

**ALOYSIUS IGNATIUS
FITER: DIRECTOR OF THE
BARCELONA SODALITY**

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Aloysius Ignatius Fiter: director of the Barcelona sodality by Ramón Ruiz Amado & Elder Mullan

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RAMÓN RUIZ AMADO & ELDER MULLAN

**ALOYSIUS IGNATIUS
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ALOYSIUS IGNATIUS FITER

DIRECTOR OF THE BARCELONA SODALITY

BY

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PREFACE

FATHER Aloysius Ignatius Fiter is unquestionably the most important figure in Sodality history in the last two hundred years. He has two titles to the distinction: his Sodality at Barcelona and his part in preparing the Common Rules of 1910.

Father Fiter was the head of what an able critic has justly styled "the model Sodality of modern times;" in fact, he created the Sodality and brought it from an inactive and moribund and ragged collection of indifferent elements to be the fully organized association it is of young men imbued with supernatural principles and moved by these to the intelligent and concerted works of charity and apostolic zeal which has never been surpassed in Sodality history.

A certain writer has said that a Sodality Director must be its head and its heart. Father Fiter was both in an eminent degree. It was his acquaintance with the ancient consecrated usages, his study of present conditions, his perception of the way to meet the latter without sacrificing the former, which brought his Sodality legislation abreast of the best of such work ever done.

Besides this, it was he that sent life through the body of which he was the Director. As it is the heart which presses the blood through the human body, so it was his impulse which caused the Sodality spirit to go through all the members, vivifying them, raising them to higher levels of Catholic goodness and rendering them capable of the spiritual life and acts for which alone Sodalists exist.

Besides his importance as the model Director of the model modern Sodality, Father Fiter can justly claim the gratitude of all Sodalities for having prepared and indeed nearly completed the Common Rules approved by Father General Wernz on 8 Dec., 1910. The actual drawing up of these Rules, which have proved a boon to all earnest Sodalists, and a bond of union among Sodalities, is due to Fr. Fiter's successor in the Sodality of Barcelona, Fr. Cajetan Puig, and to certain members of that Sodality. But the laborious and painstaking trying out of the Rules one by one and piecemeal was the work of Father Fiter. It is therefore to him that we owe that firm, rounded, yet pliable system of Rules which now give scope and purpose to Sodalities, enlighten and strengthen Directors and inspire and guide Sodality writers.

We have to thank the learned author of this book for the zest with which he studied and presents Father Fiter's traits as man, as Religious and especially as Director. We should have been grateful had he done this in any way, but our gratitude is doubled by his having chosen that of laying before us copious extracts of Father Fiter's own writings. In reading the book one almost feels it is Father Fiter himself who is telling us his story.

The reader who has taken up the *Life of Father Fiter* may well persuade himself that he could do nothing better than study it if he desires to provide himself with correct ideas on the Sodality of Our Lady. The Director who ponders the little volume will find it a mine of suggestions and a treasure of encouragement. If the author had omitted all else of which he has so successfully accomplished, he would in these two respects alone have given us a book well worth its weight in gold.

ELDER MULLAN, S.J.

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