



LITURGY OF THE HOURS

WITH THE
PROPER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

OF THE
CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEARTS
OF JESUS AND MARY AND OF PERPETUAL ADORATION
OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

Rome, 2012

Calendar approved by the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on March 31, 2011 (Prot. N. 221/11/L).

Texts of the Liturgy of the Hours approved by the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on March 31, 2012 (Prot. N. 37/12/L).



**CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM**

Prot. N. 221/11/L

**CONGREGATIONIS SACRORUM CORDIUM IESU ET MARIAE
NECNON ADORATIONIS PERPETUAE
SS. SACRAMENTI ALTARIS**

Instantibus Reverendissimo Patre Xaverio Álvarez-Osorio et Reverendissima Matre Rosa Maria Ferreiro, Superioribus Generalibus Congregationis Sacrorum Cordium Iesu et Mariae necnon Adorationis Perpetuae SS. Sacramenti Altaris, litteris die 23 mensis Februarii 2011 datis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice BENEDICTO XVI tributarum, Calendarium proprium eiusdem Congregationis, prout in adiecto exstat exemplari, perlubenter approbamus, ita ut ab omnibus, qui eo tenentur, in posterum servetur.

In Calendario imprimendo mentio fiat de approbatione ab Apostolica Sede concessa.

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex aedibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 31 mensis Martii 2011.

*Antonius, Card. Cañizares
Praef.*

(Antonius Card. Cañizares Llovera)
Praefectus

+ Iosephus

(✠ Iosephus Augustinus Di Noia, OP)
Archiepiscopus a Secretis

PROPER LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MARCH

19 SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Principal patron

Solemnity

MAY

10 Saint Damien De Veuster, Priest

Memorial

15 Saint Pachomius, Abbot

Memorial

JUNE

16 Saint John Francis Regis, Priest

Patron of the Secular Branch of the Congregation

Memorial

Friday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost:

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Titular of the Congregation

Solemnity

Saturday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost:

THE IMMACULATE HEART
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Titular of the Congregation

Solemnity

JULY

9 OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE

Feast

10 *Saint Agustin Zhao Rong, Priest
and Companions, Martyrs*

11 Saint Benedict, Abbot
Secondary patron of the Congregation

Memorial

AUGUST

30 *Blessed Eustaquio van Lieshout, Priest*

OCTOBER

20 *Saint Caprasius, Martyr*

March 19
SAINT JOSEPH,
SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Principal patron of the Congregation

Solemnity

Everything as in the Liturgy of the Hours.

May 10
Saint Damien De Veuster, Priest

Memorial

He was born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840 and entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and of the Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar in 1859. Even before being ordained to the priesthood, he offered himself to go the Hawaiian missions, arriving there in 1863. After being ordained in Honolulu, he ministered first on the island of Hawaii and then on the island of Molokai with the victims of leprosy. For sixteen years he shared their life, work, suffering and joy, as well as eventually their disease and inevitably their death. He died in 1889.

From the Common of Pastors, except the following:

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letters of Saint Damien De Veuster, priest

(Processus suppletivus Servi Dei Damiani De Veuster, Cópia Publica, Rome, Archives of the SS.CC. General Postulation, vol. I & vol. II, 1951)

I have accepted this disease as my particular cross

Divine Providence, having compassion on the unfortunate, has thought fit to look upon your unworthy servant to care for the spiritual needs of a well-known leprosy hospital that our Government had to establish to preserve the whole archipelago from disease. Thus, it is in my role as pastor of an unusual parish of eight hundred lepers, nearly half of whom are now Catholics, that I take the liberty to write to you these lines.

Here I am in the midst of my dear lepers. They are so frightful to see, it is true, but they have souls redeemed at the price of the Precious Blood of our Divine Saviour. He also in his divine charity consoled lepers. If I can not cure them as he did, at least I can console them and by the holy ministry which in his goodness he has entrusted to me, I hope that many among them, purified from the leprosy of the soul, will present themselves before his tribunal prepared to enter the communion of the blessed.

My chapel, which was too big the first weeks I was here, has now become too small. Three weeks in a row I have had to ask some of the older Christians to stand outside along the windows in order to give their places to the new-comers or to the fallen away who have returned or to the catechumens of whom there are always some.

Besides Sunday, there are a good number who come regularly to Mass and evening rosary everyday of the week. A good number receive communion every Sunday. Besides the consolations that the heart of a priest finds in the church, there is also much good to do by visiting homes, going from one hut to another, almost all of them filled with poor unfortunates who can hardly drag themselves around as often their hands and feet have been eaten away by this horrible disease. They are condemned to breathe foul air. Ordinarily they listen with great attention to the word of salvation which I share with each one according to their disposition.

Even though I am not a leper, I make myself a leper with the lepers; when I preach, I always use the expression, "*We, lepers*". Thus may I gain all for Christ as St. Paul.

As you know, it has been already quite a while that Divine Providence chose me to become a victim of this repugnant disease of ours. I hope to remain eternally grateful for this grace. It seems to me that this disease will shorten and narrow the way that will lead me to our dear homeland. In that hope I accepted this disease as my particular cross; I try to bear it as did Simon of Cyrene,

following in the footsteps of our Divine Master. Please assist me with your good prayers, so as to obtain for me the strength of perseverance, until I reach the summit of Calvary.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Jn 15:13,16

R/. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.* To lay down one's life for one's friends. That is the fruit of true love.

V/. I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain* To lay down one's life for one's friends.

Prayer

Father of mercy, who gave us in Saint Damien a shining witness of love for the poorest and most abandoned, grant that, by his intercession, as faithful witnesses of the heart of your Son Jesus, we too may be servants of the most needy and rejected. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

May 15

Saint Pachomius, Abbot

Memorial

He was born in the upper Tebaide of Egypt about the year 292. As a young man he embraced the faith of Christ

and was admitted among the disciples of the monk Palaemon. Later, perhaps in order to bring together hermits who were dispersed and wandering about, he began the coenobitic life in the region near the Nile. He gave them a rule written in Egyptian that gave order to prayer, life and work. As the first moderator of the cenobites he was in charge of some seven thousand monks. He went to the Lord in the year 346.

From the Common of Men Saints: For Religious, except the following:

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

Excerpts from the “Counsels” of Saint Pachomius, abbot
(PL 23, 82-84)

Now is the time to please God

Honour God and you will be fine. Remember the suffering the saints have endured. Let us have one soul and persevere in our vocation. Let us do everything carefully, so we may deserve to pursue the life we have embraced. Thus, we will not be as those who put their joy in vain and transitory things and we will not let our spirit stray from the straight path and fall into sin and be unable to await eternal goods.

There is nothing better, in our opinion, than knowing God's will. For the man who obeys the truth is

above all others. However, the worst evil is to resist the law of God and to accommodate oneself to one's own will. Whoever does his own will is deprived of the knowledge of God, he cannot walk in the way of the saints, and in his last hour, he will find only destruction and mourning.

So now is the time to please God, for salvation is attained in tribulation. Do not be among those who believe easily in times of joy, but stray from the faith when suffering comes. It is written: "*When you make a vow to God, delay not its fulfilment.*" Do not be weak in tribulation, but be patient and pray to the Lord.

Let us keep the Lord before our eyes and remember his suffering, his crucifixion and death, which give us redemption and life. Let us hate the world and everything in it. Let us hate any kind of bodily rest. Let us renounce this life so that we might live for God.

Let us remember our profession, dear brothers. Remember how we promised to serve God: we will be asked about that on the day of judgment. Endure hunger, thirst, nakedness. Let us keep watch at night, and while we chant psalms and pray, may we shed tears moaning in the depths of our hearts. Let us examine ourselves carefully, so as to know whether God will find us unworthy of his mercy. Let us not flee from the fatigue of tribulation, so that we can reach the rest of divine consolation and deserve to receive life immortal and eternal rest.

RESPONSORY

Rom 12:2; Eph 4:23-24

R/. Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, * that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. (E.T. Alleluia).

V/. Be renewed in the spirit of your minds and put on the new self, * that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Prayer

Grant us, Lord, that amid the uncertainties of this world we may cling with all our hearts to the things of heaven, for through the Abbot blessed Pachomius you have given us a model of evangelical perfection. 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.

June 16

Saint John Francis Regis, Priest

Patron of the Secular Branch of the Congregation

Memorial

Born in France, he entered the Society of Jesus in Toulouse. After finishing his studies, he began his life as a missionary travelling tirelessly the rugged mountains of Cévennes in the depth of winter. To restore his health he was sent to a school in the city of Le Puy. But once there,

he made himself available to everyone, in hospitals, prisons and private homes, in the city squares and in churches he responded to all kinds of needs. He was so full of divine love that it was said that he breathed, spoke of and thought only of love. He finally returned to the missionary apostolate and in the village of Lalouvesc was called to the reward of his labours in 1650.

Everything from the Common of Pastors, except the following:

Prayer

O God, who sent Saint John Francis Regis so that, touring villages and cities, he might announce peace, call workers also today to participate in the work of your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Friday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Titular of the Congregation

Solemnity

Everything as in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Saturday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost

**THE IMMACULATE HEART
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Titular of the Congregation

Solemnity

INVITATORY

Antiphon. Come, let us adore Jesus who reigns in the Heart of Mary.

OFFICE OF READINGS

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. 1. In the morning Mary's heart kept watch for the Lord who formed her.

Psalms from the Common of the Virgin Mary.

Ant. 2. The Most High has sanctified his tent; God is in the midst of it: He will not withdraw.

Ant. 3. The heart of the Virgin, where by the word of the angel she conceived the divine mysteries, was inflamed with love.

V/. The Lord hearkened to the desire of the poor.

R/. His ear listened to the willingness of her heart.

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

Prv 8:12-25.34-36; 9:1-6

*The Lord begot me, the beginning of his works,
the forerunner of his deeds of long ago*

I, Wisdom, dwell with prudence, and useful knowledge I have.

[The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil;]

Pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth I hate. Mine are counsel and advice; mine is strength; I am understanding. By me kings reign, and rulers enact justice; by me princes govern, and nobles, all the judges of the earth. Those who love me I also love, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, wealth that endures, and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, and my yield than choice silver. On the way of righteousness I walk, along the paths of justice, granting wealth to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

“The Lord begot me, the beginning of his works, the forerunner of his deeds of long ago; from of old I was formed, at the first, before the earth. When there were no deeps I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of water; before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth.

Happy the one who listens to me, attending daily at my gates, keeping watch at my doorposts; for whoever finds me finds life, and wins favour from the Lord; but

those who pass me by do violence to themselves; all who hate me love death.”

Wisdom has built her house; she has set up her seven columns; she has prepared her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table.

She has sent out her maidservants; she calls from the heights out over the city: “Let whoever is naive turn in here; to any who lack sense I say, come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding”.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Ps 86:11; Song of Sol. 8:6

R/. Lead me, Lord, in your path and I walk in your truth; my heart rejoice, * to fear your name.

V/. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your heart * to fear your name.

SECOND READING

From the Sermons of Saint Laurence Justinian, bishop
(Sermo 8, in festo Purificationibus B.M.V., opera 2,
Venetiis, 1751, 38-39)

Maria kept all theses thing in her heart

While Mary contemplated all she had come to know through reading, listening and observing, she grew in faith, increased in merits, and was more illuminated by wisdom and more consumed by the fire of charity. The heavenly mysteries were opened to her, and she was filled with joy; she became fruitful by the Spirit, was being

directed toward God, and watched over protectively while on earth. So remarkable are the divine graces that they elevate one from the lowest depths to the highest summit, and transform one to a greater holiness. How entirely blessed was the mind of the Virgin which, through the indwelling and guidance of the Spirit, was always and in every way open to the power of the Word of God.

She was not led by her own senses, nor by her own will; thus she accomplished outwardly through her body what wisdom from within gave to her faith. It was fitting for divine Wisdom, which created itself a home in the Church, to use the intervention of the most Blessed Mary in guarding the law, purifying the mind, giving an example of humility and providing a spiritual sacrifice.

Imitate her, O faithful soul. Enter into the deep recesses of your heart so that you may be purified spiritually and cleansed from your sins. God places more value on good will in all we do than on the works themselves. Therefore, whether we give ourselves to God in the work of contemplation or whether we serve the needs of our neighbour by good works, we accomplish these things because the love of Christ urges us on. The acceptable offering of the spiritual purification is accomplished not in a man-made temple but in the recesses of the heart where the Lord Jesus freely enters.

RESPONSORY

R/. O holy and immaculate virgin, how can I find words to praise your beauty? * The highest heavens cannot contain him whom you carried in your womb.

V/. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. * The highest heavens.

HYMN: TE DEUM

Prayer as at Morning Prayer.

MORNING PRAYER

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. 1. Blessed are you, Mary, for you loved God with all your heart and fulfilled all his desires with a great heart and generous spirit. Alleluia.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I.

Ant. 2. Blessed is your heart, O Mary, the most clear mirror of the life of Christ and his passion. Alleluia.

Ant. 3. With heart and soul let us sing glory to Christ on this holy solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of his sublime mother Mary. Alleluia.

READING

Is 61:10

I will rejoice heartily in the Lord, my being exults in my God; for he has clothed me with garments of salvation, and wrapped me in a robe of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

RESPONSORY

R/. The Lord heard the desire of the poor.

V/. His ear listened to willingness of his heart. * He heard.

Glory be. The Lord heard.

Benedictus, ant. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

INTERCESSIONS

This morning we contemplate the Heart of Mary, the most eminent work of God.

Thanks be to God

Father, you granted that the Virgin Mary receive and keep your Word in her heart

- teach us to recognize your will in all things.

Father, you made Mary a wonder of the human race and a woman admirable in her humanity

- grant that the whole world may give joyful thanks for her.

Father, you looked at the humility of your handmaid,
- raise up the hungry, the lowly and the poor.

Father, you united the Heart of Mary to the sufferings of
Christ,
- have pity on the sorrows of the afflicted.

Father, who desired to make the Virgin Mary one with
the glory of your Son,
- grant that with her we may share his glory in eternal life.

Our Father.

Prayer

O God, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory. 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.

PRAYER DURING THE DAY

Midmorning

When the complementary psalmody is used, Psalm 128 may replace Psalm 121.

Ant. God found Mary in accordance with His Divine Heart for she always did what pleases Him.

READING**Is 62:2-4**

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name bestowed by the mouth of the Lord. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. No more shall you be called “Forsaken,” nor your land called “Desolate,” but you shall be called “My Delight is in her,” and your land “Espoused.” For the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be espoused.

V/. My heart rejoices in the Lord

R/. In God, my saviour.

Midday

Ant. Blessed are you, Mary, you bore the Lord, the creator of the world. But you are even more blessed because you carried him in your heart before you bore him in your body.

READING**Zec 2:14-15**

Sing and rejoice, daughter Zion! Now, I am coming to dwell in your midst—oracle of the Lord. Many nations will bind themselves to the Lord on that day. They will be my people, and I will dwell in your midst. Then you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you.

V/. I will sing to the Lord for his goodness to me.

R/. Make music to the name of the Lord Almighty.

Midafternoon

Ant. She guarded her heart with great care; hence she rejoiced in the Lord and served the designs of His Divine Heart.

READING

Zeph 3:14.17-18*

Shout for joy, daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, daughter Jerusalem! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty saviour, who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, who will sing joyfully because of you, as on festival days.

V/. Hear, O daughter, and incline your ear.

R/. Because the king is captivated by your beauty.

Prayer as at Morning Prayer.

EVENING PRAYER

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. 1. Oh blessed Heart of the Virgin Mary, ark of holiness, furnace of charity. Alleluia.

Psalms and canticle from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Ant. 2. God found Mary in conformity with his heart; she always did what is pleasing to Him. Alleluia.

Ant. 3. Celebrate with joy the heart of the Virgin Mary that she may intercede for us with our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

READING

Col 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

RESPONSORY

R/. I will sing to the Lord * for his goodness to me.

V/. I will sing a psalm to name of the Lord Almighty * for his goodness to me.

Glory be. I will sing.

Magnificat Ant. My heart rejoices in God my Saviour, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the Lord Jesus who lives and reigns in the heart of Mary, saying:

Hear us Jesus.

Lord Jesus, who wanted to live in the Heart of Mary,
- come and live in your servants in the fullness of your mystery.

Lord Jesus, with Mary you are one heart and one soul,
- gather our community in unity of heart that it may be led to the Father.

Lord Jesus, without you the Heart of Mary is nothing,
- teach us to live for you only with Mary.

Lord Jesus, as we give you thanks for giving us Mary as mother,
- grant that in this faith we find peace and joy.

Lord Jesus, purify our deceased brothers and sisters
- so that they may deserve to live with you and with Mary, our mother forever.

Our Father.

Prayer

O God, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory. 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.

July 9
OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE

Feast

From the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, except the following:

OFFICE OF READINGS

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

7:10-14; 11,1-9

The young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as Sheol, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Then he said: Listen, house of David! Is it not enough that you weary human beings? Must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel.

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.

Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide fairly for the land's afflicted. He shall strike

the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea.

RESPONSORY

Cf. Is 7:14; 9,5,6

R/. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, * and his name is Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty God.

V /. On the throne of David and over his kingdom he will sit forever. * And his name.

SECOND READING

From the Sermons of Saint Bernard, abbot

(*Sermo de duodecim praerogativis B.M.V.*, PL 183, 429-430)

*She made herself everything for everyone;
to all she opens the bosom of her mercy*

My very dear ones, immense was the damage that a man and a woman caused us; but thanks be to God, it was also by a man and a woman that everything is

restored and not without a great increase of grace. For the gift was not like the offense, but rather the magnitude of the benefit exceeded by far the damage. Thus the most prudent and merciful maker did not break the cracked vessel but wisely and perfectly remade it, so that from the old Adam the new was formed and Eve was transformed into Mary. It is true that Christ would have been enough, for even now all our sufficiency comes from him. But it was not good for us that there be man alone. It was much more advantageous for us that both sexes have a role in our healing just as both had a role in our perdition. Christ Jesus is the faithful and powerful mediator between God and men, true God and true man. However the divine majesty that shines in his person inspires in us great respect. It seems that in Him humanity is absorbed in the deity, not because the human substance has been changed but because his sentiments and affections have been divinized. We do not only sing of his mercy but we sing likewise of his justice. For even though he learned compassion through what he suffered and came to be merciful, nevertheless at the proper time he has the power of a judge. Our God is a consuming fire. How much the sinner fears to come before him, like the wax that melts before the fire, will he perish before God.

So now the presence of the woman blessed among all women does not seem pointless in this whole affair, for we see clearly the role that she plays in the work of our reconciliation. Needing as we do a mediator close to this mediator, no one can fulfil that role as effectively as

Mary. Eve was like a cruel dividing wall from which the ancient serpent poured into the man a pestiferous poison! But Mary is the faithful one who gives the saving antidote to men and women! The former was the instrument of seduction; Mary is the instrument of propitiation. Eve suggested wrongdoing, Mary brings redemption. Why would human fragility hesitate to come to Mary? There is nothing austere or terrifying in her. Everything is sweetness, offering to everyone milk and wool. Go back carefully over the whole Gospel story and if you find there any hardness or anything really disagreeable in Mary, hold her in suspicion and hesitate to go to her. However, if rather as we know to be the case, we find everything pertaining to her to be full of kindness and mercy, full of gentleness and grace, thank the Lord for it, he who with such kind mercy provided you with such a mediator, who has nothing fearful in her. She made herself everything for everyone; for the wise and the ignorant, with fullest charity, she made herself the debtor. To all she opens the bosom of her mercy, so that everyone might receive from her fullness.

RESPONSORY

Lk 1:48-49.50

R/. All ages shall call me blessed. * The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

V/. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.
* The Almighty One.

Prayer as at Morning Prayer.

MORNING PRAYER

Benedictus Ant. Seek peace with all and holiness, without which no one can see God.

Prayer

O God, you through your only-begotten Son have brought peace to the human race, through the intercession of the blessed ever-virgin Mary grant that our times may be tranquil, so that we may live in peace as one family, united in love for one another. 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

Magnificat Ant. He has dealt with us according to his mercy; he gave us joy of the heart; may there be peace in our days forever.

July 11

SAINT BENEDICT, ABBOT

Secondary patron of the Congregation

Memorial

Saint Benedict was born at Norcia in Umbria about the year 480. Educated in Rome, he took up the eremitic life at Subiaco where he gathered some disciples. Later he moved to Monte Casino. There he established the famous monastery and composed the Benedictine Rule. Because this rule was subsequently adopted throughout Europe, he was given the title patriarch of Western monasticism. He died on March 21, 547, but since the end of the eighth century, his memorial has been kept on this day.

From the Common of Men Saints: for religious; except the following:

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

From the Rule of Saint Benedict, abbot

(Prologue, 4-22; cap. 72,1-12: CSEL 75,2-5.162-163)

Let them put Christ before all else

Whenever you begin any good work you should first of all make a most pressing appeal to Christ our Lord to bring it to perfection; that he, who has honoured us by counting us among his children, may never be grieved by

our evil deeds. For we must always serve him with the good things he has given us in such a way that he may never – as an angry father disinherits his sons or even like a master who inspires fear – grow impatient with our sins and consign us to everlasting punishment, like wicked servants who would not follow him to glory.

So we should at long last rouse ourselves, prompted by the words of Scripture: *Now is the time for us to rise from sleep.* Our eyes should be open to the God-given light, and we should listen in wonderment to the message of the divine voice as it daily cries out: *Today, if you shall hear his voice, harden not your hearts;* and again: *If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

And what does the Spirit say? *Come my sons, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Hurry, while you have the light of life, so that death's darkness may not overtake you.*

And the Lord as he seeks the one who will do his work among the throng of people, to whom he makes that appeal, says again: *Which of you wants to live to the full; who loves long life and the enjoyment of prosperity?* And, if when you hear this you say, I do, God says to you: *If you desire true and everlasting life, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from deceit; turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.* And when you have done these things my eyes will be upon you and my ears will be attentive to your prayers; and before you call upon my name I shall say to you: *Behold, I am here.*

What could be more delightful, dearest brothers, than the voice of our Lord's invitation to us? In his loving kindness he reveals to us the way of life.

And so, girded with faith and the performance of good works, let us follow in his paths by the guidance of the Gospel; then we shall deserve to see him *who has called us into his kingdom*. If we wish to attain a dwelling-place in his kingdom we shall not reach it unless we hasten there by our good deeds.

Just as there exists an evil fervour, a bitter spirit, which divides us from God and leads us to hell, so there is a good fervour which sets us apart from evil inclinations and leads us toward God and eternal life. Monks should put this fervour into practice with an overflowing love: that is, they should *surpass each other in mutual esteem*, accept their weaknesses, either of body or of behaviour, with the utmost patience; and vie with each other in acceding to requests. No one should follow what he considers to be good for himself, but rather what seems good for another. They should display brotherly love in a chaste manner; fear God in a spirit of love; revere their abbot with a genuine and submissive affection. Let them put Christ before all else; and may he lead us all to everlasting life.

RESPONSORY

R/. Wishing to please God alone, Benedict left his home and patrimony to enter the religious life. * He lived as a hermit in the presence of all-seeing God.

V/. He withdrew from the world of men, knowing unacquainted with its ways and wisely unlearned in its wisdom. * He lived as.

Prayer as at Lauds.

MORNING PRAYER

Benedictus, ant. He lived a holy life; Benedict blessed in name and in grace.

Prayer

O God, who made the Abbot Saint Benedict an outstanding master in the school of divine service, grant, we pray, that, putting nothing before love of you, we may hasten with a loving heart in the way of your commands. 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

Magnificat, ant. He received the Lord's blessing and the merciful saving power of God; such is the fortune of those who seek the Lord.

August 30

Blessed Eustaquio van Lieshout, Priest

Optional memorial

He was born in Aarle-Rixtel, Holland in 1890. His life was one of continual surrender in witness to the merciful love of God toward the sick and sinners. A missionary of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts in Brazil, he died on August 30, 1943 in Belo Horizonte MG (Brazil). He was renowned as the “missionary of health and peace.”

From the Common of Pastors: For Missionaries; except the following:

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

From the letter of Blessed Eustaquio van Lieshout to the Archbishop of São Paulo.

(Positio Super Virtutibus, Historical and biographical exposition of the Servant of God, p. 84. Letter to D. José Gaspar, S. Paulo, June 24, 1941, Archives of the Vice-Postulation, Belo Horizonte)

The great ideal of the priestly and religious life

In order to prepare for the audience that your Excellency has granted me this evening, I want to express in a few words the great ideal that presently inspires my priestly and religious life.

Happily I never allow myself rest when it comes to alleviating the suffering of my neighbour and eliminating

from this world, as much as I am able, the evil which is an obstacle to happiness in this earthly life or in eternal life. Still at present I find myself pressed on every side to help people as a priest, who by giving blessings, is as an instrument of Divine Providence to alleviate the suffering of his neighbour. But, as is always the case, the material is only a pathway to the spiritual. The bodily healing that we see is but the means to obtain another much more important kind of healing: the healing of the soul. And not only the soul of those who receive healing but of hundreds and hundreds who were witnesses and whose souls were either in a state of complete spiritual indifference or of profound tepidity as regards the things of God and the spirit. This is the holy vocation which I feel within myself: to alleviate bodily suffering so as to be able to revive the weakened faith of our time. I believe I am especially called to this great work. I was never so aware as I am today of all I can accomplish, by God's grace, for those who suffer... The good God showed me clearly the path to follow. Yes, today I experience myself impelled, if I can put it that way, to come to the aid of all those who suffer and are in pain, even with the gift of healing some sickness that human science still considers incurable. God gave it to me and because of that I do not boast.

Many people understood that this does not happen by natural means. What they experienced in their soul made them seek conversion without delay and the spiritual indifference in which they had been living for so many years was transformed into burning faith and

boundless confidence. This is what I can say of the gift which God in his mercy gave to me, a poor sinner.

Faith in God our Lord leads us to a historical person whose greatness remains down through history. In our time, people are not sufficiently aware that the Our Lord's life continues to be present just as it was nineteen centuries ago. For that reason I can not accept it when they speak in terms of "sacred history" as though it were something of the past, over and done with.

God is still living on our earth; the story of Christ is still alive.

RESPONSORY

Mt 25:22.20

R/. Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. * Come, share your master's joy.

V/. Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more. * Come.

Prayer

O God, who enriched the priest Blessed Eustaquio with the gift of restoring health to the sick and peace to sinners, grant through his merits and intercession that we might enjoy lasting health of soul and body and come to eternal joy. We ask this 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.

October 20

Saint Caprasius, Bishop and Martyr

Optional Memory

He was the bishop of Agen (France). During the persecution of Diocletian and Maximian in the fourth century, Caprasius fled the city with some of the faithful. But, becoming aware of the courage with which a woman, Saint Faith, had been seared on a grill by Dacian, governor of Tarragona, he returned to his bishopric and preached Christ, openly denouncing as empty the worship of idols. For this he was taken to court and for persevering in the faith he was delivered to a cruel death around the year 430.

From the Common of Martyrs or from the Common of Pastors: For Bishops.

Prayer

Almighty God, who gave the martyr Saint Caprasius the grace to sacrifice his life so as to remain faithful to your word and to witness to Jesus Christ, grant that with the strength of the Holy Spirit we may be docile in believing and strong in confessing the faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.