

March 31

Blessed Amadeus of Savoy

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

Today we welcome royalty as company. We celebrate the feast of Blessed Amadeus of Savoy. Amadeus was the son of Duke Louis I of Savoy. As was the custom of the day, Amadeus was committed as an infant, to marriage with Princess Yolanda, daughter of Charles VII of France. Upon the death of his father he became the Duke of Savoy. Later, after the death of Charles, he acceded to the throne, but his condition of epilepsy required his retirement. Yolanda took over the leadership.



His noble heritage, notwithstanding, he was imprisoned for a time. A revolt rose against him and he was held in prison until Louis XI took the throne and freed him. During his "retirement" he was very active. Even with his reduced strength, Amadeus was a protector of Franciscan friars and endowed other religious houses as well as homes for the care of the poor and suffering. He generously shared his wealth with the destitute of his day.

It seems that Amadeus stands as a remarkable example to us. Regardless of our station in life, we have the capacity to serve those most in need. Certainly, our wealth can bring relief and comfort to the needy. Even in our own need we can share companionship and friendship with the poor. The scourge of poverty brings with it a host of related issues. Let us do our part this Lenten season to bring some degree of relief to those on the margins of our society.

Let us pray.

Lord, God, we praise and thank you for the witness of the life of Amadeus. He personifies for us the love that you extended to the needy of your day. May we never shy away from the opportunities you give to us to demonstrate our active love and concern for all of our brothers and sisters in our human family. May all of us get a foretaste of your holy kingdom. We ask this of you through your son, Jesus, who lives with you forever and ever. Amen.

Amadeus is a friend of God and the company we welcome today.