In a short time he visited all the families and gained the affection of the youngsters in the schools. Meanwhile, in China the politic situation was becoming very tense and especially for the Christians and the foreign missionaries. Persecutions began.

In February 1930, Bishop Versiglia and Fr Caravario travelled together on a pastoral visitation of the Linchow mission. On the journey, on 25 February, a group of communist pirates stopped the Bishop's boat, trying to seize the three catechists who were on the missionaries' boat. The Bishop and Fr Caravario opposed them with all their strength, in order to defend the safety and the virtue of the three young Christian women. They were forcefully beaten and shot at Li Thau Tseui, near the Lin Chow river. Paulo VI recognised their martyrdom in 1973. John Paul II numbered them among the Blessed on 15 May 1983 and canonised them on 1 October 2000.

INVITATORY

Ant. The Lord is the king of martyrs;
come let us adore him.

Invitatory psalm as in the Ordinary – cf Appendix p. 355.

Office of readings

HYMN

The martyrs living now with Christ
In suffering were tried,
their anguish overcome by love,
when on his cross they died.

Across the centuries they come,
in constancy unmoved,
their loving hearts make no complaint;
in silence they are proved.

No man has ever measured love,
or weighed it in his hand,
but God who knows the inmost heart,
gives them the promised land.

Praise Father, Son and Spirit blest
 Who guide us through the night
 In ways that reach beyond the stars
 To everlasting light.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 The blood of the holy martyrs was shed
 for Christ on this earth,
 therefore they have received
 their reward in heaven.

Psalm 2

Why this tumult among nations,*
 among peoples this useless murmuring?
 They arise, the kings of the earth,*
 princes plot against the Lord and his Anointed.
 "Come, let us break their fetters,*
 come, let us cast off their yoke".

He who sits in the heavens laughs;*
 the Lord is laughing them to scorn.
 Then he will speak in his anger,*
 his rage will strike them with terror.
 "It is I who have set up my king*
 on Sion, my holy mountain".

I will announce the decree of the Lord:†

The Lord said to me: "You are my Son.*
 It is I who have begotten you this day.
 Ask and I will shall bequeath you the nations,*
 put the ends of the earth in your possession.

With a rod of iron you will break them,*
shatter them like a potter's jar”.

Now, O kings, understand,*
take warning, rulers of the earth;
serve the Lord with awe*
and trembling, pay him your homage
lest he be angry and you perish;*
for suddenly his anger will blaze.

Blessed are they who put their trust in God.

Ant. The blood of the holy martyrs was shed
for Christ on this earth,
therefore they have received
their reward in heaven.

Ant. 2 These holy men will live for ever;
the Lord himself is their reward.

Psalm 32 (33)

I

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;*
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the lyre,*
with a ten-stringed harp sing him songs.
O sing him a song that is new,*
play loudly, with all your skill.

For the word of the Lord is faithful*
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right*
and fills the earth with his love.

By his word the heavens were made,*
 by the breath of his mouth all the stars.
 He collects the waves of the ocean,*
 he stores up the depths of the sea.

Let all the earth fear the Lord,*
 all who live in the world revere him.
 He spoke; and it came to be.*
 He commanded; it sprang into being.

He frustrates the designs of the nations,*
 he defeats the plans of the peoples.
 His own designs shall stand for ever,*
 the plans of his heart from age to age.

Ant. These holy men will live for ever;
 the Lord himself is their reward.

Ant. 3 Come, my saints,
 who fought valiantly in this world;
 I will give you the reward of your labours.

II

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,*
 the people he has chosen as his own.
 From the heavens the Lord looks forth,*
 he sees all the children of men.

From the place where he dwells he gazes*
 on all the dwellers on the earth;
 he who shapes the hearts of them all;*
 and considers all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his army,*
 nor a warrior preserved by his strength.
 A vain hope for safety is the horse;*
 despite its power it cannot save.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,*
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,*
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.*
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.*
We trust in his holy name.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,*
as we place all our hope in you.

Ant. Come, my saints,
who fought valiantly in this world;
I will give you the reward of your labours.

V. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.

R. The Lord is our help and our shield.

FIRST READING

From the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

8,18-39

*Nothing can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus*

Brothers, I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to

decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

As it is written: "*For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered*".

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

RESPONSORY

Lk 6,27; Mt 5,44-45; 48

R. Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who persecute you, * to be sons of your heavenly Father.

V. Be perfect as your Father is perfect,

R. to be sons of your heavenly Father.

SECOND READING

From the "Stromati" of Clement of Alexandria

(IV, 4,13-15; PG 8, 1226-1227)

The joyful sacrifice of life in martyrdom

Without any doubt the martyr bears witness in the first place to himself that he has been sincerely faithful to God, then to the tempter that the latter has practised in vain his envy of those who remain faithful with love, and finally to the Lord for having been divinely permeated by the convincing strength of the true doctrine from which he will never turn aside, not even through fear of death. Moreover he confirms by his action the truth of

the preaching, manifesting how powerful is the God to whom he aspires. You can truly admire the love of the martyr which is clearly shown when with gratitude he assimilates himself to God, living and dying for him alone. And not only this, but with his own 'precious blood' he makes the infidels blush red.

In virtue of the commandment of the Gospel the martyr refuses to let fear lead him to deny Christ, and thus he bears witness even in the face of fear. The martyr does not sell his faith for the illusion of receiving gifts in exchange, but for the love of the Lord leaves this life with great joy. Indeed he will be grateful both to the one who has provided the motive for his passage from this world and to the one who has concocted the plot against him. He will use the fact as a suitable though unsought occasion to show what he truly is: to the persecutor in patience, to the Lord in love. Precisely through this love he was already known to the Lord, who knew even from before his birth that he would freely choose martyrdom. The martyr therefore goes to meet his Lord with serene trust and confidence as towards a friend for whom he willingly gives his body and soul, as his judges expected. And so he will hear himself addressed by our Saviour in the words of the poet: "O my dear brother!" precisely because he made himself similar to Him in his life.

I say at once that we call martyrdom 'perfection', not because the martyr has reached the close of life like all others, but because he has accomplished a perfect work of love. If then martyrdom is a confession of faith in God, every soul who leads a pure life in the knowledge of God and obedience to his commandments, is a martyr through his life and word, whatever may be the manner of his bodily death. He pours out, in fact, like blood his faith during his whole life and even to the moment of his death.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Sir 45,9; 2 Tm 4,7-8

R. The Lord has crowned you with justice, he has put a glorious robe upon you. * The Holy One of Israel has taken up his abode in you.

V. You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race; the crown of righteousness has been prepared for you.

R. The Holy One of Israel has taken up his abode in you.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

★ HYMN

From the Common of Martyrs, or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

The martyrs living now with Christ
In suffering were tried,
their anguish overcome by love,
when on his cross they died.

Across the centuries they come,
in constancy unmoved,
their loving hearts make no complaint;
in silence they are proved.

No man has ever measured love,
or weighed it in his hand,
but God who knows the inmost heart,
gives them the promised land.

Praise Father, Son and Spirit blest
Who guide us through the night
In ways that reach beyond the stars
To everlasting light.

Ant. 1 When the martyrs of Christ were in torment
they fixed their minds in heavenly things, and said:
Lord, come to our help!

*Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week 1 – cf Appendix
p. 359.*

Ant. 2 Let the souls of the saints
sing praise to God (alleluia).

Ant. 3 Choirs of martyrs,
praise the Lord in the highest.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Cor 1,3-5

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes; he helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help those who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Just as we have a share in Christ's many sufferings, so also through Christ we share in his great help.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. These were holy men * they will live for ever.
These were holy men they will live for ever.

V. The Lord himself is their reward:

* they will live for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

These were holy men they will live for ever.

Ant. At the Ben. The blood of your martyrs, O Lord,
will be the fertile seed of Christians.

INTERCESSIONS

United in the liturgy of praise, let us invoke God the Father, who called our martyrs to associate themselves more closely with the Passover of Christ through their supreme testimony of love. Let us say:

Through your martyrs Lord, hear our prayer.

Through martyrdom the first disciples followed more closely the Christ who offered himself for the salvation of the world:

- grant that we may be ever more conformed to him who shed his blood for us and for all for the remission of sins.

Louis and Callistus faced death for the safety and salvation of the faithful entrusted to their care:

- grant that we may all persevere in our witness of Christian life.

The holy martyrs sealed by their death their work of evangelization:

- sustain all missionaries and catechists in their service of the proclamation of Christ's Gospel.

The two missionaries filled with their blood the chalice St John Bosco had foretold:

- help us to celebrate the liturgy of life by offering our body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

Following the example of St John Bosco, the holy martyrs record with their lives the daily exercise of charity for the good of others:

- help us to embrace with joy our daily crosses for the love of Christ and of our brothers and sisters.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, you gave to your holy martyrs, Bishop Louis and Father Callistus, the strength to fight to the death to proclaim the Gospel and defend human dignity; grant that we, your loyal followers, may imitate their testimony with persevering faith and assiduous charity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer during the day

Hymn from the Ordinary. Antiphons and psalms of the feria.

Before noon**SCRIPTURE READING****1 Pt 5,10-11**

You will have to suffer only for a little while: the God of all grace who called you to eternal glory in Christ will see that all is well again; he will confirm, strengthen and support you. His power lasts for ever and ever. Amen.

V. The saints trust in the Lord:

R. They will have courage and will not falter.

Midday**SCRIPTURE READING****Cf. Heb 11,33**

These were men who through faith conquered kingdoms, did what is right and earned the promises in Christ Jesus our Lord.

V. You have endured sorrow:

R. But it will be turned to joy.

Afternoon

SCRIPTURE READING

Wisdom 3,1-2a.3b

The souls of the just are in God's hands, and no torment, in death itself, has power to reach them. Dead? Fools think so; but all is well with them.

℣. They will come back with songs of joy,

℞. They will carry home their sheaves.

The concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

As at morning prayer.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 The bodies of the saints have been buried in peace,
and their name lives on for all generations.

Psalm 114 (116)

I love the Lord for he has heard*
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me*
in the day when I called him.

They surrounded me, the snares of death,†
with the anguish of the tomb;*
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.*

O Lord, my God, deliver me!

How gracious is the Lord, and just;*
 our God has compassion.
 The Lord protects the simple hearts;*
 I was helpless so he saved me.
 Turn back, my soul, to your rest*
 for the Lord has been good;
 he has kept my soul from death, †
 my eyes from tears*
 and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord*
 in the land of the living.

Ant. The bodies of the saints have been buried in peace,
 and their name lives on for all generations.

Ant. 2 I saw the souls of all who had been killed
 for having witnessed to Jesus and
 for having preached God's word.

Psalm 115 (116)

I trusted, even when I said:*
 "I am sorely afflicted,"
 and when I said in my alarm:*
 "No man can be trusted".

How can I repay the Lord*
 for his goodness to me?
 The cup of salvation I will raise;*
 I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill*
 before all his people.
 O precious in the eyes of the Lord*
 is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I,*
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;*
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill*
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,*
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Ant. I saw the souls of all who had been killed
for having witnessed to Jesus and
for having preached God's word.

Ant. 3 These are the saints who bore witness to God
by laying aside earthly life.
They have washed their robes clean
in the blood of the Lamb.

Canticle Rev 4:11; 5:9,10,12

Worthy are you, our Lord and God,*
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,*
and by your will they existed and were created.

Worthy are you, O Lord,*
to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain,†
and by you blood you ransomed men for God*
from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

You have made us a kingdom and priests to our God,*
and we shall reign on earth.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,*
to receive power and wealth,
and wisdom and might,*
and honour and glory and blessing.

Ant. These are the saints who bore witness to God
by laying aside earthly life.
They have washed their robes clean
in the blood of the Lamb.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Pt 4,13-14

My dear people, if you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the spirit of glory, the spirit of God resting on you.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. Rejoice in the Lord: * Let the just shout for joy.
Rejoice in the Lord: Let the just shout for joy.

V. Let the upright sing praise;

* Let the just shout for joy.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice in the Lord: Let the just shout for joy.

Ant. At the Magn. Blessed are you Louis and Callistus who have shed your blood for the Lord; honouring Christ by your lives, you have imitated him also in death: now you shine in the glory of heaven.

INTERCESSIONS

As we commemorate the evening sacrifice of Christ who offered himself for the salvation of the world, let us present to the Father our prayer of thanksgiving and supplication:

We bless you, O Lord.

The Salesian Protomartyrs bore witness to the faith by the sacrifice of their lives:

- do not allow violence and hatred to prevail against those who perform works of charity for their neighbour.

They gave their lives as a sign of their love for something greater:

- grant that we may all live with joy the strong demands of service freely given to our brothers and sisters.

The martyrdom of Saints Louis and Callistus acclaims the inestimable value of chastity for the kingdom of heaven:

- grant that we may willingly accept hardship and sacrifices to educate young people to a more balanced personality.

By their martyrdom the two missionaries have fully embodied the ideal of the good shepherd:

- grant that the service of bishops and priests may be inspired by the tenderness of your fatherly love.

We entrust to you, Father, all who have left this world:

- admit them to live in your abode of light and peace.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, you gave to your holy martyrs, Bishop Louis and Father Callistus, the strength to fight to the death to proclaim the Gospel and defend human dignity; grant that we, your loyal followers, may imitate their testimony with persevering faith and assiduous charity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

6 May

Saint DOMINIC SAVIO
adolescent

Feast

Where the celebration has the rank of a Solemnity, Evening Prayer I is from the Common of Saints, with the hymn, antiphons and intercessions from Evening Prayer of the Feast.

In a very simple style of life, Dominic travelled the road to holiness in the space of a few years, a masterpiece of the Spirit and a fruit of the method of education of St John Bosco.

He was born at Riva di Chieri, Italy, on 2 April 1842, into a family poor in this world's goods but rich in faith. His childhood was marked by the event of his first Communion, which he made with great devotion at the age of seven, and by a constant endeavour to fulfil his duties. At the age of twelve there occurred the decisive event: he met Don Bosco who, as a father and secure guide, accepted him at Valdocco to begin his secondary studies. There he discovered the higher perspectives of the life of a child of God in friendship with Christ and Mary, and embarked eagerly on the road to holiness, understood as a complete self-donation to God through love. He prayed and studied with great seriousness, and became the friend of all his companions. Sensitive to the ideal of Don Bosco's *Da mihi animas*, he wanted to save the souls of all of them, and started up the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception, which subsequently gave to Don Bosco his best collaborators.

At the age of fifteen he became seriously ill, returned to Mondonio, his native village, and died there peacefully on 9 March 1857, happy to be going to meet his Lord. He was canonized by Pius XII on 12 June 1954.

INVITATORY

Ant. Let us praise the Lord our God
on the feast of Saint Dominic Savio.

Invitatory psalm as in the Ordinary – cf Appendix p. 355.

Office of readings

★ HYMN

This is the feastday of the Lord's true witness,
Who on this day received the glory due him.
Let all creation celebrate his goodness,
Cherish his memory.

Prudent in judgement, gentle towards his brothers,
Open, unselfish in the love he offered.
All of his days the Gospel was his wisdom,
Christ his true teacher.

One, then, in songs of praise we sing his glory,
Calling to mind the peace and joy God gave him,
Asking his prayers to help us in life's battle,
All through the ages.

Glory and praise be to our God forever,
Radiant in splendour, awesome in his power,
Guiding creation onward to fulfilment,
One God, Three Persons. *(P. Scagnelli)*

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 The Lord poured out his blessings upon him,
and he found grace in the eyes of God, alleluia.

Psalm 20 (21):2-8,14

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king;*
how your saving help makes him glad!
You have granted him his heart's desire;*
you have not refused the prayer of his lips.

You came to meet him with the blessings of success,*
you have set on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked you for life and this you have given,*
days that will last from age to age.

Your saving help has given him glory.*
You have laid upon him majesty and splendour,
you have granted your blessings to him for ever.*
You have made him rejoice with the joy of your presence.

The king has put his trust in the Lord:*
through the mercy of the Most High he shall stand firm.
O Lord, arise in your strength,*
we shall sing and praise your power.

Ant. The Lord poured out his blessings upon him,
and he found grace in the eyes of God, alleluia.

Ant. 2 The Lord blessed his faithfulness and docility,
and let him see his glory, alleluia.

Psalm 91 (92)

I

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,*
 to make music to your name, O Most High,
 to proclaim your love in the morning*
 and your truth in the watches of the night,
 on the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,*
 with the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;*
 for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
 O Lord, how great are your works!*
 How deep are your designs!
 The foolish man cannot know this*
 and the fool cannot understand.

Though the wicked spring up like grass*
 and all who do evil thrive:
 they are doomed to be eternally destroyed.*
 But you, Lord, are eternally on high.

Ant. The Lord blessed his faithfulness and docility,
 and let him see his glory, alleluia.

Ant. 3 The just one will grow like the lily:
 he will flourish for ever before the Lord, alleluia.

II

See how your enemies perish;*
 all doers of evil are scattered.

To me you give the wild-ox's strength;*
 you anoint me with the purest oil.
 My eyes looked in triumph on my foes;*
 my ears heard gladly of their fall.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree*
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord*
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,*
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just;*
in him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Ant. The just one will grow like the lily:
he will flourish for ever before the Lord, alleluia.

V. The Lord loved him and bestowed on him all honour,
alleluia.

R. He clothed him in glory, alleluia.

FIRST READING

From the Book of Revelation of St John the Apostle

14,1-3.4b-5; 19,5-9

*Blessed are they who are invited
to the wedding-banquet of the Lamb*

Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. And they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves, for they are chaste; it is these who follow

the Lamb wherever he goes; these have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless.

And from the throne came a voice crying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great".

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder peals, crying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure" – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb". And he said to me, "These are true words of God".

RESPONSORY

Rev 14,2; 12,10; 19,5-6

R. I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of loud thunder; our God has taken possession of his Kingdom; * now is fulfilled the salvation, strength and power of Christ, his anointed one, alleluia.

V. From the throne there came a voice: Praise our God all you his servants, you who fear him, great and small!

R. Now is fulfilled the salvation, strength and power of Christ, his anointed one, alleluia.

SECOND READING

From the "Life of Saint Dominic Savio" written by St John Bosco, priest

(Opere edite, XI, Rome 1976, 187ss, *passim*)

Death rather than sin

Boys are naturally changeable in carrying out what they propose to do. But it was not thus with Dominic. As he grew older the virtues that we saw begin and develop in him grew apace and in such harmony that one did not weaken the other.

As soon as he came to the Oratory, his gaze fell upon a poster containing in bold letters these words: "Give me souls, take away the rest". He paused for a moment and then exclaimed, "Oh, I see! Here you do not deal in money, but in souls. I hope that you will deal with my soul too". From then on he began to reveal that exemplary life, steady advance in virtue, and precision in his duties that would be hard to rival.

On the evening of December 8, 1854, day of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, Dominic, with the advice of his confessor, went before our Lady's altar and renewed the promises he had made on his first communion day. Then he repeated over and over again: "O Mary, I give you my heart. Jesus, Mary, be always my friends! I beg you, please let me die rather than commit a single sin!"

Dominic had been at the Oratory about six months when he heard a sermon on the way of becoming a saint. This sermon was like a spark which kindled Dominic's heart with an intense love of God. "I feel", he said, "a great yearning, a strong need of becoming a saint. Now that I see that one can be happy and holy too, I absolutely want to become a saint! I must! God wants me to become a saint, and I must become one! I want to become a saint, and I will not be happy till I become one!"

Dominic had such a calm, equable disposition that one might think God created him with it. But his teach-

ers and those who knew him intimately assure us that this was the result of great effort helped by God's grace.

Dominic chose a confessor, to whom he went regularly. His preparation for communion was thorough and devout; his thanksgiving knew no bounds. Among the graces with which God enriched his soul was that of fervent prayer. Several times he appeared to be wrapt in ecstasy. When asked about it, he replied, "I seem to see such wonderful things! Paradise seems to open above me!" The first suggestion Dominic was given to become a saint was to try to win souls to God. This thought became the constant desire of his life. He preferred to read the lives of those saints who had spent their days working to save souls. He often spoke of the missionaries. Often he was heard to say, "If I could only win over all my schoolmates to God, how happy I would be! How many souls need our help!" The desire to win souls to God never left him.

Dominic died with the smile of heaven on his lips.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 14,1-2; cf Mt 7,21

R. O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy mountain? * He who walks without blame and does justice, who thinks the truth in his heart, alleluia.

V. He who does the will of my Father shall enter the kingdom of heaven.

R. He who walks without blame and does justice, who thinks the truth in his heart, alleluia.

★ *Or:*

SECOND READING

From the “Life of Saint Dominic Savio” written by St John Bosco, priest

(Opere edite, XI, Rome 1976, 200ss)

I want to belong entirely to Our Lord

Savio had been at the Oratory for about six months when he heard a sermon on how to become a saint. The preacher dwelt on three thoughts which made a profound impression on Dominic’s spirit: “It is God’s will that we act like saints. It is not at all difficult to become a saint. There is a great reward in heaven for those who become saints on earth”. For Dominic, that sermon was the spark that set his heart aflame with the love of God. He said nothing for several days, but he was more serious than usual so that his companions and I noticed a change. Assuming that it might be some physical indisposition, I asked him whether he did not feel well. “Oh no”, he said, “what is troubling me is really good for me”. “What do you mean?” “I mean I am troubled with a yearning, a great need to become a saint. I had not known that it was so easy, but now I understand that you can be cheerful and still be a saint. I absolutely want, I have to become a saint. Tell me how I should go about achieving my goal”.

I praised his resolve, but I urged him not to worry, since it is hard to discern the Lord’s will when the spirit is troubled. First of all, I wanted him to achieve a natural and lasting cheerfulness. I also encouraged him to persevere in fulfilling his scholastic and religious

duties, but I recommended that he join his companions in all the recreational activities.

One day I told him that I would like to give him a present that would please him, but I wanted the choice to be his.

He answered promptly, "I want you to make a saint of me. I want to give myself entirely and forever to the Lord. I know that I must become a saint. If I do not, I shall accomplish nothing. God wants me to be a saint, and therefore I must do his bidding".

On another occasion, the director wanted to give the students of the house a token of special affection and asked them to write him a note about their wishes. One can easily imagine the many foolish and extravagant requests he received. Savio wrote a few words on a slip of paper: "Please save my soul and make a saint of me". Once, when the roots of words were discussed, he asked, "And what does Dominic mean?"

"Dominic means 'of the Lord'", I said.

"See", he replied, "am I not right in asking that you make a saint of me? Even my name says that I belong to the Lord. I do want to belong entirely to him. Therefore I must become a saint and I will not be happy until I become one".

RESPONSORY

Cf. Prov 23,26; 5,1

R. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways: * you will become a perfect man, alleluia.

V. Be attentive to my wisdom, incline your ear to my advice:

R. you will become a perfect man, alleluia.

Te Deum

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

★ HYMN

The Voice of God is raised once more
To guide us through the night and din:
“Whoe’er would rest in timeless joy
Must follow him that, still a boy,
Death’s self would choose eer sin”.

Thy life was like the Spring’s first rose,
An hour in bloom, then lightly falls;
In death it wins more fragrant sway,
As still thy little hour of day
The world from death recalls.

The Church of Christ thy crown proclaims
The prize of life that pure heart won:
The dew that on thy heart was shed
Fell from Angelic Wheat whose Bread
Enfolds the Virgin’s Son.

Pray, Dominic, for all who wend
The way of Sales thine own steps bless’d;
And pray that God his clear light end
The souls thy fondest dreams caress’d.

(P.J. Ryan)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 You remained faithful unto death
and so the Lord has crowned you with glory,
alleluia.

*Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week 1 – cf Appendix
p. 359.*

Ant. 2 Sing hymns to the Lord, you his faithful,
give thanks to his holy name. alleluia.

Ant. 3 My song and my strength is the Lord:
he has been my salvation, alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Jn 3,1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The law of God is in the heart of his holy ones,
* Alleluia, alleluia.

The law of God is in the heart of his holy ones, Alleluia,
alleluia.

V. Their path is straight and sure.

* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God is in the heart of his holy ones, alleluia,
alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give praise to God our Father who deigned to reveal to little ones the mysteries of his Kingdom, and let us say:

Glory and honour to you, O Lord.

Father, you brought Dominic Savio to birth in a family rich in Christian virtues:

- bless our families, and help parents in their duties as educators.

You inspired Dominic with the burning desire to become a saint:

- grant that we too may offer our lives completely to you with joy.

From his childhood you drew Dominic towards the eucharistic mystery of your Son:

- help us to celebrate the Eucharist with living faith and share with joy in the gift of your love.

You led Dominic to discover that to love you is the source of immense elation:

- help us to find happiness in communion with you and in the generous service of our neighbour.

As they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were assiduous in common prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus:

- may she extend her protection to all who strive to live in your friendship.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, the source of everything that is good, in Saint Dominic Savio you have given to young people a wonderful example of charity and purity; grant that we too may grow as your children in joy and love, till we attain the full stature of Christ. He is God, and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

Prayer during the day

Hymn appropriate to the time of celebration. Antiphons and psalms of the feria.

Before noon

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,9-11

But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

V. The Lord leads the just man along straight paths, alleluia.

R. And shows him the Kingdom of God, alleluia.

Midday

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Jn 5,2.4

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith.

V. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, alleluia.

R. And finds joy in his commandments, alleluia.

Afternoon

SCRIPTURE READING

Phil 4,8.9b

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. And the God of peace will be with you!

V. May those who hope in you rejoice, alleluia.

R. You will abide with them and they will be happy for ever, alleluia.

The concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

★ HYMN

Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord who left the heavens
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their King:

Still to the lowly soul
He doth himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooseth the poor in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek;
may ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple fit for thee.

(J. Keble)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 I keep your words in my heart,
in your will lies all my joy, alleluia.

Psalm 14 (15)

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent*
and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;*
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;*
he who does not slander with his tongue;

he who does no wrong to his brother,*
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,*
but honours those who fear the Lord;

he who keeps his pledge, come what may;†
who takes no interest on a loan*
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Ant. I keep your words in my heart,
in your will lies all my joy, alleluia.

Ant. 1 The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord,
discerning is the man who remains faithful to him,
alleluia.

Psalm 111 (112)

Happy the man who fears the Lord,*
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;*
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;*
his justice stands firm for ever
He is a light in the darkness for the upright.*
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,*
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver.*
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;*
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;*
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;†
his justice stands firm for ever.*
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,†
grinds his teeth and fades away;*
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant. The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord,
discerning is the man who remains faithful to him,
alleluia.

Ant. 3 I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth:
all these things you have revealed to little ones,
alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor 1,27-30

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things

that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord loved him and bestowed on him all honour,
* Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord loved him and bestowed on him all honour,
Alleluia, alleluia.

V. He has clothed him in glory,
* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord loved him and bestowed on him all honour,
alleluia, alleluia.

Ant. At the Magn. Before the throne of God and the Lamb, together with the choir of the chosen ones, Dominic sings a new song, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us exult and call upon God, our Father, who bids us be holy as he is holy:

Be you our guide, O Lord.

Father, you inspired Saint Dominic Savio to choose Jesus as his friend before all others:

- draw young people to your Son that they may find in him the meaning of their lives.

In Don Bosco you gave to Saint Dominic Savio a strong and prudent spiritual guide:

- grant that children and adolescents may find open and sincere hearts in their educators to the faith.

You bestowed on Dominic, an apostle among his companions, a generous heart for meeting the needs of all:

- instil in young people the desire to direct their lives to the service of their neighbour.

From his childhood, Dominic entrusted himself completely to the Virgin Mary:

- foster in the hearts of the young a strong and tender love for their heavenly Mother.

Dominic died in the firm hope of attaining paradise:

- grant to the faithful departed to be welcomed by you, who are happiness without end.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, the source of everything that is good, in Saint Dominic Savio you have given to young people a wonderful example of charity and purity; grant that we too may grow as your children in joy and love, till we attain the full stature of Christ. He is God, and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

Compline

Of the occurring day of the week.

13 May

**Saint MARY
DOMENICA MAZZARELLO,
virgin
Co-founder of the Institute
of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians**

Feast

**(For the Institute of the Daughters
of Mary Help of Christians: *Solemnity*)**

Mary Domenica was born at Mornese, Alessandria (Italy) on 9 May 1837, the eldest of seven children of a hard-working peasant family of sincere Christian life. At the age of 15 years she offered herself to God with a vow of virginity. Soon afterwards she joined the association of the *Daughters of Mary Immaculate*, committing herself more deeply in apostolic services and works of charity.

A meeting with Don Bosco in 1864 marked a decisive point in her life. The Saint was already working on an apostolic project for girls, and with the collaboration of Mary Domenica gave rise to the community of the *Daughters of Mary Help of Christians*. In 1872 Mary Domenica made her religious vows and was elected superior, a role in which she displayed unexpected talents as a mother and animator.

On 14 May 1881, when only 44 years of age, she died at the new Mother House of Nizza Monferrato, Asti. She was canonized by Pius XII on 24 June 1951, and was rightly recognized as *Co-foundress* of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Where the celebration has the rank of solemnity:

Evening Prayer I

★ HYMN

Christ is Lord and Light of Nations
We his people all proclaim.
Through St Mary Mazzarello,
May we glorify his name.

In the beauty of his teaching
She found joy in God above.
“Let us learn to speak with Jesus
In his Eucharistic Love”.

Throughout life she walked with Mary,
Learning from Don Bosco’s way.
Guided by the Holy Spirit,
Cheerful, humble, prompt to pray.

Christ her model in all virtue,
God her choice from dawn of youth.
By a life of prayer and service
She led countless souls in truth.

Loving Father, Christ our brother,
Let your Spirit on us shine;
Teaching us to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

(R. McShane FMA)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 Let us give praise to the Lord;
he exalts the humble, alleluia.

Psalm 112 (113)

Praise, O servants of the Lord,*
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed*
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting*
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,*
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,*
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,*
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,*
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,*
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home*
and gladdens her heart with children.

Ant. Let us give praise to the Lord;
he exalts the humble, alleluia.

Ant. 2 Great is the Lord.
Tell of his glory among the peoples, alleluia.

Psalm 147

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!*
Sion praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates,*
he has blessed the children within you.
He established peace on your borders,*
he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth*
and swiftly runs his command.
He showers down snow white as wool,*
he scatters hoar-frost like ashes.

He hurls down hailstones like crumbs.*
The waters are frozen at his touch;
he sends forth his word and it melts them:*
at the breath of his mouth the waters flow.

He makes his word known to Jacob,*
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;*
he has not taught them his decrees.

Ant. Great is the Lord.
Tell of his glory among the peoples, alleluia.

Ant. 3 Blessed be the Lord for ever.
The God of salvation has us in his care, alleluia.

Canticle - Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father*
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ*
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him*
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy*
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love*
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,†
to the praise of his glorious grace*
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,*
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace*
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us†
in all wisdom and insight*
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose*
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ,*
as a plan for the fulness of time,
to unite all things in him,*
things in heaven and things on earth.

Ant. Blessed be the Lord for ever.
The God of salvation has us in his care, alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING

Phil 1,8-11

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is ex-

cellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. God has given us a Spirit of love and wisdom,
* alleluia, alleluia.

God has given us a Spirit of love and wisdom, alleluia,
alleluia.

V. He has sent us the Spirit of truth.

* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

God has given us a Spirit of love and wisdom, alleluia,
alleluia.

Ant. At the Magn. We have pondered, O God,
on the wonders of your love, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us invoke with confidence God our Father, who raises up in his Church holy and wise women and calls them to collaborate in the saving work of his Son:

God of kindness, hear our prayer.

You enriched Mary Domenica Mazzarello with a simple and active faith and led her along the road that leads to holiness:

— grant that we may dedicate ourselves with generosity to our mission as educators.

You rendered Saint Mary Domenica open and docile to the action of your Spirit:

— guide the young people of today in the choice of the vocation to which you are calling them for the life of the Church and the world.

Industrious and burning with love, Mary Domenica lived evangelical poverty in joy of heart:

- help us to be faithful to St John Bosco's charism, and be consistent in our witness to Christian values.

The Blessed Virgin was for Mary Domenica a guide and model of life:

- grant that she may continue to be the Mother and Mistress for each one of us, for our communities and for every Christian family.

You accepted the offering of the youthful life of Mary Domenica for the good of the Church:

- in your mercy welcome all who have believed and hoped in you.

Our Father.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Compline

Compline of Sunday (after Evening Prayer I).

INVITATORY

Ant. Let us adore Christ the Lord
who reveals his mysteries to the humble, alleluia.

Invitatory psalm as in the Ordinary – cf Appendix p. 355.

Office of readings

★ HYMN

God's blessed Spirit moved his virgin saint
To wield strong weapons in a lifelong fight,
To make a lonely journey from the flesh,
That she might live unfettered in his sight.

She turned her face towards the cross of Christ,
And he himself prepared her as his bride;
She bore the Holy Spirit's timeless fruits
By which God's pledge of love is ratified.

Her life showed forth the kingdom of the Lord,
When humbly for his sake she dwelt apart,
To wait on him in silence with the poor,
The chaste of body and the clean of heart.

O Blessed Trinity, the virgins' crown,
They sing your praises with unending song,
Rejoicing in the hope you have fulfilled,
Lord God, unfailing strength of all the strong.

(© 1974, Stanbrook Abbey)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 I leap for joy:

God has done great things, alleluia.

Psalm 18 (19)

The heavens proclaim the glory of God,*
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day takes up the story*
and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard†
yet their span extends through all the earth,*
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun;†
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent,*
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun; †
to the furthest end of the sky is its course.*
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

Ant. I leap for joy:
God has done great things, alleluia.

Ant. 2 With burning heart I have sought you;
I have preferred nothing to your love, alleluia.

Psalm 44 (45)

I

My heart overflows with noble words. †
To the king I must speak the song I have made,*
my tongue as nimble as the pen of a scribe.

You are the fairest of the children of men †
and graciousness is poured upon your lips:*
because God has blessed you for evermore.

O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh; †
in splendour and state, ride on in triumph*
for the cause of truth and goodness and right.

Take aim with your bow in your dread right hand. †
Your arrows are sharp, peoples fall beneath you.*
The foes of the king fall down and lose heart.

Your throne, O God, shall endure for ever. †
A sceptre of justice is the sceptre of your kingdom.*
Your love is for justice; your hatred for evil.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you †
with the oil of gladness above other kings:*
your robes are fragrant with aloes and myrrh.

From the ivory palace you are greeted with music. †
 The daughters of kings are among your loved ones,*
 On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Ant. With burning heart I have sought you;
 I have preferred nothing to your love, alleluia.

Ant. 3 Christ's love dwelling in me
 has made me fertile as a mother, alleluia.

II

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:*
 forget your own people and your father's house.
 So will the king desire your beauty:*
 He is your lord, pay homage to him.

And the people of Tyre shall come with gifts,*
 the richest of the people shall seek your favour.
 The daughter of the king is clothed with splendour,*
 her robes embroidered with pearls set in gold.

She is led to the king with her maiden companions. †
 They are escorted amid gladness and joy;*
 they pass within the palace of the king.

Sons shall be yours in place of your fathers:*
 you will make them rulers over all the earth.
 May this song make your name for ever remembered.*
 May the peoples praise you from age to age.

Ant. Christ's love dwelling in me
 has made me fertile as a mother, alleluia.

V. You will lead me along the path of life, alleluia.
R. You will fill me with joy at your side, alleluia.

FIRST READING

From the letter of St Paul to the Romans

12,1-16a

The Christian life, spiritual worship

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him. For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; If service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.

RESPONSORY

Phil 2,2.3-4; 1 Ts 5,15

R. Be of the one mind in love; in humility count others better than yourselves: * let each one look not only to personal interests, but also to the interests of others, alleluia.

V. Always seek to do good to one another and to all.

R. Let each one look not only to personal interests, but also to the interests of others, alleluia.

SECOND READING

From the "Letters" of St Mary Domenica Mazzarello, virgin

(Ed. M.E. Posada, Rome 1980; Letters 20. 23. 39;
104. 111-112. 149, *passim*)

Clothe yourselves with the love of the Lord Jesus

My dear Sisters, know how to love one another. What great consolation I feel when I receive news from the houses and know that there is charity among the Sisters, that they obey willingly, that they love the Holy Rule. My heart feels great consolation and continually implores blessings on all of you, that you may truly put on the Spirit of the good Jesus and so do so much good to yourselves and to the poor neighbour in such great need of help. But what was the Spirit of the Lord like? It was a humble Spirit, patient and full of charity – the kind of charity shown by Jesus himself who never wearied of suffering for us, even to the extent you know of. Courage therefore! Let us imitate our dear Jesus in everything, but especially in humility and love.

Yes, my dear daughters in Jesus, take courage: Jesus loves you. It is true that there are times when you have pains and distress to suffer, but the Lord wants you to

help him to carry his cross in this world. He was the first to give us the good example in suffering; and so let us follow him with courage and resignation in suffering. You can be certain that those whom Jesus asks to suffer more grievously are those who are closest to him. But we must do everything with a pure intention, to please him alone.

Courage then, my dear daughters; remember that everything in this world is passing away; so let nothing disturb you, for everything is a means to enable us to find true happiness. Be joyful. Be always joyful, never give or take offence, but as soon as you are aware that some other Sister needs support or encouragement be quick to assist her; give each other help and consolation. Have great charity; love one another. Do your utmost to preserve the spirit of union with God, living always in his presence. Be always joyful and humble.

RESPONSORY

Col 3,17

R. Whatever you do, in word or deed, * do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, alleluia.

V. Give thanks to God the Father through him:

R. do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, alleluia.

★ *Or:*

From an address of Pope Pius XI, 3 May 1936

(3 May 1936; ed. D. Bertetto, III, Turin 1961, 480-484, *passim*)

From her ardent charity she drew powerfull strength

St Mary Domenica Mazzarello, as a most devout Daughter of Mary, taught by her example the great val-

ue attaching to a life which unfolds and expands under the gaze and protection of so great a Mother. In fact her life displays all the characteristics of the most humble simplicity. She was a simple, a very simple, figure but rich in many outstanding prerogatives, qualities and gifts.

Her humility was so great as to make us wonder what it is that God sees in a truly and deeply humble soul, which because of its humility attracts him so much, we may say, as to induce him to work the greatest marvels.

This poor, simple and lowly peasant girl soon gave signs of what is called a talent, one of the greatest talents, that of the ability to govern. A great thing is this, and she showed that she had it to such an extent that a man like St John Bosco detected it immediately and put it to good effect. The opportune and efficacious nature of his choice was shown not only in the sure and stable foundation of the new Family of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians but also in the rapid and wonderful growth of the flourishing Institute.

In the humble soul God sees a light, form and characteristics which he cannot resist because in their exquisite beauty and their fundamental and constructive features they reflect the physiognomy of his only Son, who said: "Learn of me, for I am meek and humble of heart" (Mt 11,29). As though to say that if we had learned this we would have grasped all that is needed to save souls and bring the world to Christ.

The former and exemplary Daughter of Mary recalls also and puts to us the greatest lesson in humility of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mother of God, in fact, in the *Magnificat* openly attributes her glory and election on the part of God to her humility: "for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant". The Mother of God proclaims herself to be the "handmaid of the Lord" (Lk

1,48). It is lovely to consider Saint Mary Domenica in this light, in the light of Mary herself. She too can repeat: The Lord has looked with great good will on my humility and simplicity, and so “all generations will call me blessed”.

RESPONSORY

Sir 3,20; 1 Tim 6,11

R. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; * so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord, alleluia.

V. Aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness;

R. so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord, alleluia.

Te Deum

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

★ HYMN

As at Evening Prayer or from the Common, or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 From before the dawn I have sought you:
your love is my life, alleluia.

Psalms from Sunday, Week 1 – cf Appendix p. 359.

Ant. 2 Bless the Lord in his works:
he reveals himself to the pure of heart, alleluia.

Ant. 3 Let us rejoice together and be glad:
the joy of God is our strength, alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING

Col 3,12-15

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful!

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. Great is the Lord's power; he is glorified by the humble. * Alleluia, alleluia.

Great is the Lord's power; he is glorified by the humble. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. He brings down the mighty from their thrones
* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Great is the Lord's power; he is glorified by the humble Alleluia, alleluia.

Ant. At the Ben. Bless the Lord for all his works; like incense, radiate a sweet odour, alleluia.

Or: O wise woman,
the Spirit of God has made you a teacher of life, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give thanks in Christ Jesus to the Father who, by raising up holy men and women in the Church, gives us authentic models of evangelical fidelity, and let us say:

God, our Father, hear our prayer.

Father, you have enriched the Church with a marvellous variety of gifts and charisms:

- grant that in creative fidelity we may embody the Salesian spirit in ourselves.

You have given the Pope and the Bishops as guides for your holy people:

- help us to adhere fully to their teaching and manifest it consistently in all our actions.

You reveal the mysteries of your Kingdom to the simple and the lowly:

- help us to discern your presence in every circumstance of life so as to accomplish your plan of love.

Call everyone to accept the Gospel of Christ your Son:

- grant that we may share his saving mission in the spirit of the beatitudes.

In St Mary Domenica you offer us a model for living the commandment of brotherly love:

- help us to work always in communion of life and action for the extension of your Kingdom.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, source of all that is good, you give us in Mary Domenica Mazzarello a shining example of Christian and religious life through her deep humility and ardent charity; grant that we, in simplicity of spirit, may bear daily witness to your Fatherly love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Or, in communities of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians:

God, our Father, you have a special love for the humble and imbue with your spirit of holiness hearts that are simple and sincere; hear our prayer on this solemnity of Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello, who shared with Saint John Bosco his love for the young and with him founded a new religious family. Grant that we may be docile to her teachings and faithful to her example of educational activity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer during the day

Hymn corresponding to the hour of day, antiphons and psalms of the day as in the Psalter.

(For the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, proper antiphon with complementary psalms).

Ant. Glorious is the woman
who has given birth in the spirit, alleluia.

Before Noon

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Thess 1,11-12

We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfil every good resolve and work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

V. Here is a wise virgin, alleluia.

R. The Lord found her watching, alleluia.

Midday

SCRIPTURE READING

Eph 1,17-20a

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might which he accomplished in Christ.

℣. The Lord is good to all, alleluia.

℟. His tenderness extends to every creature, alleluia.

Afternoon

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thess 4,1b-3a

As you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, do so more and more. You know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification.

℣. It is good for me to stay with God, alleluia.

℟. The Lord is my strength and my hope, alleluia.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer II

For the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Evening Prayer II.

★ HYMN

O Jesus, thou the virgins' crown,
Thy gracious ear to us bow down,
Born of that Virgin whom alone
The Mother and the maid we own.

In thee, their Bridegroom and their Lord,
The virgins find their bright reward,
And wheresoe'r they footsteps wend
With hymns and praises thee attend.

O gracious Lord, we thee implore
Thy grace into our minds to pour;
From all defilement keep us free,
And make us pure in heart for thee.

All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
With whom the Spirit we adore,
For ever and for evermore.

(St. Ambrose)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 Unceasingly have I sought you, O Lord:
you have been the source of my joy, alleluia.

Psalm 121 (122)

I rejoiced when I heard them say:*

“Let us go to God’s house”.

And now our feet are standing*
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city*

strongly compact.

It is there that the tribes go up,*
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,*
 there to praise the Lord's name.
 There were set the thrones of judgment*
 of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:*
 "Peace be to your homes!
 May peace reign in your walls,*
 in your palaces, peace!"

For love of my brethren and friends*
 I say: "Peace upon you".
 For love of the house of the Lord*
 I will ask for your good.

Ant. Unceasingly have I sought you, O Lord:
 you have been the source of my joy, alleluia.

Ant. 2 The Lord has made of my life
 the dwelling place of his love, alleluia.

Psalm 126 (127)

If the Lord does not build the house,*
 in vain do its builders labour;
 if the Lord does not watch over the city,*
 in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising,*
 your going later to rest,
 you who toil for the bread you eat,*
 when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,*
 a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
 Indeed the sons of youth*
 are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man*
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame*
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Ant. The Lord has made of my life
the dwelling place of his love, alleluia.

Ant. 3 God has overwhelmed me with his blessings,
he made me the praise of his glory, alleluia.

Canticle - Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father*
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ*
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him*
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy*
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love*
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,†
to the praise of his glorious grace*
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,*
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace*
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us†
in all wisdom and insight *
the mystery of his will,

according to his purpose*
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ,*
as a plan for the fulness of time,
to unite all things in him,*
things in heaven and things on earth.

Ant. God has overwhelmed me with his blessings,
he made me the praise of his glory, alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING

Phil 2,1-4

Dearly beloved, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

RESPONSORY

Jn 13,34:1; 1 Pt 22a

R. Love one another. * Alleluia, alleluia.

Love one another. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Love each other earnestly from the heart.

* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Love one another. Alleluia, alleluia.

Ant. At the Magn. Poor and humble as I was,
the Lord loved me
and did great things for me, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

God our Father has manifested in St Mary Mazzarello the wonders of his love: in the certainty that he will hear us, we pray:

Father, all holy, hear our prayer.

You inspired in St Mary Domenica Mazzarello a deep eucharistic spirituality:

- grant that for all Christians a vital participation in the Easter mystery may be at the centre of their lives.

You chose Mary Domenica to be the cornerstone of a living monument of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians:

- bestow on all members of the Salesian Family a filial love for the Virgin Mother, to make her powerful help known to others.

You gave to Mother Mazzarello a heart full of solicitude for your Kingdom:

- inspire young people to disseminate everywhere your message of love and salvation.

You willed that a new religious family should arise for the Christian education of the young:

- guide children and young people in their search for the authentic sense of life.

You withdrew your Son from the power of death:

- grant eternal light to our brothers and sisters who have died believing and hoping in your mercy.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, source of all that is good, you give us in Mary Domenica Mazzarello a shining example of Christian and religious life through her deep humility and ardent charity; grant that we, in simplicity of spirit, may bear daily witness to your Fatherly love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Or, in communities of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians:

God, our Father, you have a special love for the humble and imbue with your spirit of holiness hearts that are simple and sincere; hear our prayer on this solemnity of Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello, who shared with Saint John Bosco his love for the young and with him founded a new religious family. Grant that we may be docile to her teachings and faithful to her example of educational activity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Compline

*As in the Psalter for the day. (For the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Compline of Sunday).
(after Evening Prayer II).*

15 May

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF FATIMA

Optional memorial

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has placed in the Proper Salesian Calendar the (optional) Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima on 15 May, transferring it from 13 May.

From the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

PRAYER

O God it was your will that Mary the mother of your son should be our Mother too, grant that by persevering in penance and in prayer for the salvation of the world we may strive with all our strength to build Christ's Kingdom. He is God and lives and reigns with you...

16 May

**Saint LOUIS ORIONE,
priest**

Optional memorial

Louis Orione was born at Pontecurone, Italy, on 23 June 1872. He became a disciple of St John Bosco, whom he admired and imitated as a model of apostolic holiness. While still a student at the seminary of Tortona he began his apostolate among youth, and after his priestly ordination he continued to dedicate his energies to the relief of every kind of physical and moral distress, so as to spread among people the love for Christ and lead them to perceive his presence in the Church, the Pope and the bishops.

He devoted his life to works of charity in many countries, especially Italy and Latin America, and founded several Congregations. After a life of hard work and suffering, he died at Sanremo, Italy, on 12 March 1940. He was beatified by John Paul II on 26 October 1980 and canonised by him on 18 May 2004.

From the Common of Saints: Saints of charity or from the Common of Pastors. with psalms from the day as in the Psalter.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From "Notes" of St Louis Orione, priest

(25 February 1939)

*Place me, O Lord, at the mouth of hell,
that by your mercy I may close it.*

To be able to see and love in the world only the souls of our brothers and sisters. Souls of little ones, souls of

the poor, souls of sinners, souls that have been led astray, repentant souls, souls rebelling against God's will, souls rebelling against Christ's Church, souls of depraved children, souls of wretched and disloyal priests, souls overwhelmed by grief, souls white as doves, pure and simple virginal souls, souls that have fallen into the darkness of the senses and the bestiality of the flesh, souls proud of their evil state, souls greedy for money and power, souls full of themselves, wandering souls looking for the right road, sorrowing souls looking for refuge or a kind word, condemned souls crying out in desperation or souls intoxicated with the elation of living the truth: all these are souls loved by Christ; for all of them Christ died; all of them he wants safe in his arms and pressed to his transfixed Heart.

Our life and our whole Congregation must be a joint canticle and holocaust of brotherhood in Christ, so as to see and feel Christ in mankind. In us must be the deepest and most lofty music of charity. For us the central point of the universe is the Church of Christ and the soul the corner-stone of the Christian drama. All I hear is an infinite divine symphony of spirits palpitating around the Cross, and from the Cross exudes through the centuries, drop by drop, the divine blood shed for each human soul.

From the Cross Christ cries out: "I thirst!" – a terrible cry of yearning which stems not from the flesh but from the craving for souls, and it is for this thirst for our souls that Christ dies.

All I see is a heaven; but a heaven truly divine, because it is the paradise of salvation and of true peace: I see only a kingdom of God, the kingdom of love and forgiveness, where the whole multitude of peoples is the heritage of Christ and his kingdom.

RESPONSORY

R. Christ wants everyone to be safe in his arms and close to his pierced heart. From the cross he cries out: "I thirst" * for the salvation of souls.

V. I shall write my life with blood and tears,

R. for the salvation of souls.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Eastertide:

R. The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God. * Alleluia, alleluia.

The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. His steps will never falter.

* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Outside Eastertide:

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.

The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God.

V. His steps will never falter

* his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. Whatever you do
for the least of my brethren,
that you do unto me, says the Lord. (T.P. alleluia).

INTERCESSIONS

United in the liturgy of praise, let us invoke Christ the Lord, so that following the example of Saint Louis Orione, we may serve him in holiness and justice all the days of our life:

Sanctify you people O Lord.

You were tempted in every way that we are, but you did not sin,

— Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

You came to serve and not to be served,

— Lord Jesus, teach us to serve you in our brothers and sisters.

You call everyone to perfect love,

— Lord Jesus, sanctify your people.

You have told us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,

— Lord Jesus, enlighten your people.

In Saint Louis Orione you have given us a model of trust in Providence and of total dedication to our brothers and sisters most in need,

- Lord Jesus, grant that the religious Institutes he founded “The Little Work of Divine Providence” and the “Congregation of the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity” may be faithful to their charism in the service of the Church.

Our Father.

PRAYER

God of boundless mercy, you empowered your priest, Saint Louis Orione, to love Christ your Son in the young and the poor; grant that we too may practise works of mercy, and daily experience the tenderness of your Fatherly love. We ask this through our Lord...

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Eastertide:

R. The Lord is good, he loves good deeds. * Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord is good, he loves good deeds. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good, he loves good deeds. Alleluia, alleluia.

Outside Eastertide:

R. The Lord is good * he loves good deeds.

The Lord is good, he loves good deeds.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man,

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good, he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. Let us never tire in doing good; let us work for the good of all.

In due time we shall reap the reward. (T.P. alleluia).

INTERCESSIONS

Let us ask the Father source of all holiness that through the example and the intercession of the Saints we may live according to our baptism.

Make us holy as you are holy.

Holy Father, it was your will that we be called your children and that is what we are,

— may your Church all over the world bear witness to your goodness.

Holy Father, you have called us to walk in a way worthy of our vocation to please you in everything,
– may our lives be rich in every kind of good work.

Holy Father, you call some to follow Christ poor and humble more closely,
– may they reach the perfection of love.

Holy Father, Saint Louis Orione, a disciple of Don Bosco, imitated him in his apostolic zeal and holiness of life:

– grant to us and to all the members of the Salesian Family to be apostles of Christ and bearers of his love, especially to young people most in need.

Holy Father, admit our deceased brothers and sisters to the contemplation of your face,
– make us too worthy of your glory.

Our Father.

PRAYER

God of boundless mercy, you empowered your priest, Saint Louis Orione, to love Christ your Son in the young and the poor; grant that we too may practise works of mercy, and daily experience the tenderness of your Fatherly love. We ask this through our Lord...

18 May

**Saint LEONARD MURIALDO,
priest**

Optional memorial

He was born at Turin on 26 October 1828 into a well-to-do family. A friend and collaborator of Don Bosco, he dedicated himself to the Christian formation of poor youngsters, orphans and the abandoned, starting up with great faith and courage many initiatives at a social, spiritual, cultural and legal level.

He also had a hand in the foundation and running of organizations for Catholic workers. He founded a Congregation which he dedicated to Saint Joseph (*Josephites of Murialdo*) to continue the apostolate among the young and the poor in the spirit of the humble artisan of Nazareth, the educator of Jesus. He died at Turin on 30 March 1900, and was canonised by Paul VI on 3 May 1970.

From the Common of Saints: religious; or the Common of Pastors with psalms from the day as in the Psalter.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the "Writings" of St Leonard Murialdo, priest
(Conference of 1869; Mss., III, 397,7-10)

Predilection for poor and abandoned youth

We have special motives for rejoicing in our mission, motives arising from the nature of the young people to whom we give our special attention. Who are they? The poor and the abandoned: there you have two requisites that make a youngster one of ours; and the poorer and more abandoned he is, so much the more is he ours.

Poor and abandoned! How wonderful is the mission of caring for the education of the poor! And more wonderful still is that of seeking out, of succouring, of educating, of saving for time and eternity, the poor who are abandoned, abandoned from a moral aspect if not materially. How good it is to be able to say in truth: "Thou wilt incline thine ear, defending the fatherless and the oppressed" (Ps 10,18). The poor, the children and finally sinners, were the pupil of Christ's eye, a valuable gem, a most precious treasure. And our own youngsters are poor, they are children, and we have also to add that sometimes they are anything but innocent. But should this last characteristic, even though in itself it is certainly not desirable, make our youngsters less dear to us or of less interest to us, if we put it in those terms?

We may sometimes forget this condition of the young to whom we want to consecrate our lives. No sooner does a youngster show signs of an unfortunate or even perverse disposition, of indiscipline, of unwillingness to learn, proud, stubborn in doing wrong, or even going from bad to worse, and immediately we become disgusted and disheartened, and want the problem removed from us by sending the youngster packing and all his vices with him. But nevertheless we must not tire too easily, become too easily depressed and give up hope. Let us not forget that when we take in abandoned youngsters we must expect to find them ignorant, wild and unruly, with all the defects that normally accompany abandonment.

We must not be surprised either to find defects and even vices in children belonging to good class and Christian families. If they were already perfect, what need would they have of education? But what else can we expect who take in children off the streets or who

come to us at times from the hands of coarse and scandalous parents? Their moral wretchedness should move us much more than their material want; instead of making us lose too soon all compassion and hope, it should prompt us to work courageously and sympathetically for these unhappy souls; often they are more to be pitied than blamed, and we ourselves might well have been like them if we too had been abandoned.

The very condition therefore of our poor youngsters should prompt us to do violence to ourselves the better to fulfil the duties imposed on each of us with respect to their education, and to pray to God "to give the increase" (cf. 1 Cor 3,6).

RESPONSORY

Psalm 81,3-4; cf Jas 2,5

R. Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute; * rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked, alleluia.

V. God has chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom:

R. rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked, alleluia.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you

whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Eastertide:

R. The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God. * Alleluia, alleluia.

The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. His steps will never falter.

* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Outside Eastertide:

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.

The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God.

V. His steps will never falter

* his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him; his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. The love of Christ impels me to give my life for the brethren. (T.P. alleluia).

INTERCESSIONS

Let us celebrate with joy the kindness shown us by God our Father, and through the intercession of St Leonard Murialdo let us pray with faith:

Lord, make us perfect in love.

You guide us and love us as your children:

- make us witnesses to your goodness every day of our lives.

You inspire us with a simple and lively faith in your Providence:

- enable us to discern your loving presence in the events of daily life.

You arouse the intelligence and heart of your children:

- grant that we may generously fulfil your will in freedom of spirit.

You invite us to recognize your countenance in the young who are poor:

- help us to serve you in each of them with humility and charity.

You have given us the Immaculate Virgin as a model:

- through her protection guide us on the path to holiness.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, the source of all good things, in Saint Leonard Murialdo you have given to orphans a father and to young workers a guide: through his intercession grant that we may follow the precepts of your love in the service we give to our neighbour. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Eastertide:

R. The Lord is good, he loves good deeds. * Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord is good, he loves good deeds. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good, he loves good deeds. Alleluia, alleluia.

Outside Eastertide:

R. The Lord is good * he loves good deeds.

The Lord is good, he loves good deeds.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man,

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good, he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. Saint Leonard Murialdo,
brother and friend of the poor,
father of those who are all alone,
reveal to us the heart of God, alleluia.
(T.P. alleluia).

INTERCESSIONS

As we commemorate Saint Leonard Murialdo, let us ask
with faith of God our Father that he will grant his
salvation to us and to all.

God our Father, hear our prayer.

Remember young people who are poor, the orphans and
abandoned:

- support the Institute founded by Saint Leonardo Murialdo which carries out its mission for these young people who are most in need.

Your Son worked with St Joseph in the house of
Nazareth:

- bless those who make their living by the sweat of their brow.

Protect all Christians who are engaged in the apostolate
and in social activities:

- help them to be courageous witnesses to your truth.

Grant that generous young people may follow the poor,
chaste and obedient Christ:

- that the message of the Gospel may reach all mankind.

Open the arms of your mercy to the dead who have done
good to us:

- admit them to the peace of your kingdom.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, the source of all good things, in Saint Leonard Murialdo you have given to orphans a father and to young workers a guide: through his intercession grant that we may follow the precepts of your love in the service we give to our neighbour. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

24 May

**BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
HELP OF CHRISTIANS**

**Principal Patroness
of the Society of Saint Francis de Sales,
of the Institute of the Daughters
of Mary Help of Christians
and of the Secular Institute
of the Don Bosco Volunteers**

Solemnity

On many occasions throughout the course of history, Christian people have experienced the protection of the Virgin Mary. The title of *Help of Christians*, which Don Bosco associated with that of *Mary Mother of the Church*, is an indication of the special intervention of Mary in the most difficult trials of personal human life, of the Church and of the whole human family.

The liturgical celebration was instituted by Pope Pius VII in gratitude for Mary's intervention in a critical period in the history of the Church. Driven out by violence from the See of Rome and held as a prisoner for five years, the Pontiff had implored the help of Mary and had invited all Christians to do the same. Contrary to all expectations he was freed and returned to his See on 24 May 1814.

Devotion to Mary Help of Christians was spread far and wide through the work of St John Bosco, and continues to be propagated in the world by the Salesian Family, which recognizes and invokes *Mary, Help of Christians* as its principal patroness.

Evening Prayer I

★ HYMN

Whene'er Christ's people sore beset has been,
and ringed with menace of a raging foe,
they've glimps'd her gliding from the sky serene,
Mary their Queen with succour for their woe.

'Tis this the annals of our fathers tell,
and this the trophies of her shrines proclaim;
the wondrous feasts that yearly hymn as well
the glories won invoking her sweet name.

Let all to praises new in song give tongue,
to win fresh favours from her royal hands;
no strain, no melody be left unsung
in Peter's See, in all Creation's lands.

O truly blessed day of history,
relating for all time what then befell,
when exiled Pope returned in jubilee
from banishment and prison's lowly cell.

O souls unstained of youth, of maid and boy,
your tender hearts in gratitude o'erflow;
share now your people's and your pastor's joy,
meet honour on those queenly gifts bestow.

O Maid of maids, O Jesu's Mother blest.
let not these tokens of your love decrease;
so may our shepherd lead his flock to rest
in heaven's fields, in bliss that knows no cease.

O grant us You to ever venerate,
our praise of You, O Triune God prolong,
that we may see what now we celebrate,
our minds in faith, our tongues in vibrant song.

(A. Keogh)

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 Joyful Mother of the Son of God,
raised to the glory of the kingdom,
with you we praise the name of the Lord.
(T.P. alleluia).

Psalm 112 (113)

Praise, O servants of the Lord,*
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed*
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting*
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,*
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,*
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,*
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,*
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,*
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home*
and gladdens her heart with children.

Ant. Joyful Mother of the Son of God,
raised to the glory of the kingdom,
with you we praise the name of the Lord.
(T.P. alleluia).

Ant. 2 Mary, through you has come Peace,
in you the Word was made flesh;
with you we glorify the Lord.
(T.P. alleluia).

Psalm 147

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!*
Sion praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates,*
he has blessed the children within you.
He established peace on your borders,*
he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth*
and swiftly runs his command.
He showers down snow white as wool,*
he scatters hoar-frost like ashes.

He hurls down hailstones like crumbs.*
The waters are frozen at his touch;
he sends forth his word and it melts them:*
at the breath of his mouth the waters flow.

He makes his word known to Jacob,*
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations,*
he has not taught them his decrees.

Ant. Mary, through you has come Peace,
in you the Word was made flesh;
with you we glorify the Lord.
(T.P. alleluia).

Ant. 3 Mary, through you has come the salvation,
strength and kingdom of our God:
with you we sing the power of the Lord.
(T.P. alleluia).

Canticle - Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father*
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ*
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him*
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy*
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love*
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,†
to the praise of his glorious grace*
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,*
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace*
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us†
in all wisdom and insight*
the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose*
which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ,*
as a plan for the fulness of time,

to unite all things in him,*
things in heaven and things on earth.

Ant. Mary, through you has come the salvation,
strength and kingdom of our God:
with you we sing the power of the Lord.
(T.P. alleluia).

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Pt 5,6-11

Dearly beloved, humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you. To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

SHORT RESPONSORY

In the Easter season:

R. Hail, O Virgin, Mother of the Church. * Alleluia, alleluia.

Hail, O Virgin, Mother of the Church. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Come to the aid of your children, who praise the Lord.

* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Hail, O Virgin, Mother of the Church. Alleluia, alleluia.

Outside the Easter season:

R. Mother of hope, * the whole world implores your help.
Mother of hope, the whole world implores your help.

V. Come to the aid of your children, O blessed Mother.
* the whole world implores your help.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Mother of hope, the whole world implores your help.

Or: In dangers, difficulties and doubt,
we invoke you as Help of Christians:
with your support we cannot fall;
with you as guide, we shall not tire on the way;
with your assistance we shall attain the goal of heaven,
alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

Mary, Mother of Christ the Lord, is a shining light on the path of the people of God as a sign of sure hope and consolation. Let us bless God whose will it was that she should collaborate in the work of salvation, and let us pray:

Mary, help of Christians, intercede for us.

God our Father, you made of Mary the new Eve, the woman clothed with the sun, conqueror of the serpent:

- give us courage and hope in our struggle against evil.

You made of Mary the new Judith, the liberator of her people, blessed among all women:

- help Christian people to preserve the faith in the midst of life's trials.

You made of Mary the new Esther, the pious and beautiful queen, ready to intercede for the salvation of her people:

- guide the Church in overcoming every peril met with on her pilgrimage.

You made of Mary the defence of Christian people in perilous moments of her history:

- enlighten Peter's successor and the Bishops in communion with him in surmounting every danger to Christian values.

You made of Mary the mystical spouse of the Holy Spirit, mother of your pilgrim people:

- sustain and render fruitful the educative work of the members of the Salesian Family.

You made of Mary, assumed into heaven, the Queen of angels and saints:

- may she intercede that our deceased brothers and sisters may enjoy the fullness of everlasting happiness.

Our Father.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Compline

Night Prayer of Sunday. Outside the Easter Season it is appropriate to use as the final antiphon "Sub tuum praesidium", *or:*

"O Maria, Virgo potens

Tu magnum et praeclarum in Ecclesia praesidium;

Tu singulare Auxilium Christianorum:

Tu terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.

Tu cunctas haereses sola interemisti in universo mundo.

Tu in angustiis,

Tu in bello,

Tu in necessitatibus nos ab hoste protege,

atque in aeterna gaudia in mortis hora suscipe".

INVITATORY

Ant. On the feast of Mary Help of Christians,
let us sing to the Lord, alleluia.

Invitatory psalm as in the Ordinary – cf Appendix p. 355.

Office of readings

★ HYMN

Most glorious your light does shine,
O Princess of your race,
And highest is your only shrine
Midst heaven's populace.
Of David's line to you we sing,
O Mary, with your Son, the King.

Maternity, virginity –
Most wondrously are met;
An arbour for your progeny
Within your womb is set.
And he whom in that womb you bore
'Tis He whom creatures shall adore.

Give ear to all who search and plead
Like beggars in the dark;
For you alone are light indeed
By which their eyes might mark
The scatt'ring of the shade of night
Which shrouds your Son, your sole delight.

'Tis He to whom it is but just
 That ev'ry knee should bend;
 To him alone this prayer we thrust
 But beg your sway commend:
 That be dispelled the gloom of night
 And be infused the joys of light.

 This do you grant, O God of light,
 Both through your only Son
 And with your Holy Spirit bright –
 The Third of Three in One,
 Who live with you in realms resplendent
 And reign with you all time transcendent.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 Mary, you have received a blessing from the Lord,
 and mercy from the God of salvation.
 (T.P. alleluia).

Psalm 23 (24)

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,*
 the world and all its peoples.
 It is he who set it on the seas;*
 on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?*
 Who shall stand in his holy place?
 The man with clean hands and pure heart,†
 who desires not worthless things,*
 who have not sworn so as to deceive their neighbour.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord*
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,*
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads;†
grow higher, ancient doors.*
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?†
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,*
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;†
grow higher, ancient doors.*
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?†
He, the Lord of armies,*
he is the king of glory.

Ant. Mary, you have received a blessing from the Lord,
and mercy from the God of salvation.
(T.P. alleluia).

Ant. 2 God, our refuge and our strength,
you have given us in Mary a helper in our trials.
(T.P. alleluia).

Psalm 45 (46)

God is for us a refuge and strength,*
a helper close at hand, in time of distress,
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,*
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea;
even though its waters rage and foam,*
even though the mountains be shaken by its waves.

The Lord of hosts is with us:*
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The waters of a river give joy to God's city,*
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;*
God will help it at the dawning of the day.
Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken:*
he lifts his voice, the earth shrinks away.

The Lord of hosts is with us:*
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come, consider the works of the Lord,*
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth.
He puts an end to wars over all the earth;†
the bow he breaks, the spear he snaps.*
(He burns the shields with fire.)
"Be still and know that I am God,*
supreme among the nations, supreme on the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us:*
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Ant. God, our refuge and our strength,
you have given us in Mary a helper in our trials.
(T.P. alleluia).

Ant. 3 Wonderful things are said of you,
O Mother of all peoples. (T.P. alleluia).

Psalm 86 (87)

On the holy mountain is his city*
cherished by the Lord.
The Lord prefers the gates of Sion*
to all Jacob's dwellings.

Of you are told glorious things,*
O city of God!

Babylon and Egypt I will count *
among those who know me;
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia, *
these will be her children
and Sion shall be called "Mother"*
for all shall be her children".

It is he, the Lord Most High,*
who gives each his place.
In his register of peoples he writes:*
"These are her children,"
and while they dance they will sing:*
"In you all find their home".

Ant. Wonderful things are said of you,
O Mother of all peoples. (T.P. alleluia).

In the Easter season:

V. The Almighty has done great things for me, alleluia.

R. He has mercy on those who fear him, alleluia.

FIRST READING

From the Book of Revelation of St John, the apostle

11,19a-12,17

*The majestic sign of the woman
in the heavens*

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with

the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. And another portent appeared in heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth. She brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which to be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying:

“Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Rejoice then, O heaven and you that dwell therein! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had borne the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with the flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus.

RESPONSORY**Cf Rev. 12,5.1**

R. The woman brought forth a male child, who is to rule all the nations; and the child was caught up to God and to his throne. * Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, alleluia.

V. A great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

R. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, alleluia.

Outside the Easter season:

V. Mary pondered in her heart

R. the wonderful events of her Son.

FIRST READING

From the Book of Judith

13,11-14.16a-20; 15,8-10,12-14 (Vg.)

*The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women!*

Judith called out from afar to the watchmen at the gates, "Open, open the gate! God, our God, is still with us, to show his power in Israel, and his strength against our enemies, even as he has done this day!" When the men of her city heard her voice, they hurried down to the city gate and called together the elders of the city. They all ran together, both small and great, for it was unbelievable that she had returned; they opened the gate and admitted them, and they kindled a fire for light, and gathered around them. Then she said to them with a loud voice, "Praise God, O praise him! Praise God, who has not withdrawn his mercy from the house of Israel, but has destroyed our enemies by my hand this very night!"

All the people were greatly astonished, and bowed down and worshipped God, and said with one accord, "Blessed art thou, our God, who hast brought into contempt this day the enemies of thy people". And Uzziah said to her, "O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, who created the heavens and the earth, who has guided you to strike the head of the leader of our enemies. Your hope will never depart from the hearts of men, as they remember the power of God. May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you, and may he visit you with blessings, because you did not spare your own life when our nation was brought low, but have avenged our ruin, walking in the straight path before our God". And all the people said, "So be it, so be it!"

Then Joakim the high priest, and the senate of the people of Israel who lived at Jerusalem, came to witness the good things which the Lord had done for Israel, and to see Judith and to greet her. And when they met her they all blessed her with one accord and said to her, "You are the exaltation of Jerusalem, you are the great glory of Israel, you are the great pride of our nation! You have done all this singlehanded; you have done great good to Israel, and God is well pleased with it. May the Almighty Lord bless you for ever!" And all the people said, "So be it!"

Then all the women of Israel gathered to see her, and blessed her, and some of them performed a dance for her; and she took branches in her hands and gave them to the women who were with her; And they crowned themselves with olive wreaths, she and those who were with her; and she went before all the people in the dance, leading all the women, while all the men of Israel followed, bearing their arms and wearing garlands and with songs on their lips.

Then Judith began this thanksgiving before all Israel, and all the people loudly sang this song of praise:

RESPONSORY

Jud 16,1.13-14

R. Sing to my God with tambourines,
sing to my Lord with cymbals;
raise to him a new psalm;

* exalt him, and call upon his name.

V. I will sing to my God a new song::

O Lord, thou art great and glorious
wonderful in strength, invincible.

* exalt him, and call upon his name.

V. Let all thy creatures serve thee,
 for thou didst speak, and they were made;
 thou didst send forth thy Spirit, and it formed them;
 there is none that can resist thy voice.

* exalt him, and call upon his name.

SECOND READING

From the "Regulations" of the Association of the Clients of Mary Help of Christians, written by St John Bosco, priest

(Opere edite, XXI, Rome 1976, 343-347)

Mary Help of Christians

The title of Help of Christians, attributed to the august Mother of the Saviour, is not something new. In the holy books themselves Mary is spoken of as the Queen who stands at the right hand of her Divine Son, clothed in gold and surrounded with variety. This golden vesture and radiant surroundings, according to the spirit of the Church, are so many gems and diamonds, or titles, we are accustomed to use in addressing Mary. And so when we call the holy Virgin "Help of Christians", we are only using a special title which befits her, as one of the diamonds on her golden garment. In this sense Mary has been greeted as the Help of the human race from the earliest ages of the world when Adam, after falling into sin, was promised a liberator, to be born of a woman, who would crush the head of the insidious serpent by her sinless foot.

This great Woman, indeed, is symbolized in the tree of life which existed in the earthly paradise; in the ark of Noah which saved the adorers of the true God from the universal deluge; in Jacob's ladder which reached up to

heaven; in Moses' bush which burned but was not consumed, and which is an allusion to Mary who remained a virgin after childbirth; in the ark of the covenant; in the tower of David which resisted all assaults; in the rose of Jericho; in the sealed fountain; in the garden, well cultivated and guarded by Solomon, she is symbolized in an outpouring of blessings; in Gideon's fleece. Elsewhere she is called the star of Jacob, splendid as the moon, noble as the sun, rainbow of peace, pupil of God's eye, rising dawn of consolations, Virgin and Mother of her Lord. These symbols and expressions which the Church applies to Mary manifest the providential designs of God, which he willed to make known even before her birth, as the firstborn of all creatures, the most excellent protectress, help and support and even redresser of the evils to which the human race is subject.

In the New Testament it is not only with symbols and prophecies that she is referred to as the helper of mankind in general, but she is also called the help, the support and defence of Christians; and this no longer in figures, no longer in symbolic expressions; in the Gospel everything is reality and fulfilment of the past. Mary is greeted by the archangel Gabriel who calls her 'full of grace'. God gazes upon the surpassing humility of Mary and raises her to the dignity of Mother of the Eternal Word. Jesus, the immense unfathomed God, becomes the Son of Mary. Of her he is born; by her he is educated and fostered, the Eternal Word made flesh obedient in all things to his noble Mother. At her request he works his first miracle at Cana in Galilee; on Calvary she was constituted the Mother of all Christians. The Apostles took her as their guide and teacher of virtue. With her they gathered in the Cenacle to pray;

with her they awaited in recollection the coming of the Holy Spirit. To the Apostles she addressed her last words before her glorious flight to heaven.

And from the height of her throne of glory she turns her motherly gaze on mankind, saying: Form this highest and glorious throne I enrich with blessings those who love me and enhance with heavenly favours their treasures of grace. And hence there began from the time of her Assumption into heaven the constant and uninterrupted convergence of Christians on Mary, nor has it ever been said – as St Bernard tells us – that anyone ever had trusting recourse to this loving Mother and was left forsaken. This is why every century, every year, every day, and we may say every moment in history has been marked by some great favour granted to those who have invoked her with faith. This too is the reason why every kingdom, every city and town, every family has a church, a chapel, an altar, a statue, a picture or some other sign which calls to mind the universal veneration for Mary, and at the same time recalls some of the many graces granted to those who have had recourse to her in life's necessities.

RESPONSORY

Psal 34,4; Lk 1,48; Psal 63,16

R. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!: * For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. Behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed

V. Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

R. For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. Behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

★ *Or:*

SECOND READING

From the “Writings” of Saint John Bosco, priest

(“Marvels of the Mother of God [...]”,
Opere edite, XX, Rome 1976, 217-220; 197-200)

*Mary has been constituted by God
as the Help of Christians*

When the Blessed Virgin Mary came to visit her, Saint Elizabeth was so filled with the Holy Spirit, that she was inspired to prophesy: “*Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb*”.

With these words the Holy Spirit through the lips of Elizabeth extolled Mary as blessed and favoured by God and chosen by him to bring to men the blessing which was lost in Eve and for which mankind has been yearning for so many centuries.

To the congratulations of her kinswoman Mary, also inspired by God, replied: “*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord... For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed*”.

Now, in order that Mary’s glory might be extended to all generations, so that all might call her blessed, it was necessary that Mary should bestow upon every generation an extraordinary and lasting benefit, so that the reason for gratitude and praise might be ever present. This continuous and marvellous benefit is none other than the help that Mary gives to men – a help that is extended to all ages, places, and people.

The title of “Help of Christians”, attributed to the august Mother of the Redeemer is not new in the Church

of Christ, but in these latter times it has been proclaimed of the Blessed Virgin Mary for a special reason. Not only for private favours is Mary being invoked, but especially because of the serious and imminent dangers that threaten the faithful. Today the Catholic Church itself is attacked in its mission, in its institutions, in its head, in its doctrine, in its discipline. It is attacked as the Catholic Church, the pillar of truth and the teacher of all the faithful.

And it is precisely to obtain the special protection of heaven that we have recourse to Mary as the Mother of us all, the special helper of Catholics throughout the world and of their leaders.

Hence we can truly say that Mary has been constituted by God as the Help of Christians and that in times of crisis she has shown herself to be the helper especially of those who suffer and fight for the faith.

May the Blessed Virgin help us to be faithful to the teachings and the faith, of which the Roman Pontiff, the Vicar of Jesus Christ, is the head, and obtain for us the grace of persevering in serving God on this earth, so as to join her one day in the kingdom of heavenly glory.

RESPONSORY

Lk 1,48-49; cf Psal 17,33

R. All generations shall call me blessed because he who is mighty has done great things for me. * And holy is his name. (T.P. alleluia).

V. God girded me with strength and set me on the heights.

R. And holy is his name. (T.P. alleluia).

Te Deum

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Vigil Celebration

Those who desire a prolonged vigil liturgy, after the recital of the Office of Readings and before the Te Deum may add the canticles and Gospel readings indicated below.

Ant. Bless the Lord in all his works:
he has clothed Mary with the garments of salvation
and wrapped her in the mantle of justice. (T.P. alleluia).

CANTICLE I **Is 61,10-62,3**

The prophet rejoices over the new Jerusalem.

CANTICLE II **Is 62,4-7**

The glory of the new Jerusalem.

CANTICLE III **Sir 39,13-16a**

How great are your works, O Lord!

GOSPEL

One of the following Gospel extracts is read from the Lectionary of the Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary help of Christians:

1. Mt 12,46-50: Here are my mother and my brothers!
2. Lk 1,26-38: You will conceive in your womb and bear a son.
3. Lk 1,39-47: Blessed is she who believed.
4. Lk 11,27-28: Blessed is the womb that bore you.
5. Jn 2,1-11: His mother said: Do whatever he tells you.

6. Jn 19,25-27: Behold your son! Behold your mother!

If it be thought opportune a homily may be given.

Te Deum

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

★ HYMN

Mary immaculate, star of the morning,
Chosen before the creation began,
Chosen to bring for thy bridal adorning,
Woe to the serpent and rescue to man.

Here, in an orbit of shadow and sadness,
Veiling thy splendour, thy course thou hast run;
Now thou are throned in all glory and gladness,
Crowned by the hand of thy saviour and Son.

Sinners, we worship thy sinless perfection;
Fallen and weak, for thy pity we plead;
Grant us the shield of thy sovereign protection,
Measure thine aid by the depth of our need.

Bend from the throne at the voice of our crying,
Bend to this earth which thy footsteps have trod;
Stretch out thins arms to us, living and dying,
Mary immaculate, Mother of God.

Or:

O quam glorifica luce coruscas,
stirpis davidicae regia proles,
sublimis residens, Virgo Maria,
supra caeligenas aetheris omnes.

Tu cum virgineo Mater honore,
angelorum Domino pectoris aulam
sacris visceribus casta parasti;
natus hinc Deus est corpore Christus.

Cunctis auxilium praebe, tuorum
audi vota, graves solve catenas;
nostras, tu nova lux, discute noctes,
da, quo tu frueris, cernere Natum.

Quem cunctus venerans orbis adorat,
cui nunc rite genu flectitur omne;
a quo, te, petimus, subveniente,
abiectis tenebris, gaudia lucis.

Hoc largire, Pater luminis omnis,
Natum per proprium, Flamine sacro;
qui tecum nitida vivit in aethra,
regnans ac moderans saecula cuncta.
Amen.

Or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Ant. 1 My song and my strength is the Lord:
for me he is both health and salvation, alleluia.

*Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week 1 – cf Appendix
p. 359.*

Ant. 2 Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary,
Among all the women of the earth, alleluia.

Ant. 3 We praise you, Lord, for your wonderful works;
we praise you for Mary's help, alleluia.

In the Easter season:

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev 12,10-12a.17

I John heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Rejoice then, O heaven and you that dwell therein!

Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. Virgin Mary, you have given birth to the light of the world, * Alleluia, alleluia!

Virgin Mary, you have given birth to the light of the world, Alleluia, alleluia!

V. Helped by your prayer, we praise the Lord.

* Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Virgin Mary, you have given birth to the light of the world, Alleluia, alleluia!

Outside the Easter season:

SCRIPTURE READING

Jud 13,18b-20a

Blessed be the Lord God, who created the heavens and the earth, who has guided you to strike the head of

the leader of our enemies. Your hope will never depart from the hearts of men, as they remember the power of God. May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you, and may he visit you with blessings, because you did not spare your own life when our nation was brought low, but have avenged our ruin, walking in the straight path before our God.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. O loving Mother of Christ, * O worker of wonders.
O loving Mother of Christ, O worker of wonders.

V. You are our hope; to you we fly for help.

* O worker of wonders.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

O loving Mother of Christ, O worker of wonders.

Ant. At the Ben. O Mary,
you rise like the dawn, alleluia;
and bear the new sun, alleluia.

INTERCESSIONS

At the beginning of this new day let us give thanks with
Mary Help of Christians to our God and Saviour, and
let us say:

We hope in you, O Son of Mary.

Jesus, sun of justice, you were born of Mary, star of the morning:

— grant that we may walk today in your light, so that evening may find us worthy of your benevolent gaze.

Christ our Saviour, in your Immaculate Mother you have symbolized the beginning of the Church:

- grant that we may tend with all our strength to justice and holiness.

Christ Jesus, consolation of those who entrust themselves to you:

- help us through the example of your Mother to carry the crosses we encounter on life's pilgrimage.

Christ our Lord, through the mystery of your death and resurrection you free mankind from evil:

- grant that young people may overcome the many forms of slavery that exist in our times.

Lord Jesus you gave Don Bosco a powerful help and a sure guide in Mary Help of Christians:

- that that the whole Salesian Family may always feel her motherly presence in the work of the education and evangelisation of youth.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Lord our God, you chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother and help of Christians; by her prayers give to the Church the strength of your Spirit so that with patience and love its members may overcome every trial and share even now in the victory of Christ, your Son. He lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Prayer during the Day

Hymn from the Ordinary; complementary psalms. If the Solemnity falls on a Sunday in Ordinary Time, the psalms are as on Sunday of Week 1.

Before Noon

Ant. He who is Almighty has done great things in me: Holy is his name. (T.P. alleluia).

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev 12,1

A great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

V. You are the Mother of our Lord and Saviour. (T.P. alleluia).

R. The honour of the Church and help in difficulties. (T.P. alleluia).

Midday

Ant. With the power of your arm you have put the proud to flight, you have exalted the humble. (T.P. alleluia).

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev 21,3b

Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them

V. Hail, holy Mother; hail, glory of the world. (T.P. alleluia).

R. Intercede for us with your Son. (T.P. alleluia).

Afternoon

Ant. The Lord comes to the aid of his faithful ones, remembering his mercy. (T.P. alleluia).

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev 12,17

The dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus.

∇. Mary, fountain of grace and mother of forgiveness.
(T.P. alleluia).

R. Protect us from the evil one and receive us at the hour of our death. (T.P. alleluia).

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer II

★ HYMN

Attentive Virgin Mother, it never has been known
that anyone who loved you was ever left alone.
Inspired by your goodness we ask for help and pray
to know your Son incarnate, the only perfect way.

Attentive Virgin Mother, protect the Church of God,
provide her with apostles to spread the faith abroad.
Obtain for youth the wisdom to build on Christ the Lord,
with freedom of the spirit to seek the will of God.

Attentive Virgin Mother, our Model and our Sign,
your faith and love at Cana proved Jesus' power divine.
True Mother of the living, receive this humble pray'r:
Make Life the choice and glory of fam'lies everywhere.

(R. McShane FMA)

Or:

O sanctissima, O piissima,
Dulcis virgo Maria!
Mater amata, intemerata,
Ora, ora pro nobis.

Tu solacium et refugium,
Virgo, mater Maria!
Quidquid optamus, per te speramus;
Ora, ora pro nobis.

Ecce debiles, perquam flebiles,
Salva nos, O Maria!
Tolle languores, sana dolores,
Ora, ora pro nobis.

Virgo respice, Mater, adspice,
Audi nos, O Maria.
Tu medicinam portas divinam,
Ora, ora pro nobis.

Tua gaudia et suspiria
Iuvent nos, O Maria!
In te speramus, ad te clamamus,
Ora, ora pro nobis.

Or the hymn *Ave maris stella* or another suitable hymn approved by ecclesiastical authority.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 The joy of the Lord is with you, Mary:
obtain for us benevolence and peace.
(T.P. Alleluia).

Psalm 121 (122)

I rejoiced when I heard them say:*
“Let us go to God’s house”.
And now our feet are standing*
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city*
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,*
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,*
 there to praise the Lord's name.
 There were set the thrones of judgment*
 of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:*
 "Peace be to your homes!
 May peace reign in your walls,*
 in your palaces, peace!"

For love of my brethren and friends*
 I say: "Peace upon you".
 For love of the house of the Lord*
 I will ask for your good.

Ant. The joy of the Lord is with you, Mary:
 obtain for us benevolence and peace.
 (T.P. Alleluia).

Ant. 2 Mary, Mother of the Church,
 Keep us with the love you have for your people.
 (T.P. Alleluia).

Psalm 126 (127)

If the Lord does not build the house,*
 in vain do its builders labour;
 if the Lord does not watch over the city,*
 in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising,*
 your going later to rest,
 you who toil for the bread you eat,*
 when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,*
 a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
 Indeed the sons of youth*
 are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man*
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame*
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Ant. Mary, Mother of the Church,
Keep us with the love you have for your people.
(T.P. Alleluia).

Ant. 3 Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
(T.P. Alleluia).

Canticle - Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father*
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ*
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him*
before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy*
and blameless before him.

He destined us in love*
to be his sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,†
to the praise of his glorious grace*
which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood,*
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace*
which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us†
 in all wisdom and insight *
 the mystery of his will,
 according to his purpose*
 which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ,*
 as a plan for the fulness of time,
 to unite all things in him,*
 things in heaven and things on earth.

Ant. Blessed are you among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
 (T.P. Alleluia).

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-32.37

Brothers, we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

SHORT RESPONSORY

In the Easter season:

R. You are blessed, O Mary. * Alleluia, alleluia.
 You are blessed, O Mary. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Through you the world has received salvation.

*** Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

You are blessed, O Mary. Alleluia, alleluia!

Fuori del Tempo di Pasqua:

R. Queen of the world, *** Sovereign of the heavens.**

Queen of the world, Sovereign of the heavens.

V. Pray for the salvation of Christian people:

*** Sovereign of the heavens.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Queen of the world, Sovereign of the heavens.

Ant. At the Magn. To you we have recourse in our trials,
O Mother of God:
through you we receive help from the Lord. (**T.P.** alleluia).

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give thanks to God our Father who in the Virgin Mary has given us the image and beginning of the Church, and let us pray:

Lord, renew us in your Spirit.

Father, you willed that Mary should be present in the Cenacle in the midst of the apostles:

- assist with your Holy Spirit, the Pope, bishops and priests, that they may be sure guides for the Church along the world's highways.

You willed that Mary be present in the first steps of the Church's work of evangelization:

- bless the missionaries and all those who work for the extension of your Kingdom.

You willed that Mary should be at the side of Elizabeth, and with the young married couple at Cana:

- make us solicitous and attentive to those who are in need, or lonely or suffering.

You willed that Mary should be, with Joseph, the educator of your Son:

- sustain the entire Salesian Family in its work of the human and Christian advancement of the young, and especially of those who are poor and abandoned.

You made Mary resplendent as a sign of consolation and sure hope for your Church:

- receive into the glory of your Kingdom the dead who have believed and hoped in you.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Lord our God, you chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother and help of Christians; by her prayers give to the Church the strength of your Spirit so that with patience and love its members may overcome every trial and share even now in the victory of Christ, your Son. He lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Compline

Night Prayer of Sunday. Outside the Easter Season it is appropriate to use as the final antiphon “Sub tuum praesidium”, *or:*

“O Maria, Virgo potens

Tu magnum et praeclarum in Ecclesia praesidium;

Tu singulare Auxilium Christianorum:

Tu terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.

Tu cunctas haereses sola interemisti in universo mundo.
Tu in angustiis,
Tu in bello,
Tu in necessitatibus nos ab hoste protege,
atque in aeterna gaudia in mortis hora suscipe”.

29 May

**Blessed JOSEPH KOWALSKI,
priest and martyr**

Memorial

**(For the Daughters of Mary of Christians and
the Volunteers of Don Bosco: *Optional memorial*)**

Joseph Kowalski was born on 19 March 1911 at Siedliska (Poland). From an early age he showed signs of a vocation to dedicating himself to God in a special way. In 1927, after having finished at the Salesian secondary school in Oswiecim, he was accepted in the Novitiate of the Salesian Congregation. Even as a cleric he had a spiritual desire, which he recorded in his notebook: 'to suffer and to be despised for you, Lord.' After having completed the various stages of formation, he was ordained priest in 1938 and immediately he was engaged in educative pastoral work in the Salesian house at Krakow.

On 23 May 1941, with other Salesians he was arrested by the Nazi and taken to the concentration camp at Oswiecim (Auschwitz). Also in this place he lived his life as a priest: through his ministry and personal witness he brought hope to his companions in suffering. He was martyred on 4 July 1942, a victim of hatred for religion and for the faith. The immediate cause for his martyrdom was his refusal to trample on his rosary beads.

Pope John Paul II beatified him on 13 June 1999 in Warsaw, with a group of 108 Polish martyrs, victims of the Nazi persecution during the second world war.

**From the Common of martyrs: for one martyr; or from
the Common of pastors. *Psalms of the day as in the
Ordinary.***

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the «Private Notes» (1930-1940) and from the «Letter to his parents» (1941) of Blessed Joseph Kowalski, priest

(Positio super martyrio, vol. III-2, Summarium, pp. 1679-1681, passim)

To suffer and to be despised for love of the Lord

I have to be a holy Salesian, holy as was my father Don Bosco. O my good Jesus, give me a will that is persevering, firm and strong so that I may persevere in my holy resolutions and I may reach the highest ideal, holiness, that I have set myself. I can and I have to be holy. «In Te Domine speravi, non confundar in aeternum». O my Jesus, help me with Thy holy grace, because without Thee I can do nothing, but with Thee strengthening me I can do everything [...].

Jesus, I thank Thee that in my proud heart Thou hast placed an ardent desire for suffering and contempt, so that I may be despised. From now on my watchword will be: “to live and suffer for Thee Jesus and to suffer and be despised”. Jesus, here then is my voice which rises from the depth of my heart: “to suffer and to be despised for Thee, Lord” – may this voice reach Thine ears. Listen O Lord and open Thine ears to the voice of my prayer and of my cry. Hear me O Lord, and grant me the strength necessary.

Jesus, to Thee I dedicate myself totally, to Thee I give my poor heart which desires ardently to love Thee, to give itself to Thee and consecrate itself to Thee. Jesus, grant that I may never separate myself from Thee and that even unto death I may be faithful to Thee and that I may faithfully keep the oath I have made: “Rather

death than to offend Thee by the smallest sin". O God have mercy on me. Give me your love, and with that Thou wilt give me everything. O Lord let me be despised, forgotten, considered nothing, scorned. This goes against my inclination, but I see that it is necessary for me. O Lord, grant me this grace, to become mad for Thy love (*at this point in the diary there is a cross in the blood of the Blessed and beneath the cross the inscription: "To suffer and to be despised"*).

With full awareness and totally determined and ready to accept all the consequences I embrace the sweet cross of Christ's call and I desire to carry it until the very end, until death. It will be my consolation, all my glory and my delight. "«Absit mihi gloriari nisi in cruce Domini nostri Jesu Christi, per quem mihi mundus crucifixus est et ego mundo». Without the cross, without suffering I gain nothing, without the cross I will not become a saint. In this world everything comes and is born in suffering.

In the present political and war-threatening events when it seems that everything is conspiring against us and aimed at our total extinction and the last ray of hope has gone out, "God watches over everything, and nothing happens without his will". This important thought ought to fill me with peace even when it will be necessary to give one's life for something worth while. This would really be true happiness and a great gain.

Be at peace, I am in the hands of God [...]. I want to assure you that at every step I feel God's strength. In spite of the present situation, I am happy and totally at peace; I am convinced that wherever I may find myself and whatever may happen, everything comes from the fatherly Providence of God who in the best way possible controls the fate of all nations and of all men.

RESPONSORY

2 Tm 4,7-8; Phil 3,8-10

R. I have run the great race, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith, * and now the prize the garland of righteousness awaits me.

V. I have been glad to lose everything, that I may learn to know Christ and what it means to share his sufferings, to be moulded in the pattern of his death:

R. and now the prize the garland of righteousness awaits me.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Cor 1,3-5

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes; he helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help those who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Just as we have a share in Christ's many sufferings, so also through Christ we share in his great help.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is my strength, * I will sing praise to him. The Lord is my strength, I will sing praise to him

V. He is my salvation:

* I will sing praise to him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is my strength, I will sing praise to him.

Ant. At the Ben. Anyone who hates his soul in the world will save it for the eternal life.

INTERCESSIONS

United in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father for the witness even unto martyrdom of Blessed Joseph Kowalski, we pray to our Saviour:

You redeemed us with your precious blood O Lord.

Through their martyrdom the first disciples followed Christ more closely as he offered himself for the salvation of the world:

- grant that we may conform ourselves more closely to him who poured out his blood for us and for all, for the remission of sins.

Christ Our Lord, in Blessed Joseph Kowalski you aroused a great desire to suffer and to be despised for love of you:

- grant that we may accept and carry the crosses of everyday with perseverance and joy.

Christ Our Lord, you gave the martyr the strength to confess the faith to the shedding of his blood:

- grant to the young the courage and the perseverance to grow in faith amidst the seductions of the world.

Christ Our Lord, in spite of tribulations, with fidelity to his priestly ministry, Blessed Joseph Kowalski brought hope to his companions in suffering:

- grant that all of us may persevere in bearing witness to Christian life.

At the school of Saint John Bosco the Blessed martyr learned a great love for the Mother of God:

- grant us the grace to live as her children.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who raised up in the priest Blessed Joseph the desire for holiness and the readiness to offer his life for the love of Christ, grant to us, through his intercession, the grace to be faithful to our vocation and to love the cross, which is the way of salvation. 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.

Evening Prayer**SCRIPTURE READING****1 Pt 4,13-14**

My dear people, if you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. You have tested us God, * and you have brought us out into freedom again.

You have tested us God, and you have brought us out into freedom again.

V. You have refined us like silver,

* and you have brought us out into freedom again..

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

You have tested us God, and you have brought us out into freedom again.

Ant. At the Magn. The saints will dwell in the kingdom of heaven; their peace will last for ever.

INTERCESSIONS

The Lord Jesus Christ lifted up on the cross draws all men and women to himself. We raise to him our praise and petitions:

May the whole world love and adore you Lord.

Blessed Joseph Kowalski in his martyrdom bore witness to the one Shepherd who gave his life for his sheep:

- grant that the service of bishops and priests may be inspired by the tenderness of your Father's love.

May the legacy of the Cross lived in the light of Easter left us by the Blessed martyr:

- bear abundant fruit in our living the Gospel authentically, and in proclaiming to the men and women of today that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of mankind.

With the shedding of his blood the martyr became the imitator of the passion of Christ:

- through his intercession unite us with your passion, which continues in the oppressed, in the marginalised in all who suffer.

On the cross Lord you asked pardon for those who crucified you, and in the Blessed martyr you found someone who imitated you in praying for his executioners,

- help us too to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us.

Lord, the giver of life, remember our brothers and sisters whose lives were cut short by violence and war,

- grant them eternal life in your Kingdom.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who raised up in the priest Blessed Joseph the desire for holiness and the readiness to offer his life for the love of Christ, grant to us, through his intercession, the grace to be faithful to our vocation and to love the cross, which is the way of salvation. 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.

12 June

Blessed FRANCIS KĘSY and companions, martyrs

Optional memorial

The young martyrs are: Czesław Józwiak, born in Lazyna (Poland) in 1919; Edward Kazmierski, born in Poznań (Poland) in 1919; Franciszek Kęsy, born in Berlin (Germany) in 1920; Edward Klinik, born in Bochum (Poland) in 1919 and Jarogniew Wojciechowski, born in Poznań (Poland) in 1922. They have a number of features in common: the five attended the Oratory, were involved in leading their companions, consciously engaged in their own human and Christian development, linked together by their personal and shared interests and plans. They were arrested by the Gestapo almost simultaneously in 1940 and put in prison.

They were in prison together and suffered martyrdom on the same day 24 August 1942 at Dresden, and in the same way (being beheaded by axe). Their friendship from Oratory days sustained them to the end. Of each one of them it could be said: "He was among the group leaders of the Oratory, closely connected by friendship and high Christian ideals with the other four". Associated together in prison and in death, each of them, however, has his own particular life story which intertwines with that of the others because of their Salesian background. The five young men came from good Christian families. On that foundation, life in the Oratory and its programmes stimulated generosity towards God, human maturity, prayer and apostolic commitment; open to life, yet always ready to enter Eternal Life.

This paradoxical statement was written by one of them an hour before their death: "What joy it is: to leave this world united with Christ"; and another: "How can I not be happy to be going to the Lord and to his most holy Mother fortified by the Body of Christ?"

On 13 June 1999 they were beatified by John Paul II in Warsaw with 108 Polish martyrs.

From the Common of martyrs: of several martyrs.
Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of Reading

SECOND READING

From the «Letters» written by the five young men to their families, as the time for the carrying out of the death penalty approached.

(*Positio super martyrio*, vol. III-2,
Summarium, pp. 1707. 1728-29. 1747. 1768. 1789)

With fearless faith and at peace I go to eternal life

The time has come to say goodbye to you, and precisely today, 24 August, on the day of Mary Help of Christians. Oh, what joy I feel to be leaving this world; everyone ought to die this way. A short time ago I went to confession, and in a little while I shall be strengthened with the Blessed Sacrament. May the good God take me to himself. I have no regrets that so young I am leaving this world. Now I am in a state of grace, faithful to the promises made to God. My dear parents and brothers, once again with all my heart I ask pardon for the evil I have done. Forgive me. I am going to heaven. We shall meet again there! In heaven I shall pray for you. Just now I received the Blessed Sacrament. Pray now and again for me. Stay with the Lord! I am going now. Forgive me for everything (*Blessed Franciszek Kęsy*).

My very dear parents, just today, 24 August, on the day of Mary Help of Christians, I received your letters. I have to leave this world. I can say to you, my dear ones, that it is with joy that I am going to the next world, more than I would feel the joy of being eventually freed. I know that Our Lady the Help of Christians, who throughout my life I have honoured will obtain forgiveness for me from Jesus. A short time ago I made my confession and shortly I shall receive Communion in my

heart. The priest will bless me during the execution. We have this great joy of being together before death. All five of us are in the one cell. It is 19.45. At 20.30 I shall leave this world. I beg you, do not cry, don't despair, don't worry. God wanted it this way. In a special way I turn to you my dearest mummy, that you may offer your sorrow to Our Lady of Sorrows. She will heal your sorrowing heart. I beg you with all my heart to forgive me if I have done anything to displease anyone. I shall pray for you and ask the blessing of God so that one day we may all meet together in heaven. Till we see each other again in heaven! (*Blessed Czesław Józwiak*).

God's plans are strange but we have to resign ourselves to them, because this is good for the soul. My dears, inscrutable is the will of Jesus which takes me from this world in my youth. But how happy will that moment be for me when I have to leave this earth. How can I not be happy to be going to the Lord and to his most holy Mother fortified by the Body of Christ? Right to the end Mary was always for me a Mother. And now you mummy, when you won't have me any longer on the earth take Jesus. «Mother, this is your son». [...] Until we meet again in heaven with the Madonna, with Jesus and with Saint John Bosco. I have come to understand my life perfectly; I have understood my vocation and I rejoice that in heaven I shall repay you. (*Blessed Edward Klinik*).

I have received your last letter and greetings. Thank you for that. It made me very happy when I read about your calmness and resignation to the will of God. Give thanks to the most merciful Saviour, so that he may not take us unprepared from this world but after a time for repentance and nourished by the Body of Christ, on the day of Mary Help of Christians. Thank God for his in-

finite mercy. It has brought me peace. Accepting his most holy will I am leaving this world. He is so good that he will forgive us. I thank you mummy for your blessing. God has asked this sacrifice from you. Offer it for my sinful soul. Please forgive me in your heart for all my failings. I ask your forgiveness. I ask forgiveness of all those I have offended or to whom I have caused displeasure. Pray for me. Till we see each other again in heaven! [...] May the good Lord take care of all of you through the intercession of our Mother most holy, St Joseph, St John Bosco. Stay with the Lord! (*Blessed Edward Kazmierski*).

I thank you with all my heart; all those who have not forgotten me in life. I have known and seen clearly the life of mummy, of father, yours and mine. And so I am sure that you will rather rejoice with me than give way to despair. I have received an extraordinary grace from God, and I am leaving after having understood my past life; I do so without the least regret. I have known the world, life and men and so now my dear Lidus, be assured that you will not be left alone in this world. I and mummy are always close to you. I only ask you one thing: entrust what you are feeling to Jesus and Mary at every moment of your life since only in them will you find comfort. [...] Think about true happiness. I am leaving united with Jesus Christ through Holy Communion. In this last Communion I am thinking of you and I offer it for you and me, in the hope that all our family without exception will be very happy above. Please, ask our father for forgiveness for all the wrong I have done and assure him that I have always loved him. [...] Pray for me everyone, and I shall do the same for you up there. Jesus, Mary, Joseph! (*Blessed Jarogniew Wojciechowski*).

RESPONSORY

R. God looks on, his angels look on, Christ too looks on as we struggle and strive in the contest of faith: * What great dignity and glory are ours, what happiness to join battle in the presence of God, and to be crowned by Christ, the judge!

V. Let us be armed with a great determination and be prepared to face the combat, pure in heart, sound in faith, and full of courage:

R. What great dignity and glory are ours, what happiness to join battle in the presence of God, and to be crowned by Christ, the judge!

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

2Cor 1,3-5

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes; he helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help those who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Just as we have a share in Christ's many sufferings, so also through Christ we share in his great help.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. These were holy men * they will live for ever.
These were holy men, they will live for ever.

V. The Lord himself is their reward:

* they will live for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

These were holy men, they will live for ever.

Ant. At the Ben. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

INTERCESSIONS

In union with the Blessed martyrs Francis Kęsy and companions, who gave their lives for love of Christ, we celebrate and call upon our Saviour:

You have redeemed us with your blood, O Lord.

For your martyrs who embraced death in witness to the faith,

- grant us a faith which is pure and constant in the trials of life.

In the Blessed martyrs Francis Kęsy and companions, who grew up in the Salesian Oratory, you have given us a model of courageous young men ready for sacrifice:

- grant to all young people the courage and the perseverance to live according to the genuine values of the Gospel in the gift of themselves.

Lord you gave your martyrs the strength to follow you on the way of the cross,

- grant that we may face up to the sufferings and the crosses in our lives, uniting ourselves to your redeeming passion.

Lord, the young men Francis Kęsy and companions faced martyrdom strengthened by the Eucharist and gazing at Mary at the foot of the cross:

- grant that we too following the teaching of Don Bosco, may be sustained by love for you present in the Sacrament and for your Mother, the Mother of Sorrows.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who granted to the martyrs Blessed Francis [Kęsy] and his companions the grace of holiness in their youth; renew the wonders of your Spirit so that for love of you, we too may face up to every adversity, and with enthusiasm may walk to meet you who are the true life. 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.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Pt 4,13-14

My dear people, if you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. Rejoice in the Lord. Let the just shout for joy: * Let the just shout for joy

Rejoice in the Lord. Let the just shout for joy:

V. Let the upright sing praise;

* Let the just shout for joy

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice in the Lord. Let the just shout for joy:

Ant. At the Magn. The saints who in followed the footsteps of Christ rejoice in heaven. They gave their life for love of Christ: therefore they will reign with him for ever.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give thanks to the king of martyrs for this is the hour when he offered himself at the last supper and laid down his life on the cross:

We praise you Christ the Lord.

We praise you, Christ our Saviour, example and strength of the martyrs, because you have loved us to the end:

- grant that we may live in fidelity to our Christian vocation, responding to your love with the gift of ourselves.

With the shedding of their blood, the martyrs became imitators of the passion of Christ,

- through their intercession unite us with your passion, which is prolonged in the oppressed, in the marginalised and in all who suffer.

The young martyrs Francis Kęsy and companions bore witness to what they had lived each day in the school of the oratory:

- grant that educators may transmit to the young the values of the faith through word and example.

The young martyrs expressed their joy at going to Christ and to his Mother nourished by the Body of Christ:

- grant Lord that in the trials and difficulties of life we may be strengthened by the Eucharist and the motherly presence of Mary.

We entrust to you O Lord, our brothers and sisters who have left this world:

- admit them into your kingdom of light and peace to enjoy the company of the saints.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who granted to the martyrs Blessed Francis [Kęsy] and his companions the grace of holiness in their youth; renew the wonders of your Spirit so that for love of you, we too may face up to every adversity, and with enthusiasm may walk to meet you who are the true life. 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.

23 June

**Saint JOSEPH CAFASSO,
priest**

Memorial

Joseph Cafasso, a fellow citizen of Don Bosco, was born at Castelnuovo d'Asti on 15 January 1811. After his priestly ordination in 1833, he entered the Ecclesiastical College of Turin where he remained for the rest of his life. He combined the work of the teaching of moral theology and the formation of priests with the ministry of the confessional and the service of pastoral charity to the poor, and particularly to prisoners and those condemned to death.

He was of great material and spiritual help to Don Bosco at the beginning of the latter's priestly work, and was his spiritual guide from 1841 to 1860, supporting and defending him by his moral authority. He died on 23 June 1860 at the age of 49. At his funeral Don Bosco described him as a model of priestly life, teacher of the clergy, outstanding counsellor, consoler of the sick, comforter of the dying and friend of everyone. Pius XII declared him a saint on 23 June 1947.

From the Common of Pastors; or from the Common of Saints: for a saint noted for works of mercy. Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From "Meditations for Clergy Retreats" by St Joseph Cafasso, priest

(Turin 1925, 240-257, passim)

The virtues of the priest

A spirit of patience, poverty, humility, love of recollection, of work, of religious practices – these are the necessary virtues and indispensable qualities for the priest. But more is needed in spirit, virtues and other works for a true minister of God who, as the light of the world and the salt of the earth, is destined to enlighten and sanctify souls.

If he wants to be like the divine Redeemer, if he wants to do good in the evangelical field, the priest must be a man of prayer. He has no need to look for other teachers: the good workers who became outstanding in this science were all pupils at the same school, all of them copied from this divine Teacher.

The apostolic man needs to have fixed times for prayer. If we do not follow this teaching we shall no longer be copies of this model but only mere human material lacking soul and spirit, apostles in no more than name, clanging cymbals ((cf. 1 Cor 13,1) and nothing more. Furthermore, we must keep our heart directed towards God during the day, before starting any work in the exercise of our ministry, before and after doing anything. Our heart should move frequently towards God, keeping the road open for the preservation of a continual relationship with him; so that when we have some need, or find ourselves in some danger and in need of light, we can go to him at once, talk to him and seek explanation. This is what prayer means, and anyone who does it can be called a man of prayer.

By gentleness we shall make ourselves dear to others and win hearts on earth. The divine Redeemer made himself a model, the most perfect model, even to the extent of saying: “Learn of me, for I am meek and humble of heart” (Mt 11,29). Of him it is written that “he went

about doing good and healing all that were oppressed” (Acts 10,38). Be gentle therefore with everyone; be particularly so with those who least deserve it or who behave badly towards you: this is the very best thing for you to do. If the divine Redeemer showed any preferences in this matter it was always towards sinners, to such an extent that his enemies called him a sinner and friend of sinners (cf. Lk 11,2; Jn 9,24). We are not to be the friend of their disorders, but show them friendship so as to convert them and win them over. Let us gain for ourselves the consolation of having treated others with kindness and charity, of implanting in them the seeds of hope and salvation as they recall the memory of a person who treated them with sympathy and understanding.

The apostolic man has no aim in life but the glory of God and the salvation of souls. This is the teaching left us by the divine Master: “I do not seek my own glory... I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me” (Jn 8,50; 6,38). This integrity and purity of intention has always been the mark of apostolic men. Working with such purity of intention, the priest almost never notices the burden of his labours, because working for God is rather a joy than a hardship. God alone and nothing else.

RESPONSORY

Cf Phil 4,8.9; 1 Cor 16,13

R. Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, think about these things: * and the God of peace will be with you!

V. Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong:

R. and the God of peace will be with you!

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Heb 13,7-9a

Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever. Do not let yourselves be led astray by all sorts of strange doctrines.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. I placed watchmen on your towers, * they watch over your Church.

I placed watchmen on your towers, they watch over your Church.

V. They will never cease to tell of the name of the Lord, by day and by night,

* they watch over your Church.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

I placed watchmen on your towers, they watch over your Church.

INTERCESSIONS

United in the prayer of praise with St Joseph Cafasso and all the saints, let us say:

God our Father, be mindful of your Church.

Father, you call us to be holy as you are holy:

— pour out your Spirit upon the Church, so that it may glorify you by its holiness.

You have reconciled us through the death and resurrection of your Son:

— enlighten all spiritual guides and those you have constituted ministers of reconciliation.

Father, you want us to share the banquet of the new covenant:

- grant that we may grow in love around the table of your word and the bread of life.

You promised the Kingdom of heaven to those who recognize your Son in the poor, the suffering, and the outcasts:

- help us to build a more fraternal world by welcoming those sorely tried in body and spirit.

You gave to St John Bosco a friend and sure guide in the person of St Joseph Cafasso:

- help every educator to guide others to Christ through the pedagogy of kindness.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, Father of infinite goodness, you endowed your priest, Saint Joseph Cafasso, with outstanding gifts of charity and wisdom to train according to Gospel principles ministers of the word and reconciliation; grant to us, through his intercession, a sense of brotherly compassion, so that we may walk in holiness and justice all the days of our life. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

In the evening, Evening Prayer of the Solemnity of St John the Baptist.

7 July

**Blessed MARIA
ROMERO MENESES,
virgin**

Optional memorial

(For the Institute of the Daughters
of Mary Help of Christians: *Memorial*)

Maria Romero Meneses was born at Granada di Nicaragua (Central America) on 13 January 1902 into a middle-class family, in which from being a little child she learned a caring sensitivity towards the poor, and in general to other people's sufferings.

At twenty one years of age she made her religious profession in the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. In the name of this her Mother and "her Queen"—as she loved to call the Madonna—she led a tireless apostolic life, creating large-scale social works in Costa Rica, where she was sent after her religious profession.

Her main concerns were for the Christian development and education of girls, women and especially mothers, taking material help and evangelisation to poor families on the outskirts of towns and in the villages, afflicted by economic hardship and moral decadence; she provided literacy programmes and catechism for the poorest ones and a broad religious instruction for everyone. Her ceaseless activities did not prevent her from living prayer moments of deep intimacy and intense adoration and true mystical experience as is clear from her many occasional writings, which are a real "diary of the 'soul'".

When Sister Maria finally decided to take a period of rest, she unexpectedly died and so passed to the rest without end in the "eternal embrace" of her Lord. It was 7 July 1977.

The Holy Father John Paul II beatified her on 14 April 2002.

From the Common of virgins; or from the Common of women saints (noted for works of mercy). Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the «Spiritual writings» of Blessed Maria Romero Meneses, virgin

(Translation and editing by Lina Dalcetri FMA;
vol. II, Rome 1990, pp. 116-117)

Bringing a ray of light

Grant to me O God, that while I ascend the steep slope of my life I may without pause dry all the tears of those I meet, sweeten every bitterness and dryness, smooth out the roughness and pour a little balm on every wound.

Grant that I may bring a smile to the face of all those who are sad or anxious, bring peace to those who are troubled, reunite those separated and bring peace where there is anger or violence. Grant that I may offer at least a mouthful of bread to the hungry who ask for it, a glass of water to those who are thirsty, a piece of cloth to the one who has no clothes and a roof at least in my heart for all pilgrims.

Grant that I may know how to bring a ray of light to those walking in darkness; to direct towards what is good those who are going towards evil; stretch out a hand to those in danger of falling and gently lift up someone who has fallen.

Grant that I may know how to draw out the thorns from all oppressed hearts, restore peace to those who have lost it; cover with the mantle of charity all poor sinners; and spread everywhere comfort, relief, well-being and peace.

Yes, O my God, grant me the grace to be able to console all those sufferers I meet on the way to Calvary;

and to be an instrument of your merciful kindness. Fill my heart with meekness, with humility, kindness and sweetness; with understanding and mercy; carve in my soul your blessed, holy, beloved image, so that whoever sees me sees only Thee my sweet Love!

May there be not even one soul who passes me by without my taking them immediately to Thy love; and from that moment being only concerned to flee from sin and to please Thee. I have a hunger and thirst for justice: to make Thee known, loved and served. Therefore, as with Isaiah, touch my lips, not however, with a burning coal but with a drop of Thy most precious Blood: so that they may open and proclaim Thy Name and tell to the winds Thy marvels, Thy greatness and above all the tenderness of Thy divine and adorable Heart!

O Mary Mother mine, with Jesus, in Jesus and for Jesus, for his glory I give and abandon myself blindly and completely into thy motherly arms, so as to pass, at the hour of death, directly from thine to those of the infinite mercy of the Lord. Amen.

RESPONSORY

Jer 31,3; Os 2,16-21

R. God loved her with an everlasting love: so he drew her to himself from her childhood, he led her into the wilderness * and spoke to her heart.

V. He betrothed her for ever in faithfulness and love,
R. and spoke to her heart.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Song of Songs 8,7

Love is a fire no waters avail to quench, no floods to drown; for love a man will give up all that he has in the world, and think nothing of his loss.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. My heart has said of you: * I have sought your presence, Lord.

My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord.

V. It is your face I will continue to seek:

* I have sought your presence.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord.

Ant. At the Ben. If there is love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give glory to God for having given to the Church and to the Salesian Family, in Blessed Maria Romero, a shining witness of his selfless love for all.
Remember your Church O Father.

You gave Blessed Maria Romero an ardent faith and a great love for the Church:

- grant that our lives of prayer and the apostolate may unite us ever more intimately to you, in faithful fulfilment of the teaching of the Church.

You gave Sister Maria wise intuitions and a courageous spirit of enterprise in charitable work:

- multiply in the Church of today initiatives of solidarity and witnesses to your love as a Father.

In Sister Maria Romero you have given us a shining example of Eucharistic ardour and evangelising passion:

- help us to draw from the table of the Eucharist the strength to proclaim with credibility the Gospel of Christ, especially to the young.

In Blessed Maria Romero you “did great things” because of her unconditional trust in the intercession of Mary Most Holy:

- make us too capable of recognising the presence of Mary our mother who loves and cares for all her children.

You who have care for all your children and are close as a Father to those who suffer on account of poverty, marginalisation and sickness:

- grant that we may imitate Sister Maria in the service of the poor and those who suffer.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, Father of all consolation, who show your people the signs of your goodness and mercy, grant to us, that through the intercession of the virgin Blessed Maria [Romero], we too may console those in any kind of trial and on the day of judgement be numbered among the blessed. Through Our Lord.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. God has chosen her * He chose her before she was born.

God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.

V. He brought her to live in his own dwelling place,
* He chose her before she was born.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.

Ant. At the Magn. Anything you did for the least of these who are mine you did for me.

Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

INTERCESSIONS

We pray to God the Father, author of every plan of holiness, that he may point out to us the path to holiness he has chosen for us.

Guide us O Lord in your ways.

In Blessed Sister Maria Romero you have given us a model of holiness inspired by the apostolic charity of

Saint John Bosco and of Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello:

- grant that following her example we may be faithful to our Salesian vocation with a holy life full of love.

Give to your Church the strength of your Spirit,

- so that through the guidance of holy pastors and the witness of consecrated persons it may continue to give birth to saints in every part of the world.

Give to missionaries the ardour of charity you gave to Sister Maria,

- to respond to the demands of evangelisation and to build your Kingdom.

Give to educators humility and patient dedication,

- to recognise the signs with which you continue to show your love and your call to the young.

To those who are poor and to those afflicted by any kind of suffering

- grant that they may experience in Christian solidarity a reflection of your fatherly love.

You who have welcomed Blessed Maria Romero to your wedding feast, with all the holy virgins,

- admit the faithful departed to the wedding feast of eternal life.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, Father of all consolation, who show your people the signs of your goodness and mercy, grant to us, that through the intercession of the virgin Blessed Maria [Romero], we too may console those in any kind of trial and on the day of judgement be numbered among the blessed. Through Our Lord.

2 August

Blessed AUGUSTUS CZARTORYSKI, priest

Optional memorial

Augustus Czartoryski was born in Paris in exile on 2 August 1858. For about 30 years his family with historical and dynastic ties to Poland had been emigrants in France.

When he was six his mother died from tuberculosis: a sad legacy his mother left her son. When the first symptoms appeared, a long forced pilgrimage began for Augustus to different countries in search of the good health which he never recovered. But health was not the main concern of his search; in his youthful heart there was also a more important search that for his vocation.

Great influence was exercised on the young prince by his tutor Joseph Kalinowski, a Carmelite, canonised by John Paul II in 1991. He was Czartoryski's tutor for only three years (1874-1877), but he left a great impression on him.

The decisive event, however, was a meeting with Don Bosco. August was already 25 years of age when he met him for the first time. That was in Paris, in the Hotel Lambert, where he was living with his family. After this meeting, Augustus not only felt strengthened in his vocation to religious life but he had the firm conviction that he was called to become a Salesian. In 1887 he entered the novitiate, under the guidance of the Master of Novices Fr Giulio Barberis. On 24 November that same year he was clothed in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians by Don Bosco. The saint died two months later, and on his tomb at Valsalice Prince Czartoryski became a Salesian making his religious profession. Prepared by his sufferings, on 2 April 1892 he was ordained priest at Sanremo by Blessed Bishop Tommaso Reggio bishop of Ventimiglia.

Fr Augustus's life as a priest lasted scarcely a year, which he passed in Alassio, in a room overlooking the boys' playground. He died there on the evening of 8 April 1893, sitting in the armchair Don Bosco had used. His body was taken to Poland and buried in the parish crypt at Sieniawa, beside his family's tombs. Later his

remains were moved to the Salesian church in Przemyśl, where they are still to be found today. Pope John Paul II beatified him in Rome in St Peter's Square on 24 April 2004.

From the Common of saints: for religious. or from the Common of pastors; psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the "Biographies of Salesians" by Fr. Giovanni Battista Francesia

(Salesian Press and Bookshop, San Benigno Canavese 1896;
Positio, Summarium documentorum additum, pp. 204-205)

Here I have found angels

As soon as he arrived at San Benigno, like a poor shipwrecked mariner escaped from the perils of the sea he introduced himself to the Rector and confided everything to him. Then almost afraid that they would show too much respect in his regard which he wished to avoid he told his Superior that he should give him orders without any difficulty in anything. "Certainly I need allowances to be made for me since when one has lived in the world one brings certain defects with one which only with time can be eradicated. You, however, can help me, and I hope that I shall be able to succeed". It was not only on his first arrival that he spoke in this way with familiarity and confidence with his new spiritual director, but whenever he felt it appropriate or when he felt the need. And then wishing really to die to the world to give himself totally to the Lord, he could say in all truth the words of St Bernard: "Here I have found angels, while everywhere else I only came across men".

For him everything was the subject for study and imitation. Determined to free his heart from everything that was not God and for his greater glory, he placed all his trust in his spiritual director. Fully aware that the security of a building depends on good foundations, and that a fervent novitiate is a sure sign of a religious and holy life, he determined with great resolve to do everything immediately and well. He worried slightly in remembering the comforts he had left behind, and experiencing the austerities of religious life for real. Often he heard a voice saying to him: "You poor thing, what have you done? Will you be able to put up with this kind of life? You are no longer young, you have never been accustomed to this noise which is part of Salesian life! You will manage for a few days, but then this common life will ruin you. Wouldn't it have been better for you to stay at home with father, aunt, and your brothers? Who could have stopped you doing good, and in the best way you could? And now here, among people you don't know, who in a short time will forget how much they owe to you..."

In this and other ways, the devil tempter tried to make Br Augustus regret what he had done. But he, convinced that the path to heaven is strewn with many tribulations and thorns tried to forget completely what he had been in the world in order to begin to be what he intended to become. First of all he asked that he be called by his simple surname. Since his Superiors had agreed that he should rather be called Br Augustus, he thanked them, because in this way he would have another reason almost not to remember his family. And this total self-sacrifice was so resolute and all-embracing, that even those who were more advanced on the path of virtue were amazed. His attitude was indeed admirable from

the first day he entered. He requested that no exceptions be made on his account, and he followed the common rule saying that it would cause him some distress if some day it were possible to say of him that he had benefited from exceptions being made for him. It was Don Bosco who expressed the wish that on account of his poor health he should be at the Superiors' table. But for good Br Augustus this preference proved a real school of perfection. "Nothing better could have happened, he used to say, than to have these models of every virtue constantly before my eyes. May the good Lord help me to draw profit from it".

RESPONSORY

Cf. Psalm 70,17; 74,2; 88,1; Is 49,2

R. God has taught me from my youth: * I shall recount his wonderful deeds

V. He hid me in the shadow of his hand

R. I shall recount his wonderful deeds.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.
The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

V. His steps will never falter

* his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. My good is the Lord,
generous to the one who hopes in him.

INTERCESSIONS

At the beginning of this new day, on the memorial of Blessed Augustus Czarторыski, let us raise to God our Father our praise and our petitions:

Strengthen O Father the fidelity of your children.

With the grace which comes from you O Father, you call the ministers of the Church to work with patience in love:

- grant courage and perseverance to those you have called to work for the Kingdom.

You call men and women to follow you more closely through the profession of the evangelical counsels:

- grant that in fidelity to the Gospel and to the charism of the Founders they may make their communities a living sign of the love of Christ.

In Blessed Augustus Czarторыski you have given us a model of total obedience to your call:

- grant that imitating his example, we may love and serve Christ in the young we meet on our journey.

In Blessed Augustus you have given us an example of poverty and detachment from the things of the world:

- help consecrated persons to live and bear witness to the evangelical counsels.

You made him a model for the young in the search for their vocation:

- make us capable of helping in their discernment those who come to seek our advice.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, who called the priest Blessed Augustus to follow you Son, who being rich made himself poor, grant that encouraged by his example and docile to the action of the Holy Spirit we may humbly serve you in needy young people. 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.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is good; * he loves good deeds.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. You have left all things and followed me; you will be repaid a hundred times over, and gain eternal life.

INTERCESSIONS

At the close of this day with humble confidence we address our prayer to God our Father who calls all his children to holiness:

Santify your family O Lord.

You have established the Church as your holy and sinless people:

- grant that with a faith which is pure and spotless, we make recognise and bear witness to your love in the practical circumstances of life and of history.

You accompany the whole human race on its journey:

- grant that by corresponding to the plan of creation, it may collaborate in the human development of every culture, and release the potential enclosed within nature for the holistic development of every individual.

You led Blessed Augustus to give himself to you, at the school of Saint John Bosco:

- grant that we too may be faithful to the charism of our Founder.

You gave Blessed Augustus a deep interior life:

- grant that we make of our lives a pleasing sacrifice acceptable to you.

The life of Blessed Augustus is resplendent with the practice of poverty and the courageous acceptance of his illness:

- through his intercession, grant that we may accept with faith the trials of every day.

To the faithful departed who worked with total dedication in the service of their brothers and sisters:

- grant the reward promised by your Son to the good and faithful servant.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, who called the priest Blessed Augustus to follow you Son, who being rich made himself poor, grant that encouraged by his example and docile to the action of the Holy Spirit we may humbly serve you in needy young people. 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.

26 August

Blessed ZEPHYRINUS NAMUNCURÁ

Optional memorial

Zephyrinus Namuncurá was born on 26 August 1886 at Chimpay, on the banks of the Rio Negro, in Patagonia (Argentina). He was baptised on 24 December 1888 by the Salesian missionary Fr. Domenico Milanesio. His father Manuel, the last of the great 'chiefs' of the Araucano Indian tribe, had had to surrender three years before to the forces of the Argentine Republic.

A good-natured child, obedient to his parents, Zephyrinus spent his childhood in a peaceful rural setting. At eleven years of age his father Manuel sent Zephyrinus to study in Buenos Aires, at the Pius IX Salesian College, so that one day he could defend his people.

The family atmosphere in the Salesian College made him fall in love with Don Bosco. The spiritual dimension grew in him and he began to want to become a Salesian to bring the gospel to his people. He chose Dominic Savio as his model, and in the course of five years, through the extraordinary efforts he made to fit into a totally new culture, he himself became another Dominic Savio. He was exemplary in his piety, charity, daily duties, practice of mortification.

In 1903 (he was sixteen and a half and his father had been baptised at eighty years of age) Bishop Cagliero accepted him among the group of aspirants at Viedma, the capital of the Vicariate Apostolic, in this way beginning his path to the priesthood.

Because of his poor health, the Salesian Bishop decided to take Zephyrinus to Italy so that he could pursue his studies more seriously and in a climate which seemed more suitable. In Italy he met Don Michael Rua and Pope Pius X, who blessed him with emotion. He went to school in Turin and afterwards in the Salesian College of Villa Sora, in Frascati. He studied with such commitment that he was second in class.

But an illness not diagnosed in time, since he never complained, undermined him: tuberculosis. On 28 March 1905 he was taken to the Hospital of the John of God Brothers on the Tiber Island in Rome. Too late. He died there peacefully on

11 May. Since 1924 his mortal remains have rested in his own country, at Fortín Mercedes, where crowds of pilgrims gather to venerate him.

He was beatified on 11 November 2007 at Chimpay, his birth place in the pontificate of Benedict XVI.

From the Common of saints. Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the letter of Zephyrinus to the Pro-Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia, after his audience with Pope Pius X on 27 September 1904

(Vicente Martínez Torrens, "Ceferino Namuncurá, Vida, escritos e imágenes", Ed. AHSP, pp. 124-127)

The precious and holy memory of the Vicar of Christ, who represents Jesus himself on earth

«On 27 September His Excellency Mons. Giovanni Cagliero was granted an audience with H.H. Pius X with thirty other Superiors from the Salesian Houses in America and among them 'the son of the King of the Patagonian lands' (as the Roman newspapers are saying).

At half past ten in the morning we had the greatest joy of kneeling at the feet of Christ's Vicar on earth. I had the good fortune to be the first, after Monsignore and Don Marengo, to kiss the sacred ring of His Holiness. Ah, my most beloved father, if you had been present at that moment you would have been able to understand the goodness of the Holy Father! He did not allow anyone to kiss his foot. To everyone, one by one, the venerable hand. He continued to pat me on the cheek. Oh, how loving the holy old man of the Vatican!

After we had all saluted the Holy Man, the Holy Father himself signed to me to begin my little speech, since Mons. Cagliero had already informed him before that I would say a few words in Italian. When I began I became numb, but half way through my address I began to shake all over, my legs and my hands started to tremble, my voice stuck in my throat. When I knelt down to ask H.H. a blessing for myself, for my family and for all the Indians of Patagonia, my shaking increased and tears fell from my eyes; in the end I managed to finish well.

How attentively the Holy Father listened to me! He didn't even want to sit on the throne. Monsignore said this to him and he replied: 'I'm fine standing up. Let me be.' Don't you see how good he is? When I had finished, he himself lifted me up and spoke to me replying to what I had said; and here I shall tell you exactly what he said to me in Italian. I shall translate it into Spanish because I am still not able to do it in Italian. But I can speak it well enough.

Here then the words of the Holy Father: 'Well done my son, I thank you because you speak so well of the Vicar of Christ. God grant that you can achieve what you say: to convert to Jesus all your brothers and sisters in Patagonia. And I on my part with all my heart give you my apostolic blessing. Tell your papà that the Holy Father blesses him and his family and all the people of his tribe. May God bless you my son.'

While he was saying these affectionate words I could not hold back my tears. Oh how kind is the Holy Father!

After he had said these words to me he spoke to everyone in general, thanking them for the filial encounter and he gave his holy and apostolic blessing. (...) After H.H. had given his blessing, Monsignore gave him

the plans of the new church of Saint Charles (Bs. As.) and asked him to write on the plans in his own hand the holy blessing. Full of kindness the old man, with the smile of a saint, of a kind father to his children, replied with all the love of his heart: 'Yes, certainly. And in the meantime all of you come forward.'

And we immediately went into another room, his study, and we gathered around him in a circle. Mons Cagliero sat on his left, and all the rest were standing. While H.H. was writing, Monsignore said to him: 'How good you are Holy Father!' and H.H. replied: 'For these my children ...'. As well as being the affectionate Holy Father he was also very cheerful.

Then came the best and the most precious thing. After he had put his signature on the plans, Mons. Cagliero gave him a letter from the novices and aspirants from Patagones, saying to him: 'Holiness, here is a letter from the novices and aspirants from Patagonia, and they are asking Your Holiness to send them your holy blessing.' His Holiness immediately took the letter and without reading it immediately wrote his precious autograph, imparting his holy blessing on all the Superiors and young men in the novitiate in Patagones. (...)

Continuing: we all went forward to kiss the Sacred Ring of the Fisherman, to bid farewell. (...)

Then we were all leaving. All the priests had already gone out and I was left behind: the Bishop who was with H.H. called to me and said: 'His Holiness is calling you.' I turned and he took me to the writing table of the Holy Father who was sitting and looking for something. I knelt down in front of H.H. and joined my hands. At last H.H. took a fine box containing a silver medal: on one side it had a bust of H.H. Pius X and on the other, himself pointing out to the faithful the Immaculate

Virgin Mary. In other words the commemoration of his pontificate and the Immaculate.

I kissed his hand again and he again patted me on the cheek. I thanked him and he gave me a sweet smile. I left the room happier than I can say for the beautiful gift; more than beautiful, the precious and holy memory of the Vicar of Christ who represents Jesus himself on earth».

RESPONSORY

Cf. Psalm 70,17; 74,2; 88,1; Is 49,2

R. God has taught me from my youth: * I shall recount his wonderful deeds.

V. He hid me in the shadow of his hand:

R. I shall recount his wonderful deeds.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.
The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

V. His steps will never falter

***** his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. The man who lives by the truth comes out into the light: so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us raise our prayer to God the Father, who in his merciful love has chosen to reveal the mysteries of his Kingdom to the little ones and the poor, and let us say:

O Father hear our prayer.

You entrusted to the Church the mission of bringing the light of the Gospel to all the peoples on the earth:

- grant that she may be ever more missionary, clearly showing that you hear the cry of your children especially those who suffer on account of injustice.

Through your Spirit, you placed in the heart of Zephyrinus the desire: “I want to study to be useful to my people”:

- grant that we may place our talents at the service of others, loving our family, the young and our people, becoming like Zephyrinus, models of faith even in difficulties and with our crosses.

Blessed Zephyrinus greatly loved his family and his people:

- we pray for all families, so that they may become real schools of communion, living in truth and forgiving each other.

You gave the young Zephyrinus who wanted to love everyone as Jesus did, a large heart;

- help us today to be disciples of your Son, evangelisers of the young, working in fraternal communion and giving his Word of salvation to everyone.

Through your Spirit you raised up in the Salesian Family the wonderful gift of youthful holiness:

- grant that many young people may meet Jesus who is calling them and follow him with a joyful and chaste life at the service of their brothers and sisters.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who in Blessed Zephyrinus has given to young people a model of holiness, grant through his intercession, that we too may collaborate in the coming of your kingdom by carrying out with patience and love the tasks of each day. 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.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is good; * he loves good deeds.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. Let the children come to me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

INTERCESSIONS

We pray to God our Father the source of all holiness that through the example and the intercession of the Saints, we may walk in the path of holiness:

Make us holy as you are holy, Lord.

Father, you showed us in Jesus that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life:

- help us, so that like Blessed Zephyrinus, we may live the commandment of love, doing well whatever is our duty at every moment of the day.

God our Father who call us to live our faith in community, and give us Mary as our model in responding to your Word:

- grant that feeling her motherly presence we may joyfully do whatever Jesus tells us as did Blessed Zephyrinus.

You cheer us with the triumph of the Risen Jesus over sin and death:

- help us to bear witness with joy to our faith and our hope in the new life his Resurrection gives us.

You who want all of us to be brothers and sisters and to take care of each other:

- help us, so that following the example of Blessed Zephyrinus, we may see in all our neighbours brothers and sisters and we may work together for reconciliation, for universal brotherhood.

We pray, Father, for all missionaries who have given their lives and have died for love of their people:

- freed from their labours and life's sufferings, may they find rest in your house, and in your Son Jesus reach the fulness of joy.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who in Blessed Zephyrinus has given to young people a model of holiness, grant through his intercession, that we too may collaborate in the coming of your kingdom by carrying out with patience and love the tasks of each day. 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.

22 September

**Blessed JOSEPH
CALASANZ MARQUÉS
and HENRY SÁIZ APARICIO,
priests and companions, martyrs**

Memorial

On numerous occasions the Roman *Martyrology* refers to bishops, priests, religious men and women and lay faithful, women and men who during the Spanish persecution of the Church were crowned «by a glorious martyrdom», «who deserve to carry the palm of victory before almighty God» and to «take part in the eternal wedding feast with Christ their Spouse», obtaining «the crown of glory for having borne witness to Christ». The expressions which are read on 22 September also introduce the memorial of the Salesian martyrs.

On 18 July 1936 the civil war broke out in Spain, accompanied at times by religious persecution. Laity, religious and priests were imprisoned and killed for their religious faith; among these 95 members of the Salesian Family: 39 priests, 22 clerics, 24 brothers, 2 Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, 4 Salesians-Cooperators, 3 Salesian aspirants and one lay helper. All of them gave their lives for their faith in Christ between July 1936 and April 1938.

There were two Causes which led to the recognition of their martyrdom: that of the group from Valencia – 32 martyrs – led by Fr Joseph Calasanz Marqués († 29 July 1936), beatified on 11 March 2001 in Rome; and the group from Seville and Madrid – 63 martyrs – led by Fr Henry Sáiz Aparicio, who offered his life in exchange for those of the young people who had been entrusted to him by Divine Providence, beatified in St Peter's Square on Sunday 28 October 2007 among a group of 498 martyrs from the persecution in Spain.

They died giving an example of fidelity to their Christian faith and their Salesian vocation, trusting in God and forgiving their killers.

From the Common of martyrs: for several martyrs.
Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the «Letters» of Blessed José Calasanz, Jaime Ortiz and Julio Junyer

*(Positio super martyrio servorum Dei Josephi Calasanz et sociorum,
Rome 1995.*

Informatio pp. 103-104 e 170; Summarium, pp. 204-205)

*We have put our trust in God,
in the protection of Mary Help of Christians
and of Don Bosco*

From his confinement in the Valencia prison the Provincial Fr José Calasanz, wrote to Fr Peter Ricaldone, Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, briefly informing him of the situation in which he found himself: «Just a few lines to give you news about some and myself, since about the others it is not possible. We were in our house in Valencia for the retreat and we intended to finish today. Although a general strike had been called on Monday we spent the whole day and part of the night peacefully, but starting at one in the morning shots could be heard outside our house, and they became more intense and started to break our windows. Afterwards we learned that from nightfall they had surrounded the house.

You can imagine the deep shock and even the fear with which we all hastily got up especially since we didn't have a single weapon in the house with which to defend ourselves, even if we had tried to do so; but without any kind of weapon what could we do? To give strength

to our souls and to prevent any profanation, some went into church to get the Blessed Sacrament and we received communion, consuming all the consecrated hosts.

About five in the morning and fully convinced that we would not be able to defend ourselves not having any arms, they attacked our house, destroying whatever they found, and arrived where we were all gathered together. According to our calculations there must have been more than two hundred attackers carrying all kinds of arms and even poles: they searched us and locked us in a room. Afterwards they gave us to understand that they intended to kill us. Shortly afterwards the police force arrived who we had been calling for urgently all night, from the time we heard the first shots.

We thought that these forces, that we had asked for, had come to our help, but what in fact happened was that they took all of us (37 of our own and 5 employees) to this prison in Valencia, from where I am writing, and I don't know in what capacity: someone told me as government prisoners, even being accused, I believe of having fired shots, which is quite false since, as I have already said, we didn't even have a simple weapon in the house.

I don't know how long they will keep us here: God knows whether it will be for days or for weeks; even less do I know what sort of death may be awaiting us. However, our trust is placed in God and in the protection of Mary Help of Christians and of our Father Saint John Bosco: nor do we doubt your blessing and your prayers and those of the other superiors and confreres. You can imagine how painful it is not being able to send news about a single house: we cannot communicate among ourselves, and items of news about this uprising are contradictory. In the hope that this letter can be sent soon,

I conclude, recommending us to your prayers and asking your blessing».

Also the Salesian Brother Jaime Ortiz, weeks before his death wrote two letters to his mother from which we draw the following sentiments: «Perhaps God Our Lord has allowed this state of affairs so that we don't fall asleep, so that we might work with fresh energy, so that we might seek only His greater glory and not our well-being... not everything happens as we would like or as seems best to us. Certainly God Our Lord will draw the greatest good in this way, more than in any other and for this reason he has allowed this apparent failure [...].

You will certainly be worried about what might happen to us if the atrocities of the last few days continue... We are continuing to work normally, the Salesians and the boys, calmly, without worrying too much about what might happen to us. I mean without letting ourselves be overcome by pessimism... and we shall see how much the Lord wants to test us... Pray that we may love our vocation a bit more and that we may contribute, as far as possible, to the greater glory of Christ the King».

On his part the priest Julio Junier wrote to his cousin a few hours before his death: «My Dear Paco: the last day of my life has come and to you and to all the family I address my final greetings, which should be an embrace. I shall wait for you in heaven, where I hope to arrive through the mercy of God. I am dying innocent; and I offer my life to the Lord for the good of the Church and of Spain. As far as my parents are concerned, your good sense will tell you what to do. With all my heart I forgive the judges who are condemning me and I pardon them. Nothing else, Paco. I ask aunt Salvadora just to be resigned and to be conformed to the will of God. Pray for me and until we meet again in heaven».

RESPONSORY

Wisdom 3,9; 4,15

R. God looks on, his angels look on, Christ, too, looks on as we struggle and strive in the contest of faith: *
What great dignity and glory are ours what happiness to join battle in the presence of God, and to be crowned by Christ, the Judge!

V. Let us be armed with great determination and be prepared to face the combat, pure in heart, sound in faith, and full of courage:

R. What great dignity and glory are ours what happiness to join battle in the presence of God, and to be crowned by Christ, the Judge!

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Cor 1,3-5

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes; he helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help those who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. Just as we have a share in Christ's many sufferings, so also through Christ we share in his great help.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. These were holy men * they will live for ever.
These were holy men. They will live for ever.

V. The Lord himself is their reward:

* they will live for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

These were holy men they will live for ever.

Ant. At the Ben. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

INTERCESSIONS

In union with the Blessed martyrs Joseph Calasanz, Henry Sáiz and companions, who gave their lives for love of Christ, let us celebrate and invoke our Saviour:
You redeemed us by your precious blood, O Lord.

Through your martyrs O Lord, who embraced death in witness to their faith,

- grant us in the trials of life a faith that is pure and coherent.

Christ our Lord you gave your martyrs the strength to follow you on the way of the cross,

- grant a that we may face up to the sufferings and crosses in our lives uniting ourselves to your redeeming passion.

During the violent persecution of the Church the Salesian Spanish martyrs, crowned with the glories of martyrdom were found worthy to carry the palm of victory before God Almighty:

- grant O Lord that all Christians may be always courageous witnesses to you and to your Church before the world, even in persecution.

Our Blessed martyrs faced death putting their trust in God, in Mary Help of Christians and in their father Don Bosco:

- grant that we too O Lord, may always place our trust in you, in all the circumstances of life sustained by the intercession of Mary Help of Christians and of St John Bosco.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, who gave to the priests and martyrs Blessed Joseph [Calasanz] and Henry [Sáiz], and their companions martyrs the grace to share in the passion of Christ, come to the aid of our weakness; and as they did not hesitate to die for you, grant also to us that we may live courageously in confessing your name. 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.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Pt 4,13-14

My dear people, if you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the spirit of glory, the spirit of God resting on you.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. Rejoice in the Lord: * Let the just shout for joy.

Rejoice in the Lord:: Let the just shout for joy

V. Let the upright sing praise;

* Let the just shout for joy

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice in the Lord: Let the just shout for joy

Ant. At the Magn. The saints who followed in the footsteps of Christ, rejoice in heaven. They gave their life for love of Christ; therefore, they will reign with him for ever.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give thanks to the king of martyrs for this is the hour when he offered himself in the last supper and laid down his life on the cross.

We praise you Christ the Lord.

We praise you Christ our saviour example and strength of the martyrs because you have loved us to the end:

- grant that we may live our Christian vocation with fidelity and respond to your love by giving ourselves.

With the shedding of their blood the martyrs imitated the passion of Christ,

- through their intercession unite us with your passion, which continues in the oppressed, the marginalised and all who suffer.

Our Blessed Spanish martyrs – Salesians, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Cooperators – gave their lives in fidelity to Christ and to the Church:

- grant O Lord that all the members of the Salesian Family, may in every circumstance of life show their love for Christ and the Church, faithful to the teaching of Don Bosco.

O Lord you associated the blessed martyrs with your redeeming death:

- grant that we may make our own the prayer of one of these your martyrs: «Perhaps God Our Lord has allowed this state of affairs so that we don't fall asleep, so that we might work with fresh energy, so that we might seek only His greater glory».

We entrust to you O Lord our brothers and sisters who have left this world:

- may they enjoy your kingdom of light and peace, in the company of the saints.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, who gave to the priests and martyrs Blessed Joseph [Calasanz] and Henry [Sáiz], and their companions martyrs the grace to share in the passion of Christ, come to the aid of our weakness; and as they did not hesitate to die for you, grant also to us that we may live courageously in confessing your name. 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.

5 October

Blessed ALBERT MARVELLI

Optional memorial

Albert Marvelli was born at Ferrara on 21 March 1918, into a family which was a true domestic church; he lived and grew up in Rimini, where his family had moved to. He made a constant effort to lead his life according to Christian values. In this he was greatly helped by the Salesian Oratory especially after his father died and the heavy responsibility of caring for his family fell on his shoulders, as he became almost a second father for his brothers and sister.

His Diary written between 1933 and 1946 shows us the deepest motivations for his work of evangelisation especially since we can directly enter into his most intimate relationship with God. In fact the diary begins with a profound encounter with the Lord, the result of an unexpected illumination which was to colour his short life: "The way of perfection is difficult, I know, but with the help of Jesus nothing is impossible" (Diary 1935).

Albert was a strong and active man who meditated on how to become holy in the practical circumstances of everyday life. In 1941 he writes: "I want my life to be a continuous act of love (...). Love which is faith, love which is charity, apostolate, sense of duty, the desire to become a saint". It was the Eucharist that nourished this energy. "My whole being", he writes in his notes, "is filled with the love of God, in so far as He comes to me with his body, with his soul and makes divine all my body, my thoughts, my actions, my words".

This intimacy with God, reached precisely through the Eucharist, makes Albert open up to others, recognising the deep injustices, the sins, the miseries of his own times. His commitment is extraordinary and never ceases. The fervour of his charity is apparent and is seen in the careful attention he gives to peoples' problems. During the second world war Marvelli was always the first to help the troops, those in need, the refugees.

He was an active force in the ecclesiastical, social and political life of the city. He served Christ in the poor with fervent love. In his apostolate he was active on many fronts.

Knocked down by a military vehicle he died on October 1956. He was beatified by John Paul II on 5 September 2004, at Loreto, on the occasion of a great Congress of Italian Catholic Action.

From the Common of saints: for a saint noted for works of mercy. Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the "Diary" of Blessed Albert Marvelli

(Diary and Letters. The spirituality of a Catholic lay man, ed. F. Lanfranchi, San Paolo, Cinisello B. (MI) 2005, passim)

Becoming saints being truly sensitive to the spiritual, political, social, religious circumstances

I have set myself a goal today to be reached at all costs with the help of God. A high, sublime, radiant, precious, long desired goal, but so far never reached. To be a saint, an apostle, charitable, studious, pure, strong. Never a moment's idleness. It this presumptuous perhaps? Perhaps I believe I am strong enough to succeed? You know O Lord, I can do nothing by myself.

Whenever I go to Holy Communion, whenever Jesus in his Divinity and Humanity enters into me, comes in contact with my soul, there is a kindling of holy resolutions, it is like a fire that burns, which enters into my heart, a flame that burns and consumes but which makes me so happy. Then I give myself up totally to an intimate conversation with Jesus; my human nature disappears I might say, there close to him. Jesus lives in me, Jesus is in my heart; Jesus leaves heaven to enter my most unworthy body. Jesus, give me your will, your firmness of resolution, your immense love for men and

their miseries, your total and supernatural sense of the apostolate. Jesus has wrapped me in his light, he has surrounded me, I see only Him, I think only of Him; the whole surrounding world disappears, one is alone with Him, one asks Him to make those moments last longer, that we may never lose sight of Him, that He may always be present to us to remind us of our duty.

It's useless pretending to want to be saints, to want to be apostles, to appear to be active workers if one does not meditate, if one chases after every thought, even frivolous ones, if one is not capable of being more truly recollected, with a good critical sense of observation, a capacity for personal reflection in examining problems, being really sensitive to all the spiritual, political, social, religious phenomena taking place round about us.

How have these years passed by for me? What progress have I made in the spiritual life? Have the events, the sorrows, the sufferings, the sacrifices, the joys been able to teach me anything, enabled my faith, hope and charity to grow? In other words have I made progress or have I stayed where I was, or worse, have I become worse? I want to examine to the depths my life in these years, its current spiritual state, I want to make a careful and meticulous examination of conscience, so necessary after all this time. I want to get used again to reflecting, thinking, meditating, since unfortunately I feel that the intense activity of these last years has been at the expense of my interior life.

All the ideas come from others, it would appear that I am doing everything, and I'm doing nothing, I give the impression of being active, worthy of imitation, and I go about pointlessly, going around here and there like a wind-mill without getting anywhere. I don't give quality to my activities, I seem detached from them, even

though I want to live for them. Perhaps I have too much professional work, material worries for the present and the future? I have to get used to looking carefully at everything, to studying, meditating, rethinking. The Lord has given me an intelligence, a will, a reason: well then, I have to use them, exercise them, make them function. If they are not used they get rusty and they end up being of no use.

RESPONSORY

Prov 23,26; 1,9; 5,1

R. My son give me your heart, and let your heart delight in my ways: * you will become a perfect man.

V. Pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight

R. you will become a perfect man.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.
The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

℣. His steps will never falter

* his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. If there is love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples.

INTERCESSIONS

The liturgy of morning prayer invites us to offer to God, the source of all blessings, that song which rises to the Trinity through our life. Supported by the intercession of Blessed Albert Marvelli, we present our invocations:

You are holy Lord God of life.

In every age you give to the Church men and women who are capable of living heroic lives:

- support us on our daily path among the difficulties of every day.

Society needs people who, like Blessed Albert, devote themselves to the common good:

- enlighten those who work in the political, social and humanitarian fields.

Being concerned for the poor, the excluded, the sick, the marginalised of every kind needs openness of heart:

- bless all those to devote themselves to alleviating the trials of our brothers and sisters most in need.

The vitality of the Church is also shown in the different kinds of associations and movements:

- make the good actions of those who form part of them with a spirit of service truly effective

Lay spirituality needs holy educators who know how to lead people to an evangelical life and to the reception in the sacraments:

- give to your Church and to society conscientious educators and pastors who know how to celebrate the divine mysteries.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, source of life and holiness, who gave to Blessed Albert an ardent love for the poor and enabled him to fulfil his social responsibilities with an evangelical spirit, through his intercession, grant that, while appreciating wisely the good things of this world, we may cultivate with generosity the service of all our brothers and sisters. 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.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is good; * he loves good deeds.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. Anything you did for the least of these who are mine, you did for me. Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

INTERCESSIONS

At the close of this day we raise our prayers to God the Father of mercy and source of holiness so that He may grant us to live every day of our lives following the example of Blessed Albert Marvelli.

Hear us O Father, source of all holiness.

Holy Father, in every age you give the Church men and women generous in living their daily lives:

- grant that the Christian community may know how to profit from their example.

Holy Father, with the gift of your word and the sacraments you invite us to follow our vocation with coherence:

- may our response be active and fruitful.

Holy Father, each day you support our wavering steps with signs of your providence:

- may our mission always be placed at the service of the poor and those suffering in body and in spirit.

Holy Father, it is with the gift of your word that you invite us to follow with courage the path of holiness:

- grant that by following the example of Blessed Albert, listening to and meditating on the Gospel may be our support.

Holy Father, welcome to the contemplation of your face all the dead especially those who have sought you in the needy face of their brothers and sisters:

- may they experience the smiling embrace of your infinite mercy.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, source of life and holiness, who gave to Blessed Albert an ardent love for the poor and enabled him to fulfil his social responsibilities with an evangelical spirit, through his intercession, grant that, while appreciating wisely the good things of this world, we may cultivate with generosity the service of all our brothers and sisters. 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.

13 October

**Blessed ALEXANDRINA
MARY DA COSTA**
virgin

Optional memorial

Born on 30 March 1904 at Balasar, a small place in Portugal, Alexandrina Maria da Costa was brought up in a Christian manner by her Mamma. At seven years of age she attended elementary school for a year and a half. Lively, cheerful and physically strong she began to work in the fields.

At 14 years of age something happened which would leave its mark for the rest of her life: to escape from the attack of some evil minded men she threw herself from the window. The consequences were terrible, even though not immediate. Until she was 19 she went to church, but the paralysis continued to advance and the pain became unbearable. In 1925 she took to her bed never to get up again. Refusing to ask for a miraculous cure she believed that it was her mission "to suffer, to love, to make reparation".

A great mystical union began with Jesus "prisoner" in all the tabernacles of the world. In 1935 for the first time she heard Jesus express his wish that the world be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1938, every Friday Alexandrina relived with visible signs and movements the various stages of the passion of Jesus, while her sufferings increased as did the persecutions of the devil. At this time Fr Mariano Pinho, a Jesuit, her spiritual director, approached Pius XI directly to request the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When the request for the consecration was accepted by Pius XII in 1942, the Friday visible passion stopped and another "sign" took its place: during the last thirteen years of her life, Alexandrina did not take any more food, living solely on the Eucharist.

In 1944, at the invitation of the Salesian Fr Umberto Pasquale, her new spiritual director, she became a Salesian Cooperator. Thousands of visitors from all parts came to ask her advice and prayers. Alexandrina died on 13 October 1955. She was beatified by John Paul II on 25 April 2004.

From the Common of virgins. Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the "Diary" of Blessed Alexandrina Mary da Costa, virgin

(cf. G. AMORTH, *Behind a smile. Alexandrina Maria da Costa*, Cinisello Balsamo, Paoline Publications 1992, 112-115).

*For a long time
in a profound act of thanksgiving*

While I was praying I did so with the intention of being before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in all the tabernacles of the world, remembering also to adore the Most Holy Trinity present in my soul.

O my Jesus what happy moments! How well I felt!

I got up blind with pain and I went to the window: I couldn't find the right position. The night was beautiful. Everything slept; the house was silent. My whole being was dead. I looked at the heavens scintillating with stars; the moon was aglow. I meditated on the beauty and greatness of my Creator. Everything I gazed at was a greater reason to wound my poor heart.

For a long time I remained in a profound act of thanksgiving to heaven. I said to Jesus: «I don't see you, I don't hear you, but I know you are my Creator, and when you created me you already knew that today I would be standing here contemplating your greatness, you already knew the lack of air I am feeling today (we are in a sultry August) would need the wind that you give me. An eternal thank you, my Jesus!»

The wind was strong: it seemed to shake everything. It made me meditate on the horrors of hell, on the life and on the torments of the damned.

Again I gazed at the heavens and the stars. I asked Jesus to multiply millions and millions of times more than the number of stars my acts of love for the tabernacles: I did not want him to be alone and I wanted him to have there only love.

My soul continues to demand solitude. It is in the shining of the stars and by the light of the moon that I all alone set myself to meditate. I ask all the stars to love Jesus for me.

In contemplating the heavens I say to him many times: «Jesus, I don't see you, but I know that you see me. I don't feel that I love you, but I trust that you love me. May you take delight in my suffering, may you be consoled in my consolation. Heal the wound of your divine heart with the pain that the expressions of your greatness cause in mine».

In my great pain, in the most silent hours of the night I go to contemplate the heavens. Everything is as nothing, everything is dead for me. Only the greatness of my Creator, his infinite power raised up my spirits, but leaving me always in my littleness, in my profound poverty.

Jesus, your homeland raises me up to you. I come out of my own nothingness into the things that are yours: I am great in what you have created. Thank you my Jesus, who have done everything for love of me! Jesus, when will you take me to your homeland? You created the heavens for love of me and to open the gates you shed your blood. Thank you, my Jesus. Accept my sufferings; they are all for love of you, I suffer everything to give you souls.

And I did not tire in making all my pains rise to heaven to console my Jesus, so that he could do with them whatever pleased him. Everything was silent; you could just about hear the barking of a little dog. I said: «You are praising your Creator, and I who ought to praise and love him, I am doing nothing».

O Jesus, forgive me: I am an ungrateful person, I am worse than the beasts before you, forgive me!

The sea sang and even praised God and obeyed him keeping within its limits. My God everything obeys you; only I rebel against you, offend you and cause you displeasure. In meditating on the greatness of the Lord, on his infinite power, on the love he has for me, I could not hold back my tears.

Seeing my ingratitude and the ingratitude of the world I said: «O Jesus, I don't know why you have not already abandoned the tabernacles and flown to heaven leaving us alone on the earth. The sun obeyed you and hid itself; the night obeyed you and appears with the clear light of the moon and the stars. How beautiful all this is! And for love of me. Everything praises you; allow me to unite myself to all creatures which are now praising you: I too want to praise you. How sad: only mankind offends you! At least I might be able to make reparation for everything».

RESPONSORY

R. The king has desired that beauty of yours which he himself has made. * your king is himself your bridegroom.

V. He has endowed and adorned you, redeemed you and made you holy.

R. your king is himself your bridegroom.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Song of Songs 8,7

Love is a fire no waters avail to quench, no floods to drown; for love a man will give up all that he has in the world, and think nothing of his loss.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. Of you my heart has said: * it is your face that I seek.
Of you my heart has said: it is your face that I seek.

V. Do not hide from me O Lord:

* it is your face that I seek.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Of you my heart has said: it is your face that I seek

Ant. At the Ben. You have given your heart to Christ,
wise virgin;
now you live with him,
shining like the sun in the assembly of the saints.

INTERCESSIONS

To Christ, the bridegroom and crown of virgins, with joy and gratitude we express our faith and make our requests in prayer:

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Christ Our Lord, you united the Church your spouse to yourself to proclaim the gospel of truth and of joy through credible witness and generous dedication:

— grant that also at the moment of trial and of suffering it may never fail in its mission.

With her resolution to “love, suffer, make reparation” Blessed Alexandrina gave expression to a profound journey of faith and holiness:

- grant to all Christians the encouragement and the motivation to ennoble every sorrow and sadness that life brings with the greatest proof of love: sacrificing one's life for the person one loves.

Blessed Alexandrina re-lived your Passion in a mystical manner and offered herself as a victim for sinners, receiving strength from the Eucharist:

- re-new in us faith and love for the table of your Body and Blood.

Eucharistic victim, small sanctuary lamp and sentinel of the tabernacle, Alexandrina cooperated in the sanctification of priests, in the conversion of sinners and peace in the world:

- grant that, experiencing the power of merciful love, with a more decisive will, we may correspond to your love and to your call.

You crowned your mother Mary as Queen of all Virgins:

- grant that by entrusting ourselves to her, following the example of Blessed Alexandrina, we may serve you with fidelity and purity of life.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Merciful God, who made the example of Blessed Alexandrina Mary, so intimately united to the Passion of your Son, shine forth in the Church so that in every part of the world adoration of the Eucharistic and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary may be enkindled, grant through her intercession that we may become the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and authentic witnesses to your love. 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.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor 7,32.34

He who is unmarried is concerned with God's claim, asking how he is to please God; a woman who is free of wedlock or a virgin, is concerned with the Lord's claim, intent on holiness, bodily and spiritual.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The virgins come before the king * They sing for joy.
The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy.

V. They enter the temple of the king.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit..

The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy.

Ant. At the Magn. Come, bride of Christ,
and receive the crown which the Lord has prepared for
you.

INTERCESSIONS

At the close of this day, on the memorial of Blessed Alexandrina, with joy, we praise the Lord who has shown in her the wonders of his love and with faith we pray:

Show us your love O Lord.

Lord Jesus, you bring joy to the Salesian Family on the memorial of Blessed Alexandrina:

- grant that the Salesian Cooperators and all the Family of Don Bosco may always enjoy her intercession, and following her example may follow the path of holiness.

You made Alexandrina grow up in the “Salesian garden” as a pure and transparent young woman who defended her body the temple of the Most Holy Trinity:

- protect young people from false charms, so that they may know the blessedness of the pure in heart promised in the Gospel.

You sustained Blessed Alexandrina in the trials of illness, associating her with you in your redemptive Passover:

- help us to live with generosity a spirit of sacrifice in all difficult situations, with the certainty of cooperating in the coming of your Kingdom.

Renew in us the gift of your Spirit:

- may the ardour of the Eucharist which burned in the heart of Blessed Alexandrina enflame and renew our ability to love you and to seek your will in everything.

Blessed Alexandrina did everything in her power to make devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary grow in the Church and in the world:

- grant O Lord that through the intercession of Mary, Mother of mercy, we may experience and witness to the world your merciful love.

Lord Jesus, you welcomed the holy virgins to the wedding feast of your kingdom,

- invite all the dead of the Salesian Family to the feast of eternal life.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Merciful God, who made the example of Blessed Alexandrina Mary, so intimately united to the Passion of your Son, shine forth in the Church so that in every part of the world adoration of the Eucharistic and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary may be enkindled, grant through her intercession that we may become the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and authentic witnesses to your love. 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.

24 October

**Saint LOUIS GUANELLA,
priest**

Optional memorial

Louis Guanella was born at Campodolcino, Italy, on 19 December 1842, the ninth of thirteen children. He was ordained priest in 1866, and worked for some years as a parish priest, showing a particular love for the poor and solicitude for fostering among the faithful a profoundly Christian life and promoting numerous social initiatives.

From 1875 he spent three years with Don Bosco helping him in his work, and then returned to his native diocese of Como in obedience to his Bishop. Various events, trials and difficulties led him towards the poorest of the poor, for whom he opened refuges and schools. He founded the *Servants of Charity* and the *Daughters of Our Lady of Providence*. He died at Como on 24 October 1915. He was beatified by Paul VI on 25 October 1964 and on 23 October 2011 Benedict XVI enrolled him among the saints.

From the Common of Men Saints: those who worked for the underprivileged. *Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.*

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the “Regulations of the Servants of Charity” of Saint Louis Guanella, priest.

(*Opere edite e inedite*, IV, Rome 1988: I, 1.8; III, 5, *passim*)

Exhortations to charity and to trust in Providence

No Christian can be satisfied with thinking of and providing for himself alone, but must think and provide

for the good of others, and among the latter those most in need of corporal and spiritual help.

It follows that the Servants of Charity must always keep well in mind the common desire and duty of coming to the help in body and spirit of those who are, in fact, close relatives, their own brothers and sisters, all of them children in the family of the heavenly Father.

We must "bring everything together under Christ" (Eph 1,10). In order to do this for both persons and works, we must fulfil the desire of the divine Heart of Jesus who appears in the form of burning flames and cries out to us: "I came to cast the fire of charity upon the earth; and my only wish is that such a fire be kindled in the hearts of men!" (cf. Lk 12,49).

Oh, may the fire of divine Charity come like a holy flame! May the Lord send the spirit of his divine love, and the world will be renewed!

Furthermore to live in real poverty and trust oneself to divine Providence is a virtue of lofty perfection. Divine Providence is the natural and dearest mother of her children.

Our work was begun and has grown with the visible help of a Providence which will never fail, provided it be not diverted by the spirit we bring to our efforts.

The same God who clothes the lilies of the field in a vesture more splendid than that of Solomon, will never allow anything to be wanting to those who work solely for him and for the greater glory of his Name.

We must therefore revive our faith and be convinced that no good can be done except by climbing the laborious road to Calvary, with the firm confidence that the Lord has never failed those who trust in him, that the bread that comes from the hand of the provident Lord is

always pleasant, especially when it has cost the sweat of hard work.

The good Servants of Charity, who throughout the years and many times every day have come in faith to the help of the poor, these same good men who during their lives never say *'enough'* in works of charity and sacrifice, will ascend on high with Jesus and possess the kingdom which the Lord in his infinite goodness has prepared for them from the beginning of creation. What a reward! What a triumph!

RESPONSORY

Mt 2.5,35.40; Prv 19,17

R. I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. * Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

V. He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord.

R. Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.
The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

V. His steps will never falter

* his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. By this will all men know that you are my disciples: if you have love one for another.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give thanks to God our Father, who in his love has chosen us in Christ to live in holiness and justice every day of our lives; and let us say with faith:

God our Father, hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, in Louis Guanella you have given us a model of complete dedication to your divine plan:

- guide and strengthen us by his example and intercession.

In Saint Louis we see assiduous prayer combined with a deep interior life:

- help us to make of our own lives a spiritual sacrifice pleasing in your sight.

At the school of St John Bosco he brought to perfection his ideal of dedication to poor and abandoned youth:

- grant that we may carry out our own mission to the young with generous charity.

Father, in every time and season you give new energy to your Church:

- strengthen our fidelity and raise up many workers for the spreading of your Kingdom.

You who clothe the lilies of the field and feed the birds of the air:

- remember those who have placed all their trust in your Providence.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, good and provident Father, you have made your priest, Saint Louis Guanella, resplendent in your Church through his outstanding love for the poor and abandoned; grant that we too may live in intense love every day of our lives. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is good; * he loves good deeds.
The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

℣. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. Let us not grow weary in doing good; let us do good to all, and in due time we shall reap the harvest.

INTERCESSIONS

To God our Father, the inexhaustible source of holiness and grace, let us present our supplications with filial hearts.

God of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Father, in Saint Louis Guanella we contemplate a sign of your loving kindness to the suffering, the emarginated and the abandoned:

— grant that we may approach with the same dedication every individual who is suffering in body and spirit.

Saint Louis took upon himself the needs and problems of his time:

— grant that we may imitate his generosity and spirit of sacrifice in welcoming our exiled brethren who lack both work and habitation.

His life was resplendent for the practice of poverty, mortification and humility:

— through his intercession, help us to accept with faith our daily trials.

You raised up Saint Louis as a good Samaritan to bind up many wounds:

— bless the Family he founded, grant increase to his works, multiply the number of his followers.

To the faithful departed who dedicated all their work to the service of their neighbour:

- grant the reward promised by your Son to the good and faithful servant.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, good and provident Father, you have made your priest, Saint Louis Guanella, resplendent in your Church through his outstanding love for the poor and abandoned; grant that we too may live in intense love every day of our lives. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

25 October

Anniversary of the Dedication of a Particular Church

Solemnity

The anniversary is celebrated on this day in those churches of which the actual date of dedication is not known; in other churches it is celebrated on the day itself.

From the Common of the Dedication of a Church.

29 October

**Blessed MICHAEL RUA,
priest**

Memorial

Michael Rua was born at Turin on 9 June 1837. While still a child he met Don Bosco who with a symbolic gesture foretold that they would 'go halves' together in their future life. In 1855 he made his first vows; while still a subdeacon he was chosen as spiritual director of the recently founded Congregation.

When he became Don Bosco's successor in 1888 it seemed that he had indeed 'gone halves' with him in everything. He displayed a creative fidelity to the apostolic aspirations and initiatives of the Founder; he reflected the same attractive fatherliness; he developed the Founder's works and continued his apostolic ardour in favour of the young, adapting the works to changing social situations. During the 22 years he was Rector Major he made numerous journeys to support and consolidate the work of the confreres, whom he frequently encouraged by both circular and personal letters which constitute an authoritative interpretation of the spirit of the Founder. He died at Turin on 6 April 1910, and was beatified by Paul VI on 29 October 1972. In his homily Paul VI described the Blessed indicating his mission and his holiness, as the successor of the Founder: «his successor, that is, continuer: son, disciple, imitator. He made the example of the Saint a school, and his personal work an institution extended, it may be said, all over the earth. He made his life a history, his rule a spirit, his holiness a type, a model. He made the spring a stream, a river».

From the Common of pastors; or from the Common of saints: for religious. *Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.*

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the “Letters” of Blessed Michael Rua, priest
(29 November 1899; “Circular Letters”, Turin 1965, 236-239, *passim*)

The practice of obedience and sacrifice

Among all the virtues the one most difficult for human nature is obedience. To have to renounce one’s own will and judgement, to have to depend on others not only as regards action but also in thinking and judging – in things great and small and even in what concerns the salvation of the soul – are things much harder to bear than the practice of the most severe penances.

Obedience strikes at man in his most intimate being, i.e. in his free will. But obedience cannot be disjoined from the spirit of sacrifice, which is that virtue by which when circumstances are most difficult a religious does not give way to imagination or feelings or first reactions but, in the light of reason strengthened by faith, comes to realize that whatever unpleasant things may happen to him will redound to his spiritual advantage. One who has the good fortune to possess the spirit of sacrifice, far from being downcast and complaining, even amid the most painful suffering, suppresses in his heart any natural repugnance and looks up to heaven with generous resignation saying: Lord, if this is how you want it, your will be done.

On this virtue is founded the beatitude of suffering which Jesus Christ made known to the world; and this was the path our Founder trod. His life could be described as a continual sacrifice, to such an extent that without a spirit of self-abnegation we could not call

ourselves his sons. Furthermore, without sacrifice one could not hope to do good to the young, because at every step one would become impatient, angry or discouraged. It would be impossible to tolerate the defects of confreres or to obey Superiors. Without a spirit of sacrifice one would not have the strength to practise poverty, would run the risk of shipwreck as regards chastity, and would render perseverance in vocation very doubtful.

Every morning in our prayer of consecration to Mary most Holy we ask that, as far as possible, by our words and conduct and good example we may be living representations of Jesus. But when is it, my dear sons, that we are most similar to the Divine Saviour, when it is that we represent him most closely in the eyes of those whose souls we have to save? It is especially when through our status as religious, through our priestly ministry, we have something to suffer. When we come to die, it will not be the pleasures we enjoyed, the honours we received, the riches we acquired that will be our consolation, but rather what we did through the sacrifices we suffered for Jesus.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Eph 4,1.3.4; Rm 15,5.6

R. Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. * There is one hope that belongs to your call.

V. May God grant you to live in such harmony with one another, that together you may with one voice glorify God.

R. There is one hope that belongs to your call.

★ *Or:*

SECOND READING

From the "Homilies" of Paul VI, pope

(29 October 1972; Teaching of Paul VI, 10,
Vatican City 1973, 1100-1106, *passim*)

Son, disciple, imitator

Let us meditate for a moment on the characteristic aspect of Don Rua, the aspect which defines him, and which with one look tells us everything and makes us understand.

Who is Don Rua? He is the first successor of Don Bosco, the holy Founder of the Salesians. And why is Don Rua now beatified, that is, glorified? He is beatified and glorified precisely because he is his successor, that is, continuer: son, disciple, imitator. He made the example of the Saint a school, and his personal work an institution extended, it may be said, all over the earth. He made his life a history, his rule a spirit, his holiness a type, a model. He made the spring a stream, a river. The marvellous fruitfulness of the Salesian family, one of the greatest and most significant phenomena of the perennial vitality of the Church in the last century and in ours, had in Don Bosco its origin, in Don Rua its continuation. It was this follower of his that from the humble beginnings at Valdocco served the Salesian work in its expansion, realized the felicity of the formula, developed it according to the letter, but with ever inspired newness. Don Rua was the most faithful, therefore the most humble and at the same time the most valiant of the sons of Don Bosco.

What does Don Rua teach us? How was he able to rise to the glory of paradise and to the exaltation that

the Church gives to him today? Just by teaching us to be continuers; that is, followers, pupils, teachers, if you like, provided we are disciples of a higher Teacher. Let us amplify the lesson that we receive from him: he teaches the Salesians to remain Salesians, ever faithful sons of their Founder; and then he teaches everyone reverence for the magisterium, which presides over the thought and economy of Christian life.

The dignity of the disciple depends on the wisdom of the Master. Imitation in the disciple is no longer passiveness, or servility; it is leaven, it is perfection (cf. 1 Cor 4,16). The capacity of the pupil to develop his own personality is derived, in fact, from that art of drawing out, the teacher's art, which is called education, an art that guides the logical but free and original expansion of the pupil's virtual qualities. We mean that the virtues of which Don Rua is a model and which the Church made the reason for his beatification, are still the evangelical virtues of the humble who adhere to the prophetic school of holiness; of the humble to whom the highest mysteries of divinity and of mankind are revealed (cf. Mt 11,25).

If Don Rua is really qualified as the first continuer of the example and work of Don Bosco, we will always like to think of him again and venerate him in this ascetical aspect of humility and dependence. But we will never be able to forget the operative aspect of this small but great man, all the more so in that we, in the mentality of our times which is inclined to measure the stature of a man by his capacity for action, are aware we have before us an athlete of apostolic activity which, still in the mould of Don Bosco but with growing dimensions of its own, confers on Don Rua the spiritual and human proportions of greatness.

RESPONSORY

1 Cor 11,1-2; Phil 4,1

R. Maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you. * Stand firm in the Lord.

V. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

R. Stand firm in the Lord.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Heb 13,7-9a

Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever. Do not let yourselves be led astray by all sorts of strange doctrines.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. I placed watchmen on your towers, * they watch over your Church.

I placed watchmen on your towers, they watch over your Church

V. Day and night they proclaim your name

* they watch over your Church.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

I placed watchmen on your towers, they watch over your Church.

Ant. At the Ben. The Spirit of the Lord has consecrated me to proclaim a joyful message to the poor.

INTERCESSIONS

At the beginning of this new day, the memorial of Blessed Michael Rua, let us raise our prayers and supplications to God our Father

God our Father, strengthen our fidelity.

Through the grace that comes from you, Father, you enable the ministers of your Church to work with patience in charity:

- grant courage and perseverance to those you have called to work for the Kingdom.

In Blessed Michael Rua you have given us a model of total availability to your call:

- grant that by imitating his example we may love and serve Christ in the young with whom we come in contact

In Blessed Michael you have given us an example of work and temperance:

- help us to bear witness to the values of evangelical poverty by our way of life.

You made of Blessed Michael the faithful collaborator of St John Bosco and the continuer of his work:

- grant also to us a filial spirit so that we may progress along the way of holiness.

You constituted Blessed Michael Rua as the responsible leader of a religious Family in rapid expansion:

- enlighten with your Spirit of wisdom those whom you call to guide the Salesian Congregation.

Our Father.

PRAYER

God our Father, you have given to your priest, Blessed Michael Rua, the spiritual heir of Saint John Bosco, the ability to form in the young your divine image; grant also that we, who are called to educate young people, may make known the true countenance of Christ, your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Pt 5,1-4

Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you; watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. This is a man who loves his brothers, * and intercedes for the people.

This is a man who loves his brothers, and intercedes for the people.

V. He laid down his life for his brothers,
* and intercedes for the people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

This is a man who loves his brothers, and intercedes for the people.

Ant. At the Magn. With the help of the Holy Spirit guard the legacy you have received:
be vigilant, endure pain and suffering,
proclaim the Gospel, fulfil your ministry.

INTERCESSIONS

As evening falls we make our humble prayer to God our Father, who calls all his children to holiness, and let us say:

Lord, sanctify your faithful people.

You led Michael Rua, while still a boy, to give himself entirely to you at the school of St John Bosco:

- grant that we too may be always faithful to the charism of our Founder.

You gave to Blessed Michael Rua the heart of a good and gentle shepherd:

- inspire all the members of the Salesian Family to serve you in their brothers and sisters with a spirit of initiative.

You enlightened him in the guidance of the work of missionary expansion of the Salesian Family:

- increase our zeal for your Kingdom, and prosper the labours of our missionaries.

In every age you call men and women to follow the obedient, poor and chaste Christ through complete self-donation:

- raise up generous vocations for the Church and the Salesian Family.

Through the merits and intercession of the Virgin Mary and of all the saints:

- grant that the faithful departed may live for ever with you in the blessedness of your Kingdom.

Our Father.

PRAYER

God our Father, you have given to your priest, Blessed Michael Rua, the spiritual heir of Saint John Bosco, the ability to form in the young your divine image; grant also that we, who are called to educate young people, may make known the true countenance of Christ, your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

13 November

**Blessed ARTEMIDES ZATTI,
religious**

Memorial

(For the Daughters of Mary of Christians and
the Volunteers of Don Bosco: *Optional memorial*)

Artemides Zatti was born in Boretto (Reggio Emilia, Italy) on 12 October 1880. He very soon experienced a hard life of sacrifice, so that at nine years of age he was earning his living as a farm labourer. Under the constraints of poverty at the beginning of 1897 his family emigrated to Argentina and settled in Bahía Blanca. Here Artemides began to attend the parish in the care of the Salesians.

Advised to become a Salesian, he was accepted as an aspirant by Bishop John Cagliero and, now a twenty year old entered the house of Bernal where among other things he was given the task of looking after a young priest suffering from tuberculosis. Artemides himself contracted the disease. He was therefore sent to the hospital of San José in Viedma. Here he was looked after in a special way by the priest and qualified doctor Fr Evaristo Garrone. With him, he asked and obtained from Mary Help of Christians the grace of a cure, as on his part he promised to dedicate his whole life to caring for the sick.

He was cured and he kept his promise. In 1908 he made his perpetual profession. At first he began to be responsible for the pharmacy attached to the hospital. Later he had full responsibility for the hospital, which became the training ground for his holiness. This was in absolute dedication to his sick.

In 1913 he was the driving force behind the building of the new hospital which was then demolished in 1941 to make room for the residence of the bishop of the newly created diocese of Viedma. Without being discouraged he set up another. Like Don Bosco, he made Providence the first and safest source of income for his works. Suffering from cancer, he died on 15 March 1951. John Paul II beatified him on 14 April 2002. His mortal remains are in the chapel of the Salesians in Viedma.

From the Common of saints: for religious. *Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.*

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the "Letters" of Blessed Artemides Zatti

*(Positio super virtutibus, Rome 1990, pp. 375-377, passim.
Cfr. Archivo Historico de las Misiones de la Patagonia)*

*Peace and perfect tranquillity
the prelude of that which God has prepared in heaven
for all his chosen ones*

As far as my not being able to go ahead with my vocation is concerned on account of having begun to study late in life, I will give you the answer which St Paul gave to the Philippians that «*he who began a good work in me will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*», that is to say, that God who called me to the religious state will give me all that is necessary to follow him; where on the contrary he threatens me, if I do not persevere, with exclusion from the kingdom of heaven saying in the holy Gospel that "*whoever puts his hand to the plough and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God*"; and if I am sick I always give thanks to God for my illness since I am certain it is for my benefit both spiritual and material that he has permitted it.

In any case, my dear parents and brothers and sisters, be at peace, and don't think about me since as far as I am concerned I don't want to return; and as far as God is concerned I am sure; because if I am in the Salesian Congregation I owe it to Mary the Most Holy Help of Christians who brought me here as she promised Don Bosco,

telling him in a vision in which Don Bosco himself saw that in the future his colleges would be filled with so many people and he did not know where they would all come from and that he couldn't deal with all of them himself, Mary told him that it was she who would bring all these people to free them from the many evils and dangers there are in the world [...].

I am very happy to know that thanks to God you are enjoying good health, and I never forget in my poor unworthy prayers to ask our Good God to keep you in health of body, but even more in that of the spirit, especially when I think that in the world there are so many dangers and occasions to offend him! and to be corrupted!...

Ah! Truly I tell you, this thought torments me; but at the same time it doesn't stop being a salutary one, since in this way I can find reasons to thank God for having taken me from the accursed world and brought me into this Holy Congregation, where I enjoy a peace and perfect tranquillity the prelude of that which God has prepared in heaven for all his chosen ones [...].

I hope that the Good God will grant you all the graces you desire; and to this end all the prayers including Holy Communion, on the day of Saint Aloysius and the days before will be according to your intentions. So please don't have any fear or shame in asking for graces. Ask and you shall receive, and the more you ask the more you will obtain; because whoever asks much, receives much; whoever little, receives little; and who asks nothing, receives nothing.

Our Good Jesus has said this.

These graces which you will receive if you ask, don't think that you obtain them through your merits. Certainly not! It would be a heresy to believe so; but you

will obtain them through the merits of Jesus Christ and through the intercession of Mary Most Holy and her great servant Saint Aloysius.

Here I won't go into the graces you ought to ask for, you know them well yourselves. I will only put one before you and it is that all of us can love and serve God in this world and then enjoy him for ever in the next. Oh! What happiness then, to be able to be all together, without any fear of ever being separated again!... oh, yes, this grace you really do have to ask for. And if some times we have to suffer something, be patient!... in paradise we shall have our reward, if we have suffered for the love of our Dear Jesus and we remember that the sufferings are temporary and the joy is eternal!

RESPONSORY

Eph 5,8-9; Mt 5,14.16

R. You are the light of the Lord: behave like sons of the light. * The fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.

V. You are the light of the world: let your light shine in the sight of men.

R. The fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 12,1-2

My brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance; the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade, and you

whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The law of God guides him, * his mind is fixed on God.
The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

V. His steps will never falter

* his mind is fixed on God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The law of God guides him, his mind is fixed on God.

Ant. At the Ben. Whoever does the will of my Father, says the Lord, is my brother, and sister, and mother.

INTERCESSIONS

At the beginning of this new day we raise our prayers to God our Father the source of all goodness so that all our plans and efforts may be in the service of that Kingdom for the spreading of which Blessed Artemides gave his whole life.

Guide our steps O Lord, along the right path.

God of life, you call everyone to the service of your kingdom so that all may feel themselves united by the bond of love:

- grant that our hearts may always be open to welcome your Word with courage.

God of hope, you have shown in the life of everyone the secret that evil can be conquered or accepted with love:

- renew our gaze of faith so that we may recognise you present in every situation.

God of expectations, you give everyone precious occasions in which to discover the true meaning of time and of human activity:

- grant that we may live the time given us with active faith and burning love.

God of joy, you can make the face of even those who suffer shine when they accept the mystery of the cross of your Son:

- grant to us, following the example of Blessed Artemides, eyes to see Christ transfigured in those who suffer in mind and body.

God of peace, you alone can satisfy every expectation in the hearts of men always searching:

- grant that our gaze may reach beyond the limited horizon of daily life to be absorbed in you alone.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who in the humble and the little ones manifest in a wonderful manner the great works of your grace, we humbly pray that through the intercession of Blessed Artemides, in our brothers and sisters who are suffering in body and in spirit we may each day perceive more clearly the face of Christ, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Rm 8,28-30

We are well assured that everything helps to secure the good of those who love God, those whom he has called in fulfilment of his design. All those who from the first were known to him, he has destined from the

first to be moulded into the image of his Son, who is thus to become the eldest-born among many brethren. So predestined, he called them; so called, he justified them; so justified, he glorified them.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The Lord is good; * he loves good deeds.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

V. His face is turned towards the upright man.

* he loves good deeds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is good; he loves good deeds.

Ant. At the Magn. You have left all things and followed me; you will be repaid a hundred times over, and gain eternal life.

INTERCESSIONS

To Christ the Lord who proclaimed yourself the Way, the Truth and the Life and raised up in the Church Blessed Artemides, we make our common prayer:

Guide us Lord on the path of holiness.

You have presented yourself as the way to be followed in order to achieve total fulfilment as people in the service of your kingdom:

- guide our steps on the right paths especially in the service of poor and abandoned young people.

You have made yourself known as the only truth which can give meaning to the many forms of emptiness in every age:

- support our efforts so that our desire to seek you even after we have found you may not be in vain.

You offered yourself as life for the world sacrificing your life until the total and supreme gift of the cross:

- grant that following the example of Blessed Artemides we may draw from your mystery of passion and glory the strength to imitate you in giving ourselves to those most in need.

You called Blessed Artemides to follow you on the path traced out by Saint John Bosco, as a missionary of the Gospel:

- bless those who are engaged in spreading your kingdom by proclaiming the Gospel, and give holy missionary vocations to the Salesian Family.

You promised your joy to the ‘good and faithful servant’ who worked in your service and that of his brothers and sisters:

- welcome all those who have worked in the Salesian Family and have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection.

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who in the humble and the little ones manifest in a wonderful manner the great works of your grace, we humbly pray that through the intercession of Blessed Artemides, in our brothers and sisters who are suffering in body and in spirit we may each day perceive more clearly the face of Christ, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

15 November

Blessed MADELEINE MORANO
virgin

Optional memorial

Born at Chieri, Turin, on 15 November 1847, Madeleine Catherine Morano began from her youth a teaching career among local children, which was to last for the rest of her life, especially after obtaining her teacher's qualification. In 1879 with a wealth of educational and catechetical experience, she became a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, and asked from God "to remain alive until she had attained sanctity". In 1881 she was sent to Sicily, and there she began a flourishing work of education among the girls and young women of the poor and working classes. With "one eye on earth but ten constantly on heaven", she opened schools, oratories, hostels and workshops in every part of the island. Her many-sided apostolate was highly esteemed and encouraged by the Bishops, who entrusted to her evangelical enterprise the organization of the teaching of catechism throughout Sicily.

Sister Morano died at Catania on 26 March 1908, thus closing a completely coherent life, having fully understood that the "preventive system" was not only a method of education but a spirituality which develops and directs every good intention to the service of the Lord and on one's brothers and sisters. In the same city of Catania John Paul II proclaimed her Blessed on 5 November 1994.

From the Common of virgins. Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of readings

SECOND READING

From the «Addresses» of John Paul II, pope

(Catania, 5 November 1994, passim)

*Tireless activity
in doing good to others*

“I am the true vine” (Jn 15,1). Through this allegory proposed on the eve of the paschal events, Jesus fully reveals the mystery of the life that is within him. The same mystery is revealed as a source of immortal life for the Servant of God Madeleine Morano.

Today she bears witness also to you, who are called by circumstances to serve this city’s rebirth, mobilizing the energies which the Lord constantly renews in you, through tireless activity at the service of good.

Sr Madeleine Morano worked with precisely this in mind! She, the “born teacher”, had come from Turin, the city of Don Bosco, with her outstanding pedagogical talent and her love for God and neighbour. In Sicily, Sr Madeleine carried out an intense and fruitful spiritual and educational activity for the benefit of your people. For long years she made herself one of you, becoming the model of faithful service to God and to her brothers and sisters. Look to her, beloved faithful, the better to carry out that apostolic and missionary project which all the members of the Church in Catania are striving to promote, as they listen to the voice of the Spirit and concentrate their efforts on a diligent discernment of the “signs of the times”.

Discouragement and bitterness due to disturbing and overwhelming events are understandable human feelings but they should not quell Christian courage in doing good, “cost what it may”, as Mother and now Blessed Madeleine Morano used to say.

In our era characterized by a tragic crisis of human values and a painful anxiety for the Absolute, you are asked to carry out a serious and demanding programme

of doctrinal study, of consistent life-style and perseverance in the exercise of charity.

May Mother Morano be an inspiration to you. Motivated by a deep yearning for love and holiness, for many years she trod the streets of your city and region, serene and fearless. The teaching and examples of St John Bosco and St Mary Domenica Mazzarello sustained her in her task. Looking at the sea she would say: "Do you see how vast, how immense the sea is? God's bounty is greater by far!". And with a simple but incisive example she would illustrate the way to holiness: "You climb the high mountain of perfection with constant mortification. Even the tallest houses are made of small stones, piled one upon the other".

Her exhortations enlighten, comfort and encourage: "Think as Jesus would have thought. Pray as Jesus would have prayed. Act as Jesus would have acted". This is what Mother Maddalena used to say and this is how she lived, repeating to herself: "Ask for the grace to bear your cross peacefully every day".

Our sister, Blessed Madeleine Morano, dwells in God and God dwells in her forever. "With age-old love I have loved you", the Lord declared through the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah (31,3). The new Blessed experienced in herself the truth of these divine words, and after the trials of her life now witnesses the fulfilment of God's promise to his people: "They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them, I will lead them to streams of water on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel" (31:9).

Blessed Madeleine Morano, through her great love has thus become a constant witness of fidelity to God who is Love. She is resplendent before us today as a shining example of active solidarity. And now she

intercedes for us, she intercedes for the Church. Great is the power of the saints' intercession! Madeleine did God's will and bequeathed to us the witness of works pleasing to God.

RESPONSORY

Eph 8-9; Mt 5,14.16

R. You are light in the Lord; walk as children of light
* for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.

V. You are the light of the world: let your light so shine before men.

R. for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Song of Songs 8,7

Love is a fire no waters avail to quench, no floods to drown; for love a man will give up all that he has in the world, and think nothing of his loss.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. My heart has spoken: * I seek your face.
My heart has spoken: I seek your face.

V. Hide not your face from me O Lord:
* I seek your face.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

My heart has spoken: I seek your face.

Ant. At the Ben. You have given your heart to Christ,
wise virgin;
now you live with him,
shining like the sun in the assembly of the saints.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us invoke God our Father, the source and model of
all holiness, and let us say with confidence:

Make us holy as you are holy.

You solidly established Blessed Madeleine Morano on
the living rock of your word:

- grant that we may accept with faith and courageously
proclaim the gospel of salvation..

You endowed her with wonderful gifts of faith and pas-
toral charity:

- enable us too to be among young people as true edu-
cators and attentive servants of your plan of salvation.

You gave to Blessed Madeleine the grace to follow
Christ on the way of poverty, chastity and obedience:

- help us to respond to your call to be always at the
service of others.

You granted her to combine tireless activity with a burning
love for your Son present in the eucharistic mystery:

- give your support to evangelisers and catechists that
they may bear witness by their lives to what they pro-
claim by their words.

You enriched her with incomparable talents for govern-
ment and practical concern for the problems of the
time:

- grant that the Salesian Family, under the guidance of
Mary Help of Christians, may continue to embody
the educative charism of the Founders.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, you planted in the heart of the virgin, Blessed Madeleine Morano, your word of truth which prompted her to dedicate herself with constancy and wisdom to the education of the young: grant that through her intercession and following her example we may be docile to the action of the Spirit in fulfilling with joy your loving design. We make our prayer through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Evening Prayer**SCRIPTURE READING**

1 Cor 7,32.34

He who is unmarried is concerned with God's claim, asking how he is to please God; a woman who is free of wedlock or a virgin, is concerned with the Lord's claim, intent on holiness, bodily and spiritual.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. The virgins come before the king * They sing for joy.
The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy.

V. They enter the temple of the king.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy.

Ant. At the Magn. Come bride of Christ,
receive the crown which the Father has prepared for
you.

INTERCESSIONS

United in our evening prayer, let us make our thanksgiving and supplications to God our Father, and let us say:

God of all goodness hear our prayer.

In Blessed Madeleine Morano you have given us a model of life and educative wisdom:

- grant that in our mission we too may be always docile to the action of your Spirit.

You enabled her to bear witness to the joy of serving you, in the strong and willing acceptance of the cross:

- give to us the Christian optimism that springs from faith in your resurrection.

Mother Morano placed the love of your Son before any other thought or project:

- may our whole life be lived out under the gaze of the divine Master.

You looked upon her to enable her to fulfil your work:

- fill us with the strength of your Spirit that we may bear fruit that will remain.

She was a wise and faithful administrator who was found watching when the bridegroom came:

- grant that the faithful departed may enjoy the splendour of your countenance.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, you planted in the heart of the virgin, Blessed Madeleine Morano, your word of truth which prompted her to dedicate herself with constancy and wisdom to the education of the young: grant that through her intercession and following her example we may be docile to the action of the Spirit in fulfilling with joy your loving design. We make our prayer through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

5 December

**Blessed PHILIP RINALDI,
priest
Founder of the Secular Institute
of the Don Bosco Volunteers**

Memorial

**(For the Secular Institute
of the Volunteers of Don Bosco: *Feast*)**

Philip Rinaldi was born at Lu Monferrato, Italy, on 28 May 1856. From his boyhood he had known Don Bosco but it was only at the age of 21 that he accepted the Saint's invitation to become a Salesian.

After his ordination to the priesthood in 1882 he was entrusted with the formation of adult aspirants to the priesthood. From 1889 he worked for twelve years in Spain and Portugal until in 1901 he was called by Don Rua to be Vicar General and Economer. Intense work did not prevent him from further qualification in the priestly ministry as an eminent spiritual guide. He developed the Salesian Family in all its aspects, and enriched it with the institute, something new for its time, now known as the *Don Bosco Volunteers*.

He was elected Rector Major in 1922 and dedicated himself especially to the formation of the confreres and to development of devotion to Don Bosco, insisting always on the interior life, union with God, the mission, and unlimited trust in Mary Help of Christians. As an authentic interpreter of the Founder he was able to read the "signs of the times" with prophetic intuition and adapt to them, sometimes in a courageous and daring manner.

He died at Turin on 5 December 1931, and was beatified by John Paul II on 29 April 1990. during the XXIII General Chapter of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

From the Common of pastors; or from the Common of saints: for religious. *Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.*

Office of readings

SECONDA LETTURA

From the "Circular Letters" of Blessed Philip Rinaldi, priest

(24 January 1924; Acts of the Superior Chapter, 5/23 [1924] 174-179, *passim*)

Understand, love and practise the Constitutions

The Constitutions are the soul of our Society, and are central to the whole life of Don Bosco; their story is that of his own life. We can say, indeed, that in the Constitutions we have the whole of Don Bosco; in them is his single objective of the salvation of souls; in them is his perfection through the holy vows, in them is his spirit of gentleness, amiability, tolerance, piety, charity, and sacrifice.

Our Constitutions are not merely the fruit of Don Bosco's intelligence and burning charity but, just as it can be said that in Don Bosco's life the supernatural emerges at every turn, so also the Constitutions in their origin and progressive development are illuminated by a visible supernatural intervention.

Don Bosco wrote the articles of his Constitutions first in the minds and life of those he had chosen as his first followers, and only when it seemed to him that they corresponded to the objective he had in mind, did he finalize them and commit them to paper.

When one reads those early Constitutions presented by Don Bosco to Pius IX in 1858, one seems to hear the voice of the good Father himself, explaining to his sons in great simplicity and clarity the norms to which they should adhere: not by compulsion but by the bond of fraternal charity, so as to form a single heart for the

acquiring of perfection in the practice of every work of spiritual and corporal charity towards the young, especially the poorest of them, and in the fostering of ecclesiastical vocations. They should not be concerned about material things but each one, without prejudice to his personal rights, should live as though he possessed nothing. They should not be attached to their own will, but show such filial obedience to the Superior that the latter had no need to command. They should not have many practices of piety in common, but should practise union with God in the midst of the active life which was to be the mark and glory of his sons. Rather than a Society, Don Bosco intended to form a family based almost entirely on the gentle, amiable and watchful fatherliness of the Superior and on the filial and fraternal affection of the subjects; indeed, while maintaining the principle of authority between Superior and subjects, he did not want distinctions but equality among all in everything.

In this way Don Bosco in practice lived his Constitutions with his first sons for thirty years, correcting, modifying, improving and even removing certain articles which he has marked on his manuscript and which had seemed to him in practice not suitable or of little utility. Let us not forget that in this work he was enlightened from above, and in consequence those modifications did not affect the fundamental points on which his Congregation was to be based.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Heb 13,21; 2 Mac 1,4

R. May God equip you with everything good that you may do his will * working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ.

V. May he open your heart to his law and his commandments,

R. working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ.

★ *Or, for the Secular Institute of the Don Bosco Volunteers:*

SECOND READING

From the Conferences to the “Don Bosco Volunteers” of Blessed Philip Rinaldi, priest

(“Documents and Texts”, V, Rome 1980, 42-47, *passim*)

Prayer and apostolic activity

Piety is born of a pious heart; a soul formed to the presence of God prays and has its strength renewed through meditation, examination of conscience, spiritual reading, and recollection; vocal manifestation comes only after we have entered into ourselves, in concentration, in recollection. Recollection is necessary because it predisposes us for reflection. Reflection is an efficacious prayer, and is necessary for a knowledge of our weaknesses and needs; it enables us to study ourselves, it awakens our love of God, increases our desire for holy Communion and a greater knowledge of the Lord. Reflection nourishes our souls and spirit by a substantial kind of devotion.

Piety is not an end in itself but is useful for everything, especially because it prompts our good works. What work should this Institute of yours be doing? In what way? There are many religious institutes, each of them with a particular purpose, or a specific mission to carry out. The works of mercy are seven in number, and every one of them is pleasing in the eyes of the Lord.

In your own case, what should you do in order to have life? First of all, pray every day for the courage to carry the cross the Lord has laid on you - this is the first

thing you must do. And then let each one do well her own work in your particular state of life and conditions as God would have you do, and this according to the spirit of the Lord and of Don Bosco. But even this is not sufficient; you must have another particular objective in view. No matter how busy a person may be, there is always a little more energy available, and this you must use for some special purpose compatible with your state. The works of Don Bosco are such that you can always perform some of them in whatever circumstances you are placed: his programme is to do good in some way, particularly to poor and abandoned youth.

Above all, let your activity begin in your own families, doing well whatever duties God has given you, working unequivocally with the spirit of the Lord; the extra energy or enthusiasm you have you should spend for the benefit of poor youth; pay less attention to those who are rich, and concentrate your care on young workers. Convince yourselves of this: if we are able to treat the poor with the true spirit of the Lord, they will listen to us more willingly, they will love us and follow us; unfortunately our shortcomings sometimes render us incapable of appearing as we should be.

RESPONSORY**Eph 5,8-9; Mt 5,14.16**

R. You are light in the Lord; walk as children of light,
* for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.

V. You are the light of the world: let your light shine before men;

R. for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Heb 13,7-9a

Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be for ever. Do not let yourselves be led astray by all sorts of strange doctrines.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. I placed watchmen on your towers, * they watch over your Church.

I placed watchmen on your towers, they watch over your Church

V. Day and night they proclaim your name

* they watch over your Church.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

I placed watchmen on your towers, they watch over your Church.

Ant. At the Ben. What you have learned, received, heard and seen in me, do!

And the God of peace will be with you.

INTERCESSIONS

At the beginning of a new day, let us praise and invoke God our Father who always calls generous workers to labour for the spreading of his Kingdom, and let us say with faith:

Father of all goodness, hear our prayer.

Father, in Blessed Philip Rinaldi you have given us a sure interpreter of the Salesian spirit:

- increase in all the members of our Family fidelity to the Founder's charism.

You made of him a model and teacher of the interior life:

- help us in the variety of our commitments to realize a deep communion with you.

You led him to fulfil a multiple service of great responsibility in the Salesian Congregation:

- inspire those whom you have given us as guides a wise spirit of enterprise.

You made of him a mirror reflecting the fatherliness of St John Bosco:

- pour out your Spirit into our hearts that we may be loving with all.

You gave him wisdom and prudence in his ministry as a spiritual guide:

- enlighten and support our commitment to travel with the young along the road to holiness.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, in your infinite goodness you have made Blessed Philip Rinaldi a shining gospel example of joyful self-giving; may we follow the inspiration of his apostolic initiative, and by daily fidelity to our work, bring to its fullness your project of love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Pt 5,1-4

Now I have something to tell your elders: I am an elder myself, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and with you I have a share in the glory that is to be revealed. Be the shepherds of the flock of God that is entrusted to you; watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, because God wants it; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Never be a dictator over any group that is put in your charge, but be an example that the whole flock can follow. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the crown of unfading glory.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R. This is a man who loves his brothers, * and intercedes for the people.

This is a man who loves his brothers, and intercedes for the people.

V. He laid down his life for his brothers,
* and intercedes for the people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

This is a man who loves his brothers, and intercedes for the people.

Ant. At the Magn. God is my witness
to the deep affection I have
for all of you in the love of Christ Jesus

INTERCESSIONS

With a sense of humble gratitude, let us thank God our Father for the abundance of his gifts and let us say:
God our Father, hear our prayer.

Father, may the table of your Word and the Bread of life which comes to us through the apostles:

- be always for us the living source of our apostolic activity

Father, may the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, whom he gave to the beloved disciple to be his Mother also:

- be our helper in educating the young whom you entrust to our care.

Father, source of unending love, you will be all things to everyone in eternal life:

- grant that we may love our brothers and sisters with the heart of St John Bosco.

Father, who through your servant Philip, established a new group of apostles in the world with the Salesian spirit:

- bless the Volunteers of Don Bosco so that they may spread your kingdom with the witness of their evangelical lives.

Merciful Father, you give to your faithful servants the infinite joy of paradise:

- through the intercession of Blessed Philip, have mercy on the deceased members of the Salesian Family.

Our Father.

PRAYER

Father, in your infinite goodness you have made Blessed Philip Rinaldi a shining gospel example of joyful self-giving; may we follow the inspiration of his apostolic initiative, and by daily fidelity to our work, bring to its fullness your project of love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

APPENDIX

The Invitatory Psalm at the Office of Readings:

Psalm 94

A call to praise God

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the God who saves us.†
Let us come before him giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it,
and the dry land shaped by his hands.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

For forty years I was wearied of these people
and I said: Their hearts are astray
these people do not know my ways”.
Then I took an oath in my anger:
“Never shall they enter my rest”.

The Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!*
He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour*
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,*
those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes,*
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled*
and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,*
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice*
all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you little child,*
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord*
to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation *
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving-kindness of the heart of our God*
who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,†
those who dwell in the shadow of death,*
and guide us into the way of peace.

The Te Deum

We praise you, O God:*
we acclaim you as the Lord.

Everlasting Father,*
all the world bows down before you.

All the angels sing your praise,*
the hosts of heaven and all the angelic powers,
all the cherubim and seraphim*
call out to you in unending song:

Holy, Holy, Holy,*
is the Lord God of angel hosts!

The heavens and the earth are filled*
with your majesty and glory.

The glorious band of apostles,*
the noble company of prophets.

the white-robed army who shed their blood for Christ,*
all sing your praise.

And to the ends of the earth*
your holy Church proclaims her faith in you:

Father, whose majesty is boundless,†
your true and only Son, who is to be adored,*
the Holy Spirit sent to be our Advocate.

You Christ, are the king of glory,*
Son of the eternal Father.

When you took our nature to save mankind*
you did not shrink from birth in the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the power of death*
opening the Father's kingdom to all who believe in you.

Enthroned at God's right hand in the glory of the Father,*
you will come in judgment according to your promise.

You redeemed your people by your precious blood,*
Come, we implore you, to our aid.

Grant us with the saints *
a place of eternal glory.

§ Lord, save your people*
and bless your inheritance.

Rule them and uphold them*
for ever and ever.

Day by day we praise you:*
we acclaim you now and to all eternity.

In your goodness, Lord, keep us free from sin.*
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

May your mercy always be with us, Lord,*
for we have hoped in you.

In you, Lord, we put our trust.*
we shall not be put to shame.

The Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord,*
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;*
henceforth all nations will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.*
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,*
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength *
And scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones*
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,*
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,*
remembering his mercy,
The mercy promised to our fathers,*
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Psalms for Morning Prayer Sunday week 1

Psalm 62

A soul thirsting for God

O God, you are my God, for you I long;*
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you*
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary*
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,*
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,*
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,*
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.*
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;*
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;*
your right hand holds me fast.

The Canticle of David

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord.*
And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord.
And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord.*
And you, the stars of the heav'ns, O bless the Lord.
And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord.*
And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord.
And you cold and heat, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you showers and dew, O bless the Lord.*
And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord.
And you, frost and snow, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, night-time and day, O bless the Lord.*
And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord.
And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

O let the earth bless the Lord,*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord.*
And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord.
And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord.*
And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.
And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord.†
And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, children of men. O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise form ever.

O Israel, bless the Lord, O bless the Lord.*
And you, priests of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
And you, servants of the Lord, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, spirits and souls of the just, O bless the Lord.*
And you, holy and humble of heart, O bless the Lord
Ananias, Azarias, Mizaël, O bless the Lord.*
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

Let us praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.*
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.
May you be blessed, O Lord, in the heavens,*
To you be highest glory and praise for ever.

Psalm 149**The song of joy of the saints**

Sing a new song to the Lord,*
His praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,*
let Zion's sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing*
and make music with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people.*
He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,*
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips*
and a two-edged sword in their hand,
to deal out vengeance to the nations*
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains*
and their nobles in fetters of iron:
to carry out the sentence pre-ordained.*
this honour is for all his faithful.

The concluding prayer

The concluding prayer is prefixed with **Let us pray** when said at the Office of Readings, Prayer during the Day and Night Prayer.

At Morning and Evening Prayer it is said after the Lord's Prayer, without this introduction.

Conclusion of this prayer at Morning and Evening Prayer, and the Office of Readings:

(We make our prayer)
 through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

The lead words only are usually given in the text. If a different conclusion is to be used it is set out in full in the text.

At Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer the following short conclusions are said:

1. When the prayer is addressed to the Father:
 Through Christ Our Lord.
2. When the prayer is addressed to the Father, but ends with a mention of the Son:
 Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
3. When the prayer is addressed to the Son.
 Who live and reign for ever and ever.

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