

17 September

Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Memorial

Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621) in Montepulciano, Italy, and entered the Society of Jesus in 1560. After he was ordained a priest in 1570, he was appointed as the first Jesuit professor of theology at the newly-opened college at Louvain. He soon obtained a reputation as a professor and preacher. In 1576 he was entrusted with the Chair of Controversies recently founded at the Roman College, where he taught theology. His lectures were published in three volumes bearing the title *De Controversiis*. His teaching was aimed at responding to the objections against the Catholic Church by the Reformers – Luther and Calvin. He is considered as an outstanding theologian of his age.

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. 1 Tim 6: 12

That holy man fought the good fight of the faith,
laid hold of eternal life,
and made a noble confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Collect (RM)

**O God, who adorned the Bishop Saint Robert Bellarmine
with wonderful learning and virtue
to vindicate the faith of your Church,
grant, through his intercession,
that in the integrity of that same faith
your people may always find joy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

Prayer over the Offerings

**Take, Lord, receive these offerings we bring you
in commemoration of Saint Robert,
and grant, we pray,
that, by his example,
as we approach these sacred rites with sincere hearts,
we may shine forth with pastoral concern for your people.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Communion Antiphon

Mt 5: 14a, 16

You are light of the world, says the Lord.
Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Prayer after Communion

**May the sacraments we have received, O Lord,
on this feast of Saint Robert,
enlighten the faith within us
and guide us to the light of your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.**

PREFACE I OF HOLY PASTORS (JESUIT PROPER)

The example of the Saints,
that we may more eagerly be spent because of the Gospel

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. 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 least Society of your Son, Jesus,
you have raised up many holy and blessed companions
that your glory might shine more brightly
and that we, too,
encouraged by their prayers and example,
may take up our cross
and may more eagerly spend ourselves and be spent
for the salvation of the human race
in union with Christ our Lord.**

**Through him the Angels praise your majesty,
Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you.
Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim
worship together with exultation.
May our voices, we pray, join with theirs
in humble praise, as we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...**

PREFACE II OF HOLY PASTORS (RM)

The presence of holy Pastors in the Church

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. 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 the festival of Saint **N. 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:**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .