

A DICTIONARY
of the
REDEMPTORISTS

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INTRODUCTION

The year 1987 will mark the two hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, the Redemptorists. Honoured as a Doctor of the Church and as Patron of confessors and moralists, he is clearly a figure of considerable importance in religious history; and his long life filled with tireless pastoral and literary activity offers a rich field of study. The present work attempts what is hoped will prove a comprehensive view of the institute that honours him as father and in which his memory remains in veneration.

It is now two centuries and more since the first members assembled in the small town of Scala, which looks down on the picturesque city of Amalfi; and the Redemptorists have spread from eighteenth century Naples to most countries of the world. The tradition inherited from St. Alphonsus and his companions has been enriched by personalities whose names and achievements remain for the most part little known outside the scene of their lives and activities. Like the founder more than one Redemptorist has contributed notably to the Church's mission. There have been saints, both those formally canonised and those others whose lives, though not so solemnly honoured, still have the power to inspire those who learn of them; there have been scholars whose writings, especially on theology and the spiritual life, belong to the Church's treasury of sacred science; and there have been many outstanding preachers in this institute that has always been devoted to proclaiming God's word. To recall those who have become distinguished in taking up the challenge of St. Alphonsus, the places where they lived and worked and the legacy they have left to later generations is offered in these pages as a tribute to the man whose vision they so eminently shared.

No doubt a history of the Redemptorists is needed to do justice to the growth of what St. Alphonsus inaugurated in 1732. It is to be hoped that the few brief but admirable studies we have, like

Father M. De Meulemeester's *Outline History of the Redemptorists* (Louvain, 1956) will be further developed so as more fittingly to treat the Redemptorist presence, not only in Europe, but throughout the world.

For the present purposes the form of the *Dictionary* was preferred for a number of reasons. It is a style of presentation that has already been used with excellent effect by other religious institutes; and their success has aroused among Redemptorists the wish to offer a similar approach to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. The style of the *Dictionary* makes it easy to consult. It brings together in accessible form information about personalities, places and events which hold some significance for the history of the Congregation. It has the further advantage in that it does not focus, as a regular history must, on the more important topics, but on the institute of the Redemptorists itself as continuing the impact of St. Alphonsus on the Church he always served so well.

The principal value of this kind of works is the further investigation one hopes to stimulate. Consequently, it is not pretended that items included in the *Dictionary* have been fully treated. The aim has been rather, as is always the case in this type of presentation, to introduce a wide range of topics and assist further study by providing where possible a select bibliography. The brief reading lists themselves, it should be noted, do not pretend to be complete, but are proposed as sufficient to introduce and assist further investigation.

In the personalities and other topics included it has obviously been necessary to make a selection. This has been not only for the sake of keeping the work within reasonable bounds, but because any attempt to be really exhaustive could scarcely expect to be successful. The choice of content has been made to a very large extent from information readily and generously supplied by collaborators in various parts of the world; but the final criterion had to be applied by one man. For that reason it is only fair to insist that should fault be found with what has been included or, what is more sensitive, omitted, the blame belongs solely to the author.

One such judgment seems to call for a word of explanation; and that is the decision to exclude living persons, even though there are certainly cases of individuals whose names seem as deserving of commemoration as many a one that has been included. Writing about a man still living must inevitably incur some risks, not the least being

the danger of some resentment on the part of those who, possibly with justice, see themselves slighted. This explanation helps to justify the exception that has been made in the case of those whose distinction is both evident and public, namely Superiors General and bishops. In Redemptorist catalogues it has been the practice from the beginning to give particular prominence to such persons. Some few other exceptions have been made, as in the case of those Redemptorists, surprisingly numerous, who have contributed to the establishment of new religious institutes.

It is well, moreover, to draw attention to the way in which Redemptorist provinces have been designated in the *Dictionary*. In this respect the style has varied, even officially. With few exceptions provinces were first named after the countries where their jurisdiction was established. In time this style proved insufficient, as when more than one province was erected in a single country, as happened in Germany and the United States. Eventually for the sake of uniformity it was decided to name the provinces from the principal city of the country or region, according to the practice of the Holy See. This style was introduced by a decision dated 26th January 1965. In the *Dictionary* each province is entered according to the designation now in use; but references in the course of other entries have been made according to the names that seemed appropriate. The schematic presentation in Appendix V should clarify any confusion that might occur.

The *Dictionary* is offered in English. Ecclesiastical circles have become far more polyglot than when such a work might safely have been published in Latin. The choice of language, however, should not be interpreted as betraying a limited scope. There has been an honest effort to provide information about Redemptorists in all parts of the world where they have existed.

To attempt such a project would have been presumptuous in the extreme, were it not for those who have very kindly lent their aid. In response to an appeal when this work was first projected Redemptorists of many provinces readily offered their collaboration. Without their contributions and constructive suggestions an undertaking of this kind would certainly have been impossible. While so many generous collaborators are not acknowledged by name, their encouragement, enthusiasm and practical help have been warmly appreciated.

It is most of all St. Alphonsus whose memory is recalled as this work is published. It was undertaken in his honour. As we commemorate his death it is fitting that we remember, too, the Congregation that claims him as founder and in which after two centuries he continues to live.

S. J. BOLAND C.S.S.R.
Rome, 1st August 1986,
Feast of St. Alphonsus.

ABBREVIATIONS

- Acta integra* = *Acta integra Capitulorum Generalium C.SS.R. ab anno 1749 usque ad annum 1894*, Rome, 1899. The *Acta* of subsequent chapters have been published separately and are cited also as *Acta integra* with the appropriate date. The *Acta* are cited with reference not to the page, but to the number. From the chapter of 1967-1969 the continuous numbering of the *Acta* has been discontinued, so that from that date references are according to page.
- Album* = [C. BENEDETTI], *Servorum Dei e C.SS.R. Album*, Rome, 1903.
- Analecta* = *Analecta C.SS.R.*, Rome, 1 (1922) - 39 (1967).
- BG = MAURICE DE MEULEMBEESTER, *Bibliographie générale des écrivains Rédemptoristes*, 3 vols., Louvain, 1933-1939.
- BRANDHUBER = G. BRANDHUBER (ed.), *Die Redemptoristen 1732-1932*, Bamberg, 1932.
- Catalogo . . . Italia* = F. MINERVINO, *Catalogo dei Redentoristi d'Italia 1732-1841 e dei Redentoristi delle provincie meridionali d'Italia, 1841-1869* (*Bibliotheca historica C.SS.R.*, VIII), Rome, 1978.
- Catalogo . . . Napoli* = F. MINERVINO, *Catalogo dei Redentoristi della provincia napoletana, 1841-1978* (*Bibliotheca historica C.SS.R.*, IX), Rome, 1979.
- DE RISIO = A. DE RISIO, *Croniche della Congregazione del Santissimo Redentore*, I, Palermo, 1858.
- DIP = *Dizionario degli istituti di perfezione*, diretto da GIOVANNI PELLICCIA (1962-1968) e da GIANCARLO ROCCA (1969-), Rome, I (1974) - VIII (1983). The *Dictionary* has been completed only as far as the letter R.

- GIROUILLE - CARR = H. GIROUILLE, *Life of the Venerable Joseph Passerat*, translated from the French by J. CARR, London, 1928. References are to this edition.
- HOFER - HAAS = J. HOFER, *St. Clement Mary Hofbauer*, Translated from the third German edition by J. HAAS, New York, 1926. References are to this edition.
- In Benedictione Memoria* = *In Benedictione Memoria. Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Hundertjahrfeier der Kölner Provinz der Redemptoristen*, Bonn, 1959.
- MA = [J. - B. LORTHOIT], *Mémorial Alphonsien*, Tourcoing, 1929.
- MADER = C. MADER, *Die Kongregation des Allerheiligsten Erlösers in Österreich. Ein Chronikalbericht über ihre Einführung, Ausbreitung, Wirksamkeit und ihre verstorbenen Mitglieder*, Vienna, 1887.
- MH = *Monumenta Hofbaueriana*, 15 Fasciculi, Cracow, Torún, Rome, 1915-1951.
- Origines* = M. DE MEULEMEESTER, *Origines de la Congrégation du Très-Saint-Rédempteur. Etudes et documents*, 2 vols., Louvain, 1953, 1957.
- REY - MERMET = TH. REY - MERMET, *Le Saint du siècle des lumières, Alphonse de Liguori*, Paris, 1982.
- SCHIAVONE = S. M. SCHIAVONE, *Biografie dei Redentoristi napoletani più ragguardevoli per santità, dottrina e dignità*, Pagani, 1938.
- SH = *Spicilegium historicum C.S.S.R.*, Rome, from 1953.
- TANNOIA = A. M. TANNOIA, *Della vita ed istituto del Venerabile Servo di Dio, Alfonso M. Liguori, vescovo di S. Agata dei Goti e fondatore della Congregazione dei preti missionari del SS. Redentore*, 4 vols., Naples, 1798-1802.
- TELLERÍA = R. TELLERÍA, *San Alfonso María de Liguori, Fundador, obispo y doctor*, 2 vols., Madrid, 1950.

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