

St Aloysius Gonzaga SJ

Aloysius de Gonzaga (9 March 1568 – 21 June 1591) was an Italian aristocrat who became a member of the Society of Jesus. While still a student at the Roman College, he died as a result of caring for the victims of a serious epidemic. He was beatified in 1605 and canonized in 1726. St Aloysius is the patron saint of young people (due to the young age at which he died.) He is also the patron saint of students.

The feast day of St Aloysius Gonzaga is 21st June.

Images

(available in the Resources Portal)



Aloysius Gonzaga, age 9

Painting in the rooms of St Aloysius at the Roman College

Image © 2012 Jesuit Institute



Aloysius carries a man dying of plague

Statue at St Aloysius College Malta

Image © 2012 Jesuit Institute



The Vocation of Aloysius Gonzaga

Woodcut by Eric Kennington (1888 - 1960)

"The saint, a man of bronze, kneels on a rock amid the swirl of things; but the bronze lives, thrilled by the deluge of the Holy Spirit. Aloysius has to respond in his own way to Christ who, though he was God, abdicated the external homage due to God, taking a servant's form, and "humbling himself" even to death upon a cross. Aloysius, with all his will, responds. The strain is still seen as terrific: peace is not yet consummated; but victory will be absolute."

Image © 2012 Jesuit Institute



Aloysius Gonzaga as a young nobleman, painting of the Veronese school



Aloysius assists victims of the plague



Aloysius assists victims of the plague



Aloysius leaves the family home



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Frontispiece from Cepari's Life of Aloysius Gonzaga (1609)

Campion Hall Collections

Image © 2012 Jesuit Institute



The hospice where St Aloysius tended the sick

Image © 2012 Jesuit Institute



The plaque commemorating the place where Aloysius tended the sick and contracted plague from which he died
Image © 2012 Jesuit Institute

Translation:
Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, having renounced his princely title became a religious in the Society of Jesus. He was among the first students of the the Roman College when, in the fervid impulse of sacrifice and love, in the year MDXCI (1591), he consecrated his young life to the comfort of those suffering from plague, frequenting this hospital where he carried one of the infected patients contracting the disease himself whereupon, on the 21st June, at only 23 years old, he rose to his celestial reward, an angel of purity and a martyr to charity. The Roman Peoples placed this memorial on the occasion of the centenary of the Canonisation solemnly celebrated by the Church and the State to the Glory of God and the honour of Italy 29 June 1928.



The Arms of the Gonzaga family (1510)

Drama

Called

A short dramatised introduction for an assembly or Mass for the Feast of St Aloysius. From St Aloysius College Junior School, Sydney.

Music



A Hymn to St Aloysius

suitable for use with primary age children

by Julie Harvey (St Aloysius Primary School, Chapelhall, Scotland)

Available in the Resources Portal.



mp3 recording (1m 53s)

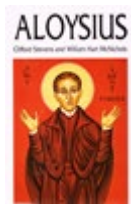


Words and guitar chords



Accompaniment

Books



Aloysius

by Clifford Stevens and William Hart McNichols (1993)

A collection of essays on Aloysius' life, spirit and relevance today. It is difficult to find good contemporary material on St Aloysius Gonzaga. This is an excellent exception.