

*Homily for the Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Liguori,  
Bishop & Doctor of the Church  
St. Thomas the Apostle Church – West Springfield, Massachusetts  
August 1, 2019*

Scripture Readings: Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38 ✠ Psalm 84: 3-6a, 8a, 11 ✠ Matthew 13:47-53

**T**oday we end our readings from the Book of Exodus, a book that is as fundamentally important to the Old Testament as the Gospels are to the New Testament. We also conclude one of the major sections in Matthew's Gospel on the reign or kingdom of God.<sup>1</sup> Both readings portray God's merciful way of drawing people into His divine life.



Biblical religion always looks forward to a better future. While honoring some wonderful moments of the past, its drive is onward towards its Messianic Age. Along the way, it accepts some major changes as required at times by cultural or national crises, like the Philistine threat, for example, which was countered by uniting the Twelve Tribes into a kingdom, with one capital and one national temple, under David and Solomon.

All changes and transitions can be difficult. But in Jesus' vision there is always hope for renewal, for the head of the household can bring from his treasures things both new and old. At transitional moments in our personal life as in life of the Church, we need the courage to endure through the change, in hope, and the vision to recognize the will of God drawing us into a future more precious even than the past. ✠

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<sup>1</sup> [Matthew 11:2](#) and [Matthew 13:53](#)