



Pilgrimage
in the Footsteps of
St Alphonsus Maria
de Liguori &
St Gerard Majella

10 – 17 May 2025



Copiers Apud Eius Rescriptum







Copiosa Apud Eum Redemptio

Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I as the Provincial of the London Province welcome our friends, associates and confreres to this special time of pilgrimage in which we will walk in the footsteps of St Alphonsus and St Gerard Majella.

During our pilgrimage we will visit some key sites and shrines which are integral to the foundation of the Congregation of The Most Holy Redeemer. The shrine and burial places of our famous patrons St Gerard and St Alphonsus, and the convent where Blessed Mother Maria Crostarosa lived and founded the Order of the Redemptoristines, our Sisters.

We hope and pray that this will be a time of great relaxation, of prayer, of pilgrimage and of good fun.

I know so many of you and I feel utterly confident that these days will be highly blessed and very special, for yourselves, for our Province, for our Congregation and of course for your families who remain at home and whom you will hold before God at each shrine we visit.

Let's pledge ourselves to enter into the spirit of this time of pilgrimage. I feel excited and privileged to accompany each one of you as we travel together in the footsteps of our beloved St Alphonsus and St Gerard.

Richard Reid CSsR

God bless us all.
Peace,

Richard Reid CSsR
Very Reverend Fr Provincial CSsR

Itinerary

Saturday 10th May

We will celebrate the Opening Eucharist of the pilgrimage in the **Basilica of Our Lady of Pompeii** @3pm. There will be some free time before and after Mass to explore the Basilica, have a snack and do some shopping. We will then proceed to the Hotel Caravel in **Sant'Agnello, Sorrento** for check-in and dinner.

Sunday 11th May

Departure for **Naples** @ 9.15am. We will spend the morning visiting places associated with St Alphonsus. There will be time for lunch and browsing. We will celebrate Eucharist in The Church of Our Lady the Virgin @ 11.15am. St Alphonsus Maria de Liguori was baptised in this church. We will depart Naples at 4.30pm.

Monday 12th May

Departure for **Sant'Agata dei Goti**, where St Alphonsus was bishop, @ 8.30am. We will celebrate Eucharist in the Cathedral and visit the Diocesan Museum and the Monastery of the Redemptoristines for a time of prayer. There will be time for lunch and to explore the town.

Tuesday 13th May

Departure for **Materdomini: The Shrine and burial place of St Gerard Majella** @ 8.00am. We will spend the day in Materdomini, where we will celebrate Eucharist at the Shrine of St Gerard Majella. There will be time for personal prayer, lunch and shopping.

Wednesday 14th May

Free Day.



Thursday 15th May

Departure for **Amalfi** @ 8.30am. We will travel along the Amalfi Coast and spend the morning in Amalfi. We will then travel to **Scala** (arriving @ 1pm) the birthplace of the Redemptorists, where we will visit places associated with the foundation of the Congregation (the Grotto, the Cathedral, the Monastery of the Redemptoristines, the statue of Our Lady of the Mountains in the Chapel of the Redemptorists). We will celebrate Eucharist in the Grotto. We will leave Scala around 4pm.

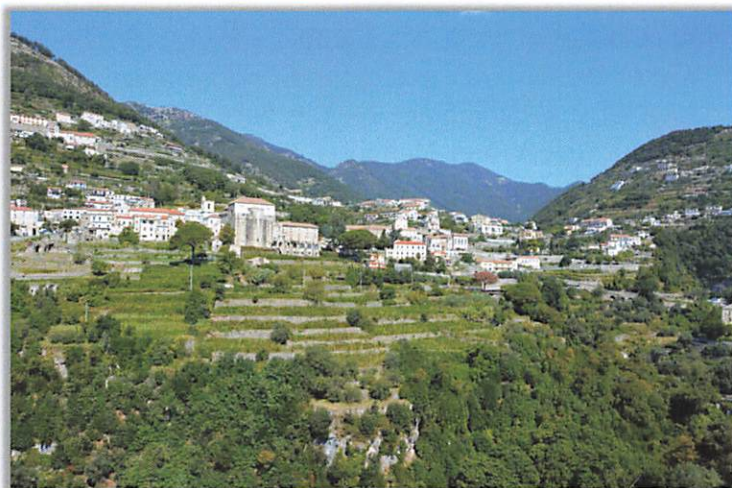
Friday 16th May

Depart for **Pagani** @ 9.00am. where we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick at the Shrine of St Alphonsus. There will be time for personal prayer, to explore the Basilica and to visit the museum.

We will then depart for Corani, the first Redemptorist community in the world. The Mother House. We will celebrate Eucharist at the Shrine of Blessed Gennaro Sarnelli, have time for personal prayer and to visit the monastery. The Redemptorists will renew their vows, in the Chapter Room where the first Redemptorists made their vows.

Saturday 17th May

Depart for the Airport TBC



Introduction

St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori is one of the most outstanding figures in the Catholic Church of the eighteenth century. Though he was 'the most Neapolitan of the Neapolitans', yet the fame of his sanctity and learning spread beyond the confines of the Kingdom of Naples and gradually drew the attention of the catholic and intellectual world of Europe. He was consumed with passion for the underprivileged, the marginalised and the abandoned. He identified those as "the abandoned poor of the country areas and rural hamlets". This led him as a logical consequence to forsake the luxury of his native city and to go down among the miserable poor, living in appalling conditions in rural areas.

He felt it to be his mission to "live and die among the goats" and so the Neapolitan patrician left Naples behind and set out riding a humble donkey in 1732. He was thirty-seven years of age and had been ordained a priest five years previously. Earlier still he had been one of the most distinguished lawyers of the Neapolitan Bar. He now faced a world unfamiliar to him in order to preach the gospel to the poor. The apostolic method he used was the giving of parish missions. He travelled from one village to another at the head of a band of missionaries which he had organised. He visited almost every country parish and village from the hamlets around the capital to the most isolated cabins of the Apennine's.

He established the houses of his Congregation somewhat as mission stations, so that the poor might have easier access to them and from which his missionaries could more easily set out on foot or on the back of a donkey for long and difficult apostolic journeys. When Alphonsus was not engaged in preaching he took up his pen so that his words might echo in faraway places where he could not be heard in person.

He was the greatest spiritual writer and moral theologian of his time. A total of 111 books testify to his extraordinary literary output which he began in the houses of his Congregation and continued as bishop.

Our journey is intended to cover the main stages of the Alphonsian pilgrimage: Naples, where the Saint was born (Marianella, 1696) and received his education; Scala, on the Amalfi coast where he founded his Redemptorist

Missionary Institute (1732); Ciorani, his first missionary centre (1736) and where he began his theological and spiritual writing; Materdomini, which would become famous through the sanctity and miracles of one of his spiritual sons, Saint Gerard Majella; Saint Agatha of the Goths, where the Saint was bishop 1762-1775; finally Pagani, the holy city of the Redemptorists, where the Saint resided on many different occasions and where he came to die among his religious brothers on 1 August 1787.

Following this pathway the pilgrim will be in contact with the source of the ideas and spirituality of one of the greatest Doctors of the Church, who has formed the catholic mind of the Modern Age. You will come in contact with one of the greatest humans, cultural and religious movements of recent centuries and will be captivated by the unrivalled beauty of the scenery and the exceptional historical richness of the area. All this will enable you to appreciate the path trod by an extraordinary man who made one of the most characteristic elements of his life his going forth in search of those in need and who never rested on his laurels always reaching out to new horizons.



Day 1 - Saturday 10th May

Prayer Intention: For safe travel and a blessed and joy filled pilgrimage.

Today we meet as a group and begin our pilgrimage together. Departing London Heathrow British Airways – BA0534 Terminal 5

Naples Airport depart: 06:40 am / Arrive: 10:30 am.

We depart Naples airport and travel to Pompei on arrival you will have several hours to explore and enjoy the sights and the sounds. The Opening Eucharist of the pilgrimage will be celebrated in the **Basilica of Our Lady of Pompeii** at 3pm.

Pompeii is located in southern Italy, near the **Gulf of Naples**. It lies about 15 miles southeast of Naples, at the foot of **Mount Vesuvius**. This ancient Roman city was famously buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, making it one of the most iconic archaeological sites in the world.

Pompeii was founded around the **6th century BC** by the **Samnites**, an ancient Italian tribe, and later became a Roman city by the 1st century BC. During its peak, Pompeii was a thriving city with a population of approximately 11,000 to 15,000 residents. The city boasted grand homes, bustling marketplaces, impressive public buildings, and well-maintained roads.



Day 2 - Sunday 11th May

Prayer Intention: All involved in Education.

Alphonsus Maria de Liguori was born in 1696 near Naples, Italy, the son of a captain in the Royal Navy and a very devoted mother from a noble family in the city. His parents provided him with an exceptional education in philosophy, literature, and the arts. He was 16 when he was awarded Doctor of Civil and Canon Law. When he was 18, like many nobles, he joined the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy with whom he cared for the sick at the hospital for “incurables”, washing afflicted bodies, feeding the helpless, changing bed clothes and devoting himself to works of mercy and compassion.

Following his father’s will he became a lawyer and before he was 20, he was regarded as one of the most gifted lawyers working in the kingdom of Naples. This work, however, despite its success, did not satisfy him at the deepest levels of his heart and soul. After losing what was the most important court case he had ever taken on, Alphonsus left the legal profession to enter the priesthood, much to the disappointment of his father. He was ordained in 1726.

Christ’s claim on the heart of Alphonsus was absolute and irresistible. As a young priest he worked himself to the point of exhaustion. Caring for the poor, wherever his journey took him, was the hallmark of his calling.

Highlights of our walking tour:

We will celebrate Eucharist in The Church of Our Lady the Virgin at 11.15am, St Alphonsus was baptised in this church.

Visit to Naples Cathedral (Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary) where the shrine of St Januarius the patron saint of Naples is located.

Via San Gregorio Armeno : Naples is famous for its crib tradition. This famous street is the home of the nativity scene makers.



Day 3 - Monday 12th May

Prayer Intention: We pray for all Redemptorist Bishops. There are currently 60 worldwide. We pray for Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR who is making this pilgrimage with us, and our confrere in Zimbabwe Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa CSsR.

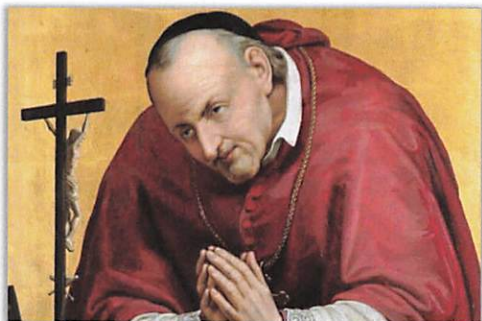
The origins of Saint Agatha of the Goths are uncertain, with archaeological evidence dating back to the 6th century B.C. and historical links to the ancient Sannite city of Saticula. After the defeat of the Goths at Vesuvius in 553 A.D., the area may have been resettled by them, though others suggest the name derives from the Gott (or Agoth) family who held the city in the 14th century. The Lombards established the town as a settlement around a church dedicated to the martyr Saint Agatha, giving the city its name. The city remained small until the Norman period (11th–12th centuries), when it saw significant growth with the construction of major religious structures. The medieval layout of the city persists today, although population has shifted to newer areas since the 1960s.

Saint Agatha is also deeply associated with St. Alphonsus, who served as the 52nd bishop from 1762 to 1775. Deeply devoted to his diocese, he tirelessly visited its many rural communities, preaching with simplicity and passion to bring spiritual renewal to the region.

Highlights

Celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral. The cathedral is dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

A visit and time of prayer with the Redemptoristine Community.



Day 4 - Tuesday 13th May

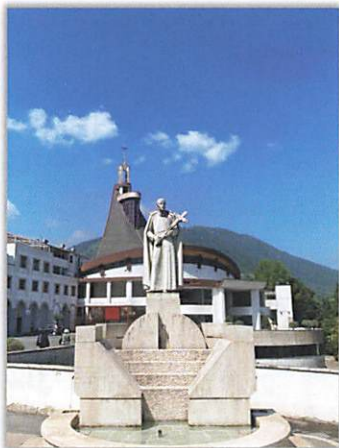
Prayer Intention: Prayer Intention: For our families, for those who are pregnant, for those who long to become parents. For all Redemptorist Brothers.

In 1746, St. Alphonsus Liguori arrived in Materdomini, invited by Archbishop Nicolai to establish a Redemptorist community at the Sanctuary to address the spiritual needs of the region. Despite early challenges, the Archbishop's support secured the project, and by 1748, construction of the community house had begun. The residence quickly grew and became a centre of formation and pilgrimage. Among its most revered members was **St. Gerard Majella**, born in 1726 in Muro Lucano, who joined the Redemptorists after a dramatic departure from home, driven by his call to sanctity. Known for his miracles, heroic virtue, and deep compassion for the poor, Gerard endured calumny with patience, earned admiration throughout southern Italy, and became known as the "Father of the Poor" and the "Saint of Obedience." He died in Materdomini in 1755, and his sanctity inspired widespread devotion, leading to his beatification in 1893 and canonization in 1904. His tomb became a major pilgrimage site, and the sanctuary was expanded in his honour.

Highlights

Time to explore the village

Eucharist celebrated at the Shrine of St Gerard Majella.



Day 5 - Wednesday 14th May

Prayer Intention: For the intentions we carry in our hearts.

Today is a free day with the opportunity to explore the sights and attractions the area has to offer.

Island of Capri

Enjoy the sights & sound of Sorrento

Archaeological Park of Pompeii

Relaxing day by the hotel pool

The hotel staff can advise you on all the area has to offer.

Day 6 - Thursday 15th May

Prayer Intention: We pray for the Redemptorist Family. We pray for all men and women in formation. We pray for the Redemptorist Mission.

Nestled in the heart of the Monti Lattari, Scala is a picturesque town divided into six districts—Pontone, Minuta, Scala Centro, Campidoglio, San Pietro, and Santa Caterina—surrounded by lush woods, olive groves, and terraced vineyards. Its name reflects the stepped terrain, and local tradition traces its origins back to the Roman patriciate. Scala was an episcopal see from 987 to 1818 and played a significant role in the founding of Amalfi, as its patricians expanded their influence along the Mediterranean. Despite suffering a devastating sack by the Pisans in 1137, Scala maintained its prestige, home to noble families such as the Sassos, from whom Fra' Gerardo—founder of the Order of Hospitallers, later known as the Knights of Malta—descended. The town's storied past lives on through its historic towers, castles, and churches, such as Torre dello Ziro, Castrum Scalae, and Sant'Eustachio.

After abandoning his legal career, Alphonsus Maria de Liguori was ordained a priest in 1726 and soon immersed himself in demanding missionary work, which eventually left him exhausted. In 1730, on his doctor's advice, he travelled to the Amalfi coast for rest and reflection. Though he intended to stay in Minori, he ended up in Amalfi and then in the highlands of Scala at Santa Maria dei Monti.

What began as a retreat soon became a profound spiritual turning point: Alphonsus embraced the simplicity of the poor goatherds and villagers, ministering to their needs and catechizing them. Encouraged by Bishop Nicola Guerriero, he preached in Scala's cathedral and gave spiritual exercises to a local school, planting the seeds of the Redemptorist Congregation. In a small chapel at Santa Maria dei Monti, Alphonsus found inspiration in a revered 16th-century statue of the Madonna holding the Child and Sacred Scriptures—an image that became central to Redemptorist spirituality and is now known as the ***Mater Redemptoristorum***.

Highlights

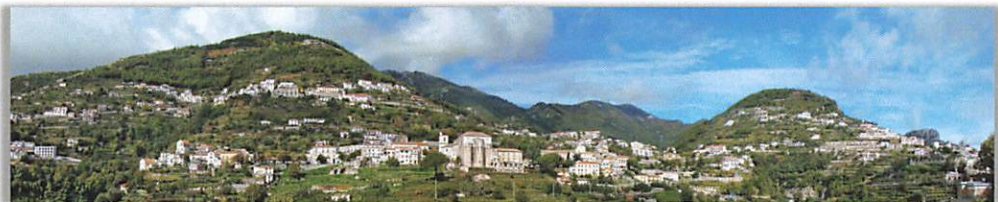
Spend the morning exploring the beautiful town of Amalfi.

Time spent in the village of Scala where the Congregation of The Most Holy Redeemer was founded.

A time of prayer in the Redemptorist community.

Mass in the Grotto where St Alphonsus went alone to prayer.

Time of prayer with the Redemptoristine Sisters.



Day 7 - Friday 16th May

Prayer Intention: *For all who are sick in mind body and spirit.*

Ciorani has a long history. An 18th century study about the Principality, then part of the Province of Salerno, makes this observation: “Ciorani, diocese of Salerno, fief of the Sarnelli Family, of moderate climate, has a population of 784”.

Ciorani was located between the state of San Severino and the royal zone of Bracigliano and formed an autonomous island of the barony of the Sarnelli who had complete jurisdiction over the population, in its majority farmers and clay artisans. With the end of feudalism and the Bourbon rule, Ciorani, along with some 17 other neighbouring areas, was attached to the municipality of Mercato San Severino, to which it still belongs today.

In 1730, while staying at the "Collegio dei Cinesi" in Naples, St Alphonsus met Blessed Gennaro Sarnelli, a nobleman turned missionary who shared his deep concern for the spiritual neglect of his hometown, Ciorani. Inspired by the idea of founding a mission there, Gennaro and his brother Andrea began work on their family lands. With the blessing of their father Don Angelo and the approval of the Archdiocesan Curia of Salerno, Alphonsus accepted the invitation and arrived in Ciorani in 1736, welcomed with great joy by the villagers. Traveling humbly on a donkey as a sign of solidarity with the poor, Alphonsus and his small group of Redemptorists settled in two rooms provided by the Baron and began their apostolic work, first at St. Nicholas parish and later at Santa Sophia. Alphonsus adapted the space to suit the needs of the mission, which would become a vital center of Redemptorist ministry. His simple arrival and deep commitment to serving the poor marked the foundation of what would be the first Redemptorist house, symbolizing a new kind of missionary presence rooted in humility, service, and evangelization of the forgotten.

Pagani, located in the fertile Sarno plain between Pompei and Salerno, has ancient and uncertain origins—its name possibly stemming from the Latin pagus (village), the presence of medieval Saracens, or a noble French family named Pagan. Inhabited since the first millennium B.C., it was conquered by the Sannites in the 5th century B.C. and later became a Roman colony. It witnessed the martyrdom of Saints Felician and Constance in 65 A.D. and suffered damage in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D.

Over the centuries, Pagani came under Lombard, Angevin, and later Neapolitan control, becoming part of Nocera in the 17th century and gaining autonomy in the 19th during the Italian unification. Today, it is a dynamic hub for fruit marketing, serving both Italy and Europe. Pagani, renowned as the city where the relics of St. Alphonsus, holds a



deep and enduring bond with the Saint, who is considered its spiritual protector and whose presence is felt throughout the town. This connection has two key phases: from 1738 to 1748, marked by the challenging founding of the first Redemptorist community, and from 1775 until St. Alphonsus' death in 1787, when he spent his final years there. Invited by Don Nicola Tipaldi in 1738 to preach a novena, Alphonsus' impact was so profound that people demanded he remain. Despite fierce opposition from local clergy and nobility, legal battles, and betrayal by former allies, he eventually secured royal permission and established a permanent house in 1748, which became the Mother House of the Redemptorist Congregation. After resigning as Bishop of St. Agatha of the Goths in 1775 due to ill health, Alphonsus returned to Pagani, dedicating his last years to writing, prayer, and pastoral guidance. He died there on August 1, 1787, and his relics are now venerated in the town's basilica, making Pagani a significant spiritual centre for Redemptorists around the world.

Highlights

Visit to the Shrine of St Alphonsus

Visit to the Redemptorist Museum.

Visit to the first Redemptorist Community.

Visit to the Shrine of Blessed Gennaro Sarnelli.



Day 8 - Saturday 17th May

Prayer Intention: Prayer of Thanksgiving for a blessed pilgrimage.

Following a leisurely day in Sorrento we will depart from the hotel to the airport for our return journey.

Flight Details: British Airways BA0425

Naples Airport – Heathrow T5 (depart: 19:35 pm / Arrive: 21:20 pm)

Prayers By St Alphonsus Maria

Dedication of One's Self to Mary

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God, I am not worthy to be your servant. But moved by your marvellous compassion and my own desire to serve you, here and now, in the presence of my guardian angel and the whole court of Heaven, I choose you as my Lady, Advocate, and Mother. I firmly purpose to love and serve you always, and to do all I can to inspire others to love and serve you.

O Mother of God and my own most compassionate Mother, I beseech you, by the Blood which your Son shed for me, to receive me into the number of your servants as your child and servant forever. Assist me in all my thoughts, words, and actions in every moment of my life, so that every step I take, every breath I draw, may be directed to the greater glory of my God.

Through your powerful intercession, may I never again offend my beloved Jesus. Help me to love and glorify Him in this life. Help me to love you also, dear and beloved Mother, and to go on loving you forever in the happiness of Heaven.

My Mother Mary, I commend my soul to you now, and especially at the moment of death. Amen.

Excerpt from The Glories of Mary by St. Alphonsus Liguori

Mary is our Mother — not by the flesh, but by love. That is, she is our Mother by love alone. So, someone observes that she glories in being the mother of love. She is all love for us, her adopted children. The first reason for Mary's great love for human beings is that she loves God so much. She loved him more in the first moment of her existence than all the saints and angels every loved him or will love him.

Just as there is not one among all the blessed who loves God as Mary does, so there is no one, after God, who loves us as much as this most loving Mother does. Furthermore, if we heaped together all the love that mothers have for their children, all the love of husbands and wives, all the love of all the angels and saints for their clients, it could never equal Mary's love for even a single soul. Mary, to obtain the life of grace for us offered her beloved Jesus to an ignominious death and watched him die before her eyes in cruel and unexampled torments.

It is written of the Eternal Father, that God so loved the world as to give his only-begotten Son (Jn 3:16), so also, we can say of Mary, that she so loved the world as to give her only-begotten Son.

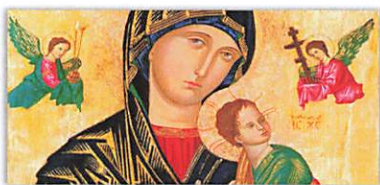
So with St. Anselm I will cry: "Let my heart languish and my soul melt away and be consumed with love of you, my beloved Savior Jesus and my dear Mother Mary! But because I cannot love you unless you give me grace, then give me grace, O Jesus and Mary — by your merits, not mine — to love you as you deserve to be loved. O God, lover of humankind, you loved sinful human beings to the point of death. Will you deny your love and your Mother's to anyone who begs for it?"

Prayer to Our Lady by St. Alphonsus

Most holy Virgin Immaculate,
my Mother Mary,
to you who are the Mother of my Lord,
the Queen of the Universe,
the Advocate, the hope,
the refuge of sinners,
I who am the most miserable of all
sinners, have recourse this day.
I venerate you, great queen,
and I thank you for the many graces
you have bestowed upon me
even unto this day;
I love you, my dearest Lady;
and because of that love,
I promise to serve you willingly
for ever and to do what I can
to make you loved by others also.
I place in you all my hopes
for salvation; accept me as
your servant and shelter me under
your mantle, you who are
the Mother of Mercy.
And since you are so
powerful with God,

deliver me from all temptations,
or at least obtain for me
the strength to overcome
them until death.
From you I implore a true love
for Jesus Christ.
Through you I hope
to die a holy death.
My dear Mother,
by your love for Almighty God,
I pray you to assist me always,
but most of all at the last
moment of my life.
Forsake me not then,
until you shall see me safe
In heaven, there to bless you
and sing of your mercies
through all eternity. Such is my hope.

Amen





A Prayer by St Alphonsus Before the Blessed Sacrament

My LORD Jesus Christ, who because of Your love for men remain night and day in the Blessed Sacrament, full of pity and of love, awaiting, calling and welcoming all who come to visit You, I believe that You are present here on the altar. I adore You, and I thank You for all the graces You have bestowed on me, especially for having given me Yourself in this Sacrament, for having given me Your most holy Mother Mary to plead for me, and for having called me to visit You in this church.

I now salute Your most loving Heart, and that for three ends: first, in thanksgiving for this great gift; secondly, to make amends to You for all the outrages committed against You in this Sacrament by Your enemies; thirdly, I intend by this visit to adore You in all the places on earth in which You are present in the Blessed Sacrament and in which You are least honoured and most abandoned.

My Jesus, I love You with my whole heart. I am very sorry for having so many times offended Your infinite goodness. With the help of Your grace, I purpose never to offend You again. And now, unworthy though I am, I consecrate myself to You without reserve. I renounce and give entirely to You my will, my affection, my desires and all that I possess. For the future, dispose of me and all I have as You please.

All I ask of You is Your holy love, final perseverance and that I may carry out Your will perfectly. I recommend to You the souls in Purgatory, especially those who had the greatest devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I also recommend to You all poor sinners. Finally, my dear Saviour, I unite all my desires with the desires of Your most loving Heart; and I offer them, thus united, to the Eternal Father, and beseech Him, in Your name and for love of You, to accept and grant them.



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus



Copiosa Apud Eum Redemptio

www.redemptorists.co.uk