
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

A Summer of Saints!

Augustus Franciszek Maria Anna Józef Kajetan Czartoryski was born in Paris, France on August 2, 1858, in exile, to the Polish Prince Ladislaw and Princess Mary Amparo, daughter of the Queen of Spain. From his youth, Prince Augustus showed himself to be a good, thoughtful boy. His father hired Joseph Kalinowski as a tutor to teach his son. In a letter to his sister, Joseph explained that he served as the "father, mother, nurse, brother, companion and caretaker" for the prince. The two remained close companions until Joseph left to study for the priesthood. (Joseph is now known as Saint Raphael Kalinoswki, OCD.) In May 1883, Saint John Bosco, founder of the Salesians, was in France. He was invited to Lambert Palace to offer Holy Mass. Augustus was his altar server. The prince was so struck by this encounter that he went several times to Italy to talk with Don Bosco. Augustus then insisted that he be allowed to enter the Salesians to prepare to be a priest, but Don Bosco was not convinced. Augustus then spoke with Pope Leo XIII, who invited Don Bosco to reconsider. In July 1887, after having renounced his earthly goods and all possibility of the throne, Augustus entered the Salesian novitiate against his family's wishes. In his efforts to adapt himself to the order and its lifestyle, he became the humblest of novices. He received the habit at the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians in Turin from Don Bosco who whispered words of encouragement to him. When Augustus was ordained a priest at Saint Remo on April 2, 1892, his family chose to be absent. They had made many efforts to try and get him to leave the Salesians. But later that year, his father reconciled with him, accepting his son who had renounced everything to follow his vocation as a priest. *Blessed Augustus, pray for us!*

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Blessed Augustus Czartoryski

Blessed Augustus gave up everything to follow the path that Jesus was calling him to walk but it wasn't easy. Augustus explained, "If God wants this, all will go well since He can take away every obstacle. If He does not want this, then neither do I." On the holy card commemorating his first Mass, he wrote this from Psalm 84: "How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord... One day within Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere." It was the Saturday of the Octave of Easter when Father Augustus died from tuberculosis. "What a wonderful Easter!" he joyfully exclaimed. He was 35 years old. St. John Paul II declared him Blessed on April 25, 2004. His body is venerated today in Poland.