

JUNE 21 2025, FATHER LARRY MARCILLE

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

What do the expressions “serving two masters” and being anxious have in common? They both stem from the same root problem: being divided within oneself.

An anxious person is often tossed to and fro, paralyzed by fear, indecision, and insecurity. Fear of a bad outcome can cripple someone with anxiety. Likewise, someone who wants to live in two opposing kingdoms—God’s kingdom of light, truth, and goodness, or Satan’s kingdom of darkness, sin, and deception—experiences a similar inner conflict.

We face a choice: to follow God’s standards and His way of happiness, or to follow the world’s standards of happiness and success.

So we must ask ourselves: Who is the master in charge of our lives? Our master is whatever governs our life, shapes our ideals, and controls the desires of our heart and the values we choose to live by.

We can be ruled by many things in life—such as the love of money and possessions, the power of position and prestige, the glamour of wealth and fame, or the drive of unruly passions, harmful desires, and addictive cravings.

Ultimately, the question of who our master is boils down to two choices: God or wealth. Here, “wealth” represents not only material things but also anything that tends to control our appetites and desires.

But there is only one true master who can set us free from slavery to sin, fear, pride, greed, and a host of other hurtful desires. That master is the

Lord Jesus Christ, who alone can save us from everything that binds us in fear and anxiety.

Jesus uses illustrations from nature—birds and flowers—to show how God provides for all His creatures. In the natural order of creation, God gives food, water, light, and heat to sustain all that lives and breathes.

Anxiety, on the other hand, robs the heart of trust in God's mercy and goodness. We must believe that God knows our needs even before we ask. He gives generously to those who trust in Him.

So again we must ask: Who is our master—God or wealth?

That answer must be taken to heart.

Let this be our prayer today:

**Lord Jesus, free me from needless worries and help me to put my trust only in You. May my first and only concern be Your glory and Your kingdom of peace and righteousness. Help me to live each day and each moment with trust and gratitude for Your providential care for me.**

Now, a few words about Saint Aloysius Gonzaga.

Aloysius Gonzaga lived from 1568 to 1591. He is the patron saint of young men. Born a prince in Lombardy, he began practicing prayer and penance from a very young age.

In 1585, at just 17 years old, Aloysius gave up his rights as the eldest son and joined the Jesuit Order. In 1591, a deadly plague broke out across Rome and much of Europe. Aloysius volunteered to care for the sick,

staying in the hospitals and serving the dying. During this time, he contracted the plague himself.

He died just three months later, at the age of 23. Saint Aloysius was canonized in 1726.

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, pray for us.