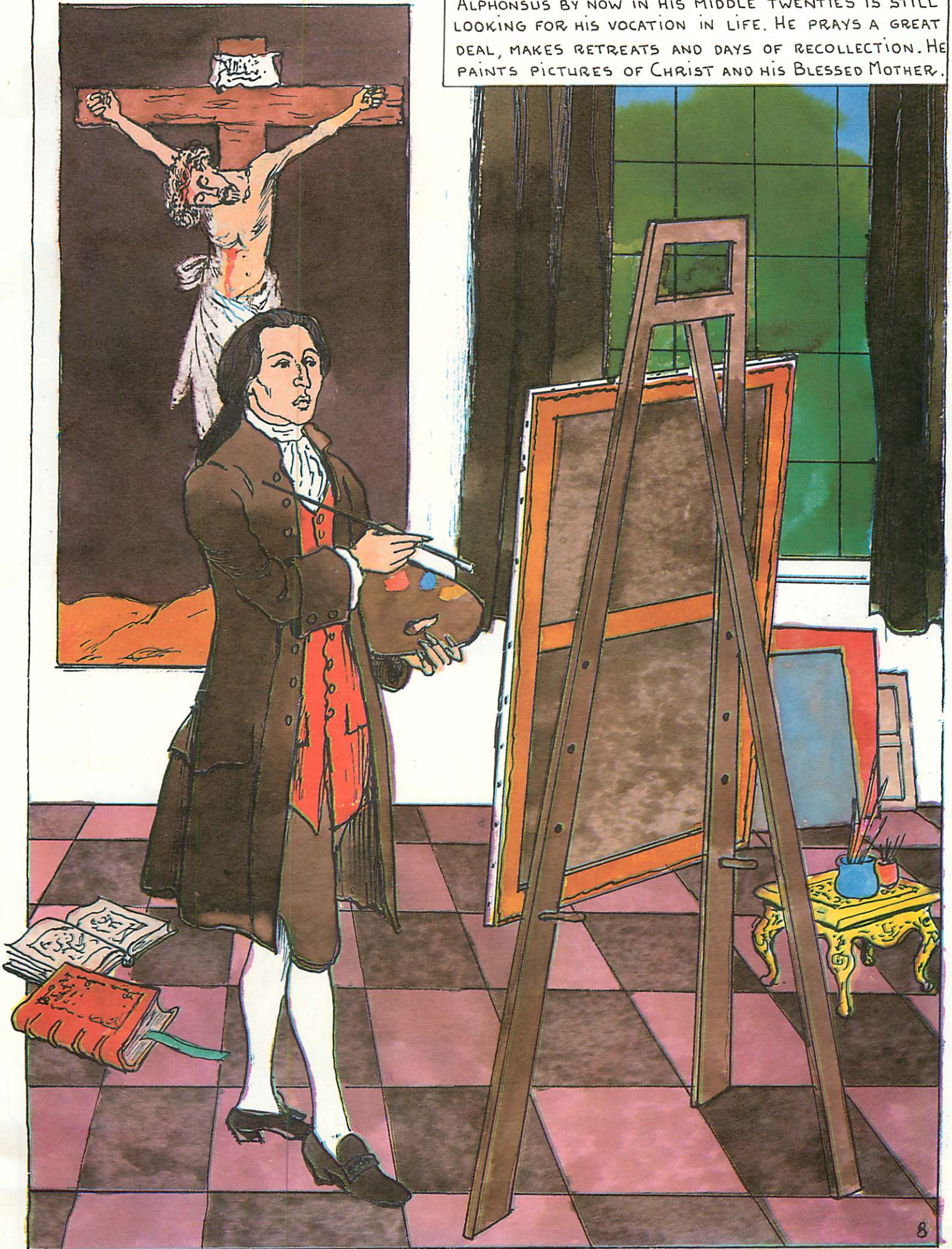
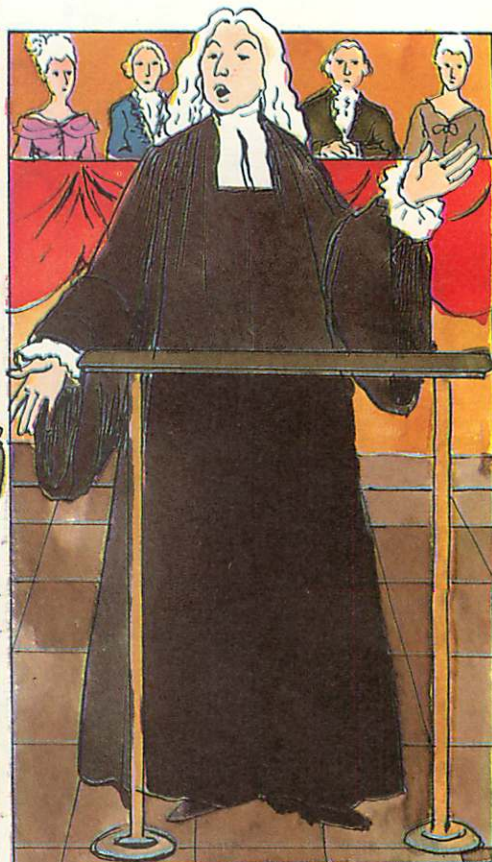
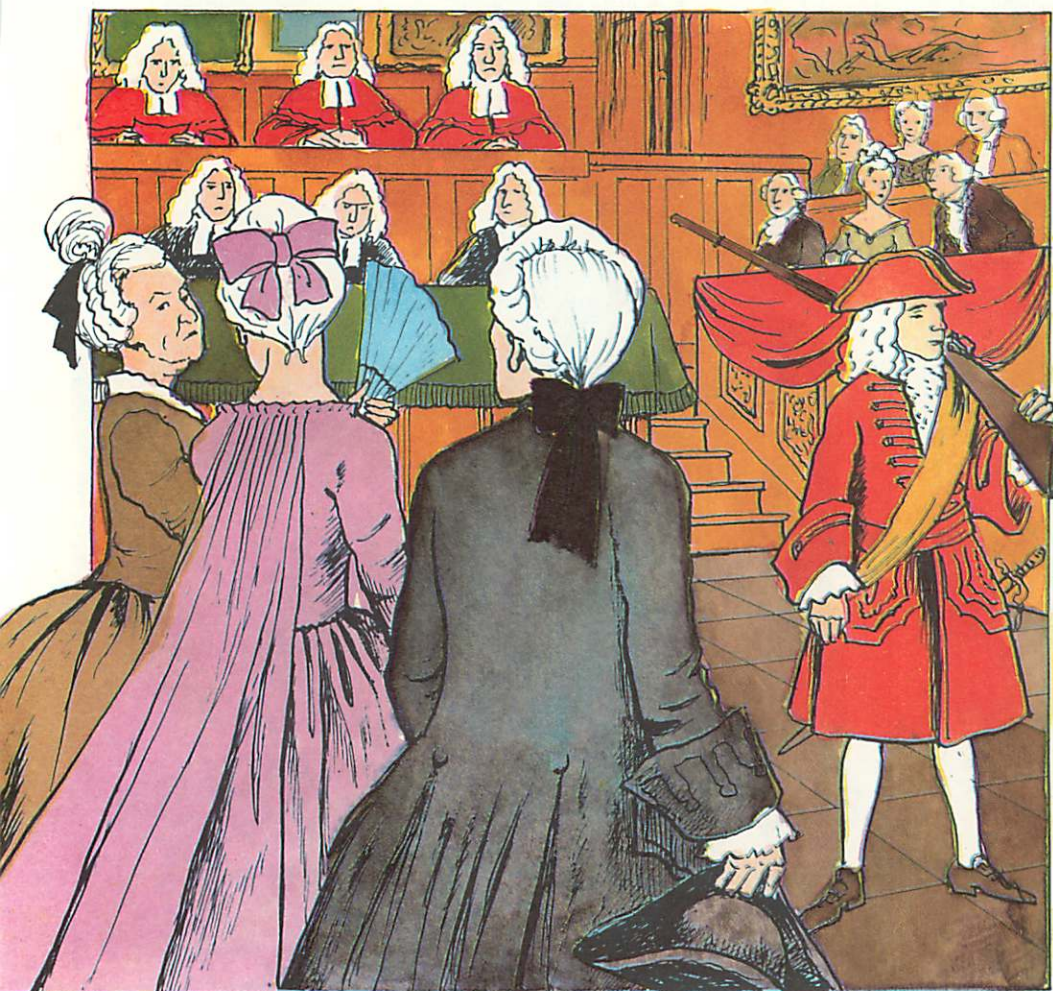


ALPHONSUS BY NOW IN HIS MIDDLE TWENTIES IS STILL LOOKING FOR HIS VOCATION IN LIFE. HE PRAYS A GREAT DEAL, MAKES RETREATS AND DAYS OF RECOLLECTION. HE PAINTS PICTURES OF CHRIST AND HIS BLESSED MOTHER.



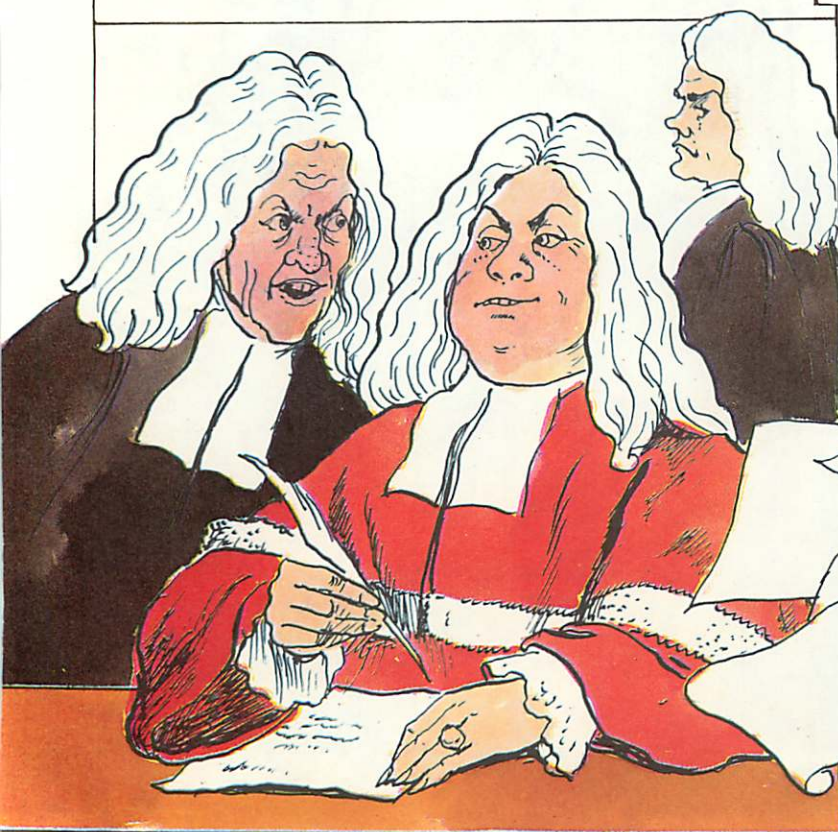
THE YEAR 1723 PROVES TO BE A DECISIVE ONE FOR THE TWENTY-SEVEN YEAR OLD ALPHONSUS. IT ALL STARTED WITH A CASE INVOLVING MILLIONS. ALPHONSUS THE LAWYER HAD NEVER LOST A CASE UP TO NOW. THE PROTAGONISTS WERE THE GREAT DUKE OF TUSCANY AND THE DUKE OF GRAVINA. THE LATTER HAD CHOSEN ALPHONSUS TO DEFEND HIM.



THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE COURTROOM IS EXPLOSIVE. ALPHONSUS THROWS EVERYTHING HE HAS INTO THE PRESENTATION OF THE DEFENCE, BUT HE LOSES.

ALPHONSUS IS SHATTERED FOR HE KNOWS THAT ONLY POLITICAL INTRIGUE COULD HAVE RESULTED IN SUCH A JUDGEMENT.

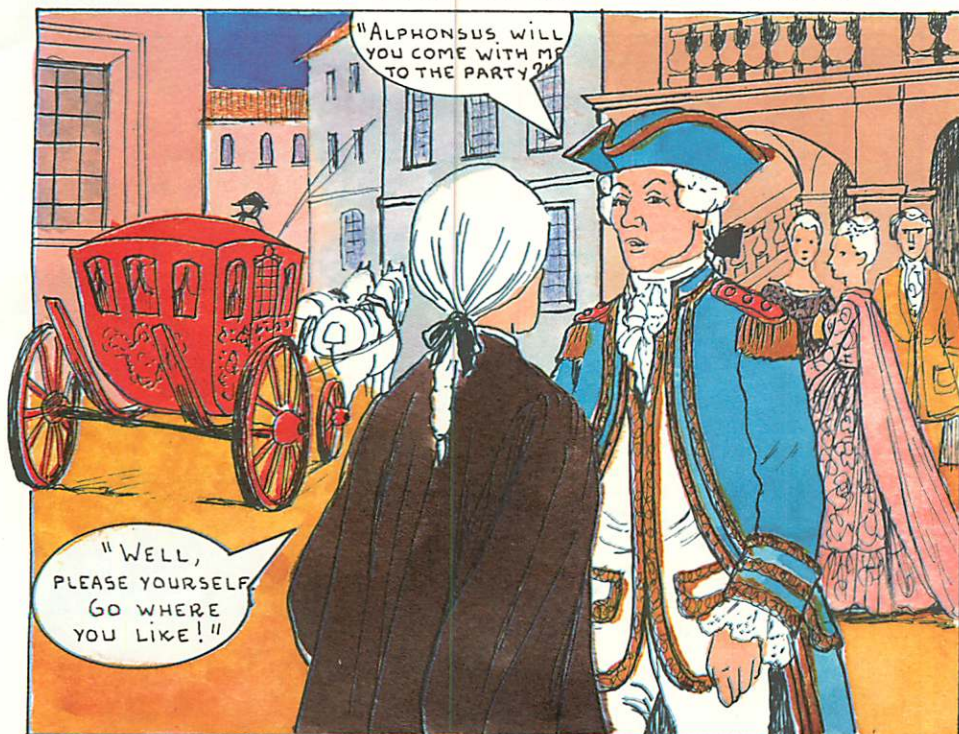
STUNNED, ALPHONSUS LEAVES THE COURTROOM WITH WORDS OF FAREWELL WHICH HAVE FOUND THEIR PLACE IN HISTORY....



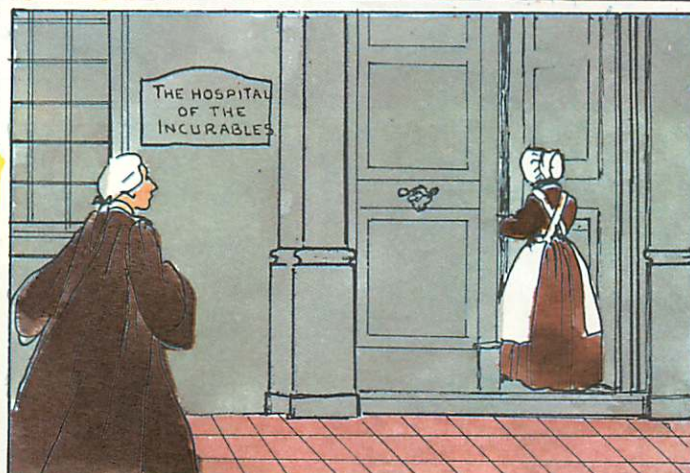
"WORLD, NOW I KNOW YOU.... LAW COURTS YOU WILL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN"

## ALPHONSUS FREES HIMSELF FROM ALL WORDLY AMBITION.

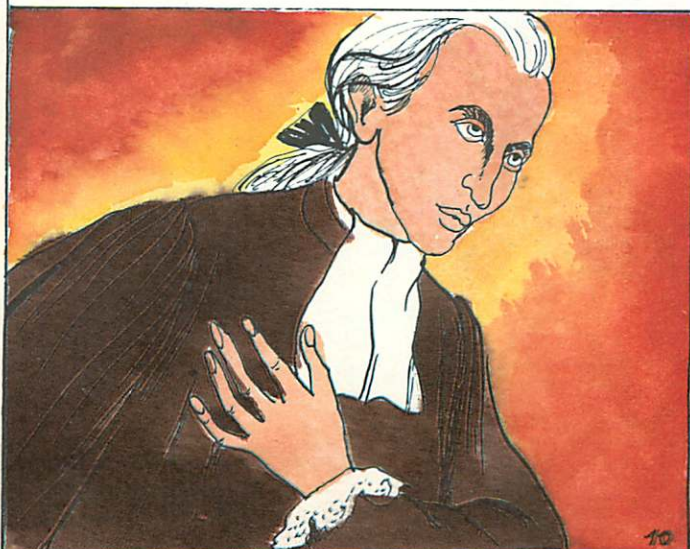
SOME TIME AFTER HE HAD LOST THE CASE, THE EMPRESS ISABELLA CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY. ALL THE NOTABLES OF THE DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO THIS SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION. ALPHONSUS' FATHER, THE COMMANDER OF THE GALLEY SLAVES IS AMONG THE GUESTS.



DISILLUSIONED AND DISAPPOINTED ALPHONSUS GOES TO VISIT THE SICK IN THE HOSPITAL OF THE INCURABLES.

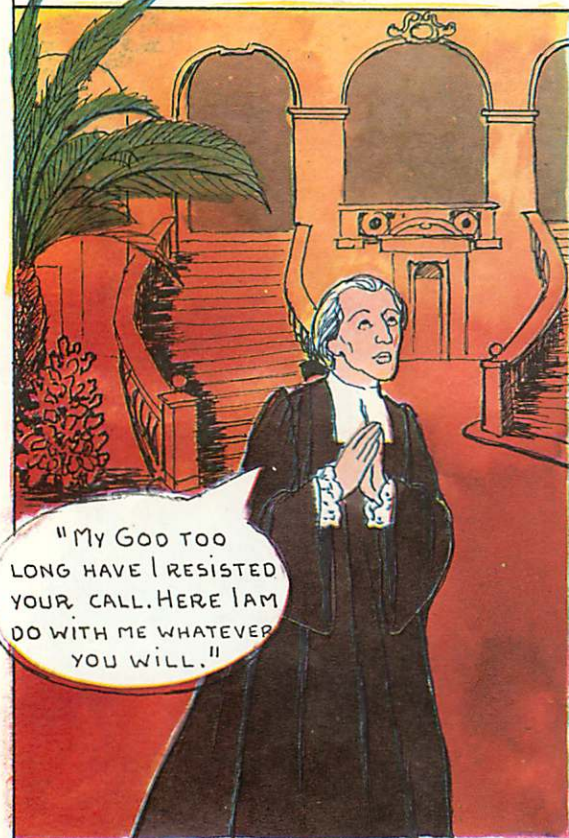


"LEAVE THE WORLD - GIVE YOURSELF TO ME"



ALPHONSUS LEAVES THE HOSPITAL. HE SEES THE LIGHT AGAIN. THE GROUND TREMBLES AND HE HEARS AGAIN THE HEAVENLY VOICE.

ALPHONSUS HEADS FOR THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM. HE PLACES HIS SWORD, THE SYMBOL OF NOBILITY, ON THE ALTAR BEFORE THE STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN. HE BREAKS WITH THE WORLD AND ITS FLEETING VANITIES, A WORLD IN WHICH ONLY HONOURS, TITLES, POMP AND POSITION COUNT. HE ENTERS GOD'S WORLD. LATER ALPHONSUS WOULD SPEAK OF THIS AS HIS 'FIRST CONVERSION'. FAILURE - A NEW BEGINNING - TURNING AWAY TO TURN TOWARDS - "LEAVE THIS WORLD AND GIVE YOURSELF TO ME"



"MY GOD TOO LONG HAVE I RESISTED YOUR CALL. HERE I AM DO WITH ME WHATEVER YOU WILL."



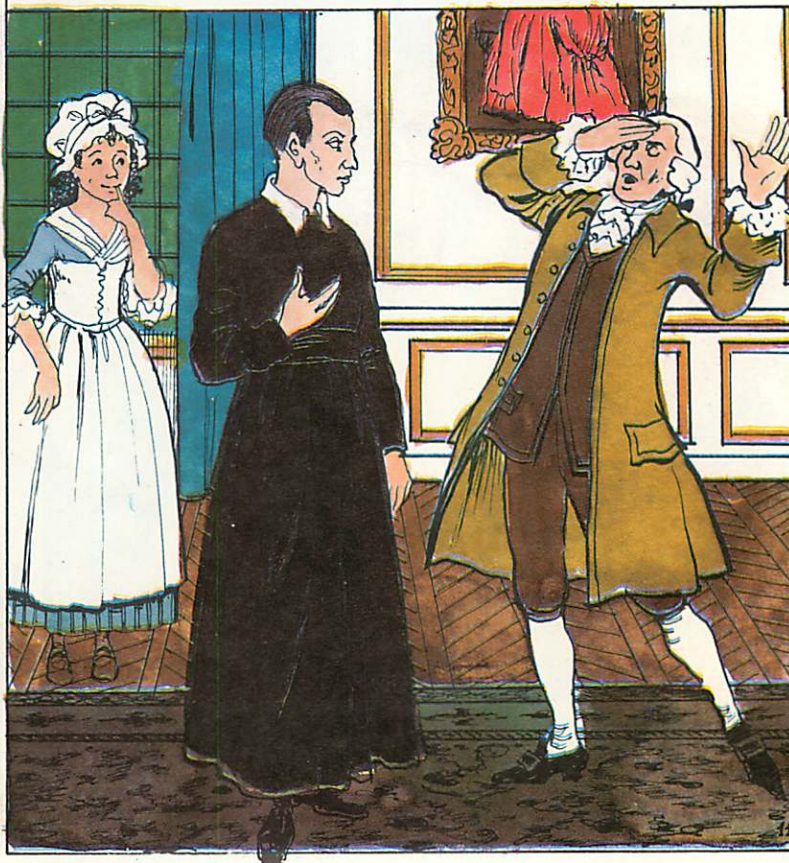
"MY GOD HERE I AM: IF IT IS YOUR WILL I WILL BE A PRIEST."

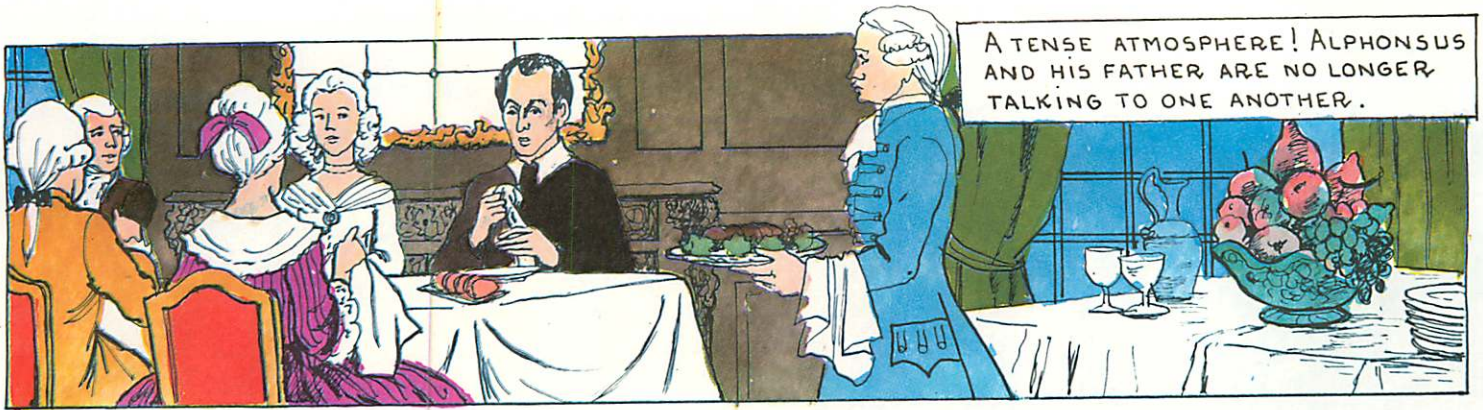


"WHAT? WHAT'S THIS? YOU! A PRIEST! NEVER!"

"FATHER, I MUST DO GOD'S WILL."

ALPHONSUS STARTS HIS THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, BUT TO PLEASE HIS FATHER HE LIVES AT HOME. ON 21ST. DECEMBER 1726 ALPHONSUS IS ORDAINED PRIEST. HE IS THIRTY YEARS OLD. YET HIS FATHER STILL CANNOT ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE.



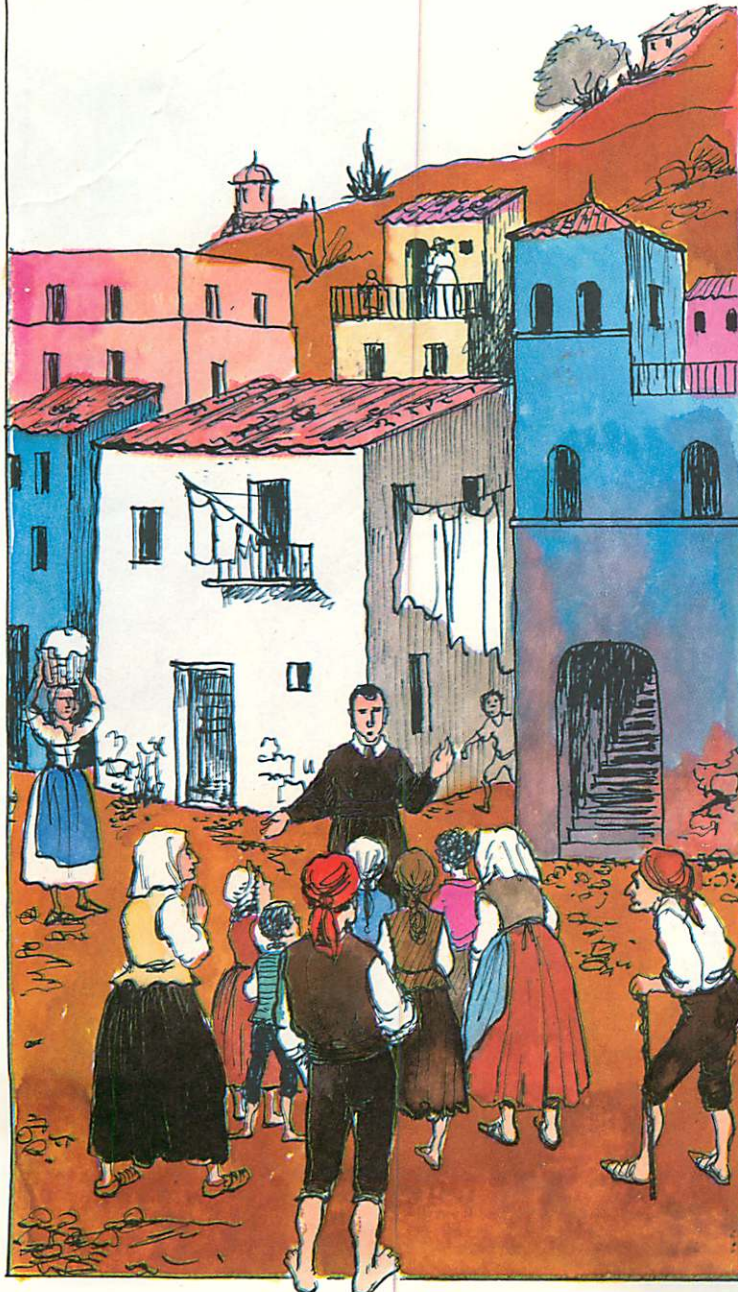


A TENSE ATMOSPHERE! ALPHONSUS AND HIS FATHER ARE NO LONGER TALKING TO ONE ANOTHER.

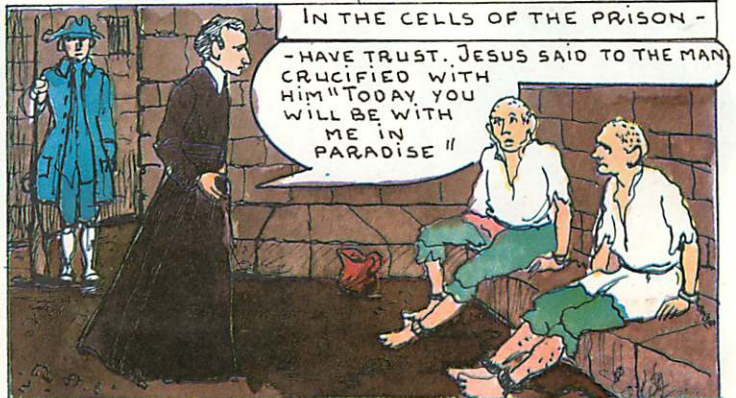
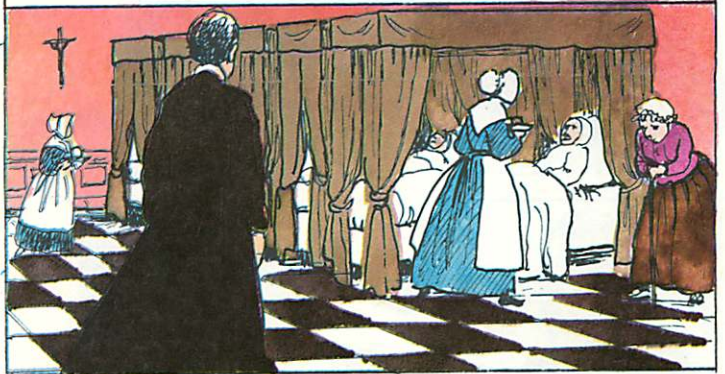
### ALPHONSUS ENTERS THE WORLD OF THE POOR AND DEPRIVED.

ALPHONSUS FIRMLY PURSUES THIS COURSE IN SPITE OF OBSTACLES. AS A SEMINARIAN AND THEN AS A PRIEST HE GOES INTO THE WORLD OF THE POOR AND DEPRIVED. HE JOINS SEVERAL FRATERNITIES WHO SERVE AND CARE FOR THE POOR.

30.000 SO CALLED PAUPERS, THAT IS BEGGARS AND SPONGERS LIVE IN NAPLES. ALPHONSUS BECOMES THEIR FRIEND AND SPIRITUAL GUIDE.



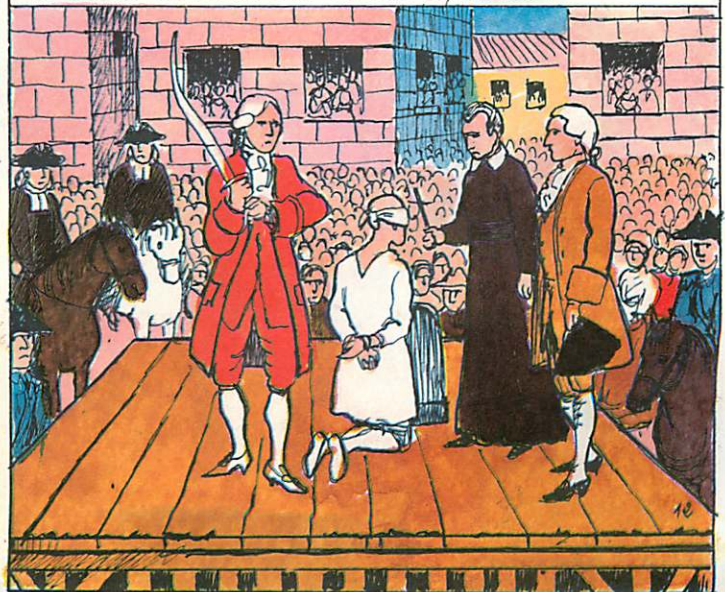
ALPHONSUS REGULARLY VISITS THE SICK IN THE HOSPITAL OF THE INCURABLES.



IN THE CELLS OF THE PRISON -

- HAVE TRUST. JESUS SAID TO THE MAN CRUCIFIED WITH HIM "TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE"

ALPHONSUS ACCOMPANIES THOSE WHO ARE CONDEMNED TO DEATH ON THEIR WAY TO THE SCAFFOLD.





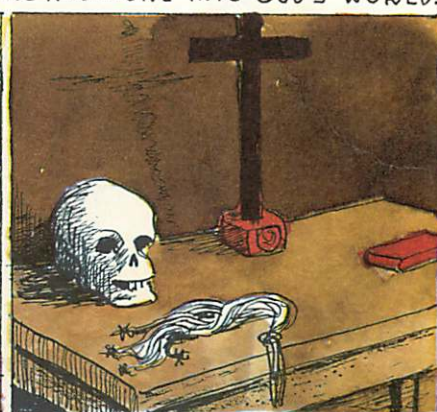
"GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE SICK, THE POOR, AND THOSE FAMILIES OF MEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH."

"HE IS A REAL SCANDAL TO THE NOBILITY. BUT WHAT OF IT."

"ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI IS OUT OF HIS MIND."

ALPHONSUS PROCLAIMS THE GOSPEL

THE CHALLENGE OF A SAINT'S LIFE COMES FROM WITHIN. ALPHONSUS ENTERS MORE AND MORE INTO GOD'S WORLD.

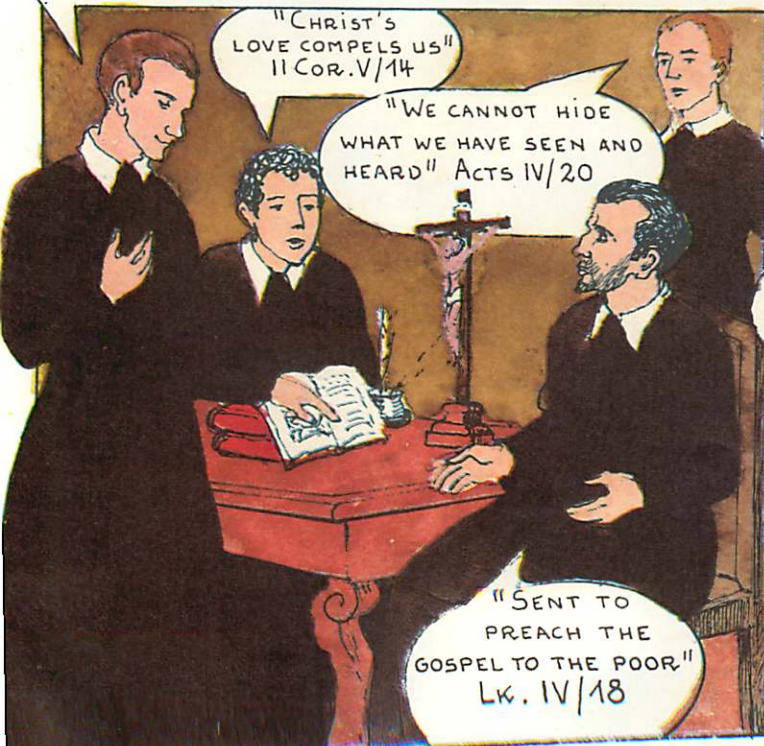


"SHOULD I BE A MISSIONARY?" HE WORKS WITH GREAT FEELING AND COMPASSION. "I HAVE COMPASSION ON THE MULTITUDE" MATT. XV/32

"CHRIST'S LOVE COMPELS US" 11 COR. V/14

"WE CANNOT HIDE WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD" ACTS IV/20

"SENT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR" LK. IV/18

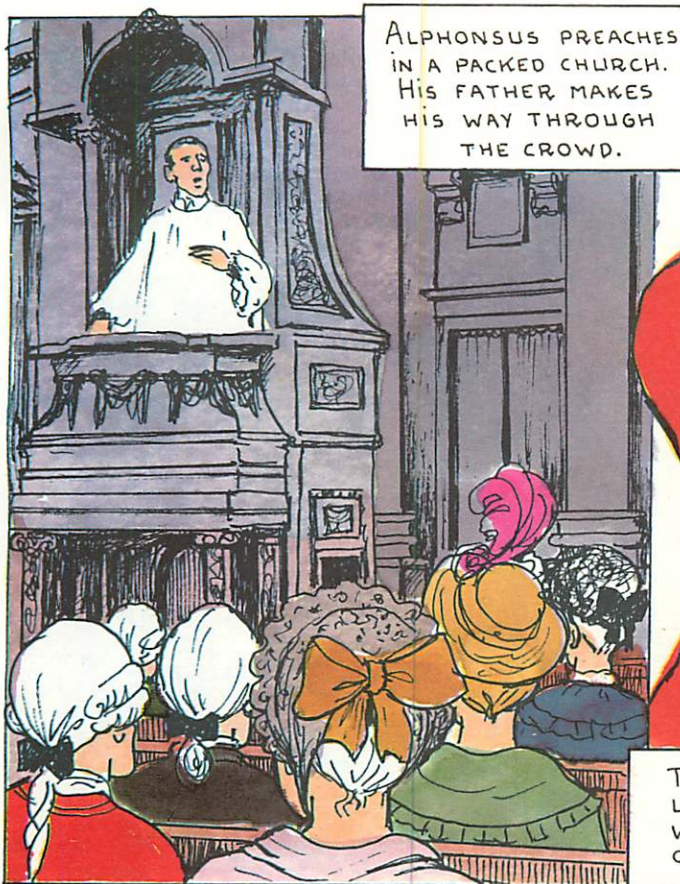


"WE CAN SENSE IT: ALPHONSUS IS UNDER CHRIST'S INFLUENCE"

"HE PREACHES QUITE DIFFERENTLY FROM MOST OTHERS."

"HE SPEAKS SO CLEARLY AND SIMPLY."

"HIS WORDS MOVE YOU - YOU CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT."



AT THE AGE OF THIRTY-THREE ALPHONSUS LEAVES THE FAMILY HOME TO LIVE IN A MISSION HOUSE CALLED THE 'CHINESE COLLEGE'. MEANWHILE HE GOES TO PREACH MISSIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE 'APOSTOLIC MISSIONS'. HE BRINGS ABOUT MANY CONVERSIONS.





ALPHONSUS IS A GIFTED SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR. HIS MOST ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION WAS THE SO CALLED 'CHAPEL WORK' FELLOW PRIESTS, SEMINARIANS, PENITENTS AND OTHER LAYMEN ALL MET TOGETHER IN GROUPS IN THE EVENINGS. THE SMALL GATHERINGS WERE MADE UP OF PRAYER AND DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CATHOLIC ACTION.



IT IS ALREADY LATE AT NIGHT. THE CHURCH IS EMPTY BUT IN FRONT OF ALPHONSUS' CONFESSIONAL THERE ARE STILL MANY PENITENTS KNEELING.

IN THE CHINESE COLLEGE ALPHONSUS READS THE FOLLOWING WORDS: "GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL" HE STUDIES THE FRESCO AND PONDERES.

