

June 21, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

GROUNDING IN GOD'S LOVE

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"In the twilight of our life, we shall be judged according to love."

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

Reflection

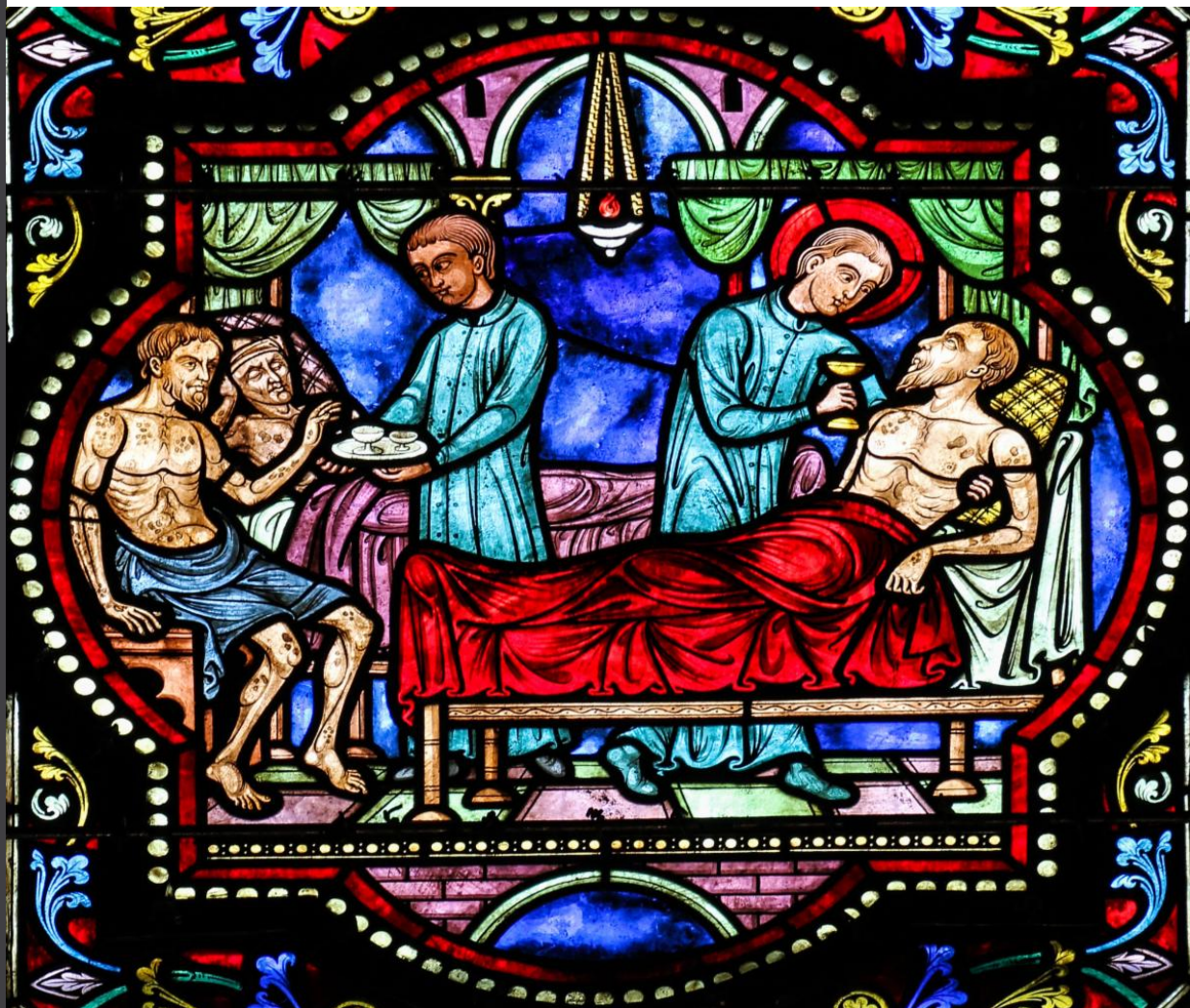
Today celebrates the Memorial of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious. While a pupil of the lives of saints from an early age, I confess, I really knew scant about Saint Aloysius and honestly, on hearing his name, the first thing that pops into my head is basketball. Thus, an exploration of his life follows.

The one thing I did know: St. Aloysius was a member of the Society of Jesus. But I discovered he was spiritually precocious: he had his eyes on God and engaged in spiritual practices, such as praying the Office of Mary and self-abnegation, from an early age. He hung out with other saints, receiving his First Communion from St. Charles Borromeo and, later in his life, St. Robert

Bellarmino was his spiritual director. Growing up in the city of Florence in the mid 1500s, Aloysius, a child of privilege and nobility, was surrounded by political intrigue and conflict and societal shenanigans. He was on the fast track to fame and fortune and his father was pushing Aloysius to be a military leader.

Following a three-to-four-year contest of wills, the call to serve God won out, and Aloysius, at the age of seventeen, joined the Society of Jesus as a novice in 1585. He went to study in Rome in preparation to make vows and, eventually, for ordination. During this time, a plague struck the city, and, despite his own fragile health, Aloysius went to nurse people recovering from illness. In 1591, he became sick and succumbed to the plague at the young age of 23.

In reflecting on the life of St. Aloysius, it is difficult to not consider the similar challenges of our time and the need for his patronage. He is the patron of youth, and the complex issues confronting the younger generations are arresting. He is also the patron of AIDS patients and AIDS caregivers and I have to wonder if that might spill over to COVID patients and caregivers today. No doubt, we can use all the help that is available.



For Pondering

- Saints are extraordinary people and at the same time, each of us is called by God to serve in whatever capacity we can throughout our lives. Would you affirm that the call is ongoing and unfolding?
 - When and how have you been called by God? Consider one or two occasions.
 - What would you like to celebrate in your "yes?"
-

For Prayer

What is your prayer of thanksgiving for the endowment of calling?

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support CSD



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street | Orange, CA 92868 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)