

## *Saints of our Church*

### *Saints who were martyrs*

**Agatha** - February 5: She suffered horribly at the hands of the magistrate (Quinctianus) whom she denied. She is said to have been given a vision of St. Peter during her torture which sustained her. Patron of bell makers, those suffering from breast diseases, fire prevention and nurses.

**Andrew Kim** - September 20: Born of a noble family of Korea. Andrew was a man of great intelligence, strong personality, and deep faith. He studied for the priesthood in Macao and Shanghai; he was Korea's first Catholic priest. He returned to Korea and was beheaded; his father and great-grandfather were also martyrs for the faith.

**Barbara** - December 4: She was a convert, imprisoned by her father and turned over to Roman Authorities who killed her. Her father was immediately struck by lightning after her death. Patron of architects, builders, gunners, ammunition workers, and against lightening, storms and sudden death.

**Barnabas** - June 11: One of the 72 who traveled with St. Paul on the first missionary trip; it is said that at the time of his death he carried a copy of the Gospel of Saint Matthew he had copied by hand. He was a martyr and is patron against hail storms.

**Boniface** - June 5: Bishop, missionary and reformer of Germany where he was martyred. He is patron of Germany, Manitoba Canada, brewers, file cutters and tailors.

**Christopher** - July 25: "Christ bearer" Legend has St. Christopher, a large and strong man, carrying the Child Jesus across raging waters as the child gets heavier and heavier with the sins of the world. He is listed as a martyr and one of the 14 Holy Helpers who appeared to St. Joan of Arc. Patron of travelers, truck drivers, mariners, sailors, automobiles, bus drivers, gardeners, archers and sudden death.

**Joan of Arc** - May 30: She had divine inspiration/visions to lead the French soldiers that liberated France, only to be unjustly tried for witchcraft and burned at the stake. Patron of France, rape victims and soldiers.

**John Fisher** - June 22: Bishop and martyr. He tutored Prince Henry who was to become Henry VIII. Unlike the other Bishops of England, St. John refused to take the oath of succession which acknowledged Henry and Anne as the legitimate heirs to the throne, and he was imprisoned in the tower in April 1534. The next year he was made a Cardinal by Pope Paul III and Henry retaliated by having him beheaded within a month.

**Sebastian** - January 20: Officer of the Imperial Roman army, he was martyred for refusing to denounce his faith. He is patron to archers, arrow smiths, athletes, iron workers, lead workers, potters, lace makers, stone masons, gardeners, soldiers, police officers, funeral directors and against the plague or enemies of religion.

**Stephen** - December 26: The first Christian Martyr. Stoned to death – St. Paul was one of those present. Patron to bricklayers, casket makers, stone workers and masons.

**Thomas Becket** - December 29: Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion who argued with King Henry II of England and was assassinated by followers of the king. He is patron to Oxford, Portsmouth, Exeter College, Arbroath Abbey and secular clergy.

**Thomas More** - June 22: Lawyer and friend of King Henry VIII until he refused to sign the Oath of Supremacy (which declared the king head of the Church in England). He was executed and is patron of civil servants, court workers, lawyers, statesmen, stepparents, widowers and adopted children.

### *Saints with Really Cool Conversion Stories*

**Augustine (of Hippo)** - August 28: Though raised a Christian, Augustine was wild and worldly and an unbeliever as a young man. His mother, St. Monica, prayed for 30 years for him to convert and live a Christian life. After his conversion and ordination, he became known for his theological knowledge and writings. He founded the Augustinian Order and wrote this on his wall "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." He is patron of brewers, printers, the Augustinians and theologians. He is a Doctor of the Church.

### **Saints with Really Cool Conversion Stories**

**Francis of Assisi** - October 4: Founder of the Franciscan Order. Gave up his inheritance and was known for his preaching. At the Church of San Damiano, Jesus told him: "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." He built up both the buildings and the spirit of the Church. Received the stigmata. Patron of animals, birds, animal welfare society, zoos, merchants, needle workers and solitary death.

**Ignatius (of Loyola)** - July 31: Founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Raised as a soldier, was badly wounded and while recuperating experienced a conversion. He wrote "Spiritual Exercises". The Jesuits are dedicated to the pope and known for works of charity, education and missionary work. Patron of retreats and Jesuits.

**Mary Magdalene** - July 22: Mary Magdalene loved much and was forgiven much. Jesus cast out seven demons from her. She was first at the empty tomb and first to see Christ after His Resurrection. Known as the "Apostle to the Apostles" she is the patron of all sinners. Pope Francis raised her memorial day to a feast on the church's liturgical calendar.

**Genesius of Arles** – August 25: Actor and comedian who infiltrated the Christians in Rome to learn about Baptism and then write a play ridiculing it for the Emperor Diocletian. Instead he was converted during his play and the Emperor, who killed Christians, requested his denial of Christian belief. But Genesius remained steadfast and refused. After torture, he was martyred by beheading. He is patron of actors, comedians, as well as converts, lawyers, secretaries and victims of torture.

**Vladimir of Kiev** – July 15: Vladimir the Great on Ruthenian Greek Catholic and Russian Orthodox calendars. Grandson of St. Olga and the first Russian ruler to embrace Christianity. He was a warrior king and convert to Christianity.

**Moses the Black** – August 28: 4th century robber turned pacifist monk. Anihan Moses, (also known as Abba Moses the Robber, the Abyssinian, the Ethiopian and the Strong) was a criminal who converted and became an ascetic monk and priest in Egypt. He eventually converted many of the robber band that he had led. He remained at the monastery during a raid that he predicted and was martyred for his faith.

**Longinus** - March 15: The Roman centurion who pierced the side of Our Lord while He was hanging on the Cross; quoted in Scripture: Mark 15:39. He was healed of his poor sight by the blood and water that came forth from the heart of Jesus. He converted to Christianity and became a monk.

### **Young Saints**

**Agnes** - January 21: She was martyred at the age of 12, in the early days of the church. Her physical beauty attracted men and she refused them and remained faithful to God through her torture and death. Patron of all women threatened by gross bodily insult.

**Aloysius Gonzaga** – June 21: He came from a wealthy, royal family and served in the courts of several kings. He came under the spiritual guidance of St. Charles Borromeo and decided to renounce his inheritance and join the Jesuits. He was brilliant, especially in math and philosophy. He is remembered for his piety and austerity. He saw his death in a vision that included the Archangel Gabriel. He died after caring for victims of the plague. Patron of youth and young students.

**Aquilina** – June 13: Virgin martyr beheaded in Lebanon. Not much of her story is known but she is reported to have been only 12 years old when she died.

**Charles Lwanga** – June 3: One of the young martyrs in the court of King Mwanga of Uganda. They were slain with horrible cruelty. All were converts of the White Fathers (Missionaries of Africa).

### Young Saints

**Dominic Savio** – October 9: At the age of 12 and a poor boy, Dominic joined St. John Bosco's Oratory as a student. He impressed John Bosco with his desire to be a priest and his interest in helping with neglected boys. He was a peacemaker and organizer and began a group called the Company of the Immaculate Conception who helped John Bosco and his work with the boys. Eventually, this group became the Salesian religious order. Some thought Dominic was too young to be a saint, but Pope St. Pius X declared the opposite was true and canonized him.

**Elizabeth of Hungary** - November 17: Daughter of a king and married at 14, she chose to lead a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service to the poor and sick. After her husband died, she suffered due to her in-laws' belief that she was giving everything away. She died at the age of 24, but her charitable works are legend. Patron of bakers

**Gemma Galgani** – April 11: She was fervently religious but unable to join a religious order due to illness. She professed several vows in secret. She had a number of ecstatic experiences which were investigated by the Church. She experienced the stigmata and marks of scourging off and on for a number of years.

**Jose Sanchez del Rio** – February 10: At the age of 14, Jose wanted to join his brothers in the Cristeros War in Mexico. His mother would not let him. Finally, his mother and the General agreed that he could be the flag bearer. However, Jose ended up in the middle of the war and died a martyr for his faith. As he lay dying, he traced a cross in the dirt and kissed it. His battle cry was: Viva Cristo Rey!

**Lucy (of Syracuse)** - December 13: She refused marriage to a young man she considered unsuitable. She used her wealth to help the poor and died defending her faith after suffering much abuse. Patron of the blind and those suffering diseases of the eyes.

**Maria Goretti** - July 6: Maria Goretti was born into a poor family of Italy. At the age of 12, when she refused the advances of a young man named Alessandro, he became angry and stabbed her 14 times. Before her death, she prayed for his repentance. He was captured and punished for his crimes. He repented while in prison and was present at her canonization in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. Patroness of girls, rape victim and youth.

**Perpetua** – March 7: One of a group of Christians arrested during the reign of Emperor Severus 193-211 AD in Carthage, North Africa. Their story was written down and is of great value to historians because of its authenticity. Her group included St. Felicity, a purported slave. They are mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer of the Roman Mass.

**Philomena** - August 11: Virgin and martyr. Little is known of her except that she was martyred at age 14. In 1805, when her remains were taken to a new church and shrine, miracles started occurring on people who visited her and prayed to her with prayers for curing cancer and healing wounds.

**Tarcisius** – August 15: He was a 12 year old altar boy who attended secret Masses in the catacombs during Roman persecutions of the third century. Each day after Mass a deacon would secretly take the Blessed Eucharist to those Christians in prison. One day there was no deacon and Tarcisius begged to be allowed to take the Eucharist. He placed it in a cloth under his shirt and headed to the prison. He was stopped by boys of his age who wanted him to join them in games. He refused and because they were curious about how he was acting, they jumped him. He was beaten severely and eventually died a martyr from his injuries. Tarcisius showed that youth is no barrier to holiness.

**Teresa of the Andes** - April 12: She was born in 1900 in Chile. In 1914 she took a vow of Chastity. In 1919 she became a novice of the Discalced Carmelites. She contracted typhus, died in April of 1920. First saint from Chile and is patron of young people and those suffering from illness.

### Saints with Superpowers and Saints who were Superheroes

**Mary, Mother of God** - January 1: Amazing story of a teenager's relationship with God and life as the Mother of Jesus; the Virgin Mary appeared in many apparitions and her story continues through the ages.

## **Saints with Superpowers and Saints who were Superheroes**

**Denis** – October 9: A bishop who was sent from Italy to France where he was martyred under the rule of Emperor Decius. His body and those of other martyrs were rescued from the Seine River and buried, with a chapel built over them. This chapel became the Benedictine Abbey of St. Denis. He is the patron saint and apostle of France. Also known as Dionysius of Paris.

**George - April 23:** An officer in the Roman Army, he refused to carry out unjust orders. He resigned, was arrested and tortured. Patron of soldiers, policemen, lepers, archers, boy scouts, cavalry, butchers, horses, farmers, of England and against the plague and skin diseases.

**Joseph of Cupertino** – September 18: After multiple applications to religious orders, he was accepted by the Franciscans. He was considered a mystic and received many gifts from God including ability to fly through the air. Because of the jealousy of fellow monks he was moved to remote locations, including Assisi, where he was away from the ordinary people. Patron of pilots and airline passengers.

**Louis IX** – August 25: King of France, who embarked on the Seventh Crusade to recapture the Holy Land. The crusade was a disaster and he was taken prisoner by the Muslims in Egypt. He ransomed himself and his men, then lived in Palestine before returning to France. Back home he added to France's power and began building numerous religious and educational institutions. He was a peacemaker and known for protecting the common people. He was an excellent example of the highest ideals of the medieval rulers. He died of typhus in Tunisia after setting out on a new crusade.

**Martin de Porres** - November 3: Founder of an orphanage. He was of mixed races and grew up in Peru. God gave him extraordinary gifts: ecstasies, light filling his room, bi-location, miraculous knowledge, instantaneous cures, rapport with animals. He managed money well and was a good fundraiser. Patron to barbers, hairstylists, the poor, African Americans and for racial harmony.

**Maximillian Maria Kolbe** - August 14: He was a Polish Franciscan friar. His group founded a monastery in Nagasaki, Japan which serves as the center of Franciscan work in Japan today. He was killed at Auschwitz, the Nazi prison death camp in 1941 when he volunteered to take the place of a stranger. He is a martyr of charity. He is the patron of journalists, prisoners, families and families of addicts and the pro-life movement.

**Patrick** - March 17: He was born in Roman Britain toward the end of the 4th century. Kidnapped at the age of 16, he was sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping six years later. At home he resumed his education and was ordained a priest. In fulfillment of his ardent desire, the Pope sent him back to Ireland as a missionary. St. Patrick is the apostle of Ireland.

**Pio da Pietrelcina** - September 23: Commonly known as Padre Pio, he was the first priest to receive the stigmata. As a young boy was able to see and communicate with his guardian angel, Jesus and Mary. He entered the Capuchin Order of the Friars Minor and his Masses were "an incomprehensible mystery" because sometimes he was silent thinking about Jesus. He was known as a man of prayer and had extraordinary gifts of healing, bi-location, prophecy, miracles, discernment of spirit, to read hearts, of tongues and was constantly at the disposal of God. Patron of priests and devotion to prayer.

**Quiteria** – May 22: A legendary figure, virgin and martyr, who reportedly was slain by order of her father because she refused to give up her faith and wed his choice. She fled from Spain but was found by her father's men in France and beheaded. She was much venerated in both France and Spain for her faithfulness to her Christian beliefs.

**Simon Stylites** – January 5: Born in northern Syria, he was one of the first stylites: hermits who lived on the tops of pillars. Although he raised his pillar platform to 15 feet, many came to him seeking knowledge and spiritual direction. He carried on a wide correspondence with leaders and preached regularly. He was famed as an ascetic (one in search of Christian perfection). He remained on his pillar until his death.

## **Apostles**

**Andrew** - November 30: Brother to St. Peter, Andrew was a fisherman by trade. He is a patron of various countries, Army Rangers, Mariners, fishermen, rope-makers, singers and performers.

## Apostles

**Bartholomew (Nathanael)** - August 24: Patron of butchers, leather workers, bookbinders and against nervous disorders.

**James the Lesser** - May 3: One of the first to have visions of the risen Christ. First Bishop of Jerusalem. Patron of Italy, Uruguay, druggists, hatters, dying people.

**James the Greater** – July 25: Brother of St. John the Evangelist; son of Zebedee; witnessed the Transfiguration and the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was the first of the Apostles to be martyred and was missionary to the Iberian peninsula of Spain and Portugal. He is patron saint of Spain (St. Iago) and pilgrims.

**John** - December 27: Author of the Fourth Gospel and known as John the Evangelist. Patron of friendships.

**Jude (or Thaddeus)** - October 28: Writer of the canonical letter, exorcist and patron of hopeless causes and desperate situations.

**Luke** - October 18: Physician, author of the Gospel of Luke, patron of doctors, physicians, surgeons, notaries, sculptors, jewelers, artists, bachelors and lace makers.

**Matthew** - September 21: Roman Tax Collector, author of the Gospel According to Matthew. He is patron to accountants, bankers, bookkeepers, stockbrokers and tax collectors.

**Peter** - June 29: Fishermen by trade, brother to St. Andrew the Apostle, named Simon but renamed 'Peter' (the rock) by Jesus and to whom Jesus gave the 'keys of the kingdom of heaven'. The first pope. He was crucified upside down at his request because he did not believe he was worthy to die in the same manner as Jesus. He is patron to the Papacy, Rome, fishermen, bridge builders, mason, ship builders, shoemakers, watch makers, and wolves.

**Simon** - October 28: Called the 'Zealot' because of his zeal for Jewish law. He is patron to tanners, curriers, sawyers.

**Thomas** - July 3: Called 'the doubter' as he questioned Jesus' resurrection. He is patron to architects, builders, stone workers, construction workers, surveyors and against doubt.

**Paul** - June 29: Commonly called the 13th Apostle, assisted in stoning of Stephen, the first martyr, before his conversion. Author of many of the sacred scriptures in the New Testament and was martyred in Rome. Patron of Rome, authors, journalists, press, publishers and travelers. (Has a really cool conversion story.)

## Archangels

**Gabriel the Archangel** - September 29: Gabriel is the announcer of the three angels mentioned in the Bible. He delivered the message of Jesus' conception to the Virgin Mary. He is patron of modern telecommunications, messengers, postal workers, radio workers, diplomats and broadcasters.

**Michael the Archangel** - September 29: Often called the 'Protector of the Chosen People' he is considered the leader of the Army of God and instrumental in driving Lucifer from Heaven. He is accepted by Muslims and Jews as well as Christians. He is considered the guardian of Israel, patron to Knights, hatters, Mariners, sailors, artists, bakers, bankers, grocers, paratroopers, E.M.T.'s, radiologists, ambulance drivers, fencing, Knights of Columbus, and for a holy death.

**Raphael the Archangel** - September 29: One of the seven who stand before God's throne, and of the three mentioned in the Bible, he is the patron of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, the blind, mental illness, and against all eye diseases and nightmares.

## Modern Day Saints

**Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception** - July 19: Born in 1910 in Apookara, India. She lost her mother at the age of 3 and suffered emotionally and physically all her life. She is the first woman native to India to become a saint.

**Andre Bessette** – January 6: He had a lifelong devotion to St. Joseph. He was born with weak health, but finally received into Congregation of the Holy Cross, Montreal. There he began serving the sick and became known for his 'healing' which he attributed to St. Joseph. Pope Benedict said, "Andre lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."

**Elizabeth Ann Seton** - January 4: She was the founder of the Sisters of Charity of the USA, the first native order of North America. She was the first native of the United States to be canonized. Her order started our parochial school system. Patron of in-law problems, death of children, loss of parents and widows.

**Frances Xavier Cabrini** - November 13: Francesca Cabrini was born in Italy, one of eleven children. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1880. In 1889, Pope Leo XIII sent Cabrini and her nuns to New York to help the many poor Italian immigrants. She founded 67 missionary institutions around the country. *She died in Columbus Hospital in Chicago.*

**Gianna Beretta Molla** - April 28: She was an Italian physician. She refused both an abortion and a hysterectomy while pregnant with her fourth child even though it meant the possibility of her own death. She died giving birth. Patron of mothers and physicians

**Josephine Bakhita** - February 8: Her uncle was a tribal chief and her family was fairly prosperous. She was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. Although she was just a child, she was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles to a slave market in El Obeid. She was bought and sold at least twice during the grueling journey. For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name. Eventually she moved to Italy and was introduced to the Canossian Daughters of Charity. Through them she learned about Jesus and God, and after she was freed, she joined their religious order. She is the patroness of the Sudan.

**Katharine Mary Drexel** - March 3: Katherine was a millionaire's daughter who used her wealth to help the oppressed Native American Indians and Blacks in the West and Southwestern U.S. She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and was the second recognized American-born saint (after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) to be canonized.

**Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer** - June 26: *Was a Roman Catholic priest from Spain who founded Opus Dei, an organization of laypeople and priests dedicated to the teaching that everyone is called to holiness and that ordinary life is a path to sanctity.*

**Margaret Mary Alacoque** - October 16: Margaret Mary was French and a member of the Visitation Order. She was called by Jesus to be the founder of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He asked that his love for humankind be made evident through her. Patron against polio and for polio sufferers,

**Maria Faustina Kowalska** - October 5: A Polish nun who is considered a mystic and visionary. She joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She is known as the Apostle of Divine Mercy. Jesus asked her to bring His message of mercy to the world. She told the world about the Divine Mercy Chaplet and had the Divine Mercy image that Christ requested created.

**Mary of the Cross MacKillop** - August 8: Of Scottish descent, she was born in Melbourne, but was best known for her activities in South Australia. She co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites), a congregation of religious sisters that established a number of schools and welfare institutions throughout Australasia, with an emphasis on education for the rural poor.

**Pauline of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus** - July 9: Foundress of the religious Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. She was born in Italy but raised in Brazil. Known even at an early age for her piety and charity, she had great love for the suffering and poor.

### Modern Day Saints

**Pope John XXIII** - October 11: Was elected pope on 28 October 1958. He called the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) but did not live to see it to completion. He died in 1963, only four-and-a-half years after his election, and two months after the completion of his final encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*. He is probably most well-known for his Encyclical *Humane Vitae* for which is said to have influenced St. Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*.

**Pope John Paul II** - October 22: Was pope of the Catholic Church from October 16, 1978 to his death in 2005. John Paul II was acclaimed as one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century. He is credited with helping to end Communist rule in his native Poland and eventually all of Europe. He significantly improved the Catholic Church's relations with Judaism, Islam, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Anglican Communion. Upheld the Church's stance on artificial contraception and the ordination of women, and for his support of the Church's Second Vatican Council and its reform. He was also praised for his firm, orthodox Catholic stances. He is also renowned for his implementation of several papal documents pertaining to the role of the Church in the modern world.

**Pope Pius X** – August 21: Known as the Pope of the Eucharist for his encouragement of the frequent reception of Holy Communion, especially by children. He loved to help the poor and by personal zeal and teaching he brought the clergy back to full and faithful service. He believed that religious education for old and young was the only way to bring the world back to Christ and he remained a teacher his whole life. He was devastated as the world was plunged into World War I and died a few weeks later.

**Riccardo Pampuri** – May 1: He was educated as a doctor; from his youth a model of virtue - openly and consistently professed the Gospel and practiced works of charity. He had a tremendous devotion to the Blessed Mother and joined the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God. He died "leaving behind, the memory of a doctor who knew how to transform his own profession into a mission of charity . . ."

**Teresa Benedicta of the Cross** - August 9: Edith Stein was a Jewish convert who became a Carmelite nun with a monastic name. She was executed at Auschwitz for her Jewish ancestry. She is sometimes referred to as St. Edith Stein. Patroness of Europe, World Youth Day, loss of parents and martyrs.

**Teresa of Calcutta** – September. 5: Foundress of the Missionaries of Charity. Born in Albania, she served in the poorest areas of India and worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor and marginalized; taught all to see the face of Christ in everyone they meet, regardless of how they look.

### Saints who were mothers, wives or homemakers

**Anne** - July 26: St. Anne is the Blessed Virgin's mother. Anne's name can be spelled 'Anne' or 'Ann.' Patron of widows, pregnant women, women in labor, housewives and Canada.

**Clotilde** - June 3: St. Clotilde wife of Frankish king Clovis was instrumental in his conversion. Patron of brides, adopted children, parents' exiles and widows.

**Elizabeth** - November 5: She was cousin of the Virgin Mary and mother of John the Baptist.

**Martha** - July 29: She was the sister of Lazarus and is the patroness of cooks and servants.

**Monica** - August 27: She is a model of indefatigable prayer, patron of all sons who have brought grief to their mothers. Her son, St. Augustine, converted to Christianity after thirty years of prayer.

**Veronica** - July 12: Veronica is the brave woman who wiped the face of Jesus as He fell on his way to Golgotha. Nothing else is known about her. Patron of Laundry Workers and Photographers.

### Saints whose bodies/body parts lie uncorrupt

**Angela of Merici** - January 27: Angela was blinded during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land but she continued her quest and her sight was restored on her return to home. She founded the Ursuline Sisters. She died in 1540 but her body remains incorrupt in Brescia, Italy. She is the patron of the handicapped, disabled and physically challenged.

### **Saints whose bodies/body parts lie incorrupt**

**Bernadette** - April 16: Bernadette of Lourdes, France, was 14 years old when she began having visions (18 in all) of the Blessed Mother. The shrine at Lourdes celebrates this graceful encounter and is famous for its healing waters; incorruptible saint. Patron of shepherds and protection against bodily ills.

**Cecilia** - November 22: She and her husband (St. Valerian) refused to sing praise to false Gods. Her body has never decayed even though she was horribly tortured and beheaded. Patroness of music.

**Charles Borromeo** – Nov. 4: Followed in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi living a life of poverty after beginning life as a rich relative of the pope (Pius IV). He established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine CCD (format for religious education) and his body lies incorrupt. Patron against pestilences. He instituted children's Sunday school, enforced the decrees of the Council of Trent, founded schools for the poor, seminaries for clerics and hospitals for the sick. Patron of catechists, clergy, seminarians, spiritual directors, catechumens, bishops and apple orchards.

**Luigi Orione** – March 12: Founder of The Little Work of Divine Providence – made of two Congregations: Sons of Divine Providence and Little Missionary Sisters of Charity. He especially loved the poor, the young, the elderly and the disabled; his motto was: "Do good always, to all, evil to none." His body lies incorrupt.

**John Bosco** – Jan. 31: As a youngster helped poor boys, teaching religious education/taking them to church; established a 'Festive Oratory' – Sunday school and recreation center for boys. Was given the gifts of bi-location, discernment of hypocrites, prophesy and founded the Salesians Order dedicated to education of poor boys and Daughters of St. Mary Auxiliatrix. His body is incorrupt.

**Rita of Cascia** - May 22: She was widowed, became a nun and mystic. She received a partial stigmata in the form of a wound on her head. Her body remains incorrupt. She suffered much in life and is a patron of impossible causes, especially marital troubles. The bee is a symbol of her industry, the rose of her garden that produced fruit and flower even in the dead of winter.

### **Patron Saints**

**St. Brigid of Ireland** – February 1: She took the veil in her youth and founded the nunnery of Kildare, the first to be created on Irish soil. Hundreds of legends have arisen about her, most of them centering on her mercy and pity for the poor. She is often represented holding a cross, with a flame over her head, and is sometimes seen with a churn. She is the protectress of those engaged in dairy work and is the patron of Ireland, only after St. Patrick.

**Dymphna** – May 15: A popular saint known by legend as the daughter of a Celtic chieftain. She fled home after her mother's death against the wishes of her father. Her father hunted her and her religious companions down, and after her refusal to return home, beheaded them all. Patroness of those suffering nervous and mental afflictions, epilepsy and anxiety. A working asylum over their relics still stands.

**Isidore the Farmer** – May 10: He was a miracle worker and husband of St. Mary de la Cabeza. He especially defended the poor and sick. Spanish monarchs have sought his counsel and intercession for centuries. Patron of Spanish farmers and rural communities and saint of the city of Madrid.

**John Berchmans** – August 13: He grew up during the religious war between the Catholics and Protestants in the Netherlands. When the Jesuits opened a college at Malines he was one of the first to enter and was a leader among the students. He joined the Jesuit order and had as his model St. Aloysius Gonzaga. He wanted to be a chaplain for the army and be martyred on the battlefield, but due to poor health was never able to attain it. He is the patron of altar servers.

**Joseph – March 19:** Spouse of the Blessed Mother Mary and stepfather of Jesus. Special veneration for him started in the Eastern Church. Patron for universal Church and fathers.

**Rose of Lima** - August 23: She was the first person born in the Western Hemisphere to be made a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. She died at 31. She is patron of the New World, especially South America and Peru, the destitute and the poor.

**Saints who were Popes, Bishops, Founders of Religious Orders, Theologians, Authors or Teachers**

**Alphonsus Marie Liguori** - August 1: A child prodigy born into nobility he received his doctorate of law from the University of Naples at age 16. Founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (also called: Liguorians or Redemptorists). Doctor of the Church. Patron of theologians, confessors, vocations and against arthritis.

**Anthony Mary Claret** - October 24: Founder of the Claretians, he is patron to weavers, the Catholic Press and Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Benedict** - July 11: Monastic founder of the Benedictine Order and example of radical hospitality. Patron of the homeless, farmers, civil engineers, monastic monks and against, witchcraft, kidney diseases and gall stones and poisoning.

**Brigid of Sweden** - July 23: Mother of St. Catherine of Sweden. Though she loved her life with her husband and eight children, she continued over her lifetime to seek out religious communities for retreats and graces. She experienced many visions and founded a religious order – the Order of the Most Holy Trinity (Brigittines) which became the intellectual center of the nation. She is co-patroness of Europe with St. Catherine of Siena and St. Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross).

**Clare** - August 11: Clare is the patroness of those suffering from eye disorders, embroiders and television. She founded 'the Poor Clares', the Sisters of St. Francis. On her death she wished to attend Mass but was unable to do so. A vision in the wall allowed her to see and attend Mass. That is why she is patroness of television.

**Francis Xavier** - December 3: Priest and one of the founding fathers of the Jesuit Order, its first Jesuit missionary. Patron of Australia, Borneo, China, missionaries, immigrants and wine makers.

**Ignatius (of Antioch)** - October 17: Convert from paganism to Christianity. Succeeded Peter as bishop of Antioch, Syria. Legend says he was the infant that Jesus took into his arms in Mark 9. Patron of the Church in North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean and against throat diseases.

**Jane Frances de Chantal** - August 18: Co-founder of the Congregation of the Visitation Order. She is the patroness of forgotten people, parents separated from children and widows.

**John Baptist de la Salle** - April 7: Educator of poor boys; founder of the Christian Brothers (La Salle Brothers) religious order; mentor for teachers; patron of teachers.

**John Chrysostom** - September 13: Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Called 'Golden-Mouthed' because of his eloquence. He is the patron of preachers.

**John Eudes** - August 19: Originally a member of the Oratorians. Founder of the Eudists - Congregation of Jesus and Mary and the Sisters of Charity of the Refuge. Father of the devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. His theme: 'Jesus as the source of holiness; Mary as the model of the Christian life.'

**Nicholas of Myra** - December 6: Abbot and Bishop of Myra. Stories of his kindness and generosity have rendered him the eternal myth of 'Santa Claus'. He is patron of all children, for Russia, mariners, travelers, students, prisoners, maidens, scholars, brides, bakers, merchants and judges.

**Vincent de Paul** - September 27: Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians or Lazarists) and Daughters of Charity. Founder of the Confraternities of Charity which brought together people to help the poor (Now the Society of St. Vincent de Paul). Worked and taught among the poor. Patron of charitable societies, hospital workers, lepers, volunteers.

**Doctors of the Church**

**Albert (the Great)** - November 15: He was a Dominican priest who taught theology and is famous for interest in the natural sciences (botany and biology). Doctor of the Church. Patron of medical technicians, scientists, philosophers, natural sciences, World Youth day, students and all school children.

## Doctors of the Church

**Ambrose** - December 7: Ambrose was a teacher, preacher and writer of liturgical hymns. He converted and baptized St. Augustine of Hippo. Doctor of the Latin Church. Patron of candle makers and domestic animals.

**Catherine of Siena** - April 29: Catherine received her first vision of Christ at the age of 16. She suffered the stigmata and is the second woman in history to be declared a Doctor of the Church; incorruptible saint.

**Francis de Sales** - January 24: Bishop, prolific correspondent, Doctor of the Church and co-founder of the Order of the Visitation. Patron to authors, teachers, writers, confessors, journalists, the press, and the deaf.

**Gregory the Great** - September 3: 64th Pope, Doctor of the Latin Church, he wrote seminal works on the mass and office. He is patron to students, teachers, musicians, choir members, singers, educators, school children.

**Hildegard of Bingen** – September 17: Benedictine nun and abbess. Visionary/mystic - received visions since the age of three and was ordered to write them down. Authored multiple books, songs, hymns, including many letters to people seeking her advice; theologian, composer, polymath, Doctor of the Church.

**Teresa of Ávila** - October 15: Suffered a great illness from which she never fully recovered. Received numerous visions and locutions. After years of concern regarding the laxity of the Calced Carmelite Order, she founded the Order of Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Primitive Rule. The Discalced Carmelites were a reformed order that returned to its roots of austerity, prayer, penance and work. She wrote much spiritual literature and was revered as a great mystic. Doctor of the Church and is patron against headaches.

**Therese of Lisieux** - October 1: She was a Discalced Carmelite nun renowned for her insistence on 'the little way' of doing good for Jesus. When two of her sisters were accepted into the order, she wanted to join them but was denied. Eventually she was accepted and took the name: Therese of the Child Jesus. She was also known as 'the little flower of Jesus'. She had mystical experiences which her superior ordered her to write down and this became her autobiography *The Story of a Soul*. She died at the age of 24. Doctor of the Church and patron of aviators, missions, florists and Russia,

**Thomas Aquinas** - January 28: Pope Leo VIII demanded Thomas' writings (including the Proofs of God) be studied by all theology students. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1567. Patron to Catholic universities, pencil makers, students, theologians, scholars, philosophers, publishers, for chastity and clear weather and against storms and lightning.