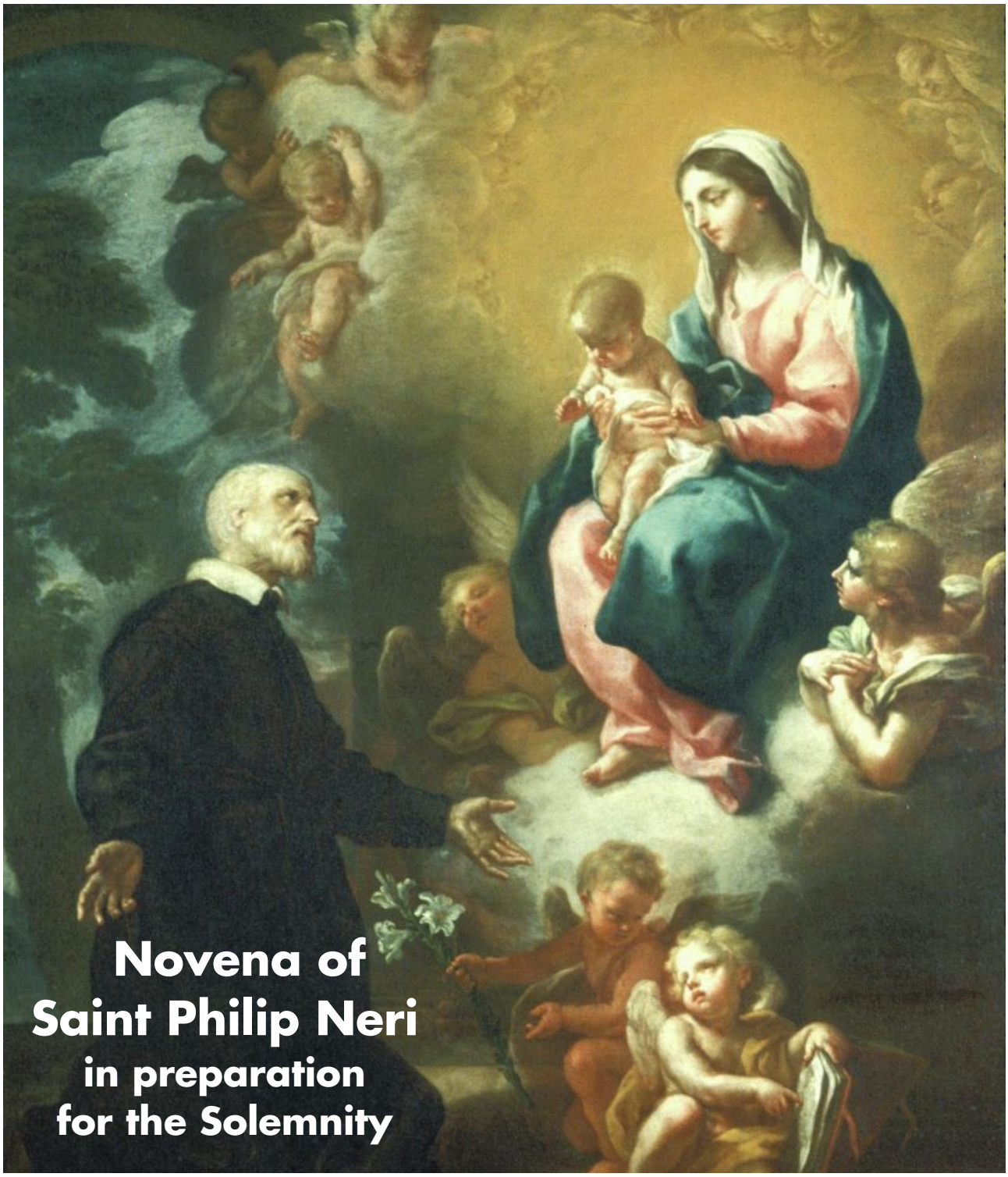
PORT ELIZABETH ORATORY ✸ PARISH OF ST BERNADETTE



Novena of Saint Philip Neri

in preparation for the Solemnity

Novena in preparation for the Solemnity of our Glorious Patriarch, Saint Philip Neri, Apostle of Rome

THIS EDITION WITH FULL TEXT

OF THE MEDITATIONS

The meditations and prayers are those of
Saint John Henry Newman,
published in his *Meditations and Devotions*.

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The congregation stands for the Invocation of the Holy Spirit, while making the Sign of the Cross.

V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.

V. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.
R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.
O God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

The congregation remains standing to sing a hymn in honour of St Philip. After the hymn has been sung, the congregation is seated.

SCRIPTURE READING

A scripture reading is read by the Lector.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION & PRAYER

The meditation and prayer from Saint John Henry Newman for the day is now read by the Father Officiant.

A period of silence is kept.

After the meditation, at a sign from the Father Officiant, the congregation kneels.

LITANY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI

Lord, have mercy.	*Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy.	*Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy.	*Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, hear us.	*Christ, graciously hear us.*
God the Father of Heaven,	*have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	*have mercy on us.*
God the Holy Spirit,	*have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, One God,	*have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary,	*pray for us.*
Holy Mother of God,	*pray for us.*
Holy Virgin of Virgins,	*pray for us.*
Saint Philip,	*pray for us.*
Vessel of the Holy Spirit,	*pray for us.*
Child of Mary,	*pray for us.*
Apostle of Rome,	*pray for us.*
Counsellor of popes,	*pray for us.*
Voice of prophecy,	*pray for us.*
Man of primitive times,	*pray for us.*
Winning saint,	*pray for us.*
Hidden hero,	*pray for us.*
Sweetest of fathers,	*pray for us.*
Flower of purity,	*pray for us.*
Martyr of charity,	*pray for us.*
Heart of fire,	*pray for us.*
Discerner of spirits,	*pray for us.*
Choicest of priests,	*pray for us.*
Mirror of the divine life,	*pray for us.*
Pattern of humility,	*pray for us.*
Example of simplicity,	*pray for us.*
Light of holy joy,	*pray for us.*
Image of childhood,	*pray for us.*
Picture of old age,	*pray for us.*
Director of souls,	*pray for us.*

Gentle guide of youth, *pray for us.*
Patron of thine own, *pray for us.*

Who observed chastity in your youth, *pray for us.*
Who sought Rome by divine guidance, *pray for us.*
Who hid so long in the catacombs, *pray for us.*
Who received the Holy Spirit into your heart, *pray for us.*
Who experienced such wonderful ecstasies, *pray for us.*
Who so lovingly served the little ones, *pray for us.*
Who washed the feet of pilgrims, *pray for us.*
Who ardently desired martyrdom, *pray for us.*
Who distributed the daily word of God, *pray for us.*
Who turned so many hearts to God, *pray for us.*
Who spoke so sweetly with Mary, *pray for us.*
Who raised the dead, *pray for us.*
Who set up your houses in all lands, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God,
  Who takes away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God,
  Who takes away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God,
  Who takes away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

V. Remember your congregation
R. Which you have possessed from the beginning.

Let us pray.
God, Who has exalted Saint Philip, Your confessor, in the glory of Your saints, grant that, as we rejoice in his commemoration, so may we profit by the example of his virtues, though Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The congregation remains kneeling for Baronius' prayer.

BARONIUS' PRAYER TO ST PHILIP

Said by the whole congregation.

Look down from heaven, Holy Father, from the loftiness of that mountain to the lowliness of this valley; from that harbour of quietness and tranquillity to this calamitous sea. And now that the darkness of this world hinders no more those benignant eyes of thine from looking clearly into all things, look down and visit, O most diligent keeper, this vineyard which thy right hand planted with so much labour, anxiety and peril. To thee then we fly; from thee we seek for aid; to thee we give our whole selves unreservedly. Thee we adopt as our patron and defender; undertake the cause of our salvation, protect thy clients. To thee we appeal as our leader; rule thine army fighting against the assaults of the devil. To thee, kindest of pilots, we give up the rudder of our lives; steer this little ship of thine, and, placed as thou art on high, keep us off all the rocks of evil desires, that with thee for our pilot and guide, we may safely come to the port of eternal bliss. Amen.

Then is repeated three times:

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

V. Holy Father, Saint Philip.
R. Pray for us.

The Officiant concludes with this Collect.

Let us pray.
O God, who did marvellously penetrate the heart of Blessed Philip with the fire of Thy love, grant that the same fire of the Holy Spirit may inflame us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, Who lives and reigns with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Marian Antiphon follows.
We stand, turning to the Lady altar.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

Intoned by the Father Officiant, this is taken up by the congregation. The versicles and collect of the antiphon follow.

Regina Cæli

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia: For He Whom you did merit to bear, alleluia, has risen, as He said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.
R. Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

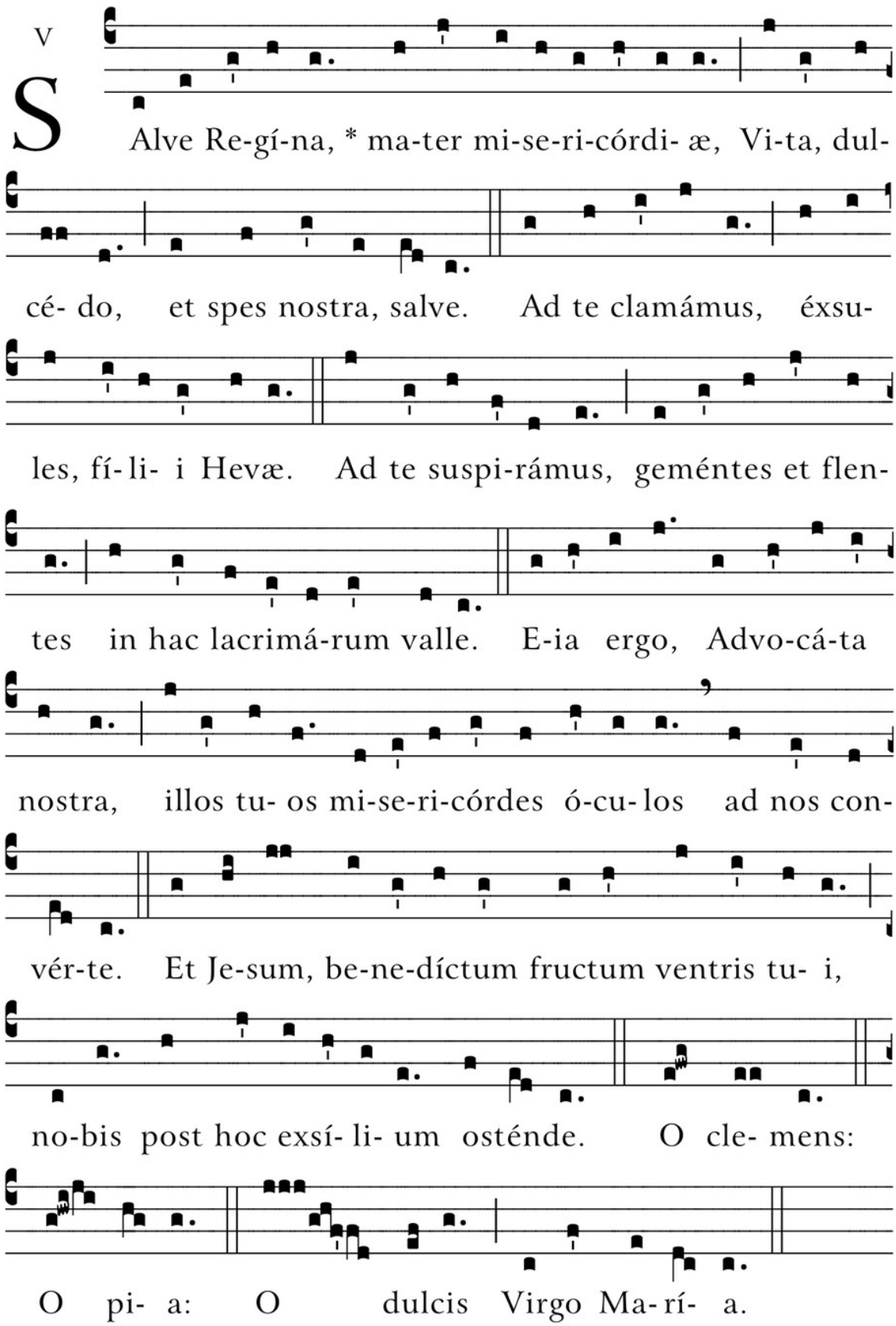
V. Oremus.

V. Let us pray.

Deus, qui per resurrectionem Filii tui, Domini nostri Iesu Christi mundum laetificare dignatus es: praesta, quaesumus, ut per eius Genitricem Virginem Mariam perpetuae capiamus gaudia vitae. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum.
R. Amen.

O God,
Who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life,
through the same Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Salve Regina



Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Ora pro nobis Sancta Dei Genitrix.
R. Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi.

V. Oremus.
Omnipotens sempiterne Deus, qui gloriosae Virginis Matris Mariae corpus et animam, ut dignum Filii tui habitaculum effici mereretur, Spiritu Sancto cooperante praeparasti: da, ut cujus commemoratione laetamur; ejus pia intercessione, ab instantibus malis, et a morte perpetua liberemur. Per eumdem Christum Dominum nostrum.
R. Amen.

V. Pray for us O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V. Let us pray.
Almighty, everlasting God, who by the co-operation of the Holy Ghost didst prepare the body and soul of the glorious Virgin-Mother Mary to become a dwelling-place meet for thy Son: grant that as we rejoice in her commemoration; so by her fervent intercession we may be delivered from present evils and from everlasting death. Through the same Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

NOVENA READINGS, MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS

Arranged for each day

Day 1: Philip's Humility

The Lector reads.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians. 4:1-4a

I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S HUMILITY

If Philip heard of anyone having committed a crime, he would say, "Thank God that I have not done worse." At confession he would shed abundance of tears, and say, "I have never done a good action." When a penitent showed that she could not bear the rudeness shown towards him by certain persons who were under great obligations to him, he answered her, "If I were humble, God would not send this to me."

When one of his spiritual children said to him, "Father, I wish to have something of yours for devotion, for I know you are a Saint," he turned to her with a face full of anger, and broke out into these words: "Begone with you! I am a devil, and not a saint."

To another who said to him, "Father, a temptation has come to me to think that you are not what the world takes you for," he made answer: "Be sure of this, that I am a man like my neighbours, and nothing more." If he heard of any who had a good opinion of him, he used to say, "O poor me! how many poor girls will be greater in Paradise than I shall be!"

He avoided all marks of honour. He could not bear to receive any signs of respect. When people wished to touch his clothes, and knelt as he passed by, he used to say, "Get up! get out of my way!" He did not like people to kiss his hand; though he sometimes let them do so, lest he should hurt their feelings.

He was an enemy to all rivalry and contention. He always took in good part everything that was said to him. He had a particular dislike of affectation, whether in speaking, or in dressing, or in anything else. He could not bear two-faced persons; as for liars, he could not endure them, and was continually reminding his spiritual children to avoid them as they would a pestilence.

He always asked advice, even on affairs of minor importance. His constant counsel to his penitents was, that they should not trust in themselves, but always take the advice of others, and get as many prayers as they could.

He took great pleasure in being lightly esteemed, nay, even despised. He had a most pleasant manner of transacting business with others, great sweetness in conversation, and was full of compassion and consideration.

He had always a dislike to speak of himself. The phrases "I said," "I did," were rarely in his mouth. He exhorted others never to make a display of themselves, especially in those things which tended to their credit, whether in earnest or in joke.

As St. John the Evangelist, when old, was continually saying, "Little children, love one another," so Philip was ever repeating his favourite lesson, "Be humble; think little of yourselves."

He said that if we did a good work, and another took the credit of it to himself, we ought to rejoice and thank God.

He said no one ought to say, "Oh! I shall not fall, I shall not commit sin," for it was a clear sign that he would fall. He was greatly displeased with those who made excuses for themselves, and called such persons. "My Lady Eve," because Eve defended herself instead of being humble.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my glorious patron, who didst count as dross the praise, and even the good esteem of men, obtain for me also, from my Lord and Saviour, this fair virtue by thy prayers. How haughty are my thoughts, how contemptuous are my words, how ambitious are my works. Gain for me that low esteem of self with which thou wast gifted; obtain for me a knowledge of my own nothingness, that I may rejoice when I am despised, and ever seek to be great only in the eyes of my God and Judge. Amen.

Silence follows.

Day 2: Philip's Devotion

The Lector reads.

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John. 4:7-9

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only son into the world so that we might have life through him.

The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S DEVOTION

The inward flame of devotion in Philip was so intense that he sometimes fainted in consequence of it, or was forced to throw himself upon his bed, under the sickness of divine love. When he was young he sometimes felt this divine fervour so vehemently as to be unable to contain himself, throwing himself as if in agony on the ground and crying out, "No more, Lord, no more."

What St. Paul says of himself seemed to be fulfilled in Philip: "I am filled with consolation - I over-abound with joy."

Yet, though he enjoyed sweetnesses, he used to say that he wished to serve God, not out of interest—that is, because there was pleasure in it—but out of pure love, even though he felt no gratification in loving Him.

When he was a layman, he communicated every morning. When he was old, he had frequent ecstacies during his Mass.

Hence it is customary in pictures of Philip to paint him in red vestments, to record his ardent desire to shed his blood for the love of Christ.

He was so devoted to his Lord and Saviour that he was always pronouncing the name of Jesus with unspeakable sweetness. He had also an extraordinary pleasure in saying the Creed, and he was so fond of the "Our Father" that he lingered on each petition in such a way that it seemed as if he never would get through them.

He had such a devotion to the Blessed Sacrament that, when he was ill, he could not sleep till he had communicated.

When he was reading or meditating on the Passion he was seen to turn as pale as ashes, and his eyes filled with tears.

Once when he was ill, they brought him something to drink. He took the glass in his hand, and when he was putting it to his mouth stopped, and began to weep most bitterly. He cried out, "Thou, my Christ, Thou upon the Cross wast thirsty, and they gave Thee nothing but gall and vinegar to drink; and I am in bed, with so many comforts around me, and so many persons to attend to me."

Yet Philip did not make much account of this warmth and acuteness of feeling; for he said that Emotion was not Devotion, that tears were no sign that a man was in the grace of God, neither must we suppose a man holy merely because he weeps when he speaks of religion.

Philip was so devoted to the Blessed Virgin that he had her name continually in his mouth. He had two ejaculations in her honour. One, "Virgin Mary, Mother of God, pray to Jesus for me." The other, simply "Virgin Mother," for he said that in those two words all possible praises of Mary are contained.

He had also a singular devotion to St. Mary Magdalen, on whose vigil he was born, and for the Apostles St. James and St. Philip; also for St. Paul the Apostle, and for St. Thomas of Aquinum, Doctor of the Church.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my glorious Patron, gain for me a portion of that gift which thou hadst so abundantly. Alas! thy heart was burning with love; mine is all frozen towards God, and alive only for creatures. I love the world, which can never make me happy; my highest desire is to be well off here below. O my God, when shall I learn to love nothing else but Thee? Gain for me, O Philip, a pure love, a strong love, and an efficacious love, that, loving God here upon earth, I may enjoy the sight of Him, together with thee and all saints, hereafter in heaven. Amen.

Silence follows.

Day 3: Philip's Exercise of Prayer

The Lector reads.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians. 4:5b-7, 9

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. ... Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S EXERCISE OF PRAYER

From very boyhood the servant of God gave himself up to prayer, until he acquired such a habit of it, that, wherever he was, his mind was always lifted up to heavenly things. Sometimes he forgot to eat; sometimes, when he was dressing, he left off, being carried away in his thought to heaven, with his eyes open, yet abstracted from all things around him. It was easier for Philip to think upon God, than for men of the world to think of the world.

If anyone entered his room suddenly, he would most probably find him so rapt in prayer, that, when spoken to, he did not give the right answer, and had to take a turn or two up and down the room before he fully came to himself. If he gave way to his habit of prayer in the most trifling degree, he immediately became lost in contemplation. It was necessary to distract him lest this continual stretch of mind should be prejudicial to his health.

Before transacting business, however trivial, he always prayed; when asked a question, he never answered till he had recollected himself.

He began praying when he went to bed, and as soon as he awoke, and he did not usually sleep more than four, or at the most five hours.

Sometimes, if anyone showed that he had observed that Philip went to bed late or rose early in order to pray, he would answer, "Paradise is not made for sluggards."

He was more than ordinarily intent on prayer at the more solemn feasts, or at a time of urgent spiritual necessities; above all, in Holy Week. Those who could not make long meditations he advised to lift up their minds repeatedly to God in ejaculatory prayers, as "Jesus, increase my faith," "Jesus, grant that I may never offend Thee."

Philip introduced family prayer into many of the principal houses of Rome. When one of his penitents asked him to teach him how to pray, he answered, "Be humble and obedient, and the Holy Ghost will teach you." He had a special devotion for the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, and daily poured out before Him most fervent prayers for gifts and graces.

Once, when he was passing the night in prayer in the Catacombs, that great miracle took place of the Divine presence of the Holy Ghost descending upon him under the appearance of a ball of fire, entering into his mouth and lodging in his breast, from which time he had a supernatural palpitation of the heart. He used to say that when our prayers are in the way of being granted, we must not leave off, but pray as fervently as before.

He especially recommended beginners to meditate on the four last things, and used to say that he who does not in his thoughts and fears go down to hell in his lifetime, runs a great risk of going there when he dies. When he wished to show the necessity of prayer, he said that a man without prayer was an animal without reason. Many of his disciples improved greatly in this exercise - not religious only, but secular persons, artisans, merchants, physicians, lawyers, and courtiers - and became such men of prayer as to receive extraordinary favours from God.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my holy Patron, teach me by thy example, and gain for me by thy intercessions, to seek my Lord and God at all times and in all places, and to live in His presence and in sacred intercourse with Him. As the children of this world look up to rich men or men in station for the favour which they desire, so may I ever lift up my eyes and hands and heart towards heaven, and betake myself to the Source of all good for those goods which I need. As the children of this world converse with their friends and find their pleasure in them, so may I ever hold communion with Saints and Angels, and with the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of my Lord. Pray with me, O Philip, as thou didst pray with thy penitents here below, and then prayer will become sweet to me, as it did to them. Amen.

Silence follows.

Day 4: Philip's Purity

The Lector reads.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians.5:16-17, 24-25

I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh ... Now those who belong to Christ have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S PURITY

Philip well knowing the pleasure which God takes in cleanness of heart, had no sooner come to years of discretion, and to the power of distinguishing between good and evil, than he set himself to wage war against the evils and suggestions of his enemy, and never rested till he had gained the victory. Thus, notwithstanding he lived in the world when young, and met with all kinds of persons, he preserved his virginity spotless in those dangerous years of his life.

No word was ever heard from his lips which would offend the most severe modesty, and in his dress, his carriage, and countenance, he manifested the same beautiful virtue.

One day, while he was yet a layman, some profligate persons impudently tempted him to commit sin. When he saw that flight was impossible, he began to speak to them of the hideousness of sin and the awful presence of God. This he did with such manifest distress, such earnestness, and such fervour, that his words pierced their abandoned hearts as a sword, and not only persuaded them to give up their horrible thought, but even reclaimed them from their evil ways.

At another time some bad men, who are accustomed to think no one better than themselves, invited him on some pretext into their house, under the belief that he was not what the world took him to be; and then, having got possession of him, thrust him into a great temptation. Philip, in this strait, finding the doors locked, knelt down and began to pray to God with such astonishing fervour and heartfelt heavenly eloquence, that the two poor wretches who were in the room did not dare to speak to him, and at last themselves left him and gave him a way to escape.

His virginal purity shone out of his countenance. His eyes were so clear and bright, even to the last years of his life, that no painter ever succeeded in giving the expression of them, and it was not easy for anyone to keep looking on him for any length of time, for he dazzled them like an Angel of Paradise.

Moreover, his body, even in his old age, emitted a fragrance which, even in his decrepit old age, refreshed those who came near him; and many said that they felt devotion infused into them by the mere smell of his hands.

As to the opposite vice. The ill odour of it was not to the Saint a mere figure of speech, but a reality, so that he could detect those whose souls were blackened by it; and he used to say that it was so horrible that nothing in the world could equal it, nothing, in short, but the Evil Spirit himself. Before his penitents began their confession he sometimes said, "O my son, I know your sins already."

Many confessed that they were at once delivered from temptations by his merely laying his hands on their heads. The very mention of his name had a power of shielding from Satan those who were assailed by his fiery darts.

He exhorted men never to trust themselves, whatever experience they might have of themselves, or however long their habits of virtue.

He used to say that humility was the true guard of chastity; and that not to have pity for another in such cases was a forerunner of a speedy fall in ourselves; and that when he found a man censorious, and secure of himself, and without fear, he gave him up for lost.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my glorious Patron, who didst ever keep unsullied the white lily of thy purity, with such jealous care that the majesty of this fair virtue beamed from thine eyes, shone in thy hands, and was fragrant in thy breath, obtain for me that gift from the Holy Ghost, that neither the words nor the example of sinners may ever make any impression on my soul. And, since it is by avoiding occasions of sin, by prayer, by keeping myself employed, and by the frequent use of the Sacraments that my dread enemy must be subdued, gain for me the grace to persevere in these necessary observances. Amen.

Silence follows.

Day 5: Philip's Tenderness of Heart

The Lector reads.

> A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians. 4:30-32
>
> Do not grieve the Spirit of God, with which you have been sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.
>
> The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S TENDERNESS OF HEART

Philip could not endure the very sight of suffering; and though he abhorred riches, he always wished to have money to give in alms.

He could not bear to see children scantily clothed, and did all he could to get new clothes for them.

Oppressed and suffering innocence troubled him especially; when a Roman gentleman was falsely accused of having been the death of a man, and was imprisoned, he went so far as to put his cause before the Pope, and obtained his liberation.

A priest was accused by some powerful persons, and was likely to suffer in consequence. Philip took up his cause with such warmth that he established his innocence before the public.

Another time, hearing of some gipsies who had been unjustly condemned to hard labour, he went to the Pope, and procured their freedom. His love of justice was as great as his tenderness and compassion.

Soon after he became a Priest there was a severe famine in Rome, and six loaves were sent to him as a present. Knowing that there was in the same house a poor foreigner suffering from want of food, he gave them all to him, and had for the first day nothing but olives to eat.

Philip had a special tenderness towards artisans, and those who had a difficulty of selling their goods. There were two watchmakers, skilful artists, but old and burdened with large families. He gave them a large order for watches, and contrived to sell them among his friends.

His zeal and liberality specially shone forth towards poor girls. He provided for them when they had no other means of provision. He found marriage dowries for some of them; to others he gave what was sufficient to gain their admittance into convents.

He was particularly good to prisoners, to whom he sent money several times in the week.

He set no limits to his affection for the shrinking and bashful poor, and was more liberal in his alms towards them.

Poor students were another object of his special compassion; he provided them not only with food and clothing, but also with books for their studies. To aid one of them he sold all his own books.

He felt most keenly any kindness done to him, so that one of his friends said: "You could not make Philip a present without receiving another from him of double value." He was very tender towards brute animals. Seeing someone put his foot on a lizard, he cried out, "Cruel fellow! what has that poor animal done to you?" Seeing a butcher wound a dog with one of his knives, he could not contain himself, and had great difficulty in keeping himself cool.

He could not bear the slightest cruelty to be shown to brute animals under any pretext whatever. If a bird came into the room, he would have the window opened that it might not be caught.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my glorious Advocate, teach me to look at all I see around me after thy pattern as the creatures of God. Let me never forget that the same God who made me made the whole world, and all men and all animals that are in it. Gain me the grace to love all God's works for God's sake, and all men for the sake of my Lord and Saviour who has redeemed them by the Cross. And especially let me be tender and compassionate and loving towards all Christians, as my brethren in grace. And do thou, who on earth was so tender to all, be especially tender to us, and feel for us, bear with us in all our troubles, and gain for us from God, with whom thou dwellest in beatific light, all the aids necessary for bringing us safely to Him and to thee. Amen.

Day 6: Philip's Cheerfulness

The Lector reads.

> A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy. 6:18-19
>
> Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth, but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.
>
> The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S CHEERFULNESS

Philip welcomed those who consulted him with singular benignity, and received them, though strangers, with as much affection as if he had been a long time expecting them. When he was called upon to be merry, he was merry; when he was called upon to feel sympathy with the distressed, he was equally ready.

Sometimes he left his prayers and went down to sport and banter with young men, and by this sweetness and condescension and playful conversation gained their souls. He could not bear anyone to be downcast or pensive, because spirituality is always injured by it; but when he saw anyone grave and gloomy, he used to say, "Be merry." He had a particular and marked leaning to cheerful persons.

At the same time he was a great enemy to anything like rudeness or foolery; for a buffooning spirit not only does not advance in religion, but roots out even what is already there.

One day he restored cheerfulness to Father Francesco Bernardi, of the Congregation, by simply asking him to run with him, saying, "Come now, let us have a run together."

His penitents felt that joy at being in his room that they used to say, Philip's room is not a room, but an earthly Paradise.

To others, to merely stand at the door of his room, without going in, was a release from all their troubles. Others recovered their lost peace of mind by simply looking Philip in the face. To dream of him was enough to comfort many. In a word, Philip was a perpetual refreshment to all those who were in perplexity and sadness.

No one ever saw Philip melancholy; those who went to him always found him with a cheerful and smiling countenance, yet mixed with gravity.

When he was ill he did not so much receive as impart consolation. He was never heard to change his voice, as invalids generally do, but spoke in the same sonorous tone as when he was well. Once, when the physicians had given him over, he said, with the Psalmist, "Paratus sum et non sum turbatus" ("I am ready, and am not troubled"). He received Extreme Unction four times, but with the same calm and joyous countenance.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my glorious Advocate, who didst ever follow the precepts and example of the Apostle St. Paul in rejoicing always in all things, gain for me the grace of perfect resignation to God's will, of indifference to matters of this world, and a constant sight of Heaven; so that I may never be disappointed at the Divine providences, never desponding, never sad, never fretful; that my countenance may always be open and cheerful, and my words kind and pleasant, as becomes those who, in whatever state of life they are, have the greatest of all goods, the favour of God and the prospect of eternal bliss. Amen.

Silence follows.

Day 7: Philip's Patience

The Lector reads.

A reading from the Letter of Saint James. 5:7-8

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S PATIENCE

Philip was for years and years the butt and laughing-stock of all the hangers-on of the great palaces of the nobility at Rome, who said all the bad of him that came into their heads, because they did not like to see a virtuous and conscientious man. This sarcastic talk against him lasted for years and years; so that Rome was full of it, and through all the shops and counting-houses the idlers and evil livers did nothing but ridicule Philip. When they fixed some calumny upon him, he did not take it in the least amiss, but with the greatest calmness contented himself with a simple smile.

Once a gentleman's servant began to abuse him so insolently that a person of consideration, who witnessed the insult, was about to lay hands on him; but, when he saw with what gentleness and cheerfulness Philip took it, he restrained himself, and ever after counted Philip as a saint.

Sometimes his own spiritual children, and even those who lay under the greatest obligations to him, treated him as if he were a rude and foolish person; but he did not show any resentment.

Once, when he was Superior of the Congregation, one of his subjects snatched a letter out of his hand; but the saint took the affront with incomparable meekness, and neither in look, nor word, nor in gesture betrayed the slightest emotion.

Patience had so completely become a habit with him, that he was never seen in a passion. He checked the first movement of resentful feeling; his countenance calmed instantly, and he reassumed his usual modest smile.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my holy Advocate, who didst bear persecution and calumny, pain and sickness, with so admirable a patience, gain for me the grace of true fortitude under all the trials of this life. Alas! how do I need patience! I shrink from every small inconvenience; I sicken under every light affliction; I fire up at every trifling contradiction; I fret and am cross at every little suffering of body. Gain for me the grace to enter with hearty good-will into all such crosses as I may receive day by day from my Heavenly Father. Let me imitate thee, as thou didst imitate my Lord and Saviour, that so, as thou hast attained heaven by thy calm endurance of bodily and mental pain, I too may attain the merit of patience, and the reward of life everlasting. Amen.

Silence follows.

Day 8: Philip's Care for the Salvation of Souls

The Lector reads.

> A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter. 1:8-9
>
> Although you have never seen (Christ) you love him; even though you do not see him now you believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
>
> The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S CARE FOR THE SALVATION OF SOULS

When he was a young priest, and had gathered about him a number of spiritual persons, his first wish was to go with them all to preach the gospel to the heathen of India, where St. Francis Xavier was engaged in his wonderful career – and he only gave up the idea in obedience to the holy men whom he consulted.

As to bad Christians at home, such extreme desire had he for their conversion, that even when he was old he took severe disciplines in their behalf, and wept for their sins as if they had been his own.

While a layman, he converted by one sermon thirty dissolute youths.

He was successful, under the grace of God, in bringing back almost an infinite number of sinners to the paths of holiness. Many at the hour of death cried out, "Blessed be the day when first I came to know Father Philip!" Others, "Father Philip draws souls to him as the magnet draws iron."

With a view to the fulfilment of what he considered his special mission, he gave himself up entirely to hearing confessions, exclusive of every other employment. Before sunrise he had generally confessed a good number of penitents in his own room. He went down into the church at daybreak, and never left it till noon, except to say Mass. If no penitents came, he remained near his confessional, reading, saying office, or telling his beads. If he was at prayer, if at his meals, he at once broke off when his penitents came.

He never intermitted his hearing of confessions for any illness, unless the physician forbade it.

For the same reason he kept his room-door open, so that he was exposed to the view of everyone who passed it.

He had a particular anxiety about boys and young men. He was most anxious to have them always occupied, for he knew that idleness was the parent of every evil. Sometimes he made work for them, when he could not find any.

He let them make what noise they pleased about him, if in so doing he was keeping them from temptation. When a friend remonstrated with him for

letting them so interfere with him, he made answer: "So long as they do not sin, they may chop wood upon my back."

He was allowed by the Dominican Fathers to take out their novices for recreation. He used to delight to see them at their holiday meal. He used to say, "Eat, my sons, and do not scruple about it, for it makes me fat to watch you;" and then, when dinner was over, he made them sit in a ring around him,

and told them the secrets of their hearts, and gave them good advice, and exhorted them to virtue.

He had a remarkable power of consoling the sick, and of delivering them from the temptations with which the devil assails them.

To his zeal for the conversion of souls, Philip always joined the exercise of corporal acts of mercy. He visited the sick in the hospitals, served them in all their necessities, made their beds, swept the floor round them, and gave them their meals.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my holy Patron, who wast so careful for the souls of thy brethren, and especially of thy own people, when on earth, slack not thy care of them now, when thou art in heaven. Be with us, who are thy children and thy clients; and, with thy greater power with God, and with thy more intimate insight into our needs and our dangers, guide us along the path which leads to God and to thee. Be to us a good father; make our priests blameless and beyond reproach or scandal; make our children obedient, our youth prudent and chaste, our heads of families wise and gentle, our old people cheerful and fervent, and build us up, by thy powerful intercessions, in faith, hope, charity, and all virtues. Amen.

Silence follows.

Day 9: Philip's Miraculous Gifts

The Lector reads.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation. 2:10b, 25-26

Remain faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life… You must hold fast to what you have until I come. To the victor, who keeps my ways until the end, I will give authority over the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

The Father Officiant reads, including the title.

SAINT PHILIP'S MIRACULOUS GIFTS

Philip's great and solid virtues were crowned and adorned by the divine Majesty with various and extraordinary favours, which he in vain used every artifice, if possible, to hide. It was the good-pleasure of God to enable him to penetrate His ineffable mysteries and to know His marvellous providences by means of ecstasies, raptures, and visions, which were of frequent occurrence during the whole of his life.

A friend going one morning to confession to him, on opening the door of his room softly, saw the Saint in the act of prayer, raised upon his feet, his eyes looking to heaven, his hands extended. He stood for a while watching him, and then going close to him spoke to him - but the saint did not perceive him at all. This state of abstraction continued about eight minutes longer; then he came to himself.

He had the consolation of seeing in vision the souls of many, especially of his friends and penitents, go to heaven. Indeed, those who were intimate with him held it for certain, that none of his spiritual children died without his being certified of the state of their souls.

Philip, both by his sanctity and experience, was able to discriminate between true and false visions. He was earnest in warning men against being deluded, which is very easy and probable.

Philip was especially eminent, even among saints, for his gifts of foretelling the future and reading the heart. The examples of these gifts which might be produced would fill volumes. He foretold the deaths of some; he foretold the recovery of others; he foretold the future course of others; he foretold the births of children to those who were childless; he foretold who would be the Popes before their election; he had the gift of seeing things at a distance; and he knew what was going on in the minds of his penitents and others around him.

He knew whether his penitents had said their prayers, and for how long they were praying. Many of them when talking together, if led into any conversation which was dangerous or wrong, would say: "We must stop, for St. Philip will find it out."

Once a woman came to him to confession, when in reality she wished to get an alms. He said to her: "In God's name, good woman, go away; there is no bread for you" - and nothing could induce him to hear her confession. A man who went to confess to him did not speak, but began to tremble, and when asked, said, "I am ashamed," for he had committed a most grievous sin. Philip said gently: "Do not be afraid; I will tell you what it was" - and, to the penitent's great astonishment, he told him.

Such instances are innumerable. There was not one person intimate with Philip who did not affirm that he knew the secrets of the heart most marvellously. He was almost equally marvellous in his power of healing and restoring to health. He relieved pain by the touch of his hand and the sign of the Cross. And in the same way he cured diseases instantaneously - at other times by his prayers - at other times he commanded the diseases to depart. This gift was so well known that sick persons got possession of his clothes, his shoes, the cuttings of his hair, and God wrought cures by means of them. Amen.

He pauses.

Let us pray.

Philip, my holy Patron, the wounds and diseases of my soul are greater than bodily ones, and are beyond thy curing, even with thy supernatural power. I know that my Almighty Lord reserves in His own hands the recovery of the soul from death, and the healing of all its maladies. But thou canst do more for our souls by thy prayers now, my dear Saint, than thou didst for the bodies of those who applied to thee when thou wast upon earth. Pray for me, that the Divine Physician of the soul, Who alone reads my heart thoroughly, may cleanse it thoroughly, and that I and all who are dear to me may be cleansed from all our sins; and, since we must die, one and all, that we may die, as thou didst, in the grace and love of God, and with the assurance, like thee, of eternal life. Amen.

Silence follows.

HYMNS TO SAINT PHILIP

1.

1. On southern coasts our lot is cast,
Where faithful hearts seem few
Still are we Philip's children dear
And Peter's soldiers true.

2. Founder and Sire! to mighty Rome,
Beneath St Peter's shade,
Thy early vow of loyal love
And ministry was paid.

3. The ample porch and portal high
Of Peter was thy home;
The world's Apostle he, and thou
Apostle of his Rome.

4. And first in the old Catacombs,
In galleries long and deep,
Where martyr Popes had ruled their flock,
And slept their glorious sleep.

5. There in the night the youthful Saint
To heaven his prayers addressed,
Till a new Pentecost came down,
And burned within his breast.

6. And in that heart-consuming love
He walked the city wide,
And lured the noble and the young
From Babel's pomp and pride.

7. And gathering them within his cell,
Unveiled the lustre bright
And beauty of his inner soul,
And won them by the sight

8. And when he died, he did but go
In other lands to dwell,
A traveller now, who in his life
Ne'er left that one dear cell.

9. He travelled and he travelled on,
He crossed the swelling sea,
Through all the length of Africa,
And here at length is he!

10. Glory to God, who framed a Saint
So beautiful and sweet:
Who brought him from St Peter's side
And placed us at his feet.

J.H.N., Birmingham (adapted)

2.

1. This is the Saint of gentleness and kindness,
Cheerful in penance, and in precept winning,
Patiently healing of their pride and blindness
Souls that are sinning.

2. This is the Saint, who, when the world allures us
Cries her false wares and opes her magic coffers,
Points to a better city, and secures us
With richer offers.

3. Love is his bond, he asks no other fetter,
Asks not our all, but takes whate'er we spare him,
Willing to draw us on from good to better
As we can bear him.

4. When he comes near to teach us and to bless us,
Prayer is so sweet that hours are but a minute,
Mirth is so pure, though freely it possess us,
Sin is not in it.

5. Thus he conducts by holy paths and pleasant,
Innocent souls, and sinful souls forgiven,
T'wards the bright palace where our God is present,
Throned in high heaven.

J.H.N., Birmingham

3.

NOEL DCM
ARTHUR SULLIVAN 1842–1900
after a traditional English melody

Rhymed Prayer of Cardinal Baronius

Look down from heaven, Father dear,
From that bright mount above,
On us who in this vale of tears
So sorely need thy love ;
Look from thy peaceful haven, from
Thy place of well-earned rest,
On us who in this storm-tossed sea,
With perils are oppressed.

No longer can earth's shadows, or
Its darkness dim thy sight,
But clearly into all things dost
Thou see in God's own light :
Remember then thy vineyard here,
The work thy hand hath wrought,
Which thou didst plant with so much toil,
And so much anxious thought.

Into thy hands we place ourselves,
From thee we seek for aid,
Thine army rule, for see the hosts
Of hell 'gainst us arrayed :
Beneath thy kind protecting care
If thou wilt let us live,
To thee the rudder of our lives
With all our hearts we give.

So steer this little ship of thine
And from thy place on high,
Lead us in safety mid the rocks
Which all around us lie :
And if our pilot thou wilt be,
If thou wilt be our guide,
We'll safely come to port, and be
For ever by thy side.

RK, London

4.

1. When many sought a guide
In times of stress and storm,
The fortunate in Philip found
A wisdom firm but warm.

2. He influenced the great,
Yet was a humble priest;
Pure servant of a loving Lord,
Devoted to the least.

3. When weary pilgrim bands
Their way to Rome did wend,
They found in him a sanctuary,
A father and a friend.

4. The truth he could discern,
From sin he could set free
He followed in his Master's steps
In true humility.

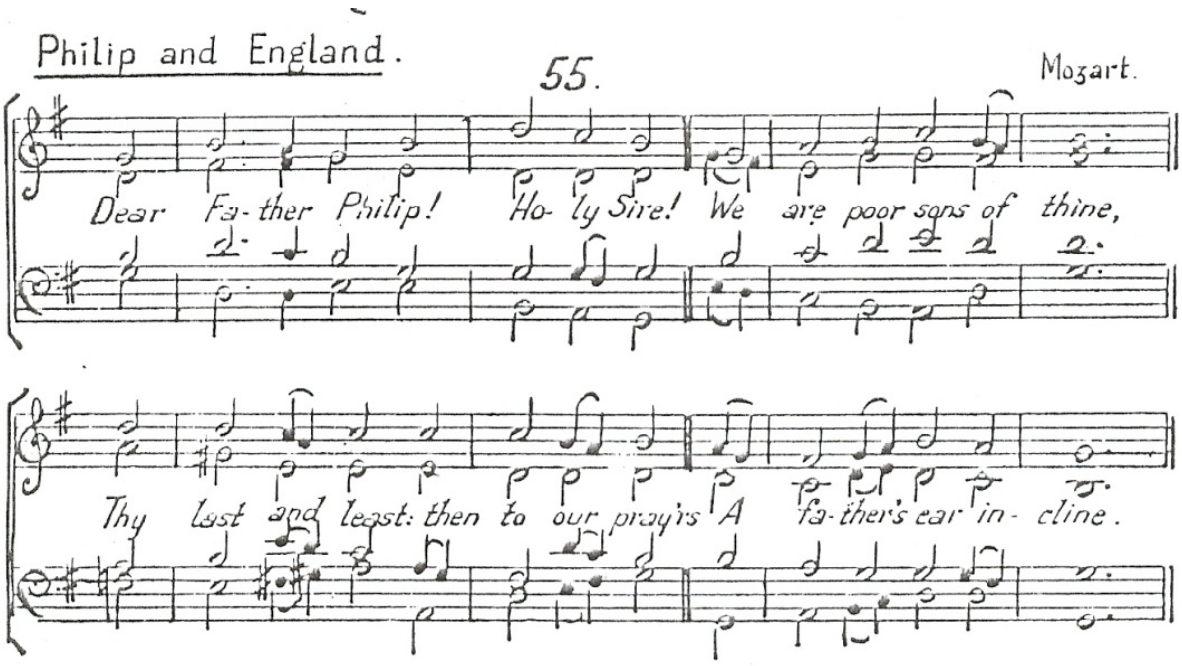
5. The noble youth of Rome
Encouraged he, and taught
The essence of a virtuous life;
To hold the world at naught.

6. To English Mission priests
He gave a fond farewell
"Salvete flores martyrum!"
Their end he could foretell.

7. We sing of Philip's heart
So full of burning love.
His message to an erring world
To honour God above.

8. As Philip, let us pray
That God may bless us all;
The Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
And raise us when we fall.

5.



1. Dear Father Philip! holy Sire!
We are poor sons of thine,
Thy last and least : then to our prayers
A father's ear incline.

2. Busy and blithe in hidden cell,
Or crowded street no less,
We use thy modest wiles to save
The world by cheerfulness.

3. Look at the crowds of this sweet land
Dear Father Philip! see
How do we need thy grace and peace
We pray now trustfully!

4. In Philip's name, in Philip's way,
To God and Mary true,
In this our own dear native land
Good work we fain to do.

5. To this our own dear native land
We welcome thee to-day;
Dear Father! come and toil with us
In thine own trustful way.

6. Jesus and Mary be the stars
That shine for us on high;
God and Saint Philip! brothers, be
Our gentle battle-cry.

7. Dear Father Philip! give to us
Thy manners fair and free,
Thy patient trust, thy plaint of prayer,
Thy deep simplicity.

W.F., London (adapted)

6.

WUNDERSCHÖN PRÄCHTIGE
779 D + refrain
Swiss published Einsiedeln 1773
arranged RALPH DOWNES 1904–93
Unison
Refrain

True Sons of Philip

True sons of Philip, raise
Heav'nward your strain of praise,
Ever rejoicing in God, as he taught;
Learn from St Philip still
In body, mind and will
Truly our Lord to serve, counting self as naught.

Songs, therefore, let us bring
Praises to Jesus sing
Now and for ever our Lord and our God.

Trust in St Philip's prayers,
Let him relieve our cares,
Ease for us gain in temptation and stress;
Once we his aid invoke
Riven is Satan's yoke
And we are stronger our Saviour to bless.
Songs, therefore…

Turn, as St Philip bade
Often to Mary's aid
Refuge and help she refuses to none.
Years have not dimmed her power
In this and every hour
New grace she wins us by prayer with her Son.
Songs, therefore…

With willing hearts adore:
Africa's southern shore
Laughs in the joy of St Philip's embrace!
Mary's aid we implore,
Ever may love endure,
Rooted in fellowship, mercy and grace.
Songs, therefore…

P.B., London and others

7.

Philip and the Poor

11.11.11.11

I ask not for fortune, for silken attire,
For servants to throng me, and crowd to admire;
I ask not for power, or for name, or success,
These do not content me, these never can bless.

Let the world flaunt her glories! each glittering prize,
Though tempting to others, is nought in my eyes;
A child of St Philip, my master and guide,
I will live as he lived, and would die as he died.

Why should I be saddened, though friendless I be!
For who in his youth was as friendless as he?
If spited and mocked, so was he, when he cried
To his God on the cross to stand by his side.

One lodging besides, God's temple he chose,
And he slept in its porch his few hours of repose;
Or studied by light which the altar-lamp gave,
Or knelt at the Martyr's victorious grave.

I'm ashamed of myself, of my tears and my tongue,
So easily fretted, so often unstrung;
Mad at trifles, to which a chance moment gives birth;
Complaining of heaven and complaining of earth.

So now, with his help. no cross will I fear,
But will linger resigned through my pilgrimage here.
A child of St Philip, my master and guide,
I will live as he lived, and will die as he died.

8.

St Philip in his God

LM

1. Philip, on thee the glowing ray
Of heaven came down upon thy prayer,
To melt thy heart, and burn away
All that of earthly dross was there.

2. Thy soul became as purest glass,
Through which the Brightness Increate
In undimm'd majesty might pass,
Transparent and illuminate.

3. And so, on Philip when we gaze,
We see the image of his Lord;
The Saint dissolves amid the blaze
Which circles round the Living Word.

4. Jesu, to Philip's sons reveal
That gentlest wisdom from above,
To spread compassion o'er their zeal,
And mingle patience with their love.

J.H.N., Birmingham