

Memorial JUNE 30

BLESSED GENNARO MARIA SARNELLI, PRIEST

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 November 9, 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 labourers. 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

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

COLLECT

O God, you have chosen your priest, Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli, 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 ruin 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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser. Every
branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes to make it bear even more. You are
pruned already, by means of the word that I
have spoken to you. Make your home in me,

as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider :

Blessed Gennaro Sarnelli worked tirelessly for the abused and encouraged all to be prayerful. Let us present our petitions before

God, asking that we imitate Blessed Gennaro's example in reaching out to others

Response: *Lord, we beseech you hear us.*

1. For the Redemptorist community, that like Blessed Gennaro, they will continue to minister to the poor and abandoned. We pray to the Lord. **R.**
2. For the leaders of the world, that they may uphold justice and work towards lasting peace. We pray to the Lord. **R.**
3. For all Christians, that they may be a source of hope to the abused and neglected as they minister to those in need. We pray to the Lord. **R.**
4. For the marginalized of our society, especially abused women and children, that they may find Christ through the ministry of the Church. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

5. For the sick and suffering, that they may be comforted and healed through the power of prayer. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Presider :

Father, you guided Blessed Gennaro in his work and writings to bring healing to the most abandoned. May we be more loving and bring Christ to the people around us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.

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, through Christ our Lord.

For, as on this festival of Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli you bid your Church rejoice, so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life, teach her by his words of preaching, and keep her safe in answer to his prayers. And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon Jn 15:13
“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing,” says the Lord.

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