

Death of the fourth Superior General: December 13

Father Alfons Maria LELLIG (April 3, 1909 – December 13, 1958)

Biographical profile



Father Alfons Maria Lellig. Fourth Superior General (January 11, 1954 - December 13, 1958). He was born on April 3, 1909 in Germany. He made his first profession on August 15, 1931 and was ordained on July 12, 1936. He was elected fourth Superior General of our Congregation on January 11, 1954, and during his term as Superior General, died in Rome on December 13, 1958.

Alfons Maria Lellig, It has already begun, Circular Letter 15, 157-158. Rome, December 2, 1956

Fidelity and union

My second wish for Christmas I will take up in this invocation: «so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me» (Jn 17, 21). If union reigns among us, among the members of each house, among the communities in the same province, and among the various provinces of the Institute, it is a sign that love is in us. It is necessary to obtain this harmony with prayer. How much good is lost, how many initiatives are hindered, how many bad examples are given, yielding to discord. There are differences of character, differences of language and nationality, differences of purpose among the various houses... And if we are not given to eliminate these differences, we are given the possibility and the obligation to overcome them in spirit and with the spirit of love.

These thoughts, considered in the supernatural light, can be powerful means not only to achieve common goals, but above all to complete our personal sanctification. How will people put their faith in those of us who preach love, if by internal discord we show ourselves to be lacking this same love? The prayer that the Saviour pronounces as he enters the world, these two things he means: fidelity and love: «Behold, I come to do your will, O God» (Heb. 10, 7). This is what I ask the Divine Infant for each one of us and for our Congregation; in this sense I wish everyone a Christmas full of graces.

Intention for Lauds and Vespers

Welcome our brother Alfons Maria Lellig, Superior General, into the glorious host of saints,

- And write his name in the book of life.

Prayer for the Congregation and its superiors (Adoration)

Jesus, Good Shepherd,
we ask you to guide our Congregation.
Help us,
who are dedicated to your heart,
to live as brothers united in chastity,
poverty, and obedience.

Bless our communities.
May all that we are and do
draw strength from the love
made visible in your pierced side.

Be with our brothers
who are given the service of authority.
May they work with courage and love
to build up our common life and ministry.
May we collaborate with them,
faithfully searching for God's will.
In this way,
may the whole Congregation participate
in your offering of love to the Father. Amen.