



21 OCTOBER

BLESSED NICOLAS BARRÉ, PRIEST
(Third Order of Minims)
(1621-1686)

Memoria ad libitum

Nicolas Barré was born in Amiens, France on 21 October 1621 and died in Paris on 31 May 1686. As a child he went to a school run by the Jesuits where he was recognized as a brilliant student.

At the age of 19, he entered the Minim Order of St Francis of Paola, attracted by the spirituality, asceticism and apostolate centered on the conversion of hearts. While still a deacon he was asked to teach philosophy, and after his ordination he became teacher of theology while at the same time continuing his work of preaching and director of the famous library in the convent at Place Royale in Paris.

Having fallen ill, he was sent for a while to the convent in Amiens and later to Rouen where he carried out his apostolate especially among members of the Third Order of Minims. It was in Rouen that he first met the young women who were to become his associates in the popular missions as teachers in the "Little Charitable Schools" for poor children. The idea of such a project had been maturing in his mind over a period of fifteen years of prayer and constant reflection on "the signs of the times". In his view the root cause of all the evils of the society of his day was the lack of education and training for young people. He was the initiator of a movement which was to provide education for ordinary people. The little charitable schools multiplied in the parishes where, first the women and later the men teachers were called by parish priests or bishops. Soon afterwards the "trade schools" developed which helped the young people earn some income.

Gradually, he felt drawn by the Holy Spirit to propose to both the women and the men teachers, separately, to form a community without vows or cloister for the purpose of educating the ordinary people. Called first by Canon Roland to Rheims, then to Lisieux and later to several other towns in France, "the Charitable Teachers" became the inspiration for several foundations fired by the same apostolic spirit. Nicolas Barré was consulted several times by the young John Baptist de la Salle and thus played a decisive role in the foundation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Blessed Nicolas Barré, spiritual master, was both apostle and mystic and has left a magnificent expression of this in his Spiritual Canticle, a mystical poem of abandonment to God.

His life was impregnated with the message and charism of Francis of Paola: humility, charity, evangelical penance which bore fruit in the field of education and formation of youth, and promoting the growth of each person in their journey of faith. His work is still carried on today by the Institute which he founded: The Infant Jesus Sisters in two international branches Paris and Rouen, now federated, and by lay women and men who continue to be inspired by his spirit.

MASS

Common of saints: educator

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Lk 4: 18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. Alleluia.

OPENING PRAYER (COLLECT)

O God,
who hast granted to the Blessed Nicholas priest
to educate the poor and children to the knowledge of Christ,
grant that we may follow his example,
in obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit
to be always attentive to the needs of the poor.
Through our Lord.

FIRST READING

Col 1: 24-29

I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 88

R/. I will proclaim the word of the Lord to the assembly

I will sing of your mercy forever, Lord
proclaim your faithfulness through all ages.
For I said, "My mercy is established forever;
my faithfulness will stand as long as the heavens.

I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will make your dynasty stand forever
and establish your throne through all ages.

I have chosen David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him.
My hand will be with him;
my arm will make him strong.

My faithfulness and mercy will be with him;
through my name his horn will be exalted.
He shall cry to me, 'You are my father,

my God, the Rock of my salvation!’

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, Alleluia.

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jn 15:9-17

This I command you: love one another.

A reading from the gospel according to John

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends,* because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We humbly implore you, Father, and through the intercession of Blessed Nicolas Barré, we pray for the needs of abandoned children:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, accept our gifts in memory of Blessed Nicholas, and may the Eucharistic sacrifice which proclaims your glory obtain for us eternal salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 28: 20

And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. Alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the communion at your table, Lord, prepare us for the joy of the eternal banquet that Blessed Nicholas merited as a faithful steward of your mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Common of saints: educator

SECOND READING

The virtue of charity is the bond of all perfection

Statutes and Rules of the Charitable Christian Schools, Paris, François Le Colme, 1685.

The Institute of the Charitable Christian Schools has its origin in the heart of God himself, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to instruct men and to teach them the way of salvation, so that those who believe in him might not perish but have eternal life.

Although God is sovereign and great, he nevertheless takes delight in bending down towards the lowly. That is why he determined that his Son should not only become man, but also a little child; and Jesus-Christ, having become a child and wishing to carry out commands and plans of his Father, went on his first journey to seek out a child who was still in his mother's womb in order to enlighten him, to justify him and sanctify him. He wanted the first drops his blood to be shed for children, since the Holy Innocents represented his first victory over the Devil. He put a child in the center, the place of honour, among the Apostles. He would not let them prevent the children from approaching him but told them to make it easy for them to have access to his divine presence. He said that whoever scandalizes a single child deserves to be thrown into the sea, and he told all the adults that unless they became like little children they would never be saved. Finally, he said that whoever receives a small child in his name would be receiving him. Just as he also said that whatever you do to one of these little ones, even the poorest and the lowliest, you do to him. It follows, therefore, that anyone who receives a child that is poor and abandoned is receiving Jesus Christ in person twice over, and that is the first and principal goal of this Institute.

By honoring and imitating Our Lord Jesus-Christ, who submitted himself in love to accomplish the will of his Father, the schoolmasters and mistresses will endeavor to do all things for the love of God alone. And since the virtue of charity is the bond of all perfection and preferable to all other virtues, it will also be the bond of all the Brothers and Sisters of the Charity Schools, the soul of their obedience, their disinterestedness, their patience, their modesty, their constancy and their ultimate perseverance in their employment, and in all that concerns perfection in their state.

In consideration of the dignity of their employment and the indispensable need they have of making themselves efficient in it, the masters and mistresses will apply themselves frequently to studying all the truths of the catechism and to the practice of virtues, especially gentleness, modesty, humility and perfect obedience. And they will apply themselves also a great deal to reading the Scriptures, so as to be able to give proper teaching to the children who come to the schools teaching them all things necessary for their salvation and Christian perfection.

RESPONSORY

Mt 18: 2-5

R/. He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. * And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

V/. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

* And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

PRAYER

O God, who hast granted to the Blessed Nicholas priest to educate the poor and children to the knowledge of Christ, grant that we may follow his example, in obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to be always attentive to the needs of the poor. Through our Lord.

MORNING PRAYER

Ant. Ben. I thank you, O Christ, the Good Shepherd who guided me to glory: may the flock you have given me be with me in your kingdom (**T.P.**Alleluia).

INTERCESSIONS

Intentions...

Our Father

PRAYER

O God, who hast granted to the Blessed Nicholas priest to educate the poor and children to the knowledge of Christ, grant that we may follow his example, in obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to be always attentive to the needs of the poor. Through our Lord.

EVENING PRAYER

Ant. Magn. Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (**T.P.**Alleluia).

INTERCESSIONS

Intentions...

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God, who hast granted to the Blessed Nicholas priest to educate the poor and children to the knowledge of Christ, grant that we may follow his example, in obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to be always attentive to the needs of the poor. Through our Lord.