

St. Philip Neri was the founder of the Congregation of the Oratory. He was born in Florence, in Italy to poor parents. As a child, Philip was affectionately called "Good little Phil." He was always so jolly and friendly that everyone he met loved him. Philip was a very active Christian. He lived simply and worked hard. But he also did much good for the people around him. He helped poor children and spent time with the sick. He was a friend to people who were troubled and lonely. In fact, he reached out to everybody he could for the love of Jesus.

St Philip Neri

Feast: 26th May



Reflection: "A joyous heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one." How can I become more cheerful and generous?

When Philip was thirty-six he felt a strong calling to be a priest. It was then that he began his most wonderful ministry for others. He was available for the confession for several hours every day. The lines of people who came to him grew longer because he never ran out of patience and gentleness. But all Philip wanted to do was bring Jesus to the people. He acted silly once in a while. He wanted people to laugh and forget that they thought he was holy. He worked especially with the young, trying to inspire in them the love of God, and he had great success. In the Oratory of Saint Philip, young people in particular learnt how to value spiritual things more than money, and they made the Oratory their spiritual home.