

Novena of St. Joseph Allamano

Let us learn from the life examples of Saint Joseph Allamano and ask for his intercession

7th February: The Lord calls me today

My greatest consolation is that I have always done everything possible to follow the vocation that the Lord had given me. When I was young, I had two brothers: one studied medicine and the other law; they wanted me to study like them too. But I replied: No, I want to be a priest! They at least wanted me to get my high school diploma and Monsignor Gastaldi was not against it. I looked at their books for a while, and then I got bored and said: Now the Lord wants me, who can assure me that in three years from now the Lord will call me again? And I studied in the seminary and I'm happy. I should stay on my knees all my life with my head bowed, to thank the Lord for my vocation. (Allamano)

Reflection

Lord, what do you want from me today? Enlarge my heart so that I am always ready to do your will every day.

Give me, Lord, a determination similar to that of Saint Allamano in the realization of the vocation you have given me, a sign of your love for me.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.
Saint Joseph Allamano, pray for me.*

8th February: In your name I will cast the nets

Ten years ago I had suffered a very serious illness which took me to the gates of paradise, from where I was cast back here on earth because I was not yet worthy of it; our Cardinal Archbishop came to visit me almost every evening, and since we had already talked about this institution, I told him: - So now someone else will take care of the Institute. And I said I was happy, perhaps out of laziness not to take on such a burden. But he replied: No, you will heal, and you will. And I'm healed. I then went to Rivoli, and there, on the day of St. Fedele da Sigmaringa (of whom I am always devoted in a special way since the Seminary) I placed a long letter on the altar in which the foundation was decided: I celebrated the Mass in honor of the Saint, then I went to post the letter I was sending to the Cardinal Archbishop. (Allamano)

Reflection

We ask the Lord to increase our faith and trust in Him who is our provident Father. Do I trust the Lord in the difficult moments of my life?

Grant me, Lord, to imitate the great faith of Saint Allamano in every situation of life.

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9th February: For more than a month the "Consolatina" remained closed and empty

Once the first missionaries left for Africa, the few remaining ones also immediately left for their homes, so the small mother house (Consolatina) remained empty; after a few days I closed the door, I put the keys in my pocket, I presented them to the Consolata and, praying every day at her feet, I told her that the work was hers, the keys were hers, the missions had been wanted by her, that she would think about inspiring missionary vocations, about reopening the house. So in prayer I spent my days calmly waiting to share what the Most Holy Sacrament had to say. Consolata would have done for her missions. However, having also a bit of trepidation for the dear missionaries who had left, I feared that I would soon not be able to help them with other personnel. And so immediately afterwards eight new missionaries entered this Institute. (Allamano)

Reflection

I am convinced that adhering to God's will gives me the strength to overcome difficult moments that seem to have no way out. I think back to some instances in which I perhaps found myself in the situation of Saint Allamano...

How do I face difficult situations in my life in prayer?

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10th February: I want choice stuff

I remember the visit that Cardinal Cagliero paid us, who had recently arrived from the American missions. He spoke with the community in the hall and among other things encouraged us to do some propaganda among our friends and acquaintances so that they would decide to enter the Institute because the missions needed apostles; and by saying this he also taught us the way and the little speech to make. We were all beaming and full of enthusiasm at such incitements; but soon our enthusiasm calmed down because the Father, a little away behind the cardinal, made a negative sign to us with his finger and his head and his lips whispered a 'no, no, no'. In the conference he then told us "Every spirit... but this is not our spirit". (A Missionary)

Allamano later commented: did you hear what the Cardinal said about propaganda? According to him we need to make everyone come! Slowly... Every day there are questions; I accept a few. They tell me I don't want them; It is not true; I try them. I want choice stuff!

Reflection

Can I live the Allamano "style" in my life: selected stuff, few but of first quality, not the number but the quality? How can I express this "style" of his?

What finger signal would San Allamano make today, looking at my daily actions?

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11th February: Mass was the center of his priestly day

Canon Allamano was a priest of great priestly virtues. He was admirable in piety, which shone in a

special way in the celebration of the Holy Mass. No thing or occupation exempted him from good preparation and from fervent and careful thanksgiving, which often extended to the point of admiration of those who approached him.

For my part, I certify that I was formed in the ecclesiastical spirit even just by watching him celebrate the Holy Mass, by seeing his composure and fervor while he prayed.

The Mass celebrated by him was truly a mystery of love. At the elevation it was my habit to look at him, because he always smiled sincerely as if he were smiling at someone. I noticed that in the celebration he looked like an angel. (Witnesses)

Reflection

How is my Mass? Do I consider it the center, source and summit of my life?

Lord, give me a Eucharistic heart, overflowing with love for you and for my brothers and sisters!

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12th February: Feeling like sons and daughters of Our Lady

Marian piety is not only a guarantee of predestination, but also of sanctification. Whoever wants to reach holiness without the Madonna wants to fly without wings. The more we turn to Her for grace and holiness, the more we please our Lord. All the saints were devotees of the Madonna. The most beautiful homily of St. Jerome is the one on the Madonna. I would never have believed that this rather rustic saint was all tenderness in speaking about Her. St. Bernard says that the Madonna is source and channel. It is a source of grace, just go and get it; and she is a channel, because all graces pass through Her. What God can through omnipotence, Our Lady can through prayer. Our Lady is omnipotent by grace. In God and with God everything can be done. She is treasurer and dispenser of all graces. According to the saints, She is the supplicant omnipotence. (Allamano)

Reflection

What place does the Madonna have in my life? Do I have a trust in you similar to that of Allamano?

Which expressions of Marian devotion do I prefer and why? How can I improve my relationship with the Mother of Jesus?

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13th February: Let that choir be our joy

Allamano made frequent and long visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament from the choirs of the Sanctuary and, during them, he engaged in fervent prayer. Even in the evening, before rest, he occasionally went to the choirs to pay a visit. So that when I looked for him and did not find him in his room or in his confessional, I was sure to find him praying in the choirs of the sanctuary, which offered him, given their location, located a few steps from his room, the favorable opportunity to expand his heart before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and hold a fervent conversation with Him. (C. Scovero)

“He goes to the choir that overlooks the sanctuary and keeps the SS company. Consolata and to Jesus

in the Blessed Sacrament. When I'm free I'll call you" (G. Cravero)

Reflection

The Founder created his own places of prayer. What are mine? How much do I frequent them? Am I convinced that without prayer there can be no true Christian life?

Is there also a special predilection for the Eucharist and the Madonna Consolata in my life?

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14th February: A sigh of satisfaction

Having told the Pope that our apostolate does not only consist of catechisms, but that, as an introduction and in parallel to it, we were also concerned with the health and material progress of Africans, both with the care of the sick and with accustoming them to our type of work,

His Holiness gave a sigh of satisfaction: "Good, good, make them hardworking and they will also be good Christians."

Allamano later commented: "We have done nothing other than put into practice the advice given to us by His Holiness Pope Pius X in the audiences granted to us. He was the inspirer, it was he who insisted that the missionaries were not satisfied with evangelizing, baptizing, but first of all worked the land, teaching agriculture to the indigenous people" (F. Gaberutti).

Reflection

The apostolic method of the first Consolata missionaries is reflected today in the method of the "new evangelization": announcement of the love of God that saves and gift of self to others, particularly to the poorest.

How can I apply Allamano's method to my everyday life?

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February 15th. Sanctity of life

«It is certain that from the beginning I had the impression of having seen and spoken with a saint, speaking and seeing and dealing with the can. Allamano. [...]. I saw in him not the sanctity of extraordinary things, which is rather the sanctity "ad extra", but the "true sanctity", that is, the internal, personal one, which was manifested externally in the decorous nobility of his bearing, combined with modesty and humility; gravity in the gait without pomp or rudeness or rigidity; sober grace in speaking, temperance in gestures, reverence in dealing with everyone, temperance in laughing, in speaking and all with the greatest naturalness, and not just sometimes, but continuously, in all circumstances, with any person, in any place. [...].

It seemed that he truly had the halo of sanctity around him, because in fact his whole person shone through like a spiritual fluid, and the greatness, beauty and splendor of his soul were reflected on the outside. But how can we describe it? You must have seen it! Whoever saw him saw a man entirely of God [...]. He knew he was the grandson of a saint [Joseph Cafasso] and he wanted to be a saint too at all costs, he said, and he succeeded" (G. Cravero)

Reflection

Joseph Allamano believed that holiness was the first and true vocation of every Christian. How do I live the call to holiness? Do I use all means to reach it?

“Being extraordinary in ordinary things”: this was his secret. What's mine?

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Prayer of San Allamano

We thank you, O God, source of all good,
for having given to the Church and the world

St. Joseph Allamano.

Rector of the consulate a shrine,
he devoted himself to the service of your people,
with humility and wisdom.

He thus became the father and the guide
of families consecrated to the mission
so that, in the name of the Virgin Mary,
they may give witness throughout the world
to Jesus the saviour.

Grand us, O Lord,
that we may follow his example of daily holiness,
enjoy the benefits of its intercession
and cooperate with the zeal in the proclamation
of the gospel,
so that all may have the fullness of life.
Amen.