

SAINT GIOVANNI ANTONIO FARINA WITH US

MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025
DAY 25 - CHRISTMAS OF THE LORD



FROM THE WRITINGS OF SAINT FARINA

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (Jn 3:16).

We are in Bethlehem. Here is the stable, that is the crib, this is the child. Listen to his cry: “Look at me, man, do you love me?”

If it is true that love calls for love, and that its measure must be in proportion to the intensity of the first, how then shall we respond to the Lord, who loved us so much as to give us his Only Begotten Son?

The love of God was so boundless that it forms a mystery. And how does the world repay? Ah, if we paid attention, we would see another mystery: a mystery of affection on God’s part, a mystery of ingratitude on man’s part.

(From a Christmas homily, 1853)

BRIEF REFLECTION

It is indeed true: if we wished to describe Christmas with a single word, we could certainly use the word Love...

Love of God towards us; love of a father and mother towards a child; love of human beings towards God (the adoration of the shepherds and the Magi).

After centuries of waiting, the cry of a child united heaven and earth forever.

Jesus revealed himself in a completely unexpected way and was recognised and welcomed only by those whose hearts were free from fear and prejudice.

Even today Jesus reveals himself when we least expect it and in ways we could never have imagined.

Let us hope to welcome the Christmas that Jesus has prepared for each of us. Let us not miss this pure, simple Love that is about to pass by us.

ANECDOTES ABOUT FARINA'S LIFE

“He feared neither cold nor heat; he ate very little and made little use of wine. We recall, as an example of his robustness, that on the first day when the Synod was opened in the Cathedral Church of Vicenza, he remained seated in the chair from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon, without ever moving, without taking anything. And yet, by then he was already past seventy years of age!”

(Sebastiano Rumor, *The Character*, profile of Bishop Farina)

“He gathered materials that the builders had left aside, and once, when the flooring of a hall was dismantled after a flood, he himself carried the boards into the sun and removed the nails. He carried the wood, stacked it in piles. He cleaned and emptied the latrines, worked the pump, and assisted the sisters engaged in the humblest tasks.”

(From the sisters’ recollections)