

JUNE 30

Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli, Priest

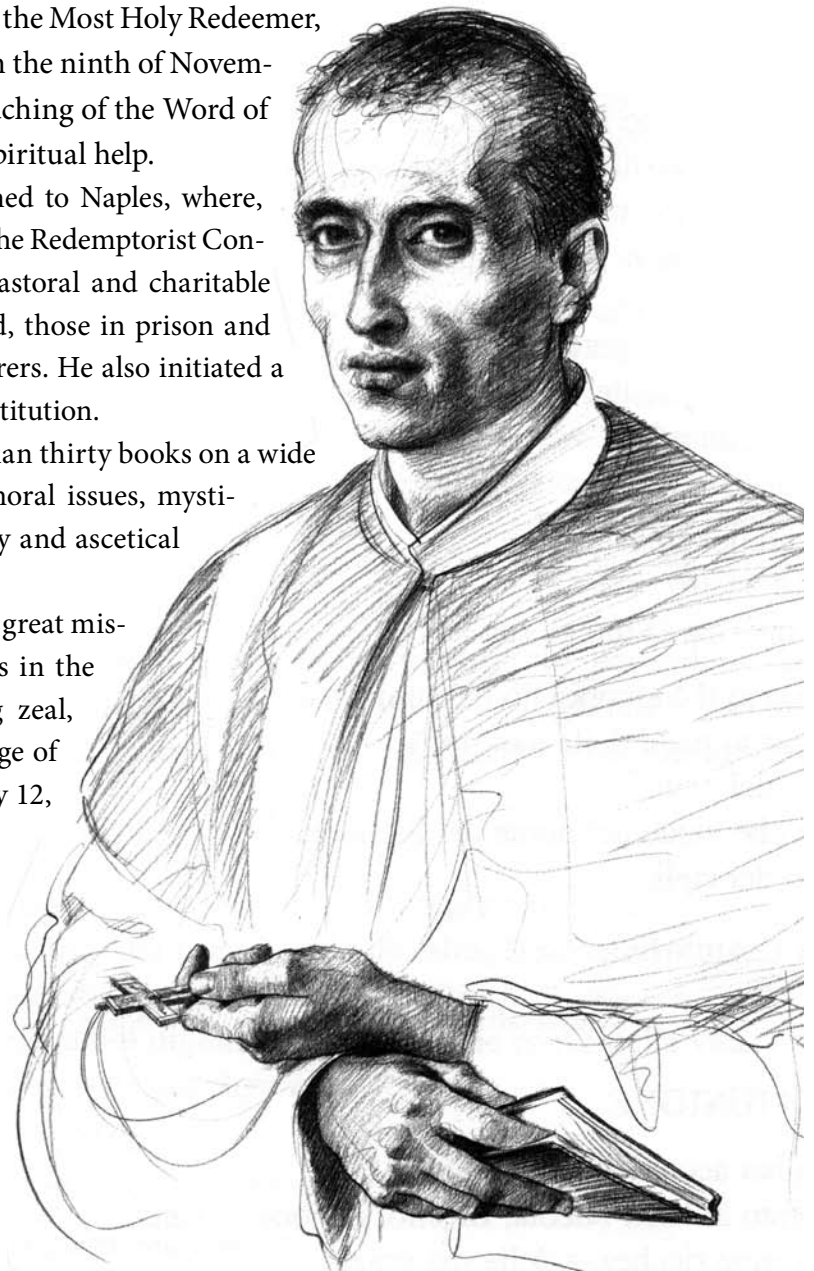
Memorial

GENNARO SARNELLI WAS BORN IN NAPLES on September 12, 1702. Son of the Baron of Ciorani, he had a solid cultural and spiritual formation. Dedicating himself to the study of jurisprudence, he gained a doctorate in civil and canon law at the age of twenty. Caring for the sick in the Hospital for the Incurables, he felt the call to the priesthood. During this time he also came to know Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, who was his first biographer. Ordained a priest in 1732, he dedicated himself especially to the catechesis of young boys and to the rehabilitation of girls at risk of becoming prostitutes. In June of the following year he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, founded by Alphonsus Maria de Liguori on the ninth of November, 1732. He dedicated himself to the preaching of the Word of God to those who were most destitute of spiritual help.

For reasons of health, in 1736, he returned to Naples, where, while continuing the missionary activity in the Redemptorist Congregation, he took up again his previous pastoral and charitable activities, especially among the sick, the old, those in prison and the young boys forced to work as dock-laborers. He also initiated a fervent movement against the spread of prostitution.

A prodigious writer, he published more than thirty books on a wide range of subjects: socio-juridical studies, moral issues, mysticism, pedagogy, pastoral practice, mariology and ascetical theology.

In 1741 he organized and took part in the great mission among the spiritually abandoned areas in the outskirts of Naples. Spent by his burning zeal, he died in Naples on June 30, 1744, at the age of forty-two. John Paul II beatified him on May 12, 1996.



Entrance Antiphon How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet
of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news,
who announces salvation (Isaiah 52:7).

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, you have chosen your priest, Blessed Gennaro Maria,
to show forth your love for the suffering
through preaching and good works.**

**Grant that, animated by your love,
we may follow his example in giving ourselves generously,
taking to heart those in need.**

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

FIRST READING

Is:52:7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 96)

R. Come, let us sing to the Lord; it is he who saves us.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name;
Proclaim his help day by day. **R.**

Tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among all the peoples.
The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods. **R.**

Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."
The world he made firm in its place;
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 15:4-5)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Abide in me as I abide in you, says the Lord;
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 15: 1-8

Abide in me as I abide in you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord, sanctify these gifts which we offer you in memory of
Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli.

Transform them for us into the sacrament of salvation,
so that, as we draw near to your altar,
we may be freed from every sin,
and may share in the banquet of eternal life.
We ask 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
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Through the witness of faith of Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli
you renew your Church
with the creative power of your Spirit,
and you give us a sure sign of your love.
His example and his intercession sustain us in the pilgrimage of life
so that the mystery of your salvation may be fulfilled in us.

United with the angels and saints,
we sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

Communion Antiphon “Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing,” says the Lord. (Jn 15:5)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, our God, this sharing in your sacraments,
nurtures in us the faith,
which has been passed on to us by the Apostles,
and which Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli served
with loving dedication.
We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.