

Bl Marcantonio Durando was born in Mondovè, on 22 May 1801. At the age of 15 he manifested a desire to go to China as a missionary. He entered the Congregation of the Mission and was ordained a priest at the age of 23. Instead of China, his destination was the popular missions, into which he infused the missionary passion of announcing Christ.



First Reading: (Isa 48:17-19) Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. O that you had hearkened to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea; your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me."

Ps 1:1-4, 6

**R./ Anyone who follows you, Lord ,
will have the light of life.**

Gospel: (Mt 11:16-19) Jesus said: "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places and calling to their playmates, 'We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

REFLECTION

We find people who are stubborn and square-headed in all times and cultures. They try to measure and evaluate others only with their own outlook and perception of reality and they are not open to change and transformation. Jesus makes use of a popular saying in his times to illustrate and, at the same time, to challenge the hardness of heart that prevented his contemporaries from accepting the good news of the Kingdom of God. "We wailed, and you did not mourn" can also mean that John's message was a call to repentance and conversion, but they rejected him. "We piped to you, and you did not dance" can mean the liberty and rejoicing which Jesus, the Messiah came to announce, but they crucified him. **The veracity of the message of John and Jesus would be revealed by the testimony of their lives and the conversion and salvation brought about by their works: for "a tree is known by its fruits" (Lk 6:44).**