

BIOGRAPHY

Philip Neri was born in Florence of good and devout parents. Giving up a large inheritance from his uncle, he went to Rome, where he studied philosophy and the sacred sciences and dedicated it wholly to Christ. He became a priest out of obedience and gave himself up completely to the saving of souls. Through hearing confessions, in which he preserved to the last day of his life, he brought forth innumerable sons for Christ. Desiring to nourish them with the daily bread of God's Word, with frequent reception of the Sacraments, with constant prayer and with other exercises of piety, he founded the Congregation of the Oratory. His heart was wounded by the love of God, burning with such ardour that it could only be contained within his breast because the Lord miraculously enlarged the breast by breaking two of his ribs and forming an arch over the heart. Philip was famed for the gift of prophecy and for his wonderful penetration of the thoughts of Men's hearts. He kept his virginity always intact; and he had the gift of distinguishing those who cultivated purity by a good odour, and those who did not by a stench. At the age of eighty, in the year 1595, he fell asleep in the Lord.

ST. PHILIP NERI CONESSOR

FEAST DAY:
26 MAY

COLLECT

O God, Who didst exalt Blessed Philip, Thy Confessor, with Thy Saints in glory: mercifully grant, that we who rejoice in his festival, may profit by the example of his virtues. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and Reigneth with Thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God world without end. Amen

PRAYER TO ST. PHILIP NERI

O my dear and holy Patron Philip, I ask of thee especially to gain for me a true devotion such as thou hadst to the Holy Ghost, the Third Person of the Ever-Blessed Trinity; that, as He at Pentecost so miraculously filled thy heart with His grace, I too may in my measure have the gifts necessary for my salvation. Amen