



30 JANUARY

SAINT MUTIEN-MARIA WIAUX

Religious
(1841-1917)

Belgium: Festivity
Institute: Memoria

Louis Wiaux, the third of six children, was born in a small village in French-speaking Belgium where almost everyone was a devout practicing Catholic. His father was a blacksmith, while his mother helped to run a small cafe in part of the family home, where no rough language was allowed and where the evening of Belgian beer and card playing always concluded with the recitation of the rosary. Louis proved neither physically nor emotionally suited to his father's trade; he was convinced that the Lord was calling him to a different kind of forge. No sooner had he met the Brothers in a nearby school than he determined to enter the novitiate at Namur. After two years teaching elementary classes, Brother Mutien was assigned to the boarding school at Malonne where he would spend the next fifty-eight years. He had difficulties at first coping with the demands of both teaching and prefecting. He was rescued by the Brother in charge of the courses in music and art, at the time an important feature of the curriculum. From then on Brother Mutien was not only an effective teacher of those subjects, a vigilant prefect in the school years, and a catechist in the nearby parish, but a tremendous influence on the students by his patience and evident piety. He was known to spend whatever time he could before the tabernacle or at the grotto of Our Lady. Among the Brothers, it was said that he had never been seen violating even the smallest points in the Rule of the Brothers. After his death at Malonne, his fame began to spread through Belgium where many miracles were attributed to him. His relics can be venerated in Malonne at the shrine built in his honor after his canonization.

Born at Mellet, Belgium 20 March 1841
Entered the novitiate 7 April 1856
Died 30 January 1917
Beatified 30 October 1977
Canonized 10 December 1989

MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Mk 10: 14

Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

OPENING PRAYER (COLLECT)

God,
you made Saint Mutien Marie
an exemplary Christian educator of the young,
endowing him with a spirit of compassionate gentleness.
Grant, through his intercession and example,
that we may always seek by love
to bring our brothers and sisters to Christ.
Through our Lord...

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.

From the book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, of a priestly family living at Anathoth, in the territory of Benjamin.

The word of Yahweh was addressed to me saying:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations".

I said, "Ah, Lord Yahweh; look, I do not know how to speak: I am a child!"

But Yahweh replied, "Do not say, 'I am a child'. Go now to those to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to protect you. It is Yahweh who speaks!"

Then Yahweh put out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me: "There I am putting my words into your mouth. Look, today I am setting you over nations and over kingdoms, to tear up and to knock down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 21

R/. I shall proclaim your name to my brothers.

I shall proclaim your name to my brothers, praise you in the full assembly.
You who fear Yahweh, praise him! Entire race of Jacob, glorify him!
Entire race of Israel, revere him!
For he has not despised or disdained the poor man in his poverty,
has not hidden his face from him, but has answered him when he called.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:22-30

God chose what is weak by human reckoning.

From the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called,

whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Take yourselves for instance, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all, to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, Alleluia.

I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever, and revealing them to mere children.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mk 9: 30.33-37

If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.

A reading from the gospel according to Mark

At that time, Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest.

So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all". He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms around him, and said to them, "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me".

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

United in the love of Christ, we offer to God our intentions and those of all the people of God:

R) Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessions...

O God, who knows all things, you understand the needs of our human existence. Accept the prayers of those who believe in you and grant the petitions of those who seek your help. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Accept, Lord, the offering of your people in honor of Saint Mutien Marie Wiaux, and grant that through our participation in this sacrifice we may manifest in our lives the power of your love. Through Christ, Our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Matthew 18:3

Unless you change, and become like little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven," says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this sacred banquet strengthen us, Lord, so that, following the example of Saint Mutien Marie Wiaux, we may bear witness, in thought and deed, to the light of your truth and to your love for all our brothers and sisters.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Common of the saints: religious

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

The Lord has looked on the humility of his servant.

***Homily of John Paul II on the day of Brother Mutien's canonization.
(AAS LXXXII, 1990, 551-556)***

The Church today exalts a very simple religious man. During his life he fulfilled the Lord's will promptly. Faithful to the demands and the self-sacrifice of the Rule, Saint Mutien-Marie had all the greatness of the humble.

Throughout the sixty years of religious life lived in the background, he practiced the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools with great generosity. For him nothing was more important than obedience, nothing made him happier than poverty, nothing was more urgent than the obligations of the common life, welcoming students or anyone else that approached him. He was faithful to the obscure tasks that were entrusted to him and day after day he gave his life to the Lord in a selfless way that came natural to him.

A teacher of music and art, Brother Mutien devoted himself to the many services that were necessary in a large school institution and in all of them he was constantly enlightened by the presence of God.

His sense of prayerfulness impressed his Brothers and students to the point where he was referred to as "the Brother who prays always."

With his rosary in hand, he always invoked the Most Blessed Virgin as his own words show: "To achieve intimate union with our Lord, take the path of Mary where there is no stain or shadow that can detain you on your journey towards Jesus."

His message was not expressed in terms of wisdom in the eyes of the world. He showed his Brothers and the teachers and young people, the true depth of a life humbly offered.

We think of the words of Isaiah: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea" (11: 9).

He looked upon himself as weak and poor, and this made him charitable towards anyone who would entrust their pain to him. It can be said of him, like the psalm, that God "has pity on the poor and the needy and saves the lives of the poor."

We give thanks to God and we ask him to inspire teachers of our time to learn how to accompany young people on the path to faith, so that they open for them the beauty of the Gospel message and invite them to renew ceaselessly their conversion asked by Christ the Savior and to take an active part in the life of the Church.

RESPONSORY

Matthew 11:25-26; Sal 73: 26

R/. I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. * Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

V/. God is the rock of my heart, my portion forever.

*Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

PRAYER

God, you made Saint Mutien Marie Wiaux an exemplary Christian educator of the young, endowing him with a spirit of compassionate gentleness. Grant, through his intercession and example, that we may always seek by love to bring our brothers and sisters to Christ. Through our Lord...

MORNING PRAYER

Ant. Ben. Your will is my joy, Lord; I shall never forget your word. (T.P. Alleluia)

CANTICLE OF ZACHARY

Lk 1: 68-79

The Messiah and his forerunner

INTERCESSIONS

United in this liturgy of praise, let us call upon Christ our Lord to help us to serve him in holiness and sincerity all the days of our life.

R) Sanctify your people, O Lord.

Intercessions...

Our Father.

PRAYER

God, you made Saint Mutien Marie Wiaux an exemplary Christian educator of the young, endowing him with a spirit of compassionate gentleness. Grant, through his intercession and example, that we may always seek by love to bring our brothers and sisters to Christ. Through our Lord...

EVENING PRAYER

Ant. Magn. Come, children, and listen to me; I shall show you that it is God you must fear. (T. P. Alleluia).

CANTICLE OF MARY

Lk 1: 46-55

Rejoicing in the spirit of the Lord

INTERCESSIONS

Let us beg God our Father to grant us, through the example and intercession of Saint Mutien Marie, to live in a manner worthy of our baptism.

R) Make us holy, Lord, for you are holy.

Intercessions...

Our Father.

PRAYER

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