

Today is the memorial of St. Charles Borromeo.

He was born in 1538, and died aged 46. When he was 26, he was made the cardinal archbishop of Milan.

But before that at the tender age of 21, he set out to reform the city of Rome. He also organized the third and final session of the Council of Trent, and had a large part in writing the Catechism promulgated at that time.

He felt that the problems in the Church came from ignorant clergy, and set about establishing colleges and seminaries. He is credited with initiating the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (aka CCD) and starting the first "Sunday Schools."

During a famine in 1576, when other nobles and leaders fled the city, he used his own funds ... and went into debt ... to feed 60,000 people daily.

In 1604 he was beatified, and in 1610 he was declared a saint of the Church.

St. Charles Borromeo, although from a wealthy family, lived out the Gospel in his life. In the first reading from Philippians, we hear a poetic description of the humility of Christ - and are encouraged to have the same attitude.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray - through the intercession of St. Charles Borromeo - to take on the mind of Christ. May we turn from our faults and turn toward God ... trusting in His mercy and grace to carry us through our daily lives.