

August 31

SAINT RAYMOND NONNATUS, PRIEST

Feast

According to reliable tradition, Raymond was born in Portell, Catalone toward the end of the twelfth century. He is called Nonnatus (not born) because he was taken from his mother's womb after her death. He entered the Order of Our Lady of Mercy and gave illustrious example of charity toward the Christian captives. During one of his redemptions, he was kept as hostage and his lips were padlocked to impede him from preaching the faith. He had a deep devotion to the Holy Eucharist and to our Lady. On his way to Rome, he died in Cardona about the year 1240.

From the common of Pastors except the following:

Invitatory

Ant. Let us praise the Lord our God, who lavished his love on Saint Raymond.

Office of Readings

HYMN

Let us keep a day of festivity
In praise and honor of Saint Raymond,
Who does wonders for mothers to be.

For his devotion to the Mother of God,
He was taken under her care
And loved by her as a son.

Filled with love for the oppressed,
He gave himself for the liberty
Of those held in captivity.

To God the Father, and the Son,
And the Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Be glory and praise throughout eternity.

PSALMODY

Ant. Freed from all things, I became a servant of my brothers and sisters to gain them for Christ.

Psalm 21:2-8, 14

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king;
how your saving help makes him glad!
You have granted him his heart's desire;
you have not refused the prayer of his lips.

You came to meet him with the blessings of success,
you have set on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked you for life and this you have given,
days that will last from age to age.

Your saving help has given him glory.
You have laid upon him majesty and splendor,
you have granted your blessings to him for ever.
You have made him rejoice with the joy of your presence.

The king has put his trust in the Lord:
through the mercy of the Most High he shall stand firm.
O Lord, arise in your strength;
we shall sing and praise your power.

Ant. Freed from all things, I became a servant of my brothers and sisters to gain them for Christ.

Ant. 2 I suffer for the Gospel to the point of being in chains, but there is no chaining the word of God.

Psalm 92 I

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night,
on the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,
with the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad;
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works!
How deep are your designs!

The foolish man cannot know this
and the fool cannot understand.
Though the wicked spring up like grass
all who do evil thrive:
they are doomed to be eternally destroyed.
But you, Lord, are eternally on high.

Ant. 2 I suffer for the Gospel to the point of being in chains, but there is no chaining the word of God.

Ant. 3 Christ will be glorified in my body whether I live or die, since for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

II

See how your enemies perish;
all doers of evil are scattered.
To me you give the wild-ox's strength;
you anoint me with the purest oil.
My eyes looked in triumph on my foes;
my ears heard gladly of their fall.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just;
in him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Ant. 3 Christ will be glorified in my body whether I live or die, since for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

The Lord has satisfied the desire of the thirsty,
— He has filled the hungry with good things.

FIRST READING

From the letter of the apostle Paul to the Philippians 1:29-30; 2:1-16

Your attitude must be that of Christ

Brothers, it is your special privilege to take Christ's part—not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him. Yours is the same struggle as mine, the one in which you formerly saw me engaged and now hear that I am caught up.

In the name of the encouragement you owe me in Christ, in the name of the solace that love can give, of fellowship in spirit, compassion, and pity, I beg you: make my joy complete by your unanimity, possessing the one love, united in spirit and ideals. Never act out of rivalry or conceit; rather, let all parties think humbly of others as superior to themselves, each of you looking to others' interests rather than his own. Your attitude must be that of Christ:

Though he was in the form of God,
he did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.
Rather, he emptied himself
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.
He was known to be of human estate,
and it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!
Because of this,
God highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
above every other name,
So that at Jesus' name
every knee must bend
in the heavens, on the earth,
and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim
to the glory of God the Father:
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

So then, my dearly beloved, obedient as always to my urging, work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation, not only when I happen to be with you but all the more now that I am absent. It is God who, in his good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement.

In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach in the midst of a twisted and depraved generation—among whom you shine like the stars in the sky while holding fast to the word of life. As I look to the Day of Christ, you give me cause to boast that I did not run the race in vain or work to no purpose.

RESPONSORY Galatians 2:20, 19, 21

I still live my human life;

— but it is a life of faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.

I have been crucified with Christ and will not treat God's gracious gift as pointless;

— but it is a life . . .

SECOND READING

From the radio message of Pope Pius XII to the 35th International Eucharistic Congress at Barcelona on May 1, 1952

The Eucharist is the symbol of peace

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Although I speak to you from a distance, I behold you and my spirit is full of joy in contemplating your assembly. Everything concerning the Eucharist speaks of peace, the fraternal agape, the sign of peace, and the many grains of wheat which are its very symbol. Peace is unity; where else can we find unity if not in the Sacrament of Love which signifies unity and produces charity. Pride, greed, and uncontrolled passions are obstacles to peace. We have in the Eucharist the heavenly remedy which preserves us from sin and makes us grow in grace and virtue. Through it our spiritual life is nourished, our passions are controlled, and charity is increased in our lives.

We take pleasure in recalling the Eucharistic tradition of your city as it shines forth in the lives of the following three saints of God: Saint Raymond Non-natus, the saint of the Eucharist; Saint Mary the Helper (of Cervellon), Apostle of daily Communion way back in the 13th century; Saint Joseph Oriol, so enamored of this holy food that he reached a high degree of mysticism sometimes using it as the only sustenance for his body.

This Eucharistic Congress will go down in the golden book of great events because of the large number of people who participated, the Catholicism it inspired in the remembrance of our brothers and sisters who suffer persecution, and the sense of social responsibility which it inspired, in accord with our wishes.

We however, desire much more than this. We want to propose this Congress as an example to the whole world so that by seeing so many nations, peoples and rites 'of one mind and heart' the world may come to know where lies the source of true, individual, familial, social, and international peace. We trust that so many prayers, sacrifices and hopes may not be in vain. We pray that your voices, your aspirations, and the beating of your hearts may ring out the one cry of peace to be heard by the whole world.

Loving Jesus, hidden under the sacramental veils, Divine Lamb sacrificed for the peace of the world constantly on our altars, hear the fervent prayers of your Church in order that the pleas of your unworthy Vicar may set the world on fire with love for you. May this fire of the Holy Spirit bring union

and harmony. May it bring to our dry and desolate world the white lily of peace.

RESPONSORY John 6:50-51

I am the bread of life that comes down from heaven,
— if anyone eats this bread he shall live forever.

This is the bread that comes down from heaven for a man to eat and never die,
— if anyone eats of this bread he shall live forever.

HYMN, Te Deum

Prayer

Lord,
in Saint Raymond Nonnatus,
faithful worshiper of the Eucharist
and loyal son of the Virgin Mary,
you have given a fearless redeemer of Christian captives
to your Church.
Faithful to the light of the Holy Spirit
may we follow the example of his unbounded charity
in sharing the trials of the oppressed.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

When by your first cry, O Raymond,
Your own mother was not wakened,
The Queen of heaven all fair
Took you under her loving care.

When the call of the Lord
"Come after me," you did hear,
Joyfully you said, "I am here.
Ready to do your will, O Lord."

You were the faithful herald of Christ
In proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom,
So that the oppressed might gain freedom
And sinners return to the Gospel light.

To prevent you from preaching Christ,
The Saracens had your lips tied,
But you, though in chains, did proclaim:
To die for Christ is perfect gain.

To God the Father, and the Son,
And the Holy Spirit be honor and praise.
May he who crowned Saint Raymond in heaven,
Be our reward when this life shall end.

Ant. 1 My being exults in the Living God.

Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I

Ant. 2. You have offered your lives for the ransom of many, bless the Lord.

Ant. 3 Sing to the Lord, bless his name. He has delivered the poor from misery.

READING 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

We are afflicted in every way possible, but we are not crushed; full of doubts, we never despair. We are persecuted but never abandoned; we are struck down but never destroyed. Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed.

RESPONSORY

I do everything for the Gospel to share in its blessings with my brothers.

— I do everything for the Gospel to share in its blessings with my brothers.

I bear all things for others so that they too may reach salvation;

— to share in its blessings with my brothers.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

— I do everything for the Gospel . . .

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. I give thanks to him who has strengthened me, our Lord Jesus Christ, for he has judged me to be trustworthy of his ministry.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us call on Christ who for our redemption subjected himself to all kinds of torment. Let us ask him in confidence:

Lord, infuse your Spirit in us

Lord, grant that we may glorify your name and praise it today with our lives,

— may our actions witness your presence.

You announced the Good News to the poor,

— help us to live in evangelical poverty and to be truly concerned for our abandoned brothers and sisters.

Thank you, Lord, for the Eucharist by which you share your life with us,
— may we worship and receive this great sacrament like your servant Saint Raymond.

Lord Jesus, by being born of a woman, you became our brother and gave us Mary as our Mother,
— grant that we, like Mary, be witnesses of your holiness through poverty, chastity, and obedience
to the will of the Father.

Our Father . . .

Prayer

Lord,
in Saint Raymond Nonnatus,
faithful worshiper of the Eucharist
and loyal son of the Virgin Mary,
you have given a fearless redeemer of Christian captives
to your Church.
Faithful to the light of the Holy Spirit
may we follow the example of his unbounded charity
in sharing the trials of the oppressed.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

Antiphons and Psalms from the weekday.

Midmorning

READING Philippians 1:23-24

I am strongly attracted by both: I long to be freed from this life and to be with Christ, for that is the far better thing; yet it is more urgent that I remain alive for your sakes.

We are ambassadors of Christ,
— as though God exhorts you through us.

Midday

READING Hebrews 13:1-3

Love your fellow Christians always. Do not neglect to show hospitality, for by that means some have entertained angels without knowing it. Be as mindful of prisoners as if you were sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you may yet suffer as they do.

Every time you do it for the least of my brothers,
— you do it for me, says the Lord.

Midafternoon

READING 1 Thessalonians 2:8

So well disposed were we to you, in fact, that we wanted to share with you not only God's tidings but our very lives, so dear had you become to us.

Who is he that we proclaim him blessed?

— For he has done marvelous things among his people.

Prayer

Lord,
in Saint Raymond Nonnatus,
faithful worshiper of the Eucharist
and loyal son of the Virgin Mary,
you have given a fearless redeemer of Christian captives
to your Church.
Faithful to the light of the Holy Spirit
may we follow the example of his unbounded charity
in sharing the trials of the oppressed.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Evening Prayer II

HYMN

When by your first cry, O Raymond,
Your own mother was not wakened,
The Queen of heaven all fair
Took you under her loving care.

When the call of the Lord
"Come after me," you did hear,
Joyfully you said, "I am here.
Ready to do your will, O Lord."

You were the faithful herald of Christ
In proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom,
So that the oppressed might gain freedom
And sinners return to the Gospel light.

To prevent you from preaching Christ,
The Saracens had your lips tied,
But you, though in chains, did proclaim:
To die for Christ is perfect gain.

To God the Father, and the Son,
And the Holy Spirit be honor and praise.
May he who crowned Saint Raymond in heaven,
Be our reward when this life shall end.

PSALMODY

Ant. I willingly spend and consecrate myself for you.

Psalm 15

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent
and dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue;

he who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbor,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honors those who fear the Lord;

he who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Ant. I willingly spend and consecrate myself for you.

Ant. 2 I am ready not only to be chained but even to die for the name of Jesus the Lord.

Psalm 112

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright;
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver;
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
grinds his teeth and fades away;
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant. 2 I am ready not only to be chained but even to die for the name of Jesus the Lord.

Ant. 3 The Lord has rewarded me with a tongue so that I may proclaim his name.

Canticle Revelation 15:3-4

Mighty and wonderful are your works,
Lord God Almighty!
Righteous and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!

Who would dare refuse you honor,
or the glory due your name, O Lord?

Since you alone are holy,
all nations shall come

and worship in your presence.
Your mighty deeds are clearly seen.

Ant. 3 The Lord has rewarded me with a tongue so that I may proclaim his name.

READING Romans 12:9-12

Your love must be sincere. Detest what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack but be fervent in spirit; he whom you serve is the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer.

RESPONSORY

Like a true friend, he intercedes for his people.
— Like a true friend, he intercedes for his people.

He has given his life for his brothers,
— he intercedes for his people.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
— Like a true friend, he intercedes for his people.

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Blessed Raymond, you loved Christ with all your strength, and, following his example, you did not hesitate to give yourself for the slaves. Though the sword of the persecutors did not strike you, you were a martyr in spirit.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us rejoice in the Lord, the giver of every perfect gift, and say to him with confidence:
Lord, hear our prayer

Lord, you have sent Christ into the world for the salvation of all men,

— strengthen the witness of your Church so that she may be the light for all people.

You have established our religious families in the Church through Mary,
— increase our love for Jesus and Mary and renew in us the charity of our forefathers.

Free the slaves, defend the cause of the poor, visit the afflicted and oppressed,
— assist those who care for their needs.

Help our Sisters who have vowed themselves to the ministry of charity,
— give them strength and joy through our prayers.

At the end of this day we thank you, Lord, for all your benefits and beg you to forgive our
faults,
— we invoke your mercy for our departed brothers and sisters so that, with Jesus and Mary, they
may enjoy your presence.

Our Father . . .

Prayer

Lord,
in Saint Raymond Nonnatus,
faithful worshiper of the Eucharist
and loyal son of the Virgin Mary,
you have given a fearless redeemer of Christian captives
to your Church.

Faithful to the light of the Holy Spirit
may we follow the example of his unbounded charity
in sharing the trials of the oppressed.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.