

SAINT GIOVANNI ANTONIO FARINA WITH US

MARCH 2025

DAY 05 - ASH WEDNESDAY, BEGINNING
OF LENT RECONCILIATION -
TEMPERANCE



FROM FARINA'S WRITINGS

"God's mercy is so vast that words cannot explain it, and thoughts cannot even outline it. Mercy does not abandon us; it accompanies us with its gaze, warns us with remorse, and then embraces us, and conquers us."

"The evangelical father who scans the horizon waiting for the return of his son, and who, when he sees him from afar, runs to him to embrace him, well represents divine mercy."

BRIEF COMMENT

Farina invites us to feel and grasp the greatness and strength of God's mercy, which reveals an immense love for us, His children. Divine mercy far exceeds our expectations and our reasoning; in the history of salvation, it has led to the sanctity of many men and women who had led lives far from the teachings of God. Saint Giovanni Antonio invites us to be sensitive to the Lord's calls, which often reach us through an inspiration, a fraternal word directed at us, or a small correction made with love by those around us.

ANECDOTES ABOUT FARINA'S LIFE

"Bishop Farina had a vast culture, easy words, exquisitely courteous and noble manners, and a grave bearing. He was a man who commanded respect, yet he won hearts; a strong energetic character, but at the same time affectionate and conciliatory. His motto was fortiter et suaviter (with strength and gentleness). It was thanks to this that he overcame so many obstacles."

(Sebastiano Rumor, The Character).

"No one was more willing to forgive than he was. Once, while passing over a bridge, he received a slap from an insolent young man. He said nothing. The young man's employer, upon hearing of the incident, wanted to dismiss him from the factory, but the Venerated Father interceded so much that he managed to prevent any harm from being done to him."

(From the Testimonies of the Sisters).