



In the Gospel Reading for this weekend (Mk 10:46-52), Bartimaeus is introduced as a blind man sitting and begging by the roadside. Suddenly, he hears something – Jesus of Nazareth with a band of disciples and a “sizable crowd” was passing in front of him! He began to cry out, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me!” Many rebuked and tried to silence poor Bartimaeus, but he would have none of it; he kept calling out even more! Jesus, who hears the cry of the poor, stopped the entire procession and called Bartimaeus to come to him. All fell silent and still. All eyes were now on this poor marginalized man. He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do

for you?” He replies, “Master, I want to see.” Jesus told him, “Go your way; your faith has saved you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the way.

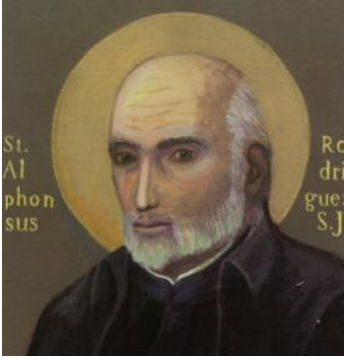
What a wonderful story! Best of all, it is a true story! According to Jesus, Bartimaeus was saved by his faith; thus, he becomes a model of faith for us all. By faith, we all need to recognize our blindness, our poverty, our need to cry out for pity when Jesus passes by. Sometimes, like Bartimaeus, we cannot physically see Jesus, but by faith, hearing his word, we can be certain that he is near. Sometimes, like with Bartimaeus, many will try to silence our cry to God and even rebuke us for practicing our faith and publicly acknowledging Jesus as our only hope – our Messiah (“son of David”) and our ultimate teacher (“Master”). Sometimes, like with Bartimaeus, we need to throw aside our old cloak of sin, which enslaves and holds us down, in order to spring up and be clothed anew with the righteousness of Christ. Sometimes, like with Bartimaeus, we may be asked to spring up from our dirty seat on the roadside of life and move toward Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and who comes to give us life abundant. Bartimaeus was a man of faith. He was not ashamed to publicly cry out to Jesus; He was not afraid of the “many” who would rebuke and criticize him for seeking God. He was ready to leave all behind and run to Jesus. In the end, when face to face with Jesus, and the entire crowd looking on, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” Bartimaeus humbly and respectfully answers, “Master, I want to see.” What he asked for in faith, he received.

Bartimaeus is introduced as a blind beggar sitting on the roadside being rebuked and silenced by the crowd. Moments later he is standing with Jesus in the middle of the road, and the crowd, having been rebuked and silenced by astonishment as Jesus and furthermore, holds him how do we really know authentic? The same way faith is authentic. After the YOUR way; your faith has Bartimaeus, “Immediately way.” Bartimaeus’s “way” Jesus’ “way” – that’s proof of saving faith! May the good Lord inspire us all to be people of faith who, with clear vision, follow the way of Jesus, our Master.

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Jesus, now looks with grants the beggar’s request, up as a model of faith! But, Bartimaeus’s faith was we can know whether our healing, Jesus told him, “Go saved you.” In response ... followed Jesus on THE had become identical to

Your Servant in Christ,  
Fr. Terry Staples



## St Alphonsus Rodriguez

**Feast Day: October 31**

**Born: July 25, 1532**

**Died: October 31, 1617**

**Patron: Jesuit brothers and Majorca (Spain)**

**Beatification: June 5, 1825; Canonized: Jan 15, 1888**

Alphonsus was born in Segovia, Spain, the son of a wealthy merchant. At age 12, he was sent to the Jesuit school in Alcala but had to return home abruptly when his father died unexpectedly and his mother needed his help to run the family textile business. At age 27 he married and had three children. But family life ended when his wife, two of their children and mother died within four years. Then excessive taxes took a heavy toll on his business which inevitably crumbled.

These bitter-sweet experiences shaped his spiritual journey and laid the foundation for his future devotion. During his formative years, Rodriguez regarded himself as an utter failure; struggled with his religious upbringing; and spent sad and lonely years in prayer seeking to discern and follow God's will. This period of solitude and introspection would prove crucial in developing his deep spiritual life.

Despite his inclination towards prayer and solitude, Rodriguez found himself called to serve as a Jesuit brother. In 1571, at the age of 38, he entered the Society of Jesus as a lay brother. This decision marked a significant turning point in his life, challenging him to balance his desire for contemplation with the demands of active service.

For 46 years, he served as a porter (doorkeeper) at the Jesuit college in Majorca, Spain. This seemingly mundane role became the canvas on which he painted his masterpiece of holiness. Rodriguez developed a rich prayer life, spending most of his spare time in communion with God. He was known to be a mystic, favored with remarkable mystical graces, ecstasies, and visions of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the saints. While his heart yearned for solitude and prayer, Rodriguez embraced his role as porter with extraordinary dedication. He viewed each knock at the door as a call from Christ himself, responding with the enthusiastic cry, "I'm coming, Lord!" This attitude transformed his routine tasks into sacred acts of service. He skillfully blended spiritual conversation with his duties, counseled students, and reached out to the poor who gathered outside the college doors. His ability to multitask while maintaining a prayerful demeanor ensured that he never faced a dull moment in his seemingly monotonous job.

St Alphonsus Rodriguez's life presents a compelling model of holiness achieved through the integration of deep prayer and humble service. His example challenges us to find meaning and fulfillment in our daily tasks, however mundane they may seem, by approaching them with a prayerful attitude and seeing them as opportunities to serve Christ. Rodriguez's legacy continues to provide inspiration to many, reminding us that true spirituality is not found in grand gestures or high positions, but in the faithful execution of our daily duties, infused with love for God and neighbor. His life teaches us that sometimes, holiness is as simple as opening a door to anyone, everyone, always and believing that God awaits on the other side.

**Reflection:** Through all these moments, we see Alphonsus pivoting time and time again to the will of God. In moments of loss, in moments of tragedy, in moments of rejection, in moments of confusion, he pivoted to the will of God. There's an invitation and a teaching for us in that. Whatever we're dealing with throughout our day, we should be pivoting to the will of God. We should pause and ask ourselves, "What is the will of God here? How am I being challenged to do the will of God here? How am I being encouraged to do the will of God here?" Like Alphonsus, always pivot to the will of God. You'll be amazed what he does with you and through you.