

SEPTEMBER 26

Blessed Gaspar Stanggassinger, Priest

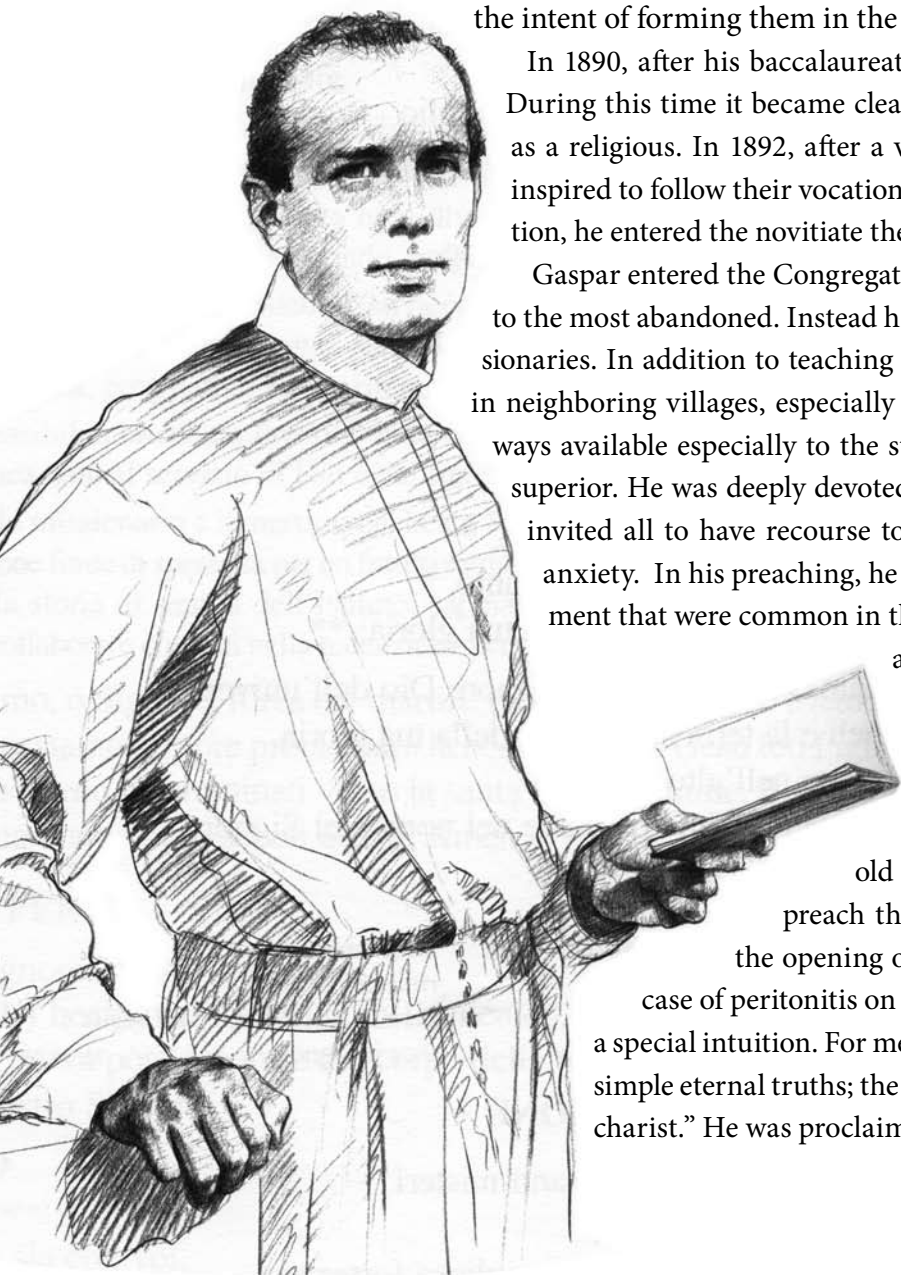
Memorial

GASPAR STANGGASSINGER, THE SECOND OF SIXTEEN CHILDREN, was born in Berchtesgarden, Germany on January 12, 1871. From his youth Gaspar had a growing desire to become a priest. He used to engage his brothers and sisters with preachings and processions. At the age of ten, he went to Freising to continue his schooling where he found the studies rather difficult, so that there was even question of quitting his studies. But he succeeded in making steady progress with effort and prayer. In 1884 he was admitted to the minor seminary in Freising. During summer vacations he organized boys' clubs with the intent of forming them in the Christian life.

In 1890, after his baccalaureate diploma, he entered the diocesan seminary. During this time it became clear to him that the Lord was calling him to live as a religious. In 1892, after a visit of the Redemptorist missionaries, he was inspired to follow their vocation as missionaries. In spite of his fathers' opposition, he entered the novitiate the same year and was ordained a priest in 1895.

Gaspar entered the Congregation with the intention of preaching the Gospel to the most abandoned. Instead his superiors appointed him to form future missionaries. In addition to teaching he always gave pastoral assistance at churches in neighboring villages, especially by preaching. Although very busy, he was always available especially to the students who saw in him more a friend than a superior. He was deeply devoted to the Eucharistic Lord and in his preaching invited all to have recourse to the Blessed Sacrament in times of need and anxiety. In his preaching, he did not have recourse to the threats of punishment that were common in the preaching of the time. Rather he was simple

and direct, inspiring the faithful to confidence and fraternal charity and to take Christian life seriously. In 1899, the Redemptorists opened a seminary in Gars, Bavaria, and he was sent there as director. He was twenty-eight years old at the time. But on arrival, he was only able to preach the retreat to the students and to participate in the opening of the school year before succumbing to a fatal case of peritonitis on September 26. He used to say: "The saints have a special intuition. For me, who am not a saint, what is important are the simple eternal truths; the Incarnation, the Redemption and the Holy Eucharist." He was proclaimed blessed by John Paul II on April 24, 1988.



Entrance Antiphon “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs,” says the Lord (Mk 10:14).

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty and eternal God,
who gave Blessed Gaspar the grace to announce the faith with joy
and to dedicate himself to the formation of candidates for the priesthood,
grant, through his intercession,
that we may follow his example
and become cooperators of the divine Redeemer
in word and in deed.**

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

FIRST READING

Philippians 4: 4-9

To express our gratitude.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 131)

R. Be my strength, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud,
nor haughty are my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. **R.**

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul. **R.**

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Mk 10:15)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

“Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it,” says the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mark 10:13-16

Jesus and the little children.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God, our Father, accept the gifts of your people
in honor of Blessed Gaspar,
and through our participation in this sacrifice
grant that we may express in our lives the power of your love.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
and to raise up to you the hymn of blessing and of praise.

Today we honor your saints
who consecrated their lives to Christ
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

What love you show us
as you recall humankind to its first innocence,
and invite us to taste on earth
the gifts of the world to come!

Now with the saints and all the angels
we praise you for ever:

Communion Antiphon No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends (Jn 15:13).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, may this holy banquet sustain us,
so that, after the example of Blessed Gaspar,
we may bear witness in thought and deed
to the light of your truth and to love for our brothers and sisters.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.