

**Mission Moment**  
**VMA – December 2022**  
**St. Alphonsus Spirituality**



One of our IHM spiritual patrons is St. Alphonsus, the founder of the Redemptorists. In these next Mission Moment segments, I'd like to share aspects of the Alphonsian spirituality that fuels some of our IHM spiritual traditions.

St. Alphonsus Liguori was an 18<sup>th</sup> century Neapolitan gentleman, a star lawyer, with an apparently prosperous future ahead of him. However, his attention to an inner voice within himself and an extraordinary sensitivity to the immensity of people's needs all around him compelled him to give his life over to God and to the service of God's people. His passionate desire to respond to these needs led him to found the religious congregation known as the Redemptorists, whose clear mission was to make the redeeming love of Jesus Christ available and accessible to everyone, especially the poor and the spiritually abandoned. This sense of mission, coupled with a spirituality fueled by prayer, devoted to the Blessed Mother, and focused on

the three-fold mystery of Love's redeeming way – the Incarnation, Redemption, and Holy Eucharist – profoundly stirred and influenced the hearts of Fr. Louis Florent Gillet and Mother Theresa Maxis, our IHM Co-Founders

As I mentioned, one of St. Alphonsus's focus was on the Incarnation – the Crib. Tonight, as we anticipate Christmas, and our own focus on the Crib, I invite all of you to share in an IHM tradition: Choosing a Court of the King.

It is our custom at Christmas time, during a prayer service, to choose a card with a person or image of someone or something present at the Incarnation. There is a corresponding prayer for each image.

So, we will pass the tray around and choose a card, then take a few moments to reflect on what you have chosen and the prayer that follows.

(Pass the tray and play “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” by the Piano Guys – found on UTube)

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, as we anticipate your coming on Christmas, may our hearts be attentive to all the significant

people and images of that holy night. As you touch our hearts  
may we in turn be aware of the needs of all those around us.

Come, Lord Jesus!