

# April 14, 2013

## Third Sunday of Easter



## CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

6300 McKenna Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36608

Email: [Church@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:Church@CorpusChristiParish.com) • Website: [www.CorpusChristiParish.com](http://www.CorpusChristiParish.com)

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313  
School Office: 342-5474, ext. 1 • Fax 380-0325  
Rel. Ed. Office: 342-5474, ext. 7 • Fax 380-0325  
Preschool Office: 342-2424 • Fax 343-3119  
Youth Ministry: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313

### PASTORAL STAFF

Very Rev. James F. Zoghby, V.F., Pastor  
Rev. John S. Boudreaux, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Arthur W. Robbins, Deacon  
Sr. Donna Cooper, R.S.M., Visitation Chaplain  
Mrs. Linda M. Hawkins, Pastoral Assistant  
Mrs. Judi B. Ankiewicz, Pastoral Assistant  
Mrs. Joan T. McMullen, School Principal  
Mrs. Kathleen Q. Jester, Parish Catechetical Leader  
Mrs. Colleen DeVoe, Youth Ministry Co-Director  
Mrs. Brenda Martens, Youth Ministry Co-Director  
Mr. Matthew F. Purvis, Music Director  
Mr. Jay H. Henley, Gym Manager

### TO REGISTER AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH

Please fill out a Census Form. Census Forms are available in the church vestibule and parish office.

### COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS & SERVICES

For rental information and kitchen services, please call the parish office at 342-1852 or 342-1420.

### SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil: 5:30 p.m. Saturday  
Morning: 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

### WEEKDAY MASSES

6:30 a.m.: Monday through Friday  
8:15 a.m.: Monday through Saturday

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and by request, particularly after the 6:30 & 8:15 a.m. weekday Masses.

### BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF SICK

Please call the parish office (342-1852) for information and scheduling baptism, marriage, anointing of sick.

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Please see published schedule for specific dates and times, or call the parish office (342-1852).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (C.C.D.) Grades K–12, Sundays during school year, 10:05-10:55 a.m. in school bldgs.

**SCHOOL**, *SACS-accredited* for Grades K through 8. For info & registration, please call the school office.

**PRESCHOOL**, *State-licensed* for 6-week to 4-yr. olds. For info & registration, please call the preschool office

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Next Sunday — April 21

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 5:30 p.m. Mass**

During the school year (Sept.–May), we have an extra Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 5:30 p.m. The next one is on May 19.

### **CHILDREN'S FIRST EUCHARIST**

**Practice:** Sat., May 4, at 10 a.m. in the church for one hour.

**1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Mass:** Sunday, May 5, at 1 p.m. Children meet in designated classroom at 12:30 p.m. Info: 342-5474, ext. 1 or ext. 7.

### *Wedding Anniversary Celebration*

#### **Saturday, May 18, 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass**

Forms are in the vestibule for couples who, during this year of 2013, have or will have been married for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or 51, 52, 53, etc. years. Those who wish to participate must complete the form. Their names will be included in the program. They will be called to the altar area for the renewal of their wedding vows. All visitors, friends & parishioners are invited to join the anniversary couples at the reception in the banquet hall.

**Forms must be completed by Monday, May 13.**

### *Bible Study Groups*

**Sundays,** 8:45 -10:45 a.m. in the school counselor's conference room. Breakfast is served also. We are studying Isaiah.

**Tuesdays,** 1:45 - 3:00 p.m., in the Adult Ed. Room. Study of Exodus and Comparison to Hollywood Version. Info: Judi Ankiewicz, 344-0321.

**Tuesdays,** 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Rm. (2<sup>nd</sup> Flr, Community Ctr). The Acts of the Apostles. Info: Dave Burchette, 367-6660.

**Thursdays,** 9:00-10:45 a.m., Conf Rm (2nd Flr), Com.Ctr. Penny Claiborne, 776-5850, [claibomeps@aol.com](mailto:claibomeps@aol.com) or Joanne Donaghey, 554-6753, [joannekd@aol.com](mailto:joannekd@aol.com)

### *Women of Mary*

**Wednesdays,** 7-8 p.m., in the Family Room

All women are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

**Info:** Sr. Deborah Kennedy, R.S.M., 316-3960.

### *Men of St. Joseph*

**Tuesdays,** 7 to 8 a.m. in the Family Room

**Also Wednesdays,** 7-8 p.m. in Room 6 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

All men are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

**Info:** Jim Donaghey, [jbd@orthomobile.com](mailto:jbd@orthomobile.com) or [www.MenOfStJoseph.com](http://www.MenOfStJoseph.com)

**Wed Evening Info:** Walter Bracewell, 599-1650 or [walter.bracewell@yahoo.com](mailto:walter.bracewell@yahoo.com)

### *Corpus Christi Sunday School*

**Classes:** 10:05-10:55 a.m. Sunday School participants who are at the 9 a.m. Mass are dismissed with the final blessing.

**Info:** Kathleen Jester, [SundaySchool@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:SundaySchool@CorpusChristiParish.com).

### **CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL**

**Registration** continues for K4 — 8<sup>th</sup> Grades, with a waiting list for K3. Info: 342-5474, ext. 1, or [jmcmullen@corpuschristiparish.com](mailto:jmcmullen@corpuschristiparish.com).

**April 19:** Little Field Day. **April 22:** Faculty Retreat.

**Website:** [www.CorpusChristiParish.com/School](http://www.CorpusChristiParish.com/School)

### *Basket of Spirits Raffle*

Support The Women's Club: Visit their table in the atrium for info.

### **Help with VBS! — June 10-14**

To volunteer, please email [kjester@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:kjester@CorpusChristiParish.com).

### *High School Youth Ministry*

The annual Youth Ministry Road Rally/Scavenger Hunt will be held **next Sunday**, April 21st, after the 5:30pm Youth Mass. This is one of our most favorite social activities - please plan on joining us. You **MUST** have a permission form turned in by Noon, Saturday, April 20th. This will insure we have enough drivers for everyone to participate. We will need many parent drivers - we hope you can help us out. Forms can be emailed to you by emailing [corpuschristihsyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:corpuschristihsyouth@yahoo.com) or are available in the parish office. **Again - Deadline for permission form is Noon, April 20.**

### *High School Confirmation*

**Two Requirements for High School Students to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in their junior year of high school**

1. High School students must be receiving religious education either at McGill-Toolen, Corpus Christi Sunday morning CCD, or Corpus Christi High School Youth Ministry on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.
2. Two or Three times a year, students are required to attend Corpus Christi Parish Confirmation Formation Days for special Confirmation lessons, helping students build community as a Confirmation class. The next Confirmation Formation Day is Sunday, June 2, starting with 11 a.m. Mass and ending at 3 p.m.

### *Society of St. Vincent de Paul*

Poor Box, Food, Clothing donations put in the designated places in the vestibule are distributed by our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**Join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by attending a meeting.**

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed., 7 p.m., Com. Ctr. Conf. Rm. (2<sup>nd</sup> Flr.)

**To obtain assistance, call 432-5173 and leave name & phone no.**

### **Widowed Persons' Support Group**

For information call parishioner Glen Porter at 666-8977.

### *Wednesday Night Dinner*

5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Banquet Hall

**\$9.00 for Adults • \$4.00 for Children (Age 12 & under)**

**April 17** → Carved Roast Beef, Fried Fish, Sesame Chicken • Yellow Rice • Grilled Bok Choy • Creamed Corn • Mixed Greens With Strawberry, Tomato, Cucumber, Red Onion, Broccoli Florets, Mushrooms, Bell pepper, Cheddar and Parmesan Cheese • Assorted Desserts.

**RSVP:** Return an *RSVP* Card, or call 342-1852, or email [WedNightDinner@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:WedNightDinner@CorpusChristiParish.com).

### **AA — Alanon — OA — CODA**

**AA:** Sun., 7 p.m., and Wed., 7 p.m., Cougar Den.

**Alanon:** Sun., 7 p.m., and Wed., 7 p.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

**OA:** Sat., 9 a.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

**CODA:** Tues., 6:45 p.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

## PARISH ELECTIONS FOR

## PASTORAL COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD

**Nomination forms** are available in the church vestibule for those who wish to put in nomination their own name or the name of a fellow parishioner. **Nomination Deadline:** Monday, April 22. **Elections** will take place April 27-28, before and after all Masses. All registered parishioners at least 18 years old are eligible to vote.

*Respect Life*

**To Be's "Labor of Love" Banquet, Sat., Apr. 20,** 6 pm, Daphne Civic Ctr. Guest Speaker, Dr. Scott Hahn. \$40 per person, no tickets at door; April 9 is the deadline for reservations: Marguerite Murphy 625-3391 or [margamurphy@bellsouth.net](mailto:margamurphy@bellsouth.net).

**Volunteer your time to help women and babies at 2B: Choices for Women, crisis pregnancy center:** contact Jerry Ann Bodden, Director of 2B, at 343-4636.

**Gabriel's Project:** Serve as a Prayer Angel for a woman requesting help with her pregnancy, give assistance. Visit [gabrielangels4u@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielangels4u@gmail.com). Maria at 753-2416.

**Donate items for newborn babies:** Place diapers and other baby care items (wipes, baby bottles, powder, baby wash, oil, etc.) in designated box in the vestibule. They will go to 2B Choices for Women. **Please, no food or formula.**

**Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary for LIFE** at Planned Parenthood abortion facility every Saturday at 9 a.m. Join us! Info: Mae or Chris Rehm, 554-2032.

**Cub Scouts**

— 4/14 (Today) Space Derby 12:30

Community Center • 4/16 Den Meetings 6 pm • 4/20 Earth Day Cleanup Project • 4/28 Blue and Gold Banquet – 5 pm Com. Ctr.

**To Join Cub Scouts or for info** contact Walter Bracewell 599-1650 or Mike Martin 633-5218 or visit us on the web at [ccspack29.scoutlander.com](http://ccspack29.scoutlander.com)

*Welcome, New Parishioners*

J. D. & Delfa Daigrepoint

Kyle & Denise Smallwood and their son, Joshua  
Gregory & MaryBeth Sullivan and their daughter, Madeleine.

*Received into the Catholic Church  
with the 3 sacraments of Christian initiation:*

**Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist**

Joshua Stephen Manning

**Received First Communion**

Cameron Bryan Salazar

**BAPTIZED IN CHRIST**

Sofia Rose Colmenares

(daughter of Javier Antonio Colmenares & Kristen Louise Wattier Colmenares)

**Around the Archdiocese:** McGill-Toolen nominations for

**distinguished alumni for its Hall of Fame:** Nomination forms at Mc-T Alumni Office or [www.mcgill-toolen.org](http://www.mcgill-toolen.org). Deadline: Thurs., May 23, noon. Mc-T Hall of Fame recognizes individuals from Mobile Catholic high schools. Info: 445-2913. **Catholic Mother's Day of Renewal:** April 20, St. Ignatius Marian Ctr., 8 am (Mass) to 3 pm with author of "Smart Martha" ([www.smartmartha.com](http://www.smartmartha.com)). \$40 fee for breakfast, lunch, & Smart Martha workbook. Register by April 16; get form at [www.stignatiushome.org](http://www.stignatiushome.org): at "Ministries", Family Life. Info: [mcdonaldc@stignatius.org](mailto:mcdonaldc@stignatius.org). **The Service Center** of Catholic Social Services invites women to monthly seminars, starting April 17, 1-2 pm at 555 Dauphin St. Topic: finding, keeping a job. Refreshments, door prizes. Future topics: Housing, counseling, domestic violence, job interviews. Info: 434-1500 or email [Volunteercoord@mobilecss.org](mailto:Volunteercoord@mobilecss.org). **Donate Furniture & Household Items** at Service Ctr. Email [Volunteercoord@mobilecss.org](mailto:Volunteercoord@mobilecss.org)

**Around the Archdiocese** (Cont'd): or call 434-1510 for furniture pickup. **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph Perez Golf/Tennis Tournament**, May 4, Spring Hill College Golf Course & Copeland-Cox Tennis Ctr. 9 am tennis, 1:30 pm golf. Awards dinner. Bids on sports memorabilia; \$500 raffle; \$10,000 Hole-in-One Prize. Cost for golf is \$100 and tennis is \$30. Info & registration: 445-2913, [www.mcgill-toolen.org](http://www.mcgill-toolen.org). **Benefit for Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy and the American Heart Association:** Sun., April 28, 8 a.m. at the SGA Pavilion near Intramural fields, at USA Campus. Also, a 9 a.m. fun run. Awards for top runners and best costume! Food & drinks after the race, a bouncy house, blood-pressure screening station. Register online: <http://pharmafit5k.eventbrite.com>. **St. Vincent de Paul Parish's Spring Festival:** Sun., April 21, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bar-B-Que chicken, seafood gumbo, hamburgers, funnel cakes, sno cones, sweets shop; "Lil Toot" train, fun games, live entertainment, silent auction, country store, paint ball gallery.

**FIRST COLLECTION TODAY** for tithing offerings.

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY** for Corpus Christi Building Fund.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION FINAL:** \$2,163.18

**CHURCH IN EASTERN/CENTRAL EUROPE & AFRICA:** \$1,500.29

**HOLY LAND COLLECTION:** \$1,335.50

**APR 7<sup>TH</sup> BUILDING FUND ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$3,696.06

**APR 7<sup>TH</sup> TITHING/EASTER ONLINE & COLLECTION:** \$30,360.26

**Online Giving**

With Online Giving you can either make a one-time contribution or set up a recurring automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings or credit card account. Go to [www.CorpusChristiParish.com](http://www.CorpusChristiParish.com); click "Church"; then click the green Online Giving icon, and follow the instructions to contribute to the tithing or building fund or special collections.

**For assistance**, call 1-800-348-2886, ext 4, or parish office, 342-1852.

*Thank You and God Bless You*

for your tithes and contributions to support God's work here at Corpus Christi, and for special bequests for Corpus Christi Church. To make a direct donation of stock, contact your stockbroker, or call Steve Setterstrom at Citigroup Global Mkts. at 470-1060. *Receive a detail listing of your contributions by mail, email or fax:* Call 342-1852 or email [Church@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:Church@CorpusChristiParish.com)



**To see what's in this picture:**

Stare at the vertical line of four dots in the middle of the picture for about 30 seconds. Then close your eyes and tilt your head back.



## God is merciful...

*Here is part of the homily of Pope Francis on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent:*

Brothers and sisters, Good day!

On this fifth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel presents the episode of the woman caught in adultery, whom Jesus saves from being condemned to death. The emphasis of Jesus is striking: we don't hear words of disrespect, we don't hear words of condemnation but only words of love, of mercy, inviting us to conversion. "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more!"

Brothers and sisters, the face of God is that of a merciful father, an ever-patient one. Have you thought of God's patience, the patience that he has for each of us? That's his mercy. He's always patient, patient with us; he understands us, approaches us, he never tires of forgiving us if we know to turn to him with a contrite heart. "Great is the mercy of God," says the Psalmist....

We need to understand this mercy of God, this merciful Father who has so much patience.... Let us remember the prophet Isaiah, who said that even if our sins might be as scarlet, the love of God will make them white as snow. It's beautiful, this mercy!

Let's not forget this word: God never, ever gets tired of forgiving us because his mercy is without end. The problem is that we might get tired... we get tired of asking forgiveness. May we never tire, let us never tire of it!

He's the loving Father who always forgives, who has a heart of mercy for all of us. And even we can learn to be merciful with others.

## Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful...

**"The core message of God is that of mercy. God has an unfathomable capacity to pardon, but people are often harder on each other than God is toward sinners.... Sometimes even we like to beat others down, to condemn others."**

When archbishop in Argentina, Pope Francis accused fellow church leaders of hypocrisy and of forgetting that Jesus touched lepers and ate with prostitutes. And he criticized priests who refused to baptize the babies who were born out of wedlock. He called them modern-day pharisees... people, he said, who congratulate themselves while condemning others.

He said: "In our ecclesiastical region there are priests who won't baptize the children of single mothers because those babies were not conceived in the sanctity of marriage. These priests are today's hypocrites. Pharisees. Those who clericalize the Church – those who separate the people of God from salvation. And this poor girl, who, rather than returning the child to it's sender [*by abortion*], had the courage to carry it into the world, she must wander from parish to parish trying to find a priest who would be willing to baptize her baby!"

And he told priests: "How can you turn these people away when they belong to us!"

**"When we have a heart of stone, it happens that we pick up real stones and stone Jesus Christ in the person of our brothers and sisters, especially in the weakest of them."**



# Confession: Celebration of Mercy

Instructions for priests by Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, Vatican expert on confessions

“Priests hearing confessions need to replace any negative or aggressive attitudes with meekness and mercy toward the penitent. The Sacrament of Reconciliation sometimes turns into a unilateral overemphasis on the accusation and listing of sins. The end result is that the thing that is absolutely central when listening to sin, that is, **the blessed embrace of the merciful Father**, is put on the back burner. Isn’t it true perhaps that at times confession takes on the semblance of a prosecuting tribunal rather than **a celebration of forgiveness**, and that the conversation takes on inquisitorial or, in any case, indelicate tones? **A priest is first and foremost a father who welcomes, listens and engages in dialogue.** As priests we are called to **show mercy and hope, to be fathers** more than judges, to take on the penitent’s pain and listen with much patience.

All of this has nothing to do with being lax or permissive, rather it focuses on the inner liberation of the penitent, the penitent’s feelings of remorse and repentance, and facilitating the penitent’s reception of judgment, grace and mercy from God. Priests must carefully control their reaction, including facial expressions and gestures, when hearing confessions. **The priest should imitate Christ’s gentleness** and never display a sense of shock, no matter how grave the sin. The priest must never pry for personal details, never show impatience or be in a hurry, and should instill an awe and reverence of God, not terror, and should condemn the sin, not the sinner. Penitents open their heart and soul to the confessor because they see him as being God’s minister, and if instead they find in him severity, not mercy, or doubts and obscurity and not the light of truth, they will have been truly deceived.” — From *Catholic News Service*

## How To Go To Confession

1. Enter the Reconciliation Room and either kneel behind the screen, or sit in front of the priest.
2. *(Make the sign of the cross saying:)* In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
3. *Say:* It has been about *(this much time)* since my last confession.
4. Make your confession of sins, and let the priest know when you are finished by saying that you are sorry for all of your sins.
5. The priest will give you a penance, usually some prayer(s) to pray when you return to the chapel or your pew.
6. Make an act of contrition. A printed prayer is available if needed, or you can use your own words to say, “God, I am sorry.”
7. The priest will give you absolution *(Make the sign of the cross.)*, and dismiss you. Go in peace.

**A penitent’s sins are forgiven, not when the priest says the sacramental words of absolution over him or her, nor when the penitent completes the assigned penance, but the instant the penitent is really sorry for his or her sins.**

— St. Thomas Aquinas

**One of the inmates asked the pope why he had to go to confession for pardon instead of just getting on his knees and asking God for forgiveness. Pope Benedict, XVI responded, “Naturally, if your get on your knees and, with real love for God, pray that God forgive you, he will. But sin doesn’t disturb only the relationship between an individual and God. It also harms the community of the Church and wider society. The sacrament of Reconciliation is the great gift by which, through confession, I can receive real forgiveness and a full re-admission into the community of the living Church.”**

—CNS, Dec. 18, 2011, during Pope Benedict’s visit to Rome’s Rebibbia prison.



# St. Alphonsus Ligouri

1696-1787

Feast Day ~ August 1

Patron saint of moral theologians

**“In his day, there was a very strict and widespread interpretation of moral life because of the Jansenist mentality which, instead of fostering trust and hope in God’s mercy, fermented fear and presented a grim and severe face of God, very remote from the face revealed to us by Jesus.” Pope Benedict XVI**

Born in Naples, Italy, Alphonsus Liguori was a rising young lawyer, but abandoned his career in the legal profession to become a priest instead. As a bright and gifted student from his youth, Alphonsus was also an artist. He played the harpsichord, wrote hymns, and painted religious images.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century was a time of verbose and pompous oratory in the pulpit, but Alphonsus thought that sermons should be simple enough that the most uneducated could understand them, and he became known as a skilled preacher whose sermons reached the simplest peasant. In 1732 he organized a group of missionaries to work among the poor in rural areas. This group became the religious congregation known as the Redemptorists (Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer).

The 18<sup>th</sup> century was also a time of Jansenistic rigorism. Powerful, elitist “rigorists” in the Church had embraced the Jansenist heresy which taught that only a few “pre-destined” people could go to heaven. They discouraged people from receiving Communion, and they preached a religion of fear and anguish.

As a pastor, theologian, poet and singer, Alphonsus countered the rigorism, coldness and legalism of the Jansenists by encouraging kindness and gentleness in the confessional. Inspired by the experience of God’s love, he sought to fill people with enthusiasm, joy and trust in God’s kindness.

During his many years of firsthand pastoral ministry to the poor, Alphonsus came to believe that Christians were overburdened by too many doubtful laws and

frightened by too many warnings, which left them trembling before a severe Supreme Judge and never discovering the true countenance of God, who is Love.

Alphonsus firmly reminded his intolerant opponents, who seemed to know nothing other than law: “Imposing on others uncertain obligations is not a sign of holiness, but of arrogance and stubbornness.” He recalled the Lord’s words, “They bind up heavy loads, hard to carry, to lay on others’ shoulders” (Mt. 23:4).

In the confessional, Alphonsus always treated sinners as human beings loved by God, rather than as criminals to be punished. He taught that every priest should reflect the kindness and gentleness of Christ. The individual was called to love God out of an overwhelming sense of gratitude for what God had done for him in Christ. It was not fear but love that was to characterize the Christian way of life. The moral life was essentially the life of love.

Alphonsus was a pioneer in stressing the importance of taking the concrete circumstances of a situation into account in evaluating moral conduct, and he encouraged the highest possible respect for people’s consciences. He said that confessors (priests) may never attempt to obtain from penitents something that is against their own upright convictions. He warned these “zealots of rigidity” “not to chain and not to ensnare” the conscience of the faithful. He agreed with a French bishop whom he quoted as saying that, through the unhealthy pressure of rigorists, more people had been alienated from Christian morality and virtue than by the influence of those who were considered to be too lax.

Influential Jansenist clergy were unremitting in their suggestion that Alphonsus was promoting dangerous laxism, teaching doctrines condemned by the magisterium of the Church. Although he was able to show them time and again that this was not the case, they continued to admonish him to confess his sins and to repent in order to escape eternal punishment. Alphonsus warned that “God’s judgment was more against those who impose heavy burdens on people.”

His moral teachings were eventually vindicated by the Holy See during his lifetime. In 1762 he was consecrated a bishop of a difficult, small diocese, which he served until 1775, when he retired because of chronic ill health. After his death on August 1, 1787, at the age of 90, his Redemptorist order won recognition by the Church. He was canonized in 1839 by Pope Gregory XVI, and, in recognition of his contributions to moral theology, he was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1871 by Pope Pius IX, and patron saint of moral theologians and confessors in 1950 during the pontificate of Pope Pius XII.

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**“Alphonsus recommended to pastors of souls and confessors that they be faithful to the Catholic moral doctrine, assuming at the same time a charitable, understanding and gentle attitude so that penitents might feel accompanied, supported and encouraged on their journey of faithfully living the Christian life.**

**“St. Alphonsus never tired of repeating that priests are a visible sign of the infinite mercy of God who forgives and enlightens the mind and heart of the sinner so that he may convert and change his life.**

**“St. Alphonsus Liguori is an example of a zealous Pastor who conquered souls by preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments with a gentle and merciful goodness that was born from his intense relationship with God, who is infinite Goodness. His optimistic vision was of the Lord’s good gifts to enable each person to love God and neighbor.”**

**Pope Benedict XVI**

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Consider that no one – whether friend or brother, father or mother, lover or spouse – loves you more than your God. **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

It is a great mistake to be afraid of God and to act in His presence like a timid and craven slave trembling with fright before his master. **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

True, God is infinite Majesty, but He is also infinite Goodness and infinite Love. There can be no greater Lord than God. Neither can there be a more ardent lover than He. **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

What grieves me most in my past offenses, O my loving God, is not so much the punishment I have deserved, as the displeasure I have given You, Who are worthy of infinite love. **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

Now that you have resolved to love Him and please Him with all your strength, your only fear should be to fear God too much and to place too little confidence in Him. **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

Your God is ever beside you – indeed, He is even within you. **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

True charity consists in doing good to those who do us evil, and in thus winning them over. **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, with familiarity and confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends. Ask those who love Him with a sincere love, and they will tell you that they find no greater or quicker relief amid the troubles of their life than in loving conversation with their Divine Friend. Speak to Him often of your business, your plans, your troubles, your fears – of everything that concerns you. **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

*Currently, the Redemptorist order has some 5300 members serving in 78 countries throughout the world.*