



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Pray for us!

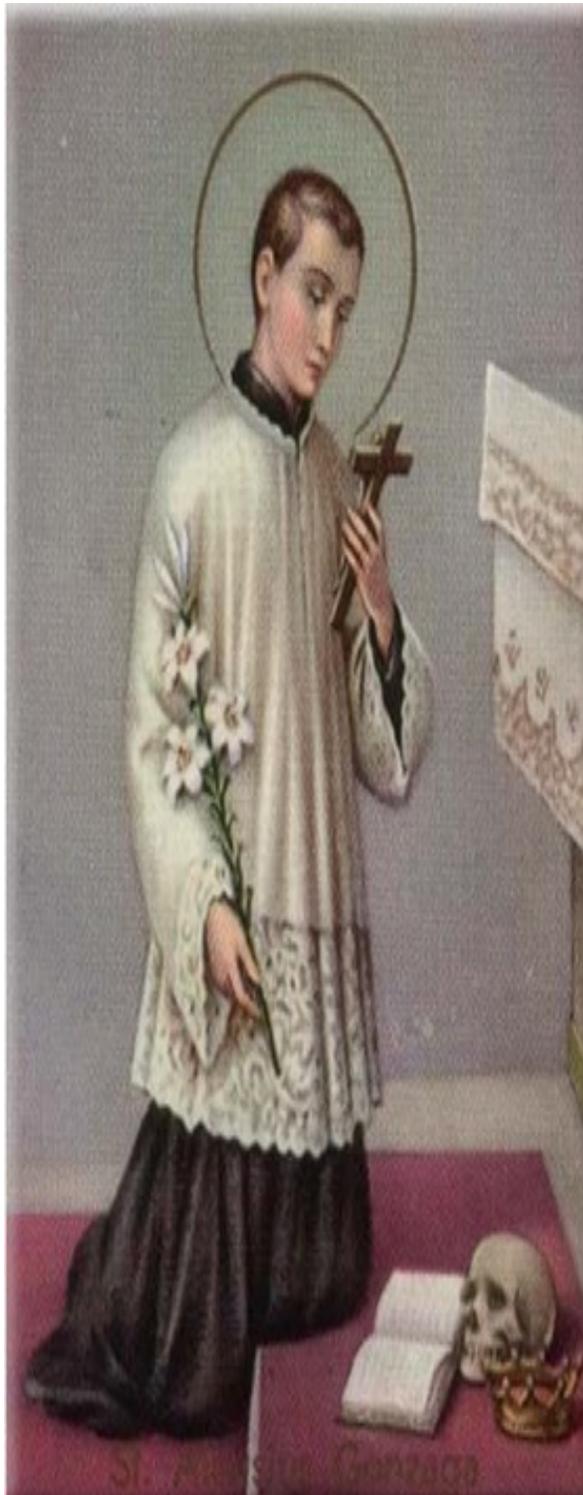
**To monthly mission donors:
Thank you for your support!**

On behalf of His Excellency Robert J. Brennan, the Bishop of Columbus, and Very Rev. Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga was a Jesuit Deacon who lived in Italy and Rome. June 21st is his feast day. He was well-known for his purity. He had taken a vow of perpetual virginity while very young, safeguarding himself from the temptations of this world.

In 1591, when a plague broke out in Rome, he volunteered to serve in the hospital. It was not long before he came down with the plague himself. He died on at the age of 23 and he is the patron saint of youth and plague victims.

In this Covid-19 pandemic, we can rely on St. Aloysius' intercession for healing and also for the grace to be a witness for the love of God and neighbor. It is very significant during these difficult times and global pandemic to reflect on St. Aloysius' quote: "I am but a crooked piece of iron, and have come into religion to be made straight by the hammer of



mortification and penance." In this earthly life, we need to focus on God and straighten our lives by mortification and penance. We have to make use of every opportunity which God provides in our lives to do good and comfort the needy.

When we sacrifice our wants it becomes the need for someone else so that we can freely offer to them. Our little sacrifices have great merits in the eyes of God. Penance is the pinnacle in our spiritual life. When we ask any favor of God with penance it would be granted because God is so pleased by our total trust in Him.

As the Coronavirus convulses us, it is giving us an opportunity to reflect on the vulnerability of our very being and our need to turn towards the Lord to build up solidarity among all of us.

We can permit the Holy Spirit to take control of our life. Similar to St. Aloysius who loved the promptings of the Holy Spirit and lived his life accordingly.

St. Aloysius was a very devout soul too the Blessed Mother, Mary who is the Mediatrix of all graces. He was very fond of offering mortifications and praying the Rosary in honor of our Heavenly Mother, Mary.

Our little sacrifices have great merits in the eyes of God. During this COVID-19 pandemic, we are isolated, but we are not alone; the pandemic cannot and must not stop the work of the Church!

Let us ask God for the end of Covid-19 through the intercession of St. Aloysius. Let us partake in the Church's penitential life and serve God and our neighbors.

St. Aloysius pray for us!



**Real Presence
Real Future**

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Pope Francis' June & July Prayer Intentions:

JUNE

**Intention for evangelization -
*The beauty of marriage***

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

JULY

Universal intention - *Social friendship*

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Count your blessings!

Every day is a gift from God. Knowing that truth, we can marvel about God's infinite love every single day! We can rely on God's blessings rather than our own limitations.

Always remember: Nothing can take away the joy which God instilled in your heart and nobody can take away God's zeal from your soul which imprints that you are God's child! You are not owed to anybody for your soul except God and He alone who is the author of every single life on this earth. Thank God for His goodness in your life as well as others' life.

Life is good when you are simple and joyful, but much better when others are happy because of you. Pope Francis' quote: "Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is ... Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you."

When we do something good for others, God is pleased in you as you have done for Him because everyone is made in His image and likeness. When we help others which makes them happier that is better than simply being happy with ourselves.

June Missions Collections

Catholic Home Missions

June 5 - 6

Peter's Pence

June 26 - 27

Visit our website for more details and information.

Quest: The world seeks victory by trying to get back on its feet, the Christian by getting down on his knees.

Quote: "You cannot stumble if you are on your knees". (Unknown)

Quip: It is a pity that common sense is such an uncommon commodity

Dear God, help me to enter into a time of quiet each day with you. Let me hear your voice every morning in the silence of my heart. Refresh me with your word and renew my spirit that I may zealously do everything for your glory. Amen.

"The poor...are your brothers and sisters in Christ. You must never be content to leave them just the crumbs from the feast. You must take of your substance, and not just of your abundance, in order to help them. And you must treat them like guests at your family table."

Pope John Paul II

(from the homily at Yankee Stadium, New York, 1979).

***Sr. Zephрина Mary
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