

Monday, June 21, 2021
Monday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

It is easy to judge and judging is one of our greatest human weaknesses. Guidelines and standards are taught and thus we learn from teaching as well as lived experience. The truth, if we are honest with ourselves, is that when we judge we, too, often will fall from God's grace and experience failing to fulfill or uphold exactly what we judged someone else from not fulfilling or upholding. God uses these humble experiences, indeed, often humiliating, to save us from the sin of pride. Jesus fulfills these words about not judging because He accepted the humiliations of the Passion and crucifixion, abandoning Himself into the Father's hands and praying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Jesus excuses us because He loves us. This same love Jesus wants to give to us – to love neighbor as one loves self.

Abram is called by God to abandon everything and follow Him. It is a journey of faith which we all must go through to experience God's Providence.

St. Aloysius abandoned an easy life – he was born into royalty – and joined the Jesuits, where doing corporal works of mercy caring for plague victims, he himself contracted the plague and died. "Whatever you do for one of these least brothers of mine, you do for me" (Matthew 25:40). He loved neighbor as he loved himself. St. Aloysius Gonzaga, pray for us!

God Love You!

Fr. Jim Starasich

