

JUNE 21
SAINT ALOYSIUS GONZAGA
RELIGIOUS
MEMORIAL

Aloysius was the eldest son of Ferdinand Gonzaga, Marquis of Castiglione delle Stiviere, near Mantua in Lombardy, and was born in 1568. When he was nine he vowed perpetual virginity at Florence before Our Lady's shrine. He spent several years in Spain as a page at the court of Maria of Austria. After a long struggle he obtained his father's permission to become a Jesuit, and entered the Society in 1587. Broken in health through nursing the plague-stricken, he died at Rome in 1591. He was canonized by Benedict XIII in 1726, and three years later was declared the patron of young people, especially students.

From the Common of Men Saints, for Religious.

Second Reading and Responsory as in the Roman Divine Office
(from a letter of Aloysius Gonzaga to his mother, June 10, 1591).

Concluding Prayer

Lord God, help us to be like our brother Saint Aloysius, who gave up honor and riches to serve you. Keep us untouched by the spirit of this world, so that we may seek your glory in all things. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Alternate Concluding Prayer: as in the Roman Divine Office.