

Memorial SEPTEMBER 26

BLESSED GASPER STANGGASSINGER, PRIEST

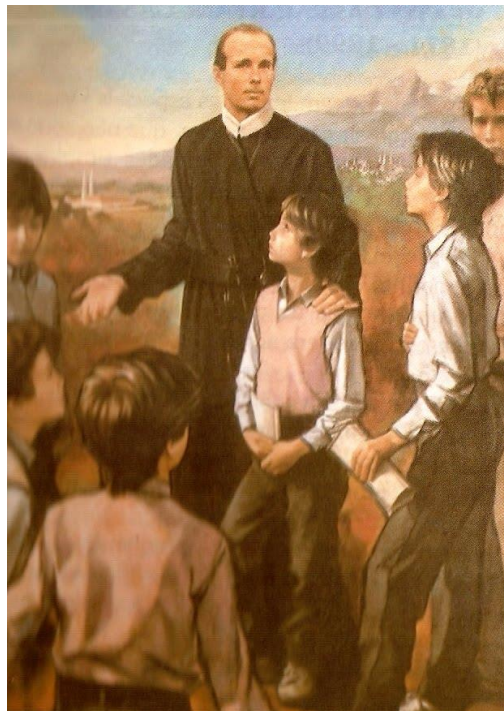
GASPAR STANGGASSINGER, THE SECOND OF SIXTEEN CHILDREN, was born in Berchtesgargden, Germany on January 12, 1871. From his youth Gaspar had a growing desire to become a priest. He used to engage his brothers and sisters with preaching and processions. At the age of ten, he went to Freising to continue his schooling where he found the studies rather difficult, so that there was even the 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 summervacations, he organized boys' clubs with the intent of forming boys 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. Despite his father's 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 neighbouring villages, especially by preaching. Although very busy, he was always available, particularly 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, 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

Mk 10:14

“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.

COLLECT

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 co-operators 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

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the

Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then 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 forever. **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

*Anyone who does not welcome the kingdom
of heaven like a little child will never enter it.*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to
Mark.

People were bringing little children to Jesus,
for him to touch them. The disciples turned

them away, 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. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider :

Having reflected on the proclaimed Word of God, in the name of Jesus, we confidently pray.

Response: *Lord, show us the way.*

1. That the Redemptorists in their ministry to the youth will lead our young people to experience the plentiful redemption of God and their true vocation. Let us pray **R.**

2. That world leaders may use their authority, responsibility and power in a spirit of service for the good of all. Let us pray. **R.**

3. That all the faithful may live lives worthy of their vocation, growing in faith and love through living their state of life. Let us pray. **R.**

4. That those in ministries may use their God-given gifts and charisms to build up the Body of Christ. Let us pray. **R.**

5. That the youth may grow and mature in faith to become the Living Stones that form the Christian community. Let us pray. **R.**

Presider :

Heavenly Father, these are the prayers of your children. Listen to our needs and grant them according to your will. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

God, our Father, accept the gifts of your people in honour 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 with your spirit.

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 and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the Saints who consecrated themselves to Christ for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven, it is right to celebrate the wonders of your providence, by which you call human

nature back to its original holiness and bring it to experience on this earth the gifts you promise in the new world to come.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

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

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.