

Feast of Blessed Brother Arnold Rèche, FSC (October 23)

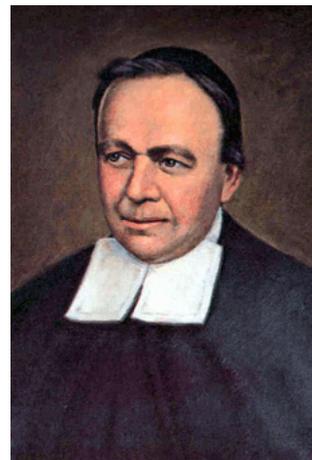
Let us remember....**that we are in the Holy Presence of God.**

Blessed Brother Arnold (1838 – 1890)

Jules-Nicolas Rèche was born into a poor family living in Landroff in the province of Lorraine, France. He left school at an early age to work as a stable-boy, a coachman, and finally as a teamster for a local construction company. Even as a young man he was known among his fellow workers for his piety and his self-discipline. He first met the Brothers while attending evening classes in their school and asked to be admitted into the congregation.

He taught for fourteen years at the boarding school on the Rue de Venise in Reims. Despite the demands of a full teaching schedule he managed by private study to master theology, mathematics, science and agriculture, which he taught to small groups of advanced students. During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, he worked with other Brothers to care for the medical and spiritual needs of the wounded soldiers on both sides, for which he was awarded the Bronze Cross. The intensity of his prayer life and his love for practices of penance soon led the superiors to appoint him Director of Novices at Thillois. He won the hearts of his young charges by his evident solicitude for their spiritual and professional development. There are stories of little miracles and cures, as well as his uncanny ability to discern their inmost thoughts. Brother Arnold was known for his devotion to the Lord's passion and for his docility to the Holy Spirit who, as he often remarked, "strengthens a person's heart." When the novitiate was moved to the new formation center at Courlancy near Reims in 1885, Brother Arnold was instrumental in having it dedicated to the Sacred Heart. He died at age fifty-two with a reputation for sanctity, only a few months after his appointment as Director General of Sacré Coeur.

Brother Arnold was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1987.



(adapted from: <http://www.lasalle2.org/English/Institutions/Calendars/inca.html>)

Mark 12:28-34 and Acts 2:24-28

Reader: The writer of the Gospel of Mark tells the story that as when Jesus came forward and heard the Scribes disputing and they saw how well he had answered them, one of the scribes asked Jesus, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied,

Side 1: "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Side 2: The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Reader: The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying,

Side 1: 'He is One and there is no other than he.'

Side 2: And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Reader: And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

The writer of the Acts of the Apostles tells us that God raised Jesus up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. For David says of him:

Side 1: 'I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.

Side 2: You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

Meditation

Intercessions

Leader: A good person, out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45)

**All: May we hold in our hearts, the goodness we seek in others
such that it builds up goodness in the community.**

Leader: As the scripture has said: 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:38)

**All: Through faith in you, Lord, may the love that your Spirit inspires within us
pour out from us acts of charity and gratitude.**

Leader: The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. (Acts 4:32)

**All: May we in our association, lay claim to a common heart in Jesus,
and continue to support each other in the educational service of the young,
particularly those whose poverty holds them from salvation.**

Leader: And for what else shall we pray?

Our Father

Closing Prayer:

O God, through Blessed Brother Arnold, and we are called by faith to enter the heart of You in each other and in those we serve, we are called to see goodness in the events of our lives and act on and through that goodness. May we be encouraged in our faith, strengthened in our community, and joyful in our ministry. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.