

Prayer

Through the intercession of Alphons Ariëns

God,
who gave us Love
as the foremost commandment,
You gave Your servant Alphons Ariëns
the grace to keep this law heroically.

In the footsteps of Jesus Christ, Your Son,
he was a good shepherd, an apostle of the virtue
of temperance, and an advocate for his people.

We ask You Lord, that we too in these times
may experience the benefits of his intercession.

Lord, glorify Your servant Alphons Ariëns by
granting me, through his intercession, the grace
... (intention) ..., for which I now fervently pray.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*With ecclesiastical approval
Utrecht: 26 January 2021
Willem Jacobus Cardinal Eijk*

*(For further information and to report favours or
miracles received through the intercession of the
Servant of God Reverend Msgr. Ariëns, please
contact the vice-postulator Henri ten Have,
postulazione@arienscomite.nl)*

The Ariëns Committee Foundation

The Ariëns Committee promotes the interest in
the priest Alphons Ariëns, as an exceptionally
guiding figure in religious and social matters of
our times, by:

- * holding gatherings;
- * publishing writings;
- * coordinating activities;
- * collecting testimonies.

If you would like to read more about the life of
Alphons Ariëns in book, pamphlet or other form
of documentation, or do you have important
information for us, possibly relevant for the
beatification process of Alphons Ariëns? Please
contact the board of the Ariëns Committee
Foundation at:

secretariaat@arienscomite.nl

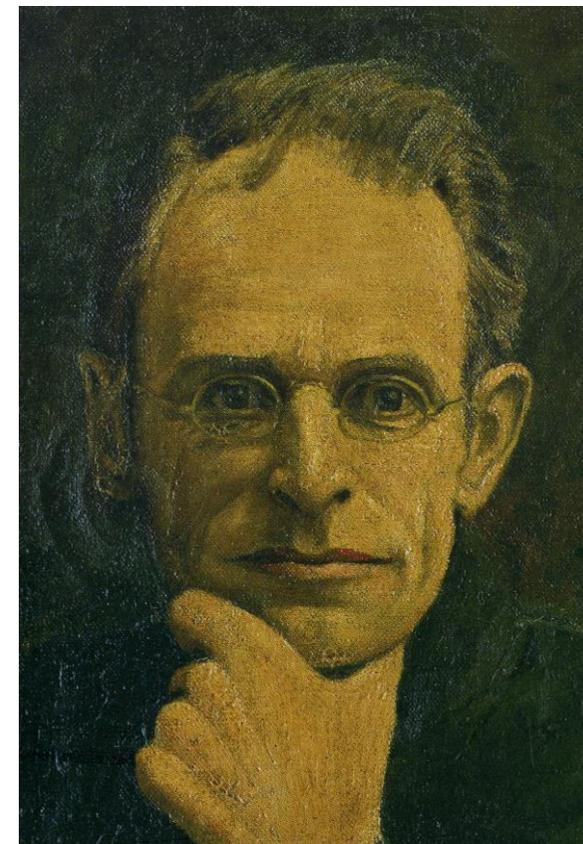
Additional information can also be found on our
website:

www.arienscomite.nl

If you would like to support the Ariëns
Committee Foundation with donations to
complete the process of
beatification in Rome, you can transfer a gift to
this number: IBAN NL67 RABO 0118 0417 38
Stichting Ariëns Comité



*Alphons Ariëns
Servant of God
(1860 - 1928)*



*Priest
of the Archdiocese of Utrecht*

Alphons Ariëns (1860 - 1928) priest of the Archdiocese of Utrecht

(Text from the monument in Haaksbergen)

Following studies in Rolduc, Rijsenburg and Rome, Dr. Alphons Ariëns (from the city of Utrecht) was appointed assistant priest in Enschede in 1886. There he devoted himself in aid of the factory workers, his parishioners, and developed the Church's care for the poor according to the principles of Catholic social action.

By setting up workers' associations and trade unions, he created, starting in Enschede, the foundations for the Catholic labour movement, eventually known as NKV and now largely merged into the FNV and, partly, the CNV. He was also committed to fighting alcohol abuse, efforts which would later develop in the temperance movement *Sobriëtas*.

With and for some 40 illegally dismissed workers, he founded in 1894 in Haaksbergen his own textile factory 'De Eendracht' (Unity), which was organised as a cooperative. In spite of Ariëns' own personal commitment, this social experiment eventually disappeared.

In 1901, Ariëns was appointed parish priest in Steenderen near Zutphen and from 1908 to 1926 in Maarssen on the Utrechtse Vecht. During this period he stimulated all kinds of initiatives and movements, such as the catholic women's movement, *Sobriëtas*, the Catholic reading facility and the modern missionary movement.

Tired from his labours, he withdrew from active service in 1926 and died in 1928 in Amersfoort.

Timeline of Alphons Ariëns' life

Portrait of a priest

1860: Alphons Ariëns was born in Utrecht on 26th April, the fifth of eight children

1870-1878: Student at the gymnasium Rolduc in Kerkrade; student in philosophy in Rolduc

1878-1882: Student in theology at the archdiocesan seminary Rijsenburg in Driebergen
1882: 15th August ordination to the priesthood in the chapel of Rijsenburg

1882-1886: Student in canon law and philosophy, doctorate in theology in Rome

1886: 30th September appointment as assistant priest to St. James's Parish in Enschede

1886-1901: Assistant priest in Enschede

1889: 24th November, founding of the St Joseph's RC Workers' Association

1891: 14th January founding of the St. Severus' RC Twentsche Factory Workers' Association

1893: January, the first issue of the monthly magazine *The Catholic Worker* appears

1894-1901: Foundation of the cooperative weaving mill *De Eendracht* (Unity) in Haaksbergen

1895: 25th May, foundation of the *Sobriëtas* Cross Association and *Maria* Association counteracting alcohol abuse

1901-1908: Parish priest in Steenderen

1908-1926: Parish priest in Maarssen near Utrecht

1919: Appointment as Secret Papal Chamberlain

1921: 21st February, creation of the *Geert Groote* Society in Utrecht

1926: Parish priest emeritus; spends his final years in the convent of the Sisters of St Joseph, Amersfoort

1928: On 7th August, Reverend Msgr. Alphons Ariëns dies in Amersfoort, aged 68

1928: 11th August, funeral in Maarssen

Commemoration in Maarssen

Since 1935, around the date of his death, (7th August) a pilgrimage and a memorial service are held at his grave in Maarssen. Since 1978 this has become the opening event of the academic year of the Ariëns Institute, the archdiocesan seminary. The memorial service is now held on the last Sunday of August.

Commemoration in Enschede

The Twente Ariëns Committee exists since 1955. Since then, a memorial service has taken place every autumn in Enschede, initially in the Sacred Heart church, later alternately in various churches and from 1964 on, at various locations in Twente on the date of his birth (26th April or on Labour Day (1st May).

In 1986, 100 years after the appointment of Alphons Ariëns as assistant priest, the Ariëns memorial service came to St. James' parish in Enschede. The third Sunday of November was chosen as date because Ariëns established the Saint Joseph's RC Workers' Association around this date (in 1889).

In 1994, part of St. James' church was converted into an Our Lady chapel. In 2009 this chapel was combined with the Ariëns chapel. The Our Lady-Ariëns chapel is open daily.

Commemoration elsewhere

The devotion for Ariëns is alive nationwide. At Rolduc, where Ariëns studied, in the parish of Haaksbergen, at the Ariëns Institute in Utrecht, and in the Willibrordus community in Steenderen, where Ariëns was parish priest from 1901 to 1908, local memorial services exist.