

Uniformity with God's Will

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Alphonsus Liguori (27 September 1696 – 1 August 1787), sometimes called **Alphonsus Maria de Liguori** or **Saint Alphonsus Liguori**, was an Italian Catholic bishop, spiritual writer, composer, musician, artist, poet, lawyer, scholastic philosopher, and theologian. He founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, known as the Redemptorists, in November 1732.

In 1762 he was appointed Bishop of Sant'Agata dei Goti. A prolific writer, he published nine editions of his *Moral Theology* in his lifetime, in addition to other devotional and ascetic works and letters. Among his best known works are *The Glories of Mary* and *The Way of the Cross*, the latter still used in parishes during Lenten devotions.

He was canonized in 1839 by Pope Gregory XVI and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1871. One of the most widely read Catholic authors, he is the patron saint of confessors.

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"Perfection is founded entirely on the love of God: "Charity is the bond of perfection;" and perfect love of God means the complete union of our will with God's: "The principal effect of love is so to unite the wills of those who love each other as to make them will the same things." It follows then, that the more one nites his will with the divine will, the greater will be his love of God. Mortification, meditation, receiving Holy Communion, acts of fraternal charity are all certainly pleasing to God - but only when they are in accordance with his will. When they do not accord with God's will, he not only finds no pleasure in them, but he even rejects them utterly and punishes them.

The man who follows his own will independently of God's, is guilty of a kind of idolatry. Instead of adoring God's will, he, in a certain sense, adores his own. We cannot offer God anything more pleasing than to say; Take us, Lord we give thee our entire will. Only let us know thy will and we will carry it out.

If we would completely rejoice the heart of God, let us strive in all things to conform ourselves to his divine will. Let us not only strive to conform ourselves, but also to unite ourselves to whatever dispositions God makes of us. *Conformity* signifies that we join our wills to the will of God. *uniformity* means more - it means that we make one will of God's will and ours, so that we will only what God wills; that God's will alone, is our will.

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