

March 20

Blessed Hippolyte Galantini, Secular

Good day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!

Many of us who went to public schools attended CCD classes usually held on the weekends. Ask us what CCD stood for and few of us were able to answer. We just knew these classes were required if we were to receive our sacraments.

CCD stands for Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. The secular Franciscan company we are hosting today founded an association for teaching catechism to children and adults called the CCD of St. Francis. Though not readily appreciated as necessary, learning about the faith is essential if one is to grow in understanding of our faith as adults. Too often our education in Christian doctrine ends when we are teenagers and we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. And that is the level our understanding becomes fixed, completely inadequate for living as a Christian adult. Little wonder our faith seems more fantastic than a treasure chest of wisdom and grace!

Blessed Hippolyte Galantini understood the necessity of Christian learning. He gave his life to founding this CCD association in the spirit of Francis of Assisi. Young men and women became attracted to this ministry and joined him so that evening hours and Sundays made instruction in the faith possible. While teaching became the central work of the confraternity, the relationships also gathered for sharing prayer, community and recreation. Through his chosen ministry and the dedication of the CCD of St. Francis, the people they educated came to an understanding of "doing the truth in love."

Let us pray.

Loving God, Hippolytus responded to the needs of others by teaching them the way to salvation. Help us to share and teach the good news that we have learned and inspire us to continue to learn and grow in our understanding. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Hippolyte Galantini is a friend of God we welcome as company today.

