

St. Charles Borromeo



St. Charles Borromeo was born in the Castle of Arona, a town on the southern shore of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy, on October 2, 1538





His father was Count
Giberto Borromeo,
and his mother was
Margherita de
Medici.

Charles was the
second son, and
the third of six
children.

Charles' uncle was Giovanni Angelo, Cardinal de' Medici, who became pope in 1559 under the title of Pius IV.



His early years were passed partly at his family's castle (the Castle of Arona), and partly in the Palazzo Borromeo at Milan.



MILANO

- As a child, he loved prayer, and loved to study.
- He liked to build little chapels, adorn altars, and sing!





At the age of twelve his father allowed him to receive the tonsure. He was not a priest, but was received into a clerical order.



- After receiving the tonsure, he traveled to and studied in Milan. He returned home when his father died, in 1558.
- He received his law degree when he was 21.



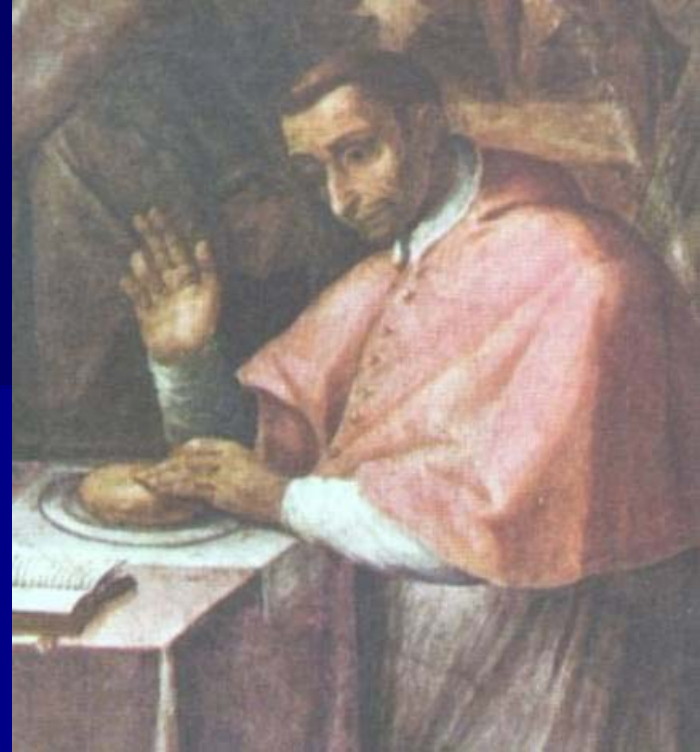
Although he was not the oldest son, his family asked him to become the head of the family business.



Charles' office of secretary of state and his care for the business of the family did not prevent him from giving time to study, and even to recreations in the form of playing the lute and violoncello, and a game of ball.

- At 22, he was named cardinal and archbishop of Milan.

- When his brother died, his family pressured him to come home and to start a family.





Instead, Charles secretly was ordained a priest on September 4, 1563.

The church in Milan was in trouble- the sacraments were neglected, the priests were not acting in accordance with the law and St. Charles set out to reform the church.





- He preached every Sunday and holiday and always went to confession before he said mass.
- He established Sunday schools (740)

Charles became a great reformer and, more than anyone else, helped the Church during the Reformation. His great work was the direction of the Council of Trent, and the carrying out of its decrees.



- He founded schools for the poor, seminaries for clerics. He is considered the patron saint of clerics.
- He is the patron saint of seminarians and catechists.



- Charles started hospitals where he helped the sick.
- He gave away all his belongings and wore a patched cloak. The rope he wore was a sign of penance.



- Though he ate practically nothing at all and slept only for a very few hours on the hardest pallet, his energy seemed boundless.
- He slept on straw and ate black bread, chestnuts and dried figs.

This was truly St. Charles:

- "...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36)



- He founded schools for the poor, and seminaries for the clerics
- During the great plague in 1575, he refused to leave Milan and constantly attended to the needs of the sick and dying.



The governor and vicars begged St Charles not to expose himself to the sick.

He refused. He cared for the sick and dying both spiritually and as a caregiver.





- Although he suffered a speech impediment, he worked hard to overcome this and was much sought after as a speaker.

Cathedral in Milan where St. Charles is buried





He died in 1584



SANCTO
CAROLO BORROMÆO
CARDINALI ARCHIEPISCOPO
MEDIOLANI
POST DEDICATVM A MARTINO V
ALTARE MAXIMVM

10 27 '02

St. Charles' crypt



St. Charles' crypt



- He was canonized a saint in 1610, only 25 years after his death
- His feast day is November 4th



- Do you know who is the patron saint for Pope John Paul II?
- That's right! It is St. Charles Borromeo!

"If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor. "

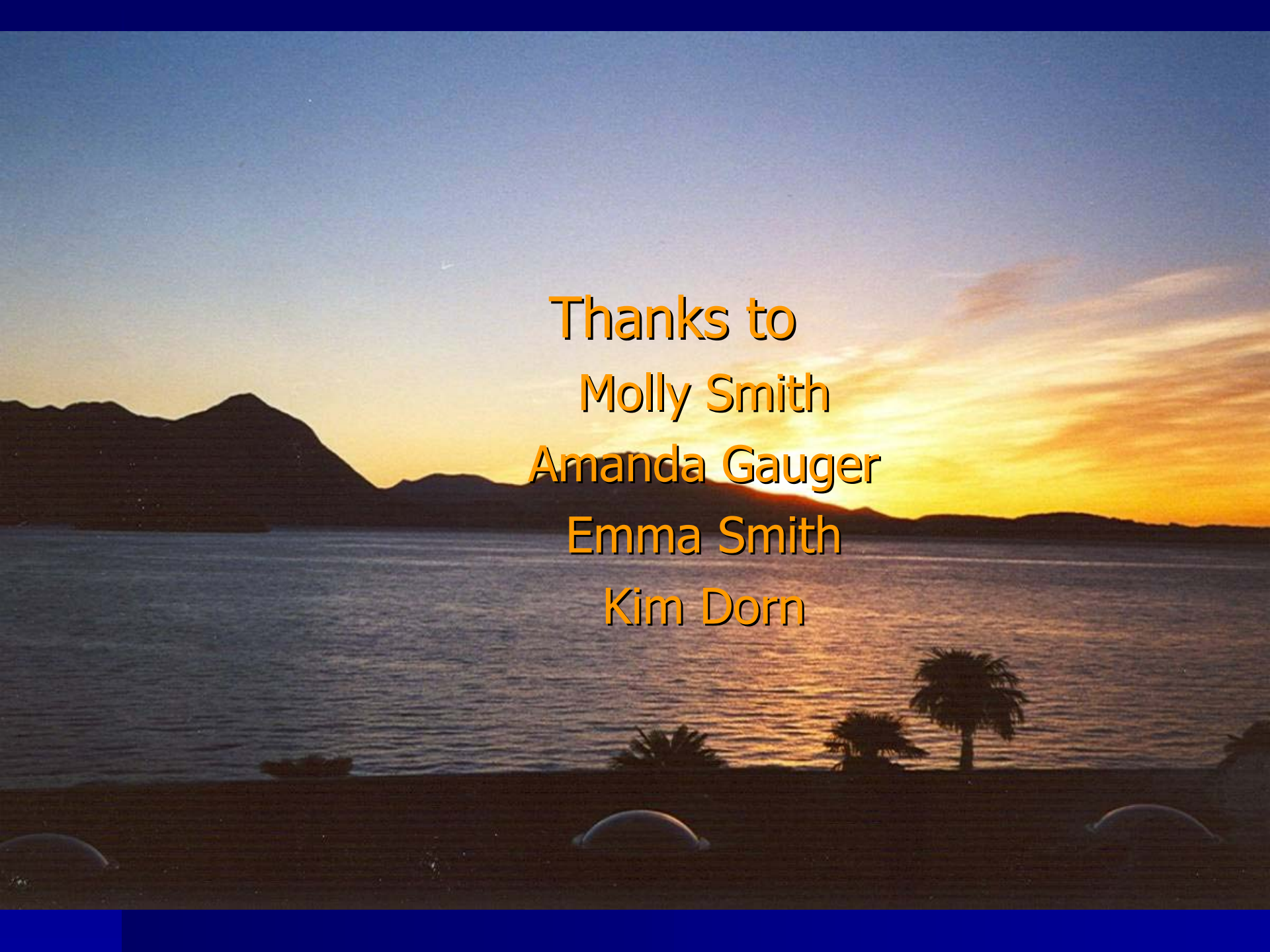
St. Charles Borromeo



Prayer To St Charles



*O Saintly reformer,
animator of spiritual renewal
of priests and religious,
you organized true
seminaries and wrote a
standard catechism.
Inspire all religious teachers
and authors of catechetical
books.
Move them to love and
transmit only that which can
form true
followers of the Teacher
who was divine.
Amen.*

A scenic sunset over a body of water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. In the background, there are dark silhouettes of mountains. In the foreground, there are several palm trees and what appears to be a beach. The text is centered over the image.

Thanks to
Molly Smith
Amanda Gauger
Emma Smith
Kim Dorn