

# Saint Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori

1696-1787

## *Saint Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori*

was born in the town of Marianella in 1696, to a Neapolitan noble family. After having attained a doctorate degree in Jurisprudence in 1713, he practiced the profession of law. When he lost a lawsuit between Prince Orsini and the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Cosimo III de' Medici, he decided to abandon the world and dedicate himself completely to God alone.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 1726, he was ordained a priest and came into contact with the difficult reality of the neglect and religious ignorance of the shepherds in the surrounding areas of Amalfi. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1732, in the town of Scala, he founded the Congregation of the

having come to the point of death, was overcome with desperation. The demon put forth in front of his eyes all the sins he committed, and he strongly tempted him to despair, so much so that he got him to say that he did not want to go to Confession, nor receive any other Sacrament,



Most Holy Redeemer. In 1762 he was nominated Bishop of Saint Agatha of the Goths. He died in the town of Nocera de' Pagani, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1787.

Saint Alphonsus was often attacked by demons and he himself recounted that he had the following method to fight them off: with much authority he would make the Sign of the Cross and he also ordered the demons themselves to lay prostrate and adore this sign of Redemption. He then added words from Scripture: "Because at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow of all those in the Heavens, on Earth, and under the Earth; and every tongue shall proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the Glory of God the Father." (Phil 2, 10-11). The Saint always said that "the demons do not have the patience to hear these words and they fly away."

Saint Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori wrote much about the Angels and the Archangel Michael, listing the reasons for trustfulness in his powerful intercession and giving accounts of a few episodes: "P. Niremberg, in his book on Saint Michael, narrates about how the servant of a certain Lord of high rank, who led a wicked life for many years,

because he was already damned. But because this miserable sinner, in the midst of his sinful life, never stopped being devoted and entrusting himself to St. Michael, the Holy Archangel appeared to him on his deathbed, and informed him that he had prayed to the Lord on his behalf, and that because of his intercession God granted him three more hours of life, so that he could confess and receive the Sacraments. The tearful dying man then thanked his Holy Archangel for having procured this huge favor, called his brother, and begged him to quickly find a confessor; the brother immediately set out to a nearby Monastery of Dominicans, and on the way found two of their religious, who then told him that they were called by an unknown person to come to hear the confession of his brother and that is why they were on their way. He therefore presumed that the same St. Michael was the one who advised those religious, and motivated them to go; in fact they came and the invalid humbly confessed with much penitence and remorse in the space of those three hours, and he died giving much hope about his salvation."