

## Reflection Thursday Week 31 St Chares Borromeo 2021

Charles Borromeo (1538–1584), a leading figure of the Catholic Reformation, was born in northern Italy, to a powerful family. He was related to the Medici through his mother. As the second son, he was destined for the Church. He received a doctorate in civil and canon law at the University of Pavia. When his uncle was elected Pope Pius IV in 1559, he was summoned to Rome and made a cardinal. He became administrator of the diocese of Milan and protector of the Catholic cantons of Switzerland, the Franciscans and the Carmelites. He greatly influenced the reopening, in 1562, of the Council of Trent, suspended since 1552. At that time, the state, emperors and kings controlled it and its assets. Becoming head of the family in 1562, Charles's relations, encouraged by the Pope, wanted him to abandon his ecclesiastical career and marry. In 1563, he settled the argument by being ordained priest and soon after consecrated Archbishop of Milan. Kept in Rome by the Pope, he worked on the catechism, the Missal and the Breviary, and reformed his own diocese. After Pius IV died, he was allowed to return to his diocese. He established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine to teach children the faith. When famine struck, he fed 3,000 people at his own expense for three months, inspiring others to do likewise. During the plague, he ministered to the worst cases in hospital. He faced much opposition and someone tried to shoot him but the bullet did not penetrate Charles's clothing. For 15 years, the King of Spain dealt him a complex tapestry of arrests, excommunications, denunciations, calumnies, and absolutions; it finally ended in peace. Charles died on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1584 aged 46.

Charles encapsulated Paul's teaching: *Love and have a profound respect for each other. Work for the Lord with untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit.* He certainly reflected the Good Shepherd, never for his own importance, because he received very little, but because of his love of and commitment to Jesus Christ and his message of Good News.

### Job Advert:

Do you want a corner office with a view?

Do you like being paid to travel in a £350,000 company paid vehicle?

Do you like to be in control of your job and steer it in the direction you want?

Do you want people to respect you, and get out of your way?

Bob did and applied for the job. He became a bus driver!!