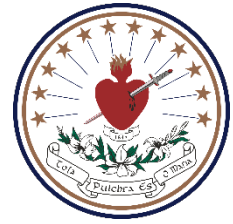


## MISSION MOMENT

### VMA BOARD

MAY 2024



### St. Alphonsus: Devotion to Mary

This year we have been focusing on the spirituality of St. Alphonsus: we have shared about his love for the Eucharist, the Incarnation and the Cross.

Tonight, I will share a little about his love for Mary, our Mother.

St. Alphonsus had a deep devotion and passionate love for Mary, the Mother of God. He believed that the graces and spiritual insights received throughout his life came to him through the hands of Mary. This filled his heart with a strong desire to draw the “little people” of his day into intimate relationship with Mary as their Advocate, their Hope, and their Refuge in time of need. As simply as Mary said at the marriage feast of Cana, “Son, they have no wine,” she continues to intercede for us with Jesus. In her tenderness toward us as mother, Mary is our perpetual help, our closest advocate in our journey to God. St. Alphonsus prayed, “To Jesus, through Mary.” All we need to do is ask.

Trust in God’s Providence, exhibited from the moment of Mary’s “fiat”, guided her through the mysteries of her Son’s life to the moment of her final “fiat” by the foot of the cross. With deep love, she stood near her Son as a hope for each of us that we might know and love Him. Truly, Mary is the hope of all believers, the one who gives birth to hope in our soul, in our heart, in our longings.

In the midst of life’s fears, struggles, anxieties, and doubts, we can fix our eyes on Mary, the brilliant Star that lights our way. As we call her name, and run to her as our Mother of Refuge, Mary hopes that we will recognize her love and her special care for the poor, the lonely, the sick, and the oppressed of our world. Mary reveals to us the lovableness of God and fills us with hope as she leads us through this world’s darkness to the eternal light of heaven.

One of the most powerful prayers to Our Lady is the Memorare. I have a copy for each of us. Let us pray this prayer together.