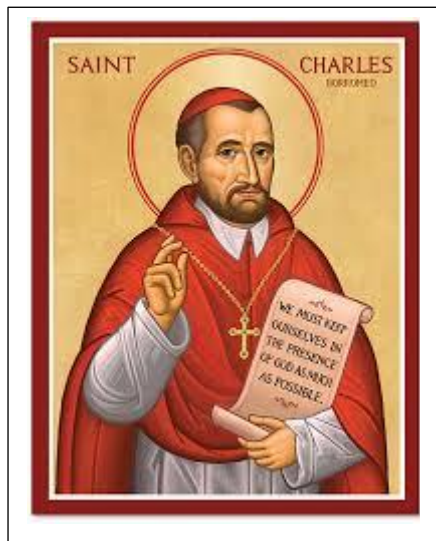




Saint Charles Borromeo

Saint Charles Borromeo was born on October 2, 1538 at the castle of Arona on Lake Maggiore near Milan. His father was the Count of Arona and his mother a member of the House of Medici.

At the age of twelve, the young Charles dedicated himself to a life of service to the Church. He told his father that he could only keep the money required for his education and to prepare him for service to the Church. All other money belonged to the poor of the Church and was to be given to them. His uncle, Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Medici became Pope Pius IV on December 25, 1559. Pope Pius IV made his nephew a cardinal; he was only 23 years old.

Charles was ordained a priest on September 4, 1563. Then, he was ordained as a bishop on December 7, 1563. He became Archbishop of Milan in May 12, 1564.

In 1576 a famine struck Milan followed by the plague and Charles used his own fortune to feed the starving people. St Charles dedicated his life to taking care of people and bringing them closer to God.

Although his family was very rich, St Charles led a very simple life and never let his power put him above other people. He had a great love of children and was committed to their education always wanting them to be the best that they could be. He also started special schools for training priests called seminaries.

He died on November 3, 1584, at the age of 46. He was beatified on May 12, 1602 by Pope Paul V. He was subsequently canonised by Pope Paul V on November 1, 1610.

St. Charles Borromeo's feast day is celebrated on November 4. He is the patron of bishops, catechists, cardinals and seminarians.