

Such conversions from the Jewish faith were rare but they served to heighten the brothers' awareness of a personal vocation to pray for the Jewish people. Together they founded the *Congregation of Our Lady of Zion* and Alphonsse dedicated himself to establishing a convent *Ecce Homo* (Behold the man!) for the *Sisters of Our Lady of Zion*, a place of prayer and education as well as an orphanage for girls. In 1884 Alphonsse died at Ain Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist. The great mission he began continues to this day.

News of the conversion spread quickly and the Holy See, after a four-month investigation, declared the conversion an authentic miracle, an act of God brought about by the powerful intercession of the Virgin Mary. Alphonsse's brother, Fr Theodor, was overjoyed by his brother's conversion and they were soon re-united. Alphonsse subsequently joined the Jesuit novitiate and was ordained in 1847.

Shortly afterwards, Alphonsse was baptised, taking the name 'Marie', and also received confirmation and First Holy Communion from Cardinal Patrizi, vicar of the Holy Father.

"I have seen her! I had been in the church but a few minutes when suddenly I felt myself seized with a strange uneasiness. I lifted my eyes. The whole edifice was veiled from my sight. All the light was concentrated in one chapel. Alone in the midst of this brilliance, radiant, full of majesty and sweetness, appeared the Blessed Virgin Mary such as she is depicted on the Miraculous Medal. An irresistible power attracted me to her. She made a sign with her hand for me to kneel. Opening her arms to me she seemed to say 'It is well'. She did not speak but somehow I understood the frightful situation I was in, my sins and the beauty of the Catholic Faith."

Medal and kissed it exclaiming:
 was eventually able to compose himself he took off his Miraculous be taken immediately to a Catholic priest to be baptised and when he

The Memorare is a prayer reminding us that we have a loving advocate and protector in the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose son Jesus listens to His Mother's pleas on our behalf. The prayer invites and encourages us to ask our Blessed Mother for her intercession in our times of anxiety and distress and for special needs and graces for our family and friends, in particular those for whom we pray for a conversion or return to the faith.

Please join us by wearing the Miraculous Medal and reciting this wonderful prayer daily, as well as encouraging others to do so.

THE MEMORARE

Remember O most loving virgin Mary that it is a thing unheard of, that anyone ever had recourse to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession and was left unaided. Filled therefore with confidence in your goodness, I fly to you O Mother, Virgin of virgins, to you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner. Despise not my poor words O Mother of the Word of God, but graciously hear and grant my prayer.

Amen

For more information on this devotion and how to print a copy of this prayer leaflet visit us on: www.memoraremiracle.com

Memorare for the conversion of Alphonsse.
 Theodor enlisted the help of all his friends to join him in praying the wore the medal and said the prayer as requested. Meanwhile, absolutely no belief in what he viewed as a charade, he nevertheless wishing to give offence, Alphonsse agreed and, although he had gift of a Miraculous Medal and pray the *Memorare* twice daily. Not Blessed Lady. He asked Alphonsse, as a gesture of friendship, to wear a Theodor resolved to entrust an apparently hopeless situation to Our constant jibes and blasphemous remarks about the Catholic faith, and religion. Although privately hurt and irritated by Alphonsse's struck up a friendship which drew them into discussions about faith Despite Alphonsse's intense antipathy towards Theodor's beliefs they with Gustavo's brother Theodor, a zealous convert to Catholicism. chanced to meet an old school friend, Gustavo de Bussieres, together wanted to visit. In Rome, touring the sights and museums, Alphonsse found himself on a coach bound for Rome, the very last place he decided to take some time travelling around Europe. Whilst in Naples At the age of 28 Alphonsse, with a promising career in prospect, opportunity poured scorn and ridicule on the Church of Rome.

He resolved never to speak to his brother again and at every Ratsbonne family were appalled at this apostasy, but for Alphonsse it to the Catholic faith and was eventually ordained a priest. The whole Whilst Alphonsse was still young, his older brother Theodor converted Alphonsse Ratsbonne was born in 1814 to a wealthy Jewish family.

A Miraculous Conversion

Miracle of the Memorare

