

**St. Charles Borromeo:** The son of Count Gilbert Borromeo and Margaret Medici, sister of Pope Pius IV, Charles was born in 1538 to wealth and prestige in a castle on the shore of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy. Educated in Arona, Milan, and Pavia, Charles received his doctorate in 1559, the same year his uncle became pope. Charles was named a cardinal (in those days ordination was not mandatory for cardinals), served as a diplomat, and urged the pope to re-open the Council of Trent, which had been suspended in 1552. Charles played an important role in formulating the Council's decrees. After refusing to take on the role of head of his wealthy family, Charles was ordained a priest (1563) and consecrated bishop of Milan, where he worked to improve the conduct of the clergy and the administration of the diocese, helped the poor, and brought back to the Church many who had joined Protestant churches. During a famine in 1570, Charles Borromeo saw to it that three thousand people a day were fed. When the governor and other officials left Milan during a plague in 1576, Charles stayed with his suffering people and urged priests and religious to remain and to help minister to the sick and dying. The plague lasted for two years. When he died at the age of forty-six, he cried out, "See, Lord, I am coming, I am coming soon." Our window, which shows the saint dressed in vestments and carrying a cross, was donated in memory of Dr. Charles M. Paros by Helen Paros and their family. We celebrate the feast of Saint Charles Borromeo on November 4.

