

St Charles of Mount Argus

Born: Dec. 1, 1821

Entered eternal life: Jan 5, 1893

Feast day: January 5

Reflection:

When reviewing the Saints, especially Saints of the last few centuries, we see that there was an emphasis in their lives on the spiritual and the corporal works of mercy. When we hear spiritual and corporal works of mercy one of those that should come to mind is the corporal work of visiting the sick and, its spiritual counterpart, comforting the afflicted. If we are looking for inspiration for how we can improve in both of these we can look to St. Charles of Mount Argus. St. Charles spent his life focused on these two works of mercy with the poor and infirm of Ireland. This dedication on his part brought about several miraculous healings which astounded medical professionals and led many of them to envy St. Charles's talents leading to persecution.

Importantly, brothers and sisters, we can see similarities between St. Charles and Our Lord who was also persecuted for the healing miracles which he performed, and this was also done, in part, because of envy towards him. The Church, in Her wisdom, presents to us the Saints as individuals who have been welcomed into Heaven because of how closely they imitated Christ here on Earth. As we know, each and every one of us is called to be a Saint by using the gifts which God has given us. Now looking at the Saints gives us ideas of what imitating Christ looks like in the various vocations to which we are called. This does not mean that you need to be a priest in order to be inspired by the works of a Saint who is also a priest. The essential point is that you seek in some way to imitate their life not the entirety of it.

So now we need to ask ourselves: Am I being invited to assist those who are afflicted in their lives especially those who are the most afflicted in hospitals and hospice care? I encourage you brothers and sisters to consider the possibility to go and visit our ailing brothers and sisters who sit alone and many times feel abandoned by the world and unloved. There are plenty of opportunities here at Ave Maria to volunteer to assist in such work. If not yourselves, then expose your children to assisting the sick and the elderly which will teach them many important lessons. As you consider this proposal, please invoke the intercession of St. Charles of Mount Argus by visiting the relic we have here at Ave Maria. St. Charles of Mount Argus, pray for us.