



St. Charles Borromeo (1528-1584) lived during the time of the Protestant Reformation. When his uncle, Cardinal de Medici, was elected pope in 1559 as Pius IV, he made Charles cardinal-deacon and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan while he was still a layman. Soon after he was ordained a priest. Later he was consecrated bishop of Milan.

First Reading: (Rom 14:7-12) None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14

R. / I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Gospel: (Lk 15:1-10) The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives

sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

REFLECTION

"This man receives sinners and eats with them." With whom do we partake our meals? Who enjoys the most our welcome and warmest hospitality? As for Jesus, He, the Son of God is accused of fellowship with sinners by the pharisees and the scribes. These groups of people are certainly not blameless. Probably they have committed sins too. If not, their sin is refusing to receive the newness of the Gospel alive amidst them. They are offended to see love poured out without measure. Feasting with all, Jesus is at the very core of his divine mission to bring back all to God including sinners. **Rejoice then today to have been counted worthy of forgiveness. Your repentance brings joy to God's own family wherein we all belong.** Let our heart become a fertile land of mercy where the sinner experiences the divine forgiveness and dares to aim at perfection.