

The Martyrology of the Monastery of the Ascension

Introduction

History of Martyrologies

The *Martyrology* is an official liturgical book of the Catholic Church. The official Latin version of the *Martyrology* contains a short liturgical service the daily reading of the *Martyrology*'s list of saints for each day. The oldest surviving martyrologies are the lists of martyrs and bishops from the fourth-century Roman Church. The martyrology wrongly attributed to St. Jerome was written in Ital in the second half of the fifth century, but all the surviving versions of it come from Gaul. It is a *simple* martyrology, which lists the name of the saint and the date and place of death of the saint. *Historical* martyrologies give a brief history of the saints. In the eighth and ninth centuries, St. Bede, Rhabanus Maurus, and Usuard all wrote historical martyrologies. The *Roman Martyrology*, based primarily on Usuard's, was first published in 1583, and the edition of 1584 was made normative in the Roman rite by Gregory XIII. The post-Vatican II revision appeared first in 2001. A revision that corrected typographical errors and added 117 people canonized by Pope John Paul II between 2001 and 2004, appeared in 2005.¹

The Purpose and Principles of This Martyrology

The primary purpose of this martyrology is to provide an historically accurate text for liturgical use at the monastery, where each day after noon prayer it is customary to read the martyrology for the following day. Some things in this martyrology are specific to the Monastery of the Ascension: namesdays of the members of the community, anniversaries of members of the community who have died, a few references to specific events or saints of local interest. However, on the whole, the martyrology reflects a catholic interest in the history of the church and her saints.

The *Roman Martyrology* of 2004 contains about 7000 saints, and has about twelve short entries for each day of the year, in addition to entries for movable feasts such as Easter. This martyrology, by contrast, aims to give three to five saints for each day, with enough accurate historical information to identify the saints and their significance. Listening to it or reading it each day should lead to a richer appreciation of the history of the church and of the communion of saints. Saints who are known only by name, date, and place of death, and not usually included.

¹ See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrology>. This article provides links to an online version of the 1956 revision of the official 1914 edition of the *Roman Martyrology* and to the Latin rubrics and historical introduction of that 1956 revision. For a printed version see *The Roman Martyrology*, ed. J. B. O'Connell (Westminster, MD: Newman, 1962). An introduction to all facets of hagiography and martyrologies can be found in Jacques Dubois, O.S.B., and Jean-Loup Lemaitre, *Sources et méthodes de l'hagiographie médiévale* (Paris: Cerf, 1993).

Some saints are shrouded in legend,² and in some cases even their historical existence can be questioned. The latter are left out here, or the reasons for including them are indicated, and an effort is made to distinguish historical fact from imaginative elaborations on the facts.

In selecting which saints to include the following principles have been followed: (1) There should be a balance among saints from different eras: patristic, medieval, modern and contemporary; (2) A balance between men and women, lay people, religious, and clergy, and different geographical areas is to be sought. (3) However, preference will be given to monastic saints, particularly those who followed the *Rule of Saint Benedict*. (4) Moreover, an effort has been made to include all the saints from North America, amid a general tendency to favor saints from the British Isles (this tendency is due both to the interests of the author and English origin of the primary source used in gathering information).

Sources of Information

The primary source of information regarding the saints included in this martyrology is

Butler's Lives of the Saints, New Full Edition, ed. Paul David Hugh Farmer and Paul Burns, 12 volumes and *Supplement*, vol. 1 [=beatification and canonizations, 1999-2003] (London: Burns & Oates, Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1995-2005).³

Also important for information and facts was the official liturgical text:

Martyrologium Romanum. Edition typica. Vatican City: Typis Vaticanis, 2001. [The 2005 revision added more than 150 saints to those included in this edition, and further beatifications and canonizations are occurring almost monthly. See www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints.

Two sources were helpful for information on Benedictine saints, memorable dates of interest to the monks of the Monastery of the Ascension, and for dates when the

² *Legenda* is Latin for “things to be read.” In the second nocturn of the night office (what is now called vigils or the office of readings, but in the years before Vatican II was called Matins) it was customary to read the *legenda* (life story) of the saint of the day. Many of these were a mixture of edifying tales and historical facts; hence, the word “legends.” “Legends” can be charming and edifying, and often contain profound truths. However, they can contain historical facts, they are not historical narratives in the modern sense. Hence, there was an irreverent saying, which the post-Vatican II revision of the Liturgy of the Hours rendered obsolete: “He lies like a second nocturn.”

³ The author has tried not to plagiarize the wording of the entries in this invaluable source, but he has spent so much time with it that at points its wording has certainly entered into his text.

feastdays of a few saints are celebrated at the monastery on dates different from those in the Roman liturgical calendar:

Ordo 2007 for the Swiss-American Congregation of the Benedictine Federation (St. Meinrad: Abbey Press, [2006]).

Martyrology, 2 vols., derived from Mt. Angel Abbey and in use at the Monastery of the Ascension until 2007 [type script, with hand-written annotations]

Two reliable compendia of information on the saints were occasionally consulted to verify dates and facts:

Dictionary of the Saints, ed. John J. Delaney (Garden City, NJ: Doubleday, 1980)

Oxford Dictionary of the Saints, 5th ed., ed. David Farmer (New York: Oxford, 2003).

To help assure that there were no omissions of significant saints the contents of this martyrology were checked against the calendar of saints in

The Glenstal Book of Prayer (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2001)

and the entries for each day of the year in

Sarah Gallick, *The Big Book of Women Saints* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2007).

Movable Feasts

The Solemnity of the Epiphany, on which the church commemorates the threefold manifestation of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ: the adoration of the magi, His baptism by John in the Jordan River, and the miracle at the wedding feast at Cana, where he changed water into wine. (*On the First Sunday after January 1*)

The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, on which he was wondrously declared to be the well-beloved Son of God, the waters were sanctified, humankind was purified, and the earth rejoiced. (*On the Sunday after January 1 or on the Monday after the Sunday on which the Epiphany is celebrated.*)

Ash Wednesday, the day of ashes and the beginning of the most holy time of Lent. Behold there are coming days of penance to remedy sins, and to save souls; behold the acceptable time, when we ascend to the holy mountain of the Passover.

The First Sunday of Lent, on which following the example of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we begin the venerable sacrament of the annual Lenten observance.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, when Our Lord Jesus Christ, in accord with the prophecy of Zechariah, seated upon the colt of an ass, entered Jerusalem, and a crowd met him with palm branches.

Holy Thursday, The Supper of the Lord, when Christ Jesus, the day before he was crucified for our salvation, handed to his disciples the mysteries of his Body and Blood which they were to celebrate. (*Do not read proper listing for the current day.*)

Good Friday and Holy Saturday. (*The Martyrology is not read on these days.*)

Easter Sunday, the Solemnity of the Solemnities, the Christian Passover, the Resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, when forty days after his resurrection he was elevated to heaven while his disciples looked on, and now sits at the right hand of the Father until he will come in glory to judge the living and the dead. (*This feast is usually transferred to the Seventh Sunday after Easter.*)

Pentecost, which concludes the fifty-day holy season of Lent. On this day we commemorate both the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Jerusalem, the first beginnings of the Church, and the start of the apostolic mission to all tribes, tongues, peoples and nations.

Trinity Sunday, the Sunday after Pentecost, on which we venerate the one God in three Persons and the Trinity in Unity.

Corpus Christi, The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, the medicine of immortality and the pledge of the Resurrection. (*This feast is usually transferred to the second Sunday after Pentecost*).

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who, meek and humble heart, raised up on the cross, became a fountain of life and love, from which all peoples drink. (*On the Friday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost*).

The Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who keeping alive the memory of the mysteries of salvation performed by her Son, awaits their completion in Christ. (*On the Saturday after the Feast of the Sacred Heart*)\

Thanksgiving, is a traditional American holiday to give thanks to God at the end of the harvest season. It was first celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621 and in 1789 George Washington proclaimed a national holiday to give thanks for the Constitution. The lectionary readings for Mass on Thanksgiving The readings for “After the Harvest” and “Thanksgiving.” (*On the fourth Thursday of November*).

The Solemnity of Christ the King, to whom alone belong kingship, glory and majesty forever. (*On the last Sunday of the liturgical year*)

The First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the preparation for the coming of the Lord.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus. (*On the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas*).

When the Martyrology is read in public:

The reader begins by saying something like “From the Martyrology for the (date) day of (month).”

At the conclusion of the martyrology, except on November 1 and November 2, the reader says “And all others whose anniversaries occur on this day.”

January 1

On the octave of Christmas and the day of Jesus' Circumcision, the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, whom the Fathers of the Council of Ephesus in 431 acclaimed Theotokos, because from her the Word assumed flesh and dwelt among us. He is the Son of God and the prince of peace, to whom is given the Name above every other name. As mother of Christ, she is mother of us all, and foremost of the saints.

In 533, St. , monk and defender of the orthodoxy against the Arians, who served as bishop of Ruspe in Tunisia.

In 1031, St. William of Volpiano, abbot. St. Majolus, abbot of Cluny, sent him to revive monastic life at the monastery of St. Benigne in Dijon. St. Benigne became the hub of a large network of monasteries. William died at the monastery of Fécamp, which he had refounded.

In 1252, at Jablonné in Bohemia, Saint Zdislava of Lemberk, who was extremely kind to the poor. With her wealthy husband, Havel, she built a basilica now dedicated to St. Lawrence and St. Zdislava. She is a patron of the Bohemia.

In 1920, at Lvov, in the Ukraine, St. Sigmund Gorazdowski, a parish priest of extraordinary pastoral creativity and dedication to the poor.

In Dachau, near Munich, Blessed Marian Konopinski, priest and martyr.

January 2

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops and doctors of the church. Both were raised in remarkable Christian families. After studying together in Athens, the two embraced the monastic life at an estate on Basil's family's land. Basil wrote rules for monks, and later, when Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, he promoted monasteries as centers of social service. Like Basil, Gregory was a bishop and theologian who opposed the Arian heresy. He spent some years as Bishop of Constantinople, where he helped to advance the doctrine of the Trinity, and was one of the presiders at the Council of Constantinople.

In 394, St. Macarius, Egyptian monk, known for his austerity. His teachings were handed down by his disciple, Palladius.

In 827, St. Adelard, abbot of Corbie, and advisor to the court of Charlemagne and Louis the Pious.

In 1530, at Soncino, Italy, Blessed Stephanie Quinzani. According to the surviving story of her life, she was a member of the Dominican Third Order. She had ecstatic experiences in which she re-enacted the Lord's Passion, She was consulted by

Angela Merici (January 27) and Osanna of Mantua (June 20). A community grew up around her, and she organized a monastery for them.

From 1792 to 1794, the martyrs of the French Revolution.

January 3

About 500, St. Geneviève, patron of Paris, who was known for her charitable works. She advised Clovis, King of the Franks. Her relics were thought to have stopped an outbreak of ergotism in 1129.

In 1871, in Kerela, India, Blessed Cyriac Chavata, first superior of the Congregation of Carmelite Brothers of Mary Immaculate, an important community in the Church in Malabar.

January 4

In 1821, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native-born American citizen to be canonized. As a young mother with five children, she organized a society in New York City devoted to the relief of poor widows with small children. After she was herself widowed, she became a Catholic. In 1809 she founded the congregation which became known as the Daughters of Charity, which pioneered the American Catholic school system.

In 1309, Blessed Angela of Foligno, visionary and Franciscan tertiary, whose religious experiences and teaching are recounted in *The Book of Divine Consolation*.

January 5

In 1860, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, St. John Neuman, Bishop. Born in Bohemia, he went to the seminary there, but migrated to New York in 1836, where he was soon ordained. He entered the Redemptorists in 1840. A popular preacher, he became a superior of the American Redemptorists and mentor to several communities of religious women. He was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852, where he ministered tirelessly for eight years, promoting Catholic schools, founding the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, and writing two German Catechisms.

In Egypt, around 400 AD, St. Syncletica, virgin, one of the best known desert ammas.

In 1956, at Madrid, St. Genoveva Torres Morales. She was an poor orphan, whose leg was amputated when she was thirteen. When she became of age, she set up a household in Valencia with two other women. They supported themselves by sewing. From them developed an order known as the Angelicas, who operated boarding houses for working women.

January 6

On the twelfth day of Christmas, the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. In the United States this feast is celebrated on the first Sunday after January 1.

In 1925, in Rome, St. Raphaela María Porras. Born in Spain, with her sister she founded the congregation of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart. Evidently through jealousy, Raphaela was exiled to convent in Rome for thirty years.. She bore her “purgatory of inactivity” with remarkable equanimity.

In Montreal, in 1937, Blessed Andrew Bessette, Holy Cross Brother, who served his order with charity and patience as janitor, barber, gardener, and infirmarian.

January 7

In Barcelona, Catalonia, in 1275, St. Raymond of Peñafort. After studying law at Bologna, he joined the Dominicans in 1222, 8 months after the death of St. Dominic. He made an official collection of canon law, and later became minister general of the Dominicans. He devoted much of his life to preaching and the conversion of the Moors in Catalonia.

In 312, at Nicomedia in Bithynia, the martyrdom of St. Lucian, who was a priest at Antioch. He was involved in theological and jurisdictional disputes, but died in communion with the church. His theological school at Antioch emphasized the literal meaning of the Bible.

In Liège, Belgium, in 1876, Blessed Marie-Thérèse Haze. She founded the Daughters of the Cross of Liège to educate poor children, but ended up managing several government prisons and running a refuge for women of the street. Some of the women she helped there in turn worked with the sisters in their ministries to others.

January 8

Around 179, at Hierapolis in Phrygia, the martyrdom of St. Apollinaris, an apologist active during the reign of Marcus Aurelius.

At Venice, in 1455, St. Lawrence Giustiniani, Augustinian canon regular, bishop of Castello, and Archbishop of Venice. His way of life was humble and austere, and he was a spiritual writer of note.

Today is the anniversary of the death of Fr. Simeon Van de Voord in 2007.

January 9

In 709 or 710, at Canterbury, St. Adrian. He accompanied St. Theodore to England when the latter was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. Theodore appointed Adrian abbot of St. Augustine's, where for forty years he taught in the important school attached to the abbey.

In 1622, at Nancy, Blessed Alix Le Clerc. She led a worldly life, until she had a vision of the devil. Her pastor, St. Peter Fourier (December 9) helped her found an order dedicated to the education of young women. They are known in the United States as the Notre Dame Sisters.

At Dachau in Bavaria, Blesseds Joseph Pawlowski and Casimir Grelewski, priests, who were deported from Poland and martyred by hanging.

January 10

Around 400 AD, the death of St. Gregory of Nyssa, the brother of St. Basil, and a noted theologian and spiritual author whose writings influenced Evagrius of Pontus and Pseudo-Dionysius as well as the entire monastic tradition.

In 681, the death of Pope St. Agatho, who affirmed the orthodox view regarding the human and divine wills in Christ.

In 1914, at Perugia, St. Léonie (Françoise de Sales) Aviat. While still a young woman she dedicated herself to ministering to working women, vowing to be a "worker among workers." With Venerable Fr. Louis Brisson (d. 1908) she founded the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales dedicated to helping young girls working in factories.

In 1918, at Madrid, Blessed Maria Dolores Rodriguez Sopena Ortega, founder of several institutes of lay people and women religious dedicated to serving the needs of the poor.

January 11

In 529, the death at a very old age, of Theodosius, the "cenobiarch." Born in Cappadocia, he was trained as a monk, and then started a monastery near Bethlehem. The emperor Theodosius made him overseer of all the cenobitic communities in Palestine. He was a staunch opponent of the Monophysite heresy.

Shortly after 800, St. Paulinus of Aquileia, bishop. He was called to the court of Charlemagne, where he opposed forcing the Saxons to accept baptism. He was involved in theological disputes over adoptionism and the procession of the Holy Spirit.

January 12

In 689, the death of St. Benedict Biscop, Abbot. He became a monk at Lerins, then journeyed from Rome to England with Theodore of Tarsus and Adrian. He preceded Adrian as Abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury. Drawing on his experience of continental monasteries, in 674 he founded his own abbey at Wearmouth, which he endowed with books he brought from the continent. His monastery became a center of liturgical practice, chant, and calligraphy. In 682 he founded the monastery of Jarrow, to which he sent young Bede.

About 529, at Arles, St. Caesaria, a nun, and sister of St. Caesarius, who wrote a rule for her convent.

In 1167, St. Aelred of Rievaulx, Cistercian abbot. Aelred was born in Hexham, educated at Durham, spent time at the court of King St. David I of Scotland, and entered Rievaulx in 1134, where he was later abbot for twenty years. He wrote history, biography, sermons, and treatises, including one *On Spiritual Friendship*.

In 1700, in Montreal, St Marguerite Bourgeoys. She went to Montreal at the request of its founder, Paul de Maisonneuve, to start a school. She set up a school open to all who came, recruited more helpers from France, and formed the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal, one of the first uncloistered religious communities for women.

January 13

At Poitiers in 367, St. Hilary, the bishop of that city and doctor of the church. For his loyalty to the teaching of the Council of Nicea, he spent three years in exile in Phrygia, during which he wrote an important treatise *On the Trinity*.

At Reims, in 533, St. Remy, bishop, who baptized King Clovis and is honored as "the apostle of the Franks."

Early in the seventh century, St. Kentigern, monk and first bishop of Glasgow.

In 1228, Blessed Jutta of Huy, who, widowed and the mother of three small children, worked in a leper colony for ten years and then became an anchorite and had mystical experiences recorded in a life written by Hugh of Floreffe.

January 14

The commemoration of Malachy, the prophet.

About 260 AD, St. Felix of Nola, priest. He was imprisoned and tortured under the Emperor Decius.

In the first half of the fourth century, in Cappadocia, St. Macrina the Elder, grandmother of Sts. Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, Peter and Macrina the Younger.

In 1237, St. Sava of the royal family of Serbia, who became a monk on Mt. Athos and founder and abbot there of the monastery of Khilandari. He was made the first archbishop of Serbia in 1219. He worked very hard to build up the Serbian church.

In 1887, Blessed Peter Donders, Dutch priest and later a Redemptorist, who spent his life as a missionary in Surinam, where he ministered to lepers, slaves and native peoples.

January 15

Around 600, St. Maur and Placid, disciples of St. Benedict, mentioned in the *Dialogues* of St. Gregory.

The commemoration of the prophets Habakkuk and Micah.

About 345, St. Paul the Hermit, whose legendary life was written by St. Jerome. St. Antony is said to have visited him shortly before Paul's death, broken bread with him, and buried him with the help of two lions. These events are commemorated in many art works.

About 570 AD, St. Ita of Killeedy. She is known as the "foster-mother of the saints of Ireland," because of the many saints who attended her boys' school. She told St. Brendan that "the three things that please God most are true faith in God with a pure heart, a simple life with a grateful spirit, and generosity inspired by charity."

In 1909, St. Arnold Janssen, the founder of the Divine Word Missionaries.

January 16

Around 96 AD, the martyrdom of St. Priscilla. The important catacomb named for her is under the care of a convent of Benedictine sisters.

At Arles, in 429, St. Honoratus, monk and bishop, co-founder of the monastery of Lerins, which produced many bishops and influenced the development of monasticism at such places as Condat in the Jura.

In 1711, in Sri Lanka, Blessed Joseph Vaz. He was born in Goa and ordained a priest there. He organized an Oratorian community in Goa, then went as a missionary to what is now Sri Lanka, much of which was under the control of the Dutch, who were very anti-Catholic. He and his colleagues gave humanitarian assistance to all who needed it. When he died, there were about 70,000 Catholics in Sri Lanka.

January 17

In 356, in Egypt, St. Antony who is well known from the *Life* which St. Athanasius wrote about him and from his own letters and sayings. He was born of Christian parents, orphaned young, and then felt called to leave everything to follow Christ. He retired to an old burial ground around 273, and in 286 to an abandoned hill-top fort where he stayed for twenty years. After visiting Alexandria in 311 to support those persecuted under Maximinus, he founded a monastery at Pispir and then retired to his inner mountain. In art he is often shown with a t-shaped stick, a pig, or a cloak.

In 1329, in Provence, France, St. Roseline Villeneuve. She grew up in a castle, then became a Carthusian nun and prioress. Her tomb at Celle-Roubaud was a popular pilgrimage. It was destroyed along with her monastery at the French Revolution, but there is now a chapel there, decorated with a mosaic by Marc Chagall.

January 18

In 1270, St. Margaret of Hungary, the daughter of King Bela IV. She entered a convent where she did the most menial tasks and engaged in very severe asceticism. She was canonized in 1943.

Tomorrow is the first day of the Church Unity Octave.

January 19

At Worcester, in 1095, St. Wulfstan, bishop and monk. He was a young priest when he joined the small cathedral priory at Worcester. He became bishop in 1062 and was a model bishop-abbot for the rest of his life. He cooperated with Lanfranc in a successful effort to abolish the slave trade. He was a humble, self-disciplined and generous man.

About 390, in Egypt, St. Marcarius the Elder, who was a revered elder at the monastic settlement of Skete. Many of his sayings are preserved in collections of the *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*.

In 1906, Blessed Marcellus Spinola y Maestre, bishop successively of Coria, Málaga and Seville. He was a champion of social justice, one of the first to take to heart the teaching of *Rerum novarum*.

January 20

At Rome, St. Fabian, pope, martyred under Decius, and Sebastian, a soldier, martyred under Diocletian. A late legend said Sebastian was tortured by being shot full of arrows. He was invoked as a protector against plague.

In 1107, at Vallombrosa, near Florence, Blessed Benedict of Coltiboni, hermit attached to the monastery founded there by St. John Gualbert.

In 1468, in Sicily, St. Eustochia Calafato, the abbess of an observant Franciscan monastery near Messina. She was very devoted to Christ's Passion; her body remains incorrupt to this day.

In 1964, Blessed Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi. He was one of the first ten Nigerians to be ordained a priest. He was an ascetic and an excellent preacher. In 1950 he joined Mount St. Bernard Trappist abbey in England. He had hoped to be part of a foundation in Nigeria, but died before that was possible. Cardinal Arinze, whom he baptized and to whom he gave first communion, promoted his canonization.

January 21

At Rome, around 300, St. Agnes, virgin and martyr. According to the legendary account of her martyrdom, when she was thirteen years old she refused to serve the gods in the temple of Vesta. For that she was placed naked in a brothel. The prefect's son was struck blind when he tried to have his way with her. His sight was restored at her intercession. She was then beheaded at the Stadium of Domitian, now the Piazza Navona. Because her name is similar to the Latin word for "lamb" (agnus) she is often depicted with a lamb.

In Tarragona, in 259, the death of St. Fructuosus, bishop. According to the authentic acts of his martyrdom, the emperor Valerian struck at the clergy, and Fructuosus and two of his deacons were arrested, condemned and burned to death.

In 861, at Einsiedeln, St. Meinrad, martyr. Born in Germany, he entered the monastery of Reichenau in Switzerland. After doing pastoral work around Lake Zurich, he received permission to become a hermit, and later moved his hermitage to Einsiedeln. He was murdered there 25 years later by two robbers to whom he had offered hospitality. Some years later, a priest named Benno founded a Benedictine monastery at Einsiedeln, which has remained there ever since.

Tomorrow is the namesday of our confrere, Fr. Meinrad Schallberger. He is recommended to our charitable prayers.

January 22

At Zaragoza, in 304 under the Emperor Diocletian, St. Vincent, deacon and martyr, who died of multiple wounds inflicted upon him. In art, he is depicted with a raven, which is said to have kept birds of prey from his body, a gridiron, and a dalmatic.

At Rome, in 1850, St. Vincent Pallotti. He was educated in Rome, and after ordination became a professor for ten years, and then devoted himself to pastoral work. He established a "Pious Union of the Catholic Apostolate," which included clergy and

laity, men and women. Out of this movement arose the Pallottine Orders for men and women. He was closely associated with the work of the Oratorians in England. He was a prophetic witness to the apostolic mission of the laity.

In 1850, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, a priest, who after ministering in secret during the French Revolution, took refuge at Zaragoza, the location of the shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar. He returned to France in 1800 with a deep devotion to Mary. In Bordeaux he promoted a very successful lay sodality of Mary. Later he founded orders for men and women.

In 1931, in Vienna, Blessed Ladislaus Battyany-Strattmann. From a wealthy noble family, he studied agriculture and medicine at the University of Vienna. He married and he and his wife were daily communicants, who had thirteen children. He became a specialist in ophthalmology, and when he inherited a castle, he turned a wing of it into a free eye clinic.

January 23

At Toledo, in Spain, in 677, St. Ildephonse, bishop. He was a monk and abbot before being elected archbishop of Toledo, the primatial see of Spain. He promoted devotion to Mary.

In Berlin, in 1945, Blessed Nicholas Gross, martyr. He was born near Essen and worked in coal mines and steel mills. He became active in Catholic social action movements, married and was the devoted father of seven children. He became editor of a Catholic workers' paper and was an early opponent of the Nazis. who shut down the paper in 1938. He joined the resistance and because of his knowledge of a plot against Hitler was arrested, condemned, hanged and cremated. The Nazis scattered his ashes on a sewer pond to make sure that no devotion was given to his remains

January 24

In Lyons, in 1622, St Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor of the church. He studied rhetoric, philosophy and theology in Paris for six years, then, after a brief stay with his family near Annecy, he studied law in Padua. He became a priest and was assigned the task of reconverting from Calvinism a mountainous district of Savoy. He became bishop in 1602 and devoted himself tirelessly to renewal of his diocese according to the reform decrees of the Council of Trent. He was a tireless writer of letters, pamphlets and books. In 1604 he met a widowed mother of four, Jeanne Frances de Chantal, who became his lifelong friend and the founder of the Visitation Order. He wrote in the *Introduction to the Devout Life* that all Christians could serve God in holiness no matter what their state in life.

In 1874, Blessed Vincent Lewoniuk and Companions. They were murdered by Russian soliders when they refused to turn their church over to a government imposed Orthodox priest.

January 25

The Feast of the Conversion of Paul, the story of which is told three times in the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus appeared to Paul as Paul was approaching Damascus and told him, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

At Marchiennes, in 1048, St. Poppo, who, after a career as a soldier, entered the monastery of St-Thierry, which was part of the monastic reform promoted by Richard of Saint-Vanne. Emperor Henry II appointed Poppo abbot of the monasteries of Stavelot and Malmedy in 1022, and soon Poppo was given supervision of other monasteries, including Saint Maximin of Trier, Echternach and St. Gall.

in 1366, at Ulm, Blessed Henry Suso, Dominican Priest and mystic. His books, the *Little Book of Truth* and the *Little Book of Eternal Wisdom* had great influence on subsequent spirituality.

In 1944, in Alessandria, Italy, Blessed Teresa Grillo Michel. She found her a childless widow at thirty 36. She was despondent, but reading the life of Joseph Collolengo (April 30) inspired her to start a refuge for the poor. She founded the Little Sisters of Divine Providence, whose work spread to Latin America.

January 26

Sts. Timothy and Titus, disciples of St. Paul and martyrs.

At Bethlehem, in 404, the death of St. Paula the Elder. A Roman noblewoman, she married and had five children before her husband died when she was 32. With Marcella, also a widow, she formed part of the ascetic circle cultivated in Rome by St. Jerome, who encouraged their study of the bible. When Pope Damasus died, Jerome, Paula and others of their circle went to Palestine and Egypt and finally settled in Bethlehem where they founded several monasteries. Her granddaughter, Paula, succeeded her as head of her monastery.

Between 1109 and 1134, the deaths of Sts. Robert of Molesme, Alberic and Stephen Harding, the founders of the Cistercian Order, which aimed for a secluded, austere life of prayer and work. When their foundation at Molesme no longer provided the sort of life they desired, they and about 20 others left to start the New Monastery at Citeaux. Robert returned to Molesme, and when Alberic died, Stephen succeeded him as abbot. Under Stephen's guidance, the Cistercian order soon flourished. He was responsible for drafting the Charter of Charity, which regulated the relationships between monasteries of the order and called for annual visitations and a general chapter.

In Norway, in 1188, St. Eystein of Trondheim. After studying at St. Victor in Paris, Eystein became second archbishop of Trondheim in 1157, the metropolitan see of the Norwegian Empire, which included Iceland, Greenland, Orkney, the Shetland Islands,

the Western Islands of Scotland and the Isle of Man. He struggled to gain independence for his church from the Norwegian kings and spent some time in exile at Bury St. Edmund's in England.

In 1540, the death of St. Angela Merici, founder of the Ursuline Order. She became a Franciscan tertiary, and established a support group for unmarried girls in her area. She moved to Brescia during a troubled time in the city's history and established a center there for unmarried women. When she was almost 60, she and some of her companions took up residence in a house, and this is considered to be the beginning of the Ursuline Order.

January 27

In 1927, in Kaunas, Lithuania, Blessed George Matulaitis, bishop. After studies with the Marian Fathers in Lithuania, he did advanced studies at Warsaw, St. Petersburg, and Fribourg. Ordained a priest in 1898, he devoted himself to the poor in Warsaw. He became very ill and was facing death in a paupers' ward, when some sisters took him under their care and nursed him back to health. He then joined the Marian Fathers, who had been persecuted by the Czarist government and were on the verge of dying out. Under his leadership, the order revived and spread. He was made bishop of Vilnius in 1918. He resigned in 1925, but then was made apostolic visitor to bring order to church affairs in Lithuania.

January 28

At the Cistercian monastery of Fossanova, St. Thomas Aquinas, Dominican priest and doctor of the church. He was born near Aquino, between Naples and Rome. He was educated at Monte Cassino for eight years, then at the University of Naples, where he became acquainted with the works of Aristotle. He joined the Dominican Order there in 1224, against the wishes of his family. He studied at Paris and Cologne under St. Albert the Great. Thomas lectured on the Bible and the *Sentences* of Peter Lombard, and in 1256 was appointed a master of theology. He began the *Summa contra Gentiles* at that time and then taught for ten years in Italy. In 1269, he returned to teach in Paris for three years. He was an exemplary religious, whose theology was nourished by his own spiritual reading and experience. He composed much of the liturgy for *Corpus Christi*.

In 1683, in the diocese of Quimper, in Brittany, the death of Blessed Julian Maunoir, a Jesuit who spent his life evangelizing Brittany, using teaching tools in the Breton language devised by the priest Michael le Nobletz.

In China, in 1908, St. Joseph Freinademetz. He was born in the south Tyrol, in Austria, ordained in 1875, and then joined the Divine Word Missionaries. He spent the rest of his life working as a missionary in China.

January 29

In Brittany, around 570, St. Gildas. He was born in Scotland, moved to Wales and became a monk there. He was a famous teacher, and St. Finnian of Clonard probably studied under him. His book, *On the Ruin of Britain*, blames the conquest of Britain by the Anglo-Saxons on the decadence of the British rulers and clergy. Wulfstan of York used the book in his *Sermon of the Wolf* in the 11th century.

In Florence, in 1361, Blessed Villana. She ran away from home to join a convent when she was 13. Her father took her home and forced her to marry. She then led a worldly life until she had a conversion experience. She joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and while remaining a faithful wife devoted herself to prayer and spiritual reading.

In 1946, in Poland, Blessed Boleslawa Lament. Born in Poland, she was sent to found a convent in Belarus. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family, whose mission is to promote the union of Catholics and Orthodox.

January 30

In 680, at the monastery of Chelles, St. Bathild. She was an Anglo-Saxon girl, sold into slavery in France, who eventually married King Clovis II and bore him three sons. When she became regent after the death of King Clovis, she ransomed slaves, founded the monasteries of Corbie and Chelles, and in other ways supported the church. In 665 she retired to Chelles, where she lived as a humble nun.

At Burgos, in 1097, St. Adelelmus. A soldier, he came under the influence of St. Robert of Turlande, abbot of the monastery of La Chaise-Dieu and joined his monastery. After serving briefly as abbot of La Chaise-Dieu, he was invited by Constance of Burgundy, wife of King Alfonso VI of Castile, to move to Burgos. There she built a monastery for him.

In 1923, at the monastery of Maredsous, in Belgium, Columba Marmion, abbot. He was born in Dublin in 1858 of an Irish father and a French mother. He studied theology in Rome. He served as a chaplain and seminary professor in Dublin for five years, but then asked to become a monk at Maredsous. After teaching for a while in the abbey school, and preaching in nearby churches, he was assigned to the abbey of Mont-César in Louvain, where he was in demand as a spiritual director and retreat master. He was elected abbot of Maredsous in 1909. His spiritual teaching is distilled in three books, *Christ, the Life of the Soul*, *Christ, the Life of the Monk*, and *Christ in His Mysteries*. He was beatified in 2000, along with Popes Pius IX and John XXIII.

January 31

In 1888, at Turin, St. John Bosco. He was the youngest son of a Piedmontese farmer. After ordination, he was sent for further studies at the theological faculty in Turin. Turin was in the throes of industrialization, nationalism and anti-clericalism. John Bosco began working among the displaced youth in the poor sections of the city. He opened vocational programs and eventually schools. His boys ministered to the populace during a cholera epidemic in 1854. In spite of anti-religious laws, he was able to found a new religious congregation, the Salesians, named after his hero, St. Francis de Sales, and a congregation of sisters, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and a vigorous group of lay cooperators. He wrote a number of books and was widely regarded as having preternatural powers.

In Rome, in 410, St. Marcella, a disciple of St. Jerome. She died of a beating received from the invading Goths.

In 1642, at Tyburn, in England, the martyrdom of St. Alban Roe, Benedictine monk, and Bl. Thomas Reynolds, priest. Roe, a convert, went to study for the priesthood at Douai and later joined the Benedictines of St. Laurence at Dieulouard (now the Abbey of Ampleforth). In 1618, he was arrested while on mission in England and banished. He returned to England in 1623 and was arrested again in 1626. He spent the next 16 years in prison, always cheerful, always making converts and giving spiritual guidance. He encouraged Blessed Thomas Reynolds as they prepared for death.

February 1

At her monastery in Kildare, in 524, St. Brigid, abbess. After St. Patrick, St. Brigid is the most venerated saint in Ireland. She was abbess of a monastery of men and women located about 40 miles SW of Dublin. Even as a child, she was extremely generous to those in need. A perpetual fire was kept burning in her honor after her death. Once while she was tending a dying pagan chieftan, she wove a cross of reeds. He asked her the meaning of the cross, and her explanation led him to ask for conversion. Hence, fire and a cross are her emblems.

In 1163, Blessed Raymond of Fitero, Cistercian abbot and founder of the military order of Calatrava, which was dedicated to the reconquest of Spain from the Moors.

At Cúcuta, Colombia, in 1923, Blessed Louis Variara, Salesian missionary who devoted his life to serving the lepers of Agua de Dios in Colombia. He founded a religious congregation, the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, which accepted lepers, so that they might minister to their fellow lepers.

February 2

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast is attested from the fifth century in Palestine. It came to Rome in the seventh century under the Greek name, Hypapante. In the Middle Ages it was known as the feast of the Purification of Mary.

In Palestine, in the first century, Cornelius the Centurion. The Acts of the Apostles tell how Peter was instructed by a vision to visit Cornelius' household. When they were filled with the Holy Spirit as they listened to Peter's preaching, he baptized them.

In 619, at Canterbury, St. Lawrence, bishop. Lawrence was a monk of St. Andrew's on the Coelian Hill in Rome. He accompanied Augustine on his mission to England and succeeded him as bishop.

From the 17th to the 19th centuries, the martyrs of Vietnam, who included bishops, priests and laypeople, both European and Vietnamese. The first effective missionary to Vietnam was the French Jesuit Alexandre de Rhodes, who established a system of catechists and devised a system of writing Vietnamese in the Roman alphabet. Before long, in spite of persecutions, there were almost a million Christians there. St. Therese of Lisieux recognized as a kindred spirit one of these martyrs, Fr. Théophane Vénard, who was beheaded in Vietnam in 1861. She wrote a poem in his honor.

February 3.

In 316, at Sebastea in Armenia, the death of St. Blaise, bishop. Two miracles attributed to him account for the ritual blessing of the throats which occurs on his feast day. While he was being taken to trial, he restored to a woman a pig which had been

taken by a wolf, then, while he was in prison, she brought him tapers to light his cell. In prison for his faith, he cured a boy who had a fish bone stuck in his throat.

In 865, at Bremen, St. Ansgar, bishop and patron of Denmark. Ansgar was a monk first at Corbie, then at Corvey. He was a distinguished preacher, who was sent as a missionary to Denmark and then to Sweden. His missionary efforts met with initial success, but as the Frankish empire declined political difficulties undercut his efforts. He was made archbishop of Hamburg and then of Bremen.

In 1837, at Lyons, France, St. Claudine (Marie Saint-Ignatius) Thévenet. When Lyons was rebelled during the Reign of Terror, two of her brothers were arrested and executed. As they being led away, one of them told her to forgive “as we forgive.” She began homes for poor women and taught them to support themselves with silk weaving. She founded a congregation to devoted to educating poor girls and to looking “at others in a way that enables us to discover in each one a promise, an expectation, an epiphany of the Divine Providence.”

February 4

In 1189, St. Gilbert of Sempringham, abbot. After studying in France, he opened a school for boys and girls. He was called to the household of the Bishop of Lincoln and ordained a priest. He helped a group of women form a community in a house next to his church, to which were added, first lay sisters and lay brothers, and then a group of canons regular. Although the beginnings of his order were troubled by conflicts, by the time of his death it had 1500 members in 13 houses in England.

In 856, at St. Rabanus Maurus, abbot of Fulda and bishop of Mainz. He was educated at Fulda, and then under Alcuin at Tours. He wrote extensively on theology for monks, clergy and laity, and composed biblical commentaries.

February 5

At Catania, in Sicily, the martyrdom of St. Agatha. She dedicated her virginity to Christ, and for being a Christian and refusing to compromise her pledge to him, she was martyred. Her breasts were cut off, so she is patron of breast ailments. She is also venerated as a protector against fire.

In 1015, near Cologne, St. Adelaide of Vilich. She introduced the *Rule of St. Benedict* to the convent her father had established there.

In 1825, Blessed Elizabeth Canori Mora. She was married to a man who led a dissolute life. She spent seven miserable years with him, and had four daughters two of whom lived. She had a vision of a heart pieced with a dart, joined the Third Order of the Trinitarians, and supported herself and her daughters. She included her husband in their daughters' lives. After she died, he became a Franciscan priest.

February 6

In Japan, St. Paul Miki and companions. Christianity was first brought to Japan by Bishop John of Albuquerque and St. Francis Xavier in 1548-1549. Soon there were tens of thousands of Christians, and a diocese was created in 1588. In 1597 the first martyrdoms took place at Nagasaki. Other persecutions and martyrdoms followed, and after 1645 Christianity had to exist underground until the country was again opened to Westerners in 1865.

In 539, St. Vedast, companion of St. Rémy and bishop of Arras.

In 676, in Flanders, St. Amandus, abbot and bishop, who founded the monasteries of Elnone, near Tournai, and St. Peter's in Ghent.

February 7

At Lucca, in 720, St. Richard. Richard was from Wessex, and was the father of Saints Willibald, Winnibald, and Walburga, Benedictine Anglo-Saxon missionaries in Germany, all of whom were superiors of the monastery at Heidenheim.

In 1856, at Paris, blessed Rosalie Rendu. Her parents sheltered underground priests during the French Revolution, one of whom gave her first communion. She entered the Daughters of Charity and was sent to Paris, where she was a very influential force in caring for the poor.

In 1878, Blessed Pius IX, a long-reigning and controversial pope, whose personal magnetism did much to restore the prestige of the papacy. He called the First Vatican Council, whose decrees dealt with the relation of faith and reason and papal infallibility.

February 8

In 1537, St. Jerome Emiliani, founder of the Somaschi Congregation, who were dedicated to the care of needy children. He was perhaps the first person to write a catechism in question and answer form.

At Whitby, in 714, St. Elfleda, abbess. She was offered as a child oblate to St. Hilda by her father King Oswy of Northumbria. She was a friend of St. Cuthbert, and eventually succeeded Hilda as abbess at Whitby.

In 1124, St. Stephen of Muret, abbot and founder of the Order of Grandmont. After visiting Rome, he became a hermit near Limoges. Disciples gathered around him and toward the end of his life he established a very austere monastic community at Muret.

In Italy, in 1947, St. Josephine Bakhita. She was born in the Darfur region of the Sudan. When she was a small child she was captured by slave-traders and sold

successively to several different owners. The last, an Italian, offered to free her there, but she asked him to take her to Italy. She then served as a nanny for a family in Venice. She came to know the Canossian sisters, converted, and joined the Order. Her memoirs were published in 1930 and were widely acclaimed. She was the first African-born saint to be canonized in modern times.

February 9

St. Apollonia, an elderly deaconess of the church of Alexandria, who was burned to death around 249 AD. Before she was burned, all her teeth were knocked out, so she became the patron of dentists and sufferers from toothache.

At Regensburg about 1080, Blessed Marianus Scotus, a Irish pilgrim who became a Benedictine monk in Regensburg. He began the monastery of Weih-Sankt-Peter on the edge of the city. He was a noted copyist and wrote books and poetry of his own. Disciples were drawn to him from Ireland, and after his death they founded the monastery of St. James in 1111. It became the head of a congregation of eight Irish Benedictine houses in German lands.

In Spain, in 1910, St. Miguel Febres Cordero, a Christian Brother, who was a brilliant educator in his native Ecuador, and spent his life in service to others.

February 10

Near Monte Cassino, about 545 AD, St. Scholastica. According to St. Gregory's *Dialogues*, Scholastica came to visit her brother, St. Benedict, each year, so they could spend a day in holy conversation. The last time she came to visit, she prayed successfully to be allowed to continue the conversation through the night. Her prayers were answered because her love was greater. Three days later, she died, and Benedict had a vision of her soul rising to heaven in the form of a dove. He had her body placed in a tomb he had prepared for himself.

1164, at Premontre, Blessed Hugh of Fosses, the first disciple of St. Norbert and his coadjutor and successor as Abbot of Premontre and head of the Premonstratensian Order.

In 1960, Blessed Aloysius Stepinac. He was born in what is now Croatia. He wanted to enter the seminary, but was drafted into the army. After World War I he studied agronomy for five years. He was active in the Catholic organizations. He studied for the priesthood in Rome and was ordained in 1930. In 1937 he became archbishop Zagreb. He opposed "exaggerated nationalism" and tried to help Jews fleeing from the Nazis. At first he accepted the pro-Nazi regime imposed by Germany in 1941, but within a year he was their most outspoken critic. 1937 he became archbishop. In 1946 he was arrested by the communists and imprisoned. His jailers tried to poison him.

February 11

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which commemorates the appearances of Mary in 1858 to a fourteen-year-old girl named Marie Bernarde Soubirous. In the course of them a miraculous spring began to flow. Pilgrimages to the spot began in 1862, and it is now one of the most visited shrines in the world, at which many miraculous cures have occurred.

At Whitby, in 680, St. Caedmon. He was a herdsman of the monastery, who received a vision telling him to sing about the creation of all things. Caedmon then wrote a poem, the earliest surviving poem in English:

Now we must praise the ruler of heaven,
The might of the Lord and his purpose of mind,
The work of the glorious father.
For he, God eternal, established each wonder,
He, holy creator, first fashioned the heavens
As a roof for the children of earth,
And then our guardian, the everlasting God,
adorned this middle earth for men.
Praise the almighty king of heaven!

After that, he became a monk and put his poetic gifts at the service of the church.

At Rome, in 731, the death of Pope Gregory II. He was an excellent theologian and administrator. He stood up to Emperor Leo III's excessive taxation of Italy and to support of the Iconoclasm. He also warded off an invasion of Rome by the Lombard king Liutprand, who then ceded him some territory, the beginning of the papal states. He commissioned and supported St. Boniface in his missionary work among the Germanic peoples. He helped Abbot Petronax restore Monte Cassino.

February 12

At the Council of Constantinople, in 381, the death of St. Meletius of Antioch, a kindly man, who worked to overcome the schisms caused by the Arian heresy.

In 821, St. Benedict of Aniane, abbot. Benedict was the son of a Visigothic count. He served as a page in Charlemagne's court and as a soldier. He entered the monastery of Saint-Seine, near Dijon, where he led an extremely austere life. He retired to live as a hermit, but disciples came, and he built a monastery. He was appointed overseer of a number of monasteries in Provence and Gascony, and later was made abbot of the monastery of Kornelimünster, near Aachen, from which he directed the reform of monasteries throughout the Carolingian Empire. He presided at the reform council at Aachen in 816 which imposed the *Rule of St. Benedict* on all monasteries. He was responsible for several important collections of earlier monastic rules.

February 13

In 1237, in a shipwreck off the coast of Palestine, Blessed Jordan of Saxony. After studying at Paris and lecturing there on theology and perhaps mathematics as well, he joined the Dominicans. Two years later, in 1222, he succeeded St. Dominic as master general of the Dominicans. For the rest of his life, he traveled extensively, promoting the spread of his order. He wrote extensively, including a series of letters to his friend Blessed Diana d'Andalo, who was founder of a Dominican convent in Bologna, around which the first group of third order Dominicans gathered.

In 1469, Blessed Eustochia of Padua. She was the illegitimate daughter of a nun who was badly abused by her stepmother. Her father returned her to the convent and she eventually joined it. She suffered demonic attacks or mental illness, but the abbess protected her from public outrage, and Eustochia died peacefully at the age of twenty-five.

February 14

In the last half of the 9th century, St. Cyril and Methodius. Cyril studied secular sciences at Constantinople, and succeeded Photius as professor there. His brother Methodius was a state official. Around 860 they were sent as missionaries from Constantinople to the Slavic peoples. They translated the Bible and the liturgy into Old Slavonic, for which they created an alphabet. They passed through Rome in 867 on their way to Constantinople, carrying the relics of St. Clement, which were placed in the church of San Clemente. Pope Hadrian II endorsed their missionary work. Cyril died in 869. Methodius was consecrated archbishop of Sirmium in 870, with responsibility for the Moravian, Serbo-Croatian and Slovene mission territories. Much of his work was later undone because of conflicts between the Franks, Constantinople and Rome. Cyril and Methodius are, with St. Benedict, the patrons of Europe.

At Rome, in the third century, the martyrdom of St. Valentine. His association with lovers may be tied to a theory that around this date birds choose their mates.

February 15

Around 1045, St. Sigfrid, the apostle of Sweden. He was probably a monk of Glastonbury. The spring at Husaby, where he baptized King Olaf of Sweden in 1008, was credited with miraculous powers.

In 1682, at Paray-le-Monial, St. Claude La Colombière. He joined the Jesuits in his youth and studied at Avignon and Paris. He had a special devotion to the Sacred Heart. His devotion was confirmed when he met St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (October 16), who was a nun at the Visitation convent in Paray-le-Monial. He went to England in 1676 as preacher for Maria of Modena, duchess of York. He was arrested in 1678, tried, then banished to France. Largely because of him, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus spread throughout the world.

In 1824, at Dülmen in Westphalia, Germany, Blessed Anna Katharina Emmerich. She had visions as a child, but otherwise had a normal childhood. At twenty-eight she was accepted into an Augustinian convent. She received the stigmata. After the government closed all convents in 1811, there were several investigations of her wounds, which seemed to the investigators to be free of fraud. The poet Clemens Brentano transcribed her visions and published them after her death, though in a distorted form.

February 16

In the first century, Blessed Onesimus of whom St. Paul writes in the Letter to Philemon.

In 310, at Caesarea in Palestine, St. Elias and companions. They were Egyptian Christians, who went to visit their fellow converts who had been sent to the mines in Cilicia in southern Asia Minor. They were arrested on the way home, tortured and finally beheaded.

At Turin, in 1926, Blessed Joseph Allamano, priest and founder of the Consolata Missionaries. He was nephew of St. Joseph Cafasso (June 23), who was a major influence on St. John Bosco (January 31), and was himself guided by St. John Bosco when he was a student at a Salesian secondary school.

February 17

In the 13th century, the seven founders of the Servite Order. They were members of a Confraternity in Florence dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. They formed a religious community in 1240. The Order was largely responsible for promoting devotion to the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

At Lindisfarne, in 661, St. Fintan, abbot and bishop. He was sent from Iona to succeed St. Aidan at Lindisfarne, and was himself succeeded by Colman (February 18), who defended Irish practices at the Synod of Whitby.

February 18

In Ireland, around 676, St. Colman, abbot and bishop. When the Synod of Whitby decided to follow Roman customs, Colman resigned as bishop of Lindisfarne and returned to Iona. From there he went to the island of Inishbofin where he founded a monastery. He founded another one for his English followers on the mainland in Co. Mayo.

In Constantinople, in 806, St. Tarasius, patriarch, who in 787 presided over the Second Council of Nicaea which restored the veneration of images and legislated some disciplinary matters. Tarasius was a humble person, who disliked pomp and urged his clergy to dress simply.

In 1455, in Florence, Blessed John of Fiesole, known as Fra Angelico. He was already a painter when he joined the Dominicans in 1420. He was ordained in 1429. At San Marco, in Florence, he learned iconography from Greek manuscripts deposited there by Cosmo de Medici. In his paintings at San Marco and elsewhere, he combined the religious fervor of the Middle Ages with the Renaissance love of beauty and nature.

February 19

In 439, Quodvultdeus, bishop of Carthage. He was exiled by the Vandals to Naples, where he died soon afterwards.

Around 1434, in Spain, Blessed Alvaro of Zamora. He was a Dominican friar, known for his preaching and asceticism. He was a proponent of the reform in his Order.

February 20

In 743, at Saint-Trond, near Maastricht, St. Eucherius, bishop. He was a monk at the abbey Jumièges in Normandy. He was chosen bishop of Orleans, but when he opposed Charles Martel's confiscation of church property, he was exiled to Cologne, then to a fortress near Liège. Finally he was allowed to retire to the monastery at Saint-Trond.

In 1154, St. Wulfric of Haselbury, a parish priest who became an anchorite. He achieved a reputation for insight and healing, and Kings Henry I and Stephen visited him. He was supported by the Cluniac monks of Montacute, and his life was written by John, abbot of the Cistercian monastery of Forde.

In Lisbon, Portugal, Blessed Jacinta Marto. She was one of the children who received a vision of Our Lady at Fatima. She died a year after the last apparition.

February 21

In 1072, at Faenza, St. Peter Damian, monk, bishop and doctor of the church. He was born into a poor family in Ravenna. His brother, a priest, provided for his education, and Peter became a professor. In 1035, he joined the community of hermits founded by St. Romuald at Fonte Avellana. Throughout his life he was devoted to the solitary life and the reform of his clergy. His monastery became the center of a congregation. He supported Pope Leo IX, who established the College of Cardinals. Leo made him a cardinal and he served the church on various missions. He put the eremitical movement on a firm theological basis, and his influence was important in the growth of the Camaldolese Order.

At Tyburn, in 1595, the martyrdom of St. Robert Southwell, Jesuit priest. After being educated at Douai, he joined the Jesuits in Rome. Sent to England, he attended a strategy meeting of Catholics which was also attended by the composer William Byrd. From that meeting he developed a pamphlet called *Mary Magdalene's Funeral Tears*. He then became chaplain to the Countess of Arundel, and while in her mansion, wrote *An*

Epistle of Comfort. He was captured and tortured, imprisoned for three years, and finally hanged, drawn and quartered. By then St. Robert Southwell was a famous poet. His brutal execution created a revulsion against such barbarous treatment of Catholics.

In Portugal, the three holy children of Fatima. In 1917 an angel appeared to them, and then the Blessed Virgin, who asked them to say the rosary for the conversion of sinners. In 1918, two of them died in a flu epidemic. The third, Lucia, became a nun. She was told to ask that the world be dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which several popes subsequently did.

February 22

In Rome, the feast of St. Peter's Chair, which commemorates St. Peter's years as bishop of Rome. Romans visited the graves of their dead on this day, and the origins of the feast are connected with veneration of a memorial monument to Peter.

In the second century, St. Papias, bishop of Hierapolis. Fragments of his book, *The Sayings of the Lord Explained* are preserved in the writings of St. Irenaeus. He listened to the teaching of disciples of the apostles. He says that Mark wrote down the teachings of Peter in his Gospel, and that Matthew recorded Jesus' sayings in Aramaic. He opposed the teachings of Marcion, who rejected the Old Testament.

At the monastery of Longchamp, in 1270, Blessed Isabel of France. She was the sister of the king, St. Louis IX. Like him, she was very devoted to the poor, and from an early age she adopted an ascetical way of life.

In 1297, St. Margaret of Cortona. After becoming the mistress of a young nobleman when she about twelve years old. She underwent a deep conversion at the age of twenty-one, when her lover was murdered. Some Franciscans took her under their wing, and she supported herself and her son by nursing. Eventually she became a member of the Franciscan Third Order of Penitents.

February 23

Around 155, at Smyrna, the martyrdom of St. Polycarp, bishop. According to an account of his martyrdom sent by his community to another town, a mob, having killed a young man named Germanicus, demanded the arrest of Polycarp. When he refused to deny Christ, he was put to death by the sword and his body burned in the town theater. Ignatius of Antioch, on the way to his own martyrdom, wrote to Polycarp asking him to take care of his church. Irenaeus had met Polycarp and praised his zeal for orthodoxy. He also tells of a trip that Polycarp made to Rome to settle the date for Easter. He and the pope agreed to disagree.

At Much Wenlock, about 715 AD, St. Milburga, abbess. The monastery of which she was the second abbess was destroyed by the Danes, but refounded by Cluniac monks in 1079. Her gravesite was rediscovered with the help of St. Anselm.

In the Basque Country, in 1900, Blessed Raphaela Ybarra de Villalonga. She was married to an industrialist, bore him seven children and adopted the five children of her deceased sister. She devoted much effort to young girls who came to Bilbao from the countryside. When she was 47, with her husband's agreement she made vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. She started centers to feed and house young women. When she died, she was mourned by thousands, having become known as Mother Raphaela of Bilbao.

February 24

In England, in 616, St. Ethelbert, King of Kent. He was married to Bertha, a Christian princess from Paris. He was converted by Augustine. He gave Augustine land at Canterbury for a cathedral and monastery and helped spread the faith to other parts of England.

At the priory of Orsan, in 1116 or 1117, Blessed Robert of Arbrissel, abbot. Robert was born of a poor, but very religious family in Brittany. He was educated in Paris, served as a vicar to the bishop of Rennes, then taught at Angers, before retiring as a hermit in the forest of Craon in Anjou, where he came into contact with his fellow reformers, Bernard of Tiron and Vitalis of Savigny. His followers were housed in a double monastery that he started at Fontevault. The nuns lived a life of prayer, following the *Rule of St. Benedict*. The lay brothers and priests followed the *Rule of Augustine*. From this developed a religious order with several thousand members.

February 25

At Heidenheim, St. Walburga, abbess. She was a nun at the double monastery of Wimborne. St. Boniface, her uncle, invited her and her brothers to join him as monk-missionaries in Germany. She spent two years at Tauberbischofsheim under St. Lioba, then joined her brother Winnibald as superior at the monastery of Heidenheim. Boniface appointed brother Willibald first bishop of Eichstätt, where both he and Walburga were eventually interred.

At Engelberg, around 1131, the death of St. Adelhelm, who was the leader of the founding monks who came from the monastery of Muri. He became the first abbot of Engelberg.

In 1930, in China, the martyrdom of the Salesians, Blessed Aloysius Versaglia, bishop, and Callistus Caravario, priest. They were zealous and tireless missionaries. While traveling by boat with some women, they were attacked by some Communists mercenaries who hated Christians. The two missionaries tried to protect the women and were bludgeoned to death.

February 26

In Gaza, in 421, St. Porphyry, bishop. Porphyry, left his native Thessalonika to become a monk in the Egyptian desert of Skete. Then he spent some years as a hermit along the Jordan River. He became crippled so he went to Jerusalem. When his friend Mark sold off Porphyry's estates and brought him the money to distribute to the poor, Porphyry was healed. He was ordained priest, then pressured to become bishop of Gaza. During his years of bishop, he struggled against stubborn pagans and was renowned for his generosity to the poor.

At Tyburn, in 1607, the martyrdom of Blessed Robert Drury, priest. He was ordained at the English College in Valladolid, then went to England as a missionary. He was housed in the home of Anne Line (February 27) until he was arrested, condemned, hung, drawn, and quartered.

In 1889, at Barcelona, St. Paula Montal Fornés. While teaching catechism when she was a teenager, she discovered a gift for teaching. Working with Piarist Fathers, she established schools and a order, The Sisters of Pious Schools, dedicated to the education of young women.

February 27

In Alexandria, around 250, during the persecution of Decius, the martyrdom of St. Julian and companions. St. Julian was arrested, but he was so feeble he had to be carried to his trial. When he would not renounce his faith, he was beaten and mocked, then burned in a pit of quicklime.

At Tyburn, in 1601, St. Anne Line. She and her brother converted from Calvinism and were disinherited. She married another disinherited Catholic who was forced to flee to Flanders, where he died. She was left destitute, but became manager of a Catholic safe house in London. She was arrested, and despite being very ill, was condemned and hung.

At Pasto, in southern Colombia, in 1943, Blessed Caritas Brader. She was born in the canton of St. Gallen and entered a Franciscan convent. In answer to a request from a bishop in Ecuador, she and five others went there as missionaries. She later moved to Colombia where she served in a very poor area. She started a missionary order to help with the work, which soon drew recruits from Switzerland and Colombia. She emphasized the importance of education and of living as poorly as the poor people they served.

February 28

At Worcester, in 992, St. Oswald, bishop. Oswald was of Danish descent. He was a canon of Winchester before becoming a monk at Fleury-sur-Loire. At the recommendation of St. Dunstan, he was appointed bishop of Worcester. He founded a

Benedictine monastery at Westbury-on-Trym and turned his cathedral chapter over to monks. Later he built the abbey of Ramsey, which in turn founded the abbeys of Pershore and Evesham. He made Ramsey a center of learning. He was later made archbishop of York. With Dunstan and Ethelwold, he spearheaded a great ecclesiastical and monastic revival in England in the last half of the tenth century.

In Switzerland, in 1602, the foundation of the Swiss Congregation of the Order of St. Benedict.

In 1936, in Paris, Blessed Daniel Brottier. He was born in France and ordained a diocesan priest. He joined the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and was sent to Senegal, where he spent eight years. He served as a chaplain in the First World War, where he was extremely brave. In 1923 he was given charge of a ministry to orphaned and abandoned children in a suburb of Paris, a project to which he devoted the rest of his life.

February 29

In Rome, in 468, St. Hilary, pope, who was a strong supporter of the Church's faith in Christ.

At Aquila, in 1472, blessed Antonia of Florence, widow, who was the founder and first abbess of the Poor Clare monastery of Corpus Christi.

March 1

Around 589, St. David, bishop, patron of Wales. According to the life of St. David written around 1090, he was ordained a priest and studied for several years after that with the Welsh St. Paulinus. David then founded twelve monasteries, and finally settled at Menevia. The community there lived a very austere life, modeled on the life of the Desert Fathers. His last words are supposed to have been, "Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep the faith and do the little things you have heard and seen me do."

In Ireland in the sixth century, St. Senan, abbot, who founded several monasteries, most notably on Scatterry Island in the estuary of the Shannon.

In 1670, in the Benedictine convent of St. Jerome in Bassano, Blessed Giovanna (Jane) Maria Bonomo, abbess. She was a mystic and stigmatic, As novice-mistress and later abbess she had a gift for discernment. Although she met with great opposition within and without her community, she proved to be an exemplary abbess.

March 2

In England, in 672, St. Chad. St. Chad was a disciple of St. Aidan. He and three of his brothers became priests. He studied in Ireland, and succeeded his brother Cedd as abbot of Lastingham. He was for a time bishop of York and then of Mercia. His relics are preserved in St. Chad's Catholic cathedral in Birmingham.

In Flanders, in 1127, the death of Blessed Charles, count of Flanders and martyr. He was extremely generous to the poor, and his concern for their well-being ultimately led to his assassination in the church of St. Donatian at Brugge.

In 1932, at Seville, St. Angela de la Cruz. She started to work in a shoe factory when she was twelve. When she was twenty-nine she left the factory and moved into a rented house with three other women. They devoted themselves to prayer, but were always ready to assist the poor and the dying. Their policy was to live entirely on alms.

March 3

In 1955, Blessed Catherine Drexel, foundress of the Order of the Blessed Sacrament. She was born in Philadelphia in 1858, of an affluent family, which was very concerned about the poor. An heiress at a young age, she was alerted to the plight of the American Indians by Bishop Martin Marty. She discussed the matter with Pope Leo XIII and visited the missions in the Dakotas, where she met Chief Red Cloud, who admired her. She founded her order to minister to peoples of color. In 1915 she established Xavier University in New Orleans. She spent the last twenty years of her life in prayerful retirement.

In 1039, at the monastery of Kaufungen, St. Kunegunde, wife of St. Henry II. At her urging, Henry founded the monastery and cathedral of Bamberg and the monastery of Kaufungen, to which she retired after his death. There she spent fifteen years in prayer and service as an ordinary nun.

In 1716, Blesseds Liberatus Weiss, Samuel Marzorati and Michael Fasoli, Franciscan missionaries and martyrs. In response to a request from a ruler in Ethiopia, they were sent there to bring about a reunion of the Monophysite Ethiopian Christians and the Roman Church. Political instability in Ethiopia led to their arrest and execution by stoning.

March 4

In 1488, in Lithuania, St. Casimir. He was the third child of Casimir IV, king of Poland. As a young man he was very prayerful and active on behalf of the poor. He refused to marry, and at the age of 24 he died of tuberculosis. He is buried in Vilnius. He is the patron saint of Poland and Lithuania.

In 1123, St. Peter of Cava, abbot and bishop. He was a native of Salerno and nephew of St. Alferius (April 10), founder and first abbot of Cava. Peter went to Cluny and stayed there for some years. At the urging of Hildebrand (later Pope Gregory VII), Abbot Hugh of Cluny (May 11) sent Peter back to Cava, and for a short while he was Bishop of Policastro. He was elected abbot and the monastery grew rapidly. The monastery was suppressed in 1861 by the government, but then re-opened.

In 1877, in France, Blessed Placide Viel, second superior general of the Sisters of Christian Schools. At the age of 18, she joined St. Marie-Madeleine Postel and her small group of sisters in the ruins of the former Benedictine abbey of Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte. St. Marie-Madeleine posted her to Paris to beg for funds for four years, then she was recalled and elected to succeed the foundress.

March 5

In 475, the death of St. Gerasimus, hermit. Born in Asia Minor, he became a hermit in the desert along the Jordan River. Around him a laura for seventy hermits grew up, and he established a monastery for aspirants as well.

In 1625, Blessed Jeremy of Valacchia, a Rumanian by birth, who became a Capuchin in Naples. He spent the rest of his life taking care of the sick.

March 6

In Toledo, in 690, St. Julian, archbishop. He lived as a hermit for a while, then became a priest. He was appointed archbishop in 680. He was a prudent, prayerful, and kindly man. He was a prolific writer, who wrote especially about eschatology.

In 766, at Metz, St. Chrodegang, bishop. Educated at the abbey of St. Trond, he entered the service of Charles Martel, and then was appointed bishop of Metz. He wrote a rule for his clergy, modeled on the *Rule of St. Benedict*, which had great influence. It required the clergy to live in communities. He founded the abbey of Gorze.

in 1280, St. Agnes of Prague, abbess. The daughter of the king of Bohemia, she founded the first house of Poor Clares north of the Alps, joined it, and later became abbess. She was the recipient of some beautiful letters from St. Clare.

March 7

In Carthage, in 203, the martyrdom of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity and their companions. Arrested while catechumens, Perpetua, Felicity and three male companions were martyred in the arena. The account of their arrest and martyrdom, part of it the work of Perpetua herself, is an important Christian document.

In 976, at Gorze, John, abbot. He inherited a wealthy estate, but was attracted to religious life. In 933, he and a companion were sent to revitalize the abbey of Gorze. John was made prior. After heading a delegation to the caliph of Cordova, he was elected abbot in 960. He imposed austere reforms which were adopted by other monasteries in the area around Gorze.

In 1033, at Karffungen, Germany, St. Kundegunda. She was the wife of St. Henry II, and her feast is now celebrated with his on July 13.

At Engelberg, in Switzerland, in 1178, Blessed Frowin, abbot. He was sent from St. Blasien to revitalize the faltering monastery at Engelberg, which had been founded in 1120 with monks from Muri. He was a very well read man, and established a renowned scriptorium and library at Engelberg. He wrote a compendium on theological anthropology called *In Praise of Free Will*, and a *Commentary on the Our Father*. His immediate successors Berchtold and Heinrich continued his works. Like St. Blasien, Engelberg was a double monastery. It continued to be one until the early sixteenth century, when the sisters moved to Sarnen.

In the middle half of the 20th century, twenty-seven members of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, martyred by the Communists. They include bishops, priests, laymen, and sisters.

March 8

In 1550, at Granada, the death of John of God. He served as a soldier in campaigns against the French and Turks. He went to Africa for a time, and then returned to Spain where he became a religious book salesman. Converted by John of Avila, he devoted the rest of his life to operating hospitals for the physically and mentally ill, especially the poor.

In 1159, St. Stephen of Obazine. He became a priest, and then with a fellow priest went to live as a hermit in the forest of Obazine, not far from Tulle in the Auvergne. A community grew up around them. Near it a house for women was established. The community adopted the *Rule of St. Benedict* in 1142, and in 1147 Obazine and its foundations were accepted into the Cistercian Order.

March 9

In Rome, in 1440, St. Frances, patroness of Benedictine oblates. She was educated and guided by an Olivetan monk who was serving at the church of Santa Maria Nuova. Although she wished to become a nun, she was married to a wealthy husband and had three children. She and her sister-in-law strove to be good mothers and to spend time in prayer and to visit the sick. She gathered around her a group of like-minded women, called the “oblates of Tor de Specchi,” who became a religious community. She joined them after her husband died.

In the convent of Corpus Domini, in 1463, St. Catherine de Vigri. She joined a group of Augustinian canonesses in Ferrera, and later went with some of them to the Poor Clares. She was sent as superior of a new foundation in Bologna. She wrote a number of books and was a painter of note, as well as the recipient of supernatural visions. Her body remains incorrupt, and it is preserved in the chapel of her convent in Bologna to this day.

In 1857, in Mondonio, St. Dominic Savio. He was mentored by Don Bosco (January 31), who wrote that Dominic had extraordinary knowledge of people and future events. Dominic was a leader among his peers and graced with mystical experiences. He died at the age of fifteen.

March 10

At Rome in 483, Pope St. Simplicius. He shepherded the church through a time of political upheaval, built the basilicas of San Stefano Rotondo and Santa Balbina, sought to alleviate the suffering of the poor, and struggled against the Monophysites.

In Scotland, in 1615, the martyrdom of St. John Ogilvie. Sent abroad from his native Scotland to broaden his education, he was received into the Catholic Church at Louvain in 1596. He joined the Jesuits in 1599 and remained in Austria until 1610, when he was ordained in Paris. In 1613 he went as a missionary to Scotland. After nine months of ministry he was arrested. During the subsequent five months he spent in prison, he impressed many with his courage, mental quickness and good humor. To force him to confess, his jailers kept him awake for eight and a half days. When he was hanged, the crowd was so won over by his courage that he was not drawn and quartered.

In 1898, at Auteuil in France, Blessed Eugénie Milleret de Brou. She was raised in Paris by her divorced mother. She had thought religion passé, until she heard a moving sermon at Notre-Dame. She began studying theology and later founded the Assumptionist Sisters.

March 11

In 639, St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. He was born in Damascus and traveled widely in his youth. He decided to become a monk. At the monastery of St. Theodosius in Judea, he became friends with John Moschus. The upheavals of the time took them to Egypt, where John Moschus compiled information about the Egyptian monks. They were in the service of the Archbishop of Alexandria, John the Almoner when he fled to Cyprus ahead of the invading Persians. Sophronius was a strong supporter of the Christology of Chalcedon and opposed the Monothelites. He was still alive when the Saracens conquered Jerusalem. A number of his writings survive.

In Cordoba, between 822 and 859, St. Eulogius and the martyrs of Cordoba. By 711 the Muslims had overrun almost all of Spain, and gradually the vibrant Christian culture that had developed there was submerged under a prosperous Moorish culture. Eulogius was tutored by Abbot Esperaindeo, a learned Christian scholar. Eulogius urged his fellow Christians to resist enculturation into the Muslim world, and this led to many of them undergoing martyrdom. He himself was beheaded.

In 1770, at Florence, St. Teresa Margaret Redi. She joined the Carmelites when she was seventeen, and aimed “to love for all those who do not know how to love.”

March 12

Around 250, at Smyrna, St. Pionius, martyr. Pionius, who revered the memory of St. Polycarp, was a learned teacher. He was arrested with Sabina, a slave who had been ill-treated because of her Christian faith, and Asclepiades. The three refused to offer incense to the gods. Pionius was then burned at the stake in the stadium. His last words were “Lord, receive my spirit.”

In 817, on the island of Samothrace, St. Theophanes the Chronicler, abbot. Theophanes was the son of very wealthy parents. He was pressured to marry when he was young, but he and his new wife distributed their property and became monks. Theophanes was called to the II Council of Nicaea where he supported the veneration of images. He wrote a very important historical chronicle for the years 281-813 AD. When he refused to support Leo the Armenian’s iconoclastic policies, Theophanes was scourged, imprisoned for two years, and finally banished to Samothrace, where he died after seven days.

In 1022, St. Simeon, the New Theologian, abbot. After being reared in Constantinople, he was motivated to change his way of life after reading the lives of the saints. He was trained at the monastery of Studium. He had intense mystical experiences of God. He became abbot of the monastery of Saint Mamas, and his *Catecheses* to his monks is a spiritual classic. His demanding spiritual teachings became controversial and

he was sent into exile, where he continued to write hymns and works in defense of his spiritual teachings. He died in exile in great peace of heart.

In 1940, in Italy St. Luigi (Aloysius) Orione, founder of the Congregation of the Little Work of Divine Providence and the Little Missionaries of Charity. After spending time with Don Bosco (January 31), Don Orione became a diocesan priest. He was very energetic and creative in ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of all whom he met. His boundless zeal carried him through the rough waters of church-state and modernist controversies, and enabled him to stand up to the Fascists.

March 13

About 600, St. Leander, bishop of Seville. He spent three years as a monk, before being made Bishop of Seville around 578. After a mission to Constantinople, he introduced the creed to the Mass to help reinforce the Catholic faith against the Arians. Gregory the Great corresponded with him. Leander wrote a monastic rule. He is honored as a doctor of the church.

At Ernée, in France, in 1794, the martyrdom of Blesseds Françoise Trehet and Jeanne Veron. They were young nuns dedicated to teaching and helping the sick. They were condemned to the guillotine for taking care of both republicans and royalists.

March 14

At Quedlinberg, in 968, St. Matilda. Daughter of a Westphalian count, she was happily married to Henry the Fowler, who became successively Duke of Saxony and German emperor. When he died, she took off her royal finery and thereafter devoted herself to prayer and charitable works, the generosity of which caused friction with her two quarreling sons, Otto the Great and Henry the Wrangler.

In Palermo, in 1888, Blessed John Cusmano. After becoming a doctor, he was ordained a priest. He devoted himself to improving the social conditions in Sicily and founded two religious orders to aid in that work. He died at the age of 54, having worn himself out ministering to the victims of a cholera epidemic.

March 15

At Rome, in 752, St. Zachary. pope. The last of a line of Greek popes, he supported St. Boniface's missionary efforts in Germany and the claims of Pepin to sovereignty over the Franks. He tried to find a peaceful diplomatic path in the conflicts between the Lombards and the Byzantines on the Italian peninsula. He translated the *Dialogues* of Gregory the Great into Greek and consecrated the church at Monte Cassino.

In France, in 1660, St. Louise de Marillac.. The illegitimate daughter of a lesser noble, she was educated at the Dominican convent of Poissy, and then was entrusted to the care of a poor spinster who took in orphan girls. Her family arranged her marriage to

a secretary of the queen. She was an excellent wife and mother. Her husband took sick and she went through a time of deep spiritual crisis. After her husband's death she associated herself with the work of St. Vincent de Paul (September 27), flourished, and went on to found the Sisters of Charity.

In Italy, in 1915, Blessed Placid Riccardi,. After studying at the Angelicum in Rome, he entered the Abbey of St. Paul-outside-the-Walls in 1865. After some time in prison for not reporting for army duty, he was ordained in 1871. He served as convent chaplain, novice-master and then spent twenty years taking care of the ruins of the once great abbey of Farfa.

In Patagonia, in 1951, Blessed Artemide Zatti. Born of poor Italian immigrants he entered the Salesians at the age of 20. He became a pharmacist and spent his life tirelessly running an exemplary hospital and living as a devoted member of his religious community.

March 16

In Canada, in 1649, St. John de Brébeuf and companions, martyrs. Samuel Champlain founded Quebec in 1608. John and some of his companions were sent as missionaries there in 1625. He ministered for some years in great hardship among the Algonquins and the Hurons. When the Iroquois waged all out war on the Hurons, John de Brébeuf and his companions were captured, brutally tortured and killed. Brébeuf endured it all quietly.

At the Abbey of Hamage, in France, St. Eusebia, daughter of St. Adalbald and St. Rictrudis (May 12). She was sent as a child to Hamage, where her great-grandmother, St. Gertrude was abbess. She was elected abbess when she was twelve, but her mother thought she was too young, so her mother merged Hamage with the monastery of Marchiennes, of which she was abbess. Later, the community moved to Hamage and Eusebia led it wisely.

In Vicenza, in 1181, Blessed John Sordi, Benedictine bishop and martyr. He entered the monastery of St. Lawrence in Cremona when he was 16 and later served as prior there and at another abbey. He was expelled by Frederick Barbarossa for his support of Pope Alexander III and lived as a hermit at Mantua. He later became the well-beloved bishop of Vicenza. He was stabbed by a tenant whom he rebuked for not paying his rent.

March 17

In Ireland, in the fifth century, the death of St. Patrick, patron of Ireland. Captured in England by Irish pirates when he was a boy, he later escaped back to Ireland. Later, as the result of a vision, he returned to Ireland as a missionary. He seems to have worked mainly in the north of the island. Two writings of his survive: the *Letter to Coroticus* and the *Confessio*; they reveal his humility and his zealous concern for his people.

The commemoration of Joseph of Arimathea, who buried Christ's body in his own tomb.

At Nivelles, in 659, St. Gertrude, abbess. When her father died in 640 she and her mother, Itta, retired to Nivelles to found a double monastery. Gertrude succeeded her mother as abbess. As she neared death, she sent word to St. Ultan, an Irish monk who had settled nearby at Fosse. He told her to have no fear because she would be welcomed to heaven by some angels and St. Patrick on his feast. She has been revered as a patron of travelers, of the dying, and also is invoked to protect fields and gardens against mice.

In Moravia, in 1620, St. John Sarkander, a priest, who when he refused to break the seal of confession was martyred by being subjected to the rack and then set on fire.

March 18

In Jerusalem, in 386, St. Cyril, bishop and doctor. As a priest, he delivered *Catechetical Instructions*, of which 24 have survived. Intended for catechumens and the newly baptized they are an invaluable witness to the teaching and liturgy of the church in the middle of the fourth century. He was bishop of Jerusalem for 35 years, 16 of which he spent in exile.

In 651, St. Braulio, bishop. A student and friend of St. Isidore, he succeeded his own brother John as bishop of Zaragoza. He was a skilled preacher and writer. He hated luxury and was very generous to the poor. His relics were transferred to the church of Our Lady of the Pillar in 1275.

In England, in 979, St. Edward, martyr. The son of King Edgar, Edward was baptized by Dunstan. He became king in a disputed election. His ties with Dunstan and the monastic movement and his violent temper alienated many of the nobility, and he was assassinated.

In 1883, in France, Blessed Martha Le Bouteiller. She grew up a devout and hard-working farm girl. On a pilgrimage she visited the abbey of Saint-Sauveur which St. Mary-Margaret (Julie) Postel (July 16) was restoring as for her Sisters of Christian Schools. She joined the community and was in charge of the wine cellar and cider making at the monastery for the next forty years.

March 19

The solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary, a just man of David's lineage, who was the foster-father of the son of God, Christ Jesus, who chose to be called the son of Joseph and to be subject to him as a son to his father. He is venerated with special honor as patron of the church, because the Lord set him over his family. The feast was extended to the universal church after the Council of Trent.

In 797, twenty martyrs of the monastery of Mar Saba, executed by some marauding bands of Arabs.

In 1945, at the Nazi prison camp of Gusen, Blessed Marcel Callo. Born in Brittany, he was active in the scouts and apprenticed as a printer. He joined the Young Christian Workers (Jocistes) when he was fourteen, and became a leader among them. He combined his early devotion to the Eucharistic body of Christ with a new appreciation of the Mystical Body. In 1943 he was requisitioned to work in Germany. There he joined with other Jocistes to arrange for Masses and various religious activities. For this he was arrested and sent to several prison camps, before he died of extreme physical abuse.

Tomorrow is the namesday of our confrere, Br. José Echanove.

March 20

On Farne Island in 687, St. Cuthbert, monk and bishop. When he was a young man, he joined the monastery of Melrose, a daughter-house of St. Aidan's foundation at Lindisfarne. From there he was sent to the new foundation at Ripon, where he was a genial guest master. He then served successively as prior of Melrose and Lindisfarne. There he and abbot Eata introduced the *Rule of Benedict*. After twelve years he retired as a hermit to Lindisfarne and then Farne. He then served two years as bishop of Lindisfarne before returning to his solitary life. His remains are buried in the Anglican cathedral of Durham, which for more than four centuries was a Benedictine monastery.

In Braga, in Portugal, in 579, St. Martin, bishop. As a young man he went on a pilgrimage to Palestine and there became a monk. He then went to Galicia, where he founded monasteries and worked to convert the pagan Suevi. He wrote a number of theological and spiritual works, including several collections of the Desert Fathers and a collection of canonical decrees.

In 1393, at Prague, the martyrdom of St. John Nepomucene. He was ordained a priest and became vicar general of the archbishop of Prague. He incurred the enmity of King Wencelaus IV because he would not tell him what the queen had told him in confession and because he opposed the king's effort to confiscate a Benedictine Abbey and turn it into a cathedral. Wenceslaus had him tortured, murdered and thrown into the Moldau River. He is patron of Bohemia.

In 1912, In Bilbao, St. María Josefa Sancho de Guerra. She was cured from a childhood paralysis at the shrine of St. Michael at Aralar. She founded the Servants of Jesus of Charity, whose mission is to care for the sick in hospitals and in their homes.

March 21

At Monte Cassino, the death of St. Benedict, abbot and patron of Europe. The first mention of a feast of St. Benedict on this day is in the martyrology of St. Bede the Venerable, written around 730. There are several explanations why Bede chose this date.

He may have derived it from St. Benet Biscop, the founder of Bede's monastery at Jarrow, who had visited Monte Cassino. Alternatively, Bede may have chosen this day because it was the vernal equinox, and then the date was later adopted at Monte Cassino.

At Ronco, in Italy, in 1858, Blessed Benedicta Frassinello. She wanted to enter religious life, but at her parents' urging she married. After two years the couple decided to live in chastity. In 1825, Benedicta entered the Capuchins and her husband became a Somaschi brother. However, Benedicta felt called to emulate St. Jerome Emiliani and devoted herself to impoverished and endangered girls. Her husband came to help her in the work. From among those who helped them, they created a lay community of young women. Forced to cede the project to the bishop, she established a similar community in Rocco, where she founded the Benedictine Sisters of Providence of Rocco Scriva, whose work was to welcome vulnerable young women and house and feed them.

March 22

In the tower of London, in 1606, St. Nicholas Owen, martyr. He was arrested with St. Edmund Campion in 1581, but eventually released. His specialty was building hiding-holes for priests. He made a great many of these which saved many priests from death and many Catholic families from dispossession. He was arrested again in 1594 with the Fr. John Gerard, racked, and eventually released. He was arrested again in 1606 with three priests. He was tortured mercilessly for six days in order to force him to divulge information about who was hiding priests and where. He never gave the information his torturers wanted. His body finally burst under torture.

March 23

At Santa Clara in Peru, in 1606, St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop. He studied canon and civil law and became a jurist. When there was need for a new Archbishop of Lima, he was chosen, although he was not in orders. He proved to be a bishop of the stature of St. Charles Borromeo, conscientious, diplomatic, and totally dedicated. He arrived in Lima in 1581. He learned the Quechua language and required all parish priests to learn it. He traveled on pastoral visitations throughout his large and mountainous diocese and baptized and confirmed countless people including St. Rose of Lima and St. Martin de Porres. He is the patron of Peru.

In 1701, at Barcelona, St. Joseph Oriol. Although born of a poor family, he gained a doctorate in theology and was ordained in 1676. To help support his widowed mother, he took a job as a tutor in a wealthy household. After his mother died, he became pastor of a church in Barcelona. He lived very simply in a small rented room. He spent almost no money on himself, spoke but little and almost exclusively of spiritual matters. He had great personal magnetism and gifts for hearing confessions and for healing physical ills.

In Lebanon, in 1914, St. Rebecca Al-Rayes. When she was 21 she joined a teaching order called the Mariamette Sisters. When it was dissolved, she entered the

monastery of St. Se'man El Qarn. She became blind, and later paralyzed, perhaps from bone cancer, and suffered greatly, but cheerfully.

March 24

At Vadestna, Sweden, in 1381, St. Catherine, abbess. She was the fourth of the eight children of St. Bridget of Sweden (July 23). She was raised in several convents. She entered into an arranged marriage, but she and her husband lived a quasi-monastic life as brother and sister. After her husband died, Bridget founded a monastery at Vadstena, and then moved to Rome in 1349, and Catherine joined her there the following year. The two of them prayed and argued for the pope to return to Rome from Avignon. When her mother died, Catherine spent the rest of her life as abbess of the monastery of Vadstena and promoter of her mother's canonization.

About 712, in England at the abbey of Barking, St. Hildelith, abbess. She succeeded St. Ethelburga (October 12) as second abbess of the community. She was a dynamic leader. St. Aldhelm (May 25) wrote a treatise on virginity for the community, and St. Boniface (June 5) esteemed her greatly.

March 25

The solemnity of the Annunciation, when, in the town of Nazareth, an angel of the Lord told Mary: "Behold you will conceive and bear a son, who will be called Son of the Most High." Mary answered: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word." And thus the fullness of time had arrived. For us and for our salvation, He who was the Only-Begotten Son of God from eternity was incarnate of the Holy Spirit from the Virgin Mary and became a human being.

In the twelfth century, at Schaffhausen in Switzerland, Blessed Everard, who after providing for the construction there of the Benedictine monastery of Allerheiligen, himself entered monastic life.

At York, in 1586, St. Margaret Clitherow, martyr. She was married at the age of eighteen to a wealthy citizen. Three years later, Margaret became a Catholic. She secured a Catholic tutor, whom she may have met during one of her imprisonments for non-attendance at Protestant services. She was witty, good-looking, and good-hearted. She was arrested for sending her son abroad to be educated. She refused to stand trial, because she didn't want anyone to bear the responsibility of testifying against her. She was killed by being squashed to death.

In 1732, in Montefiascone, Blessed Lucia Filippini. At the urging of Cardinal Barbarigo she took over the direction of a pioneering school for girls that he had founded. She started a novitiate for dedicated women who pledged themselves to educate girls in schools the cardinal planned to establish throughout his diocese. When the cardinal died, she lost her patron and had to face many difficulties. She died before the turmoil was settled, but her order, the Filippini sisters, continues her work.

March 26

At Sebaste, about 391, St. Peter, bishop. Peter was the son of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia, and brother of St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nyssa (January 2) and of St. Macrina (July 19), who raised him. He joined the family monastery and succeeded Basil as abbot. He was appointed successor to Eustathius, bishop of Sebaste in 380.

At Billerbeck, in Germany, in 809, St. Ludger of Münster, bishop. Ludger was born in Frisia and spent much of his life doing missionary work there. He studied at Utrecht under Abbot Gregory, at York, under Alcuin, and spent several years studying the monastic life at Monte Cassino. He was sent by Charlemagne to evangelize the Saxons, and established a clerical community under the Rule of Chrodegang at Münster.

March 27

At Salzburg, about 718, St. Rupert, bishop. He did missionary work in what is today Austria, and eventually chose a ruined Roman town as his headquarters. He built a church and a monastery dedicated to St. Peter, and the monastery of Nonnberg for women. The monasteries followed *the Rule of St. Benedict*, and Rupert was both abbot and bishop.

At Turin, in 1888, Blessed Francis Faa di Bruno. He entered the army, then studied in Paris. Victor Emmanuel II asked him to tutor his sons. When that appointment was quashed by secularist officials because of Francis' devout Catholicism, he returned to Paris and earned a doctorate in mathematics. He became a professor at the University of Turin. He devoted his life to scholarship and charitable causes on behalf of the poor. He was ordained at the age of 51, but continued as a professor.

March 28

At Jerusalem, around 450, St. Hesychius, priest. He was a monk and served several bishops as a priest. Some of his sermons and biblical commentaries survive.

At Angers, 1794, Blessed Renée-Marie Feillatreau, who was guillotined for her fidelity to the Catholic faith.

In 1924, at Przemyśl, in Poland, St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar, bishop. He became a priest and earned doctorates in theology and canon law in Rome. He was a professor at the Jagellonian University in Krakow for twenty years. He was very involved in pastoral projects and was responsible for founding hundreds of libraries. In 1890 he became bishop of Przemyśl, a poor diocese. There he sought to implement the teachings of *Rerum novarum*.

March 29

In 326 or 327, in Persia, the martyrdom of Sts. Jonas and Barachisius, monks and martyrs. When they encouraged some imprisoned Christians, they were themselves arrested. Jonas was flogged, kept out all night in the cold, thrown into a tub of burning pitch, and finally squashed. Barachisius was tortured with hot pitch, suspended during the night from one foot, impaled, squashed and then had burning pitch poured down his throat.

Around 1195, St. Berthold, founder of the Carmelite Order.

March 30

In the seventh century, in Egypt, St. John Climacus. He lived for many decades as a hermit, and in his old age he became abbot of the monastic community at Mt. Sinai. He had studied the writings of Evagrius of Pontus and used them in writing his *Ladder to Paradise*, a very influential book in Eastern monasticism. His treatise, *To the Shepherd*, emphasizes humility and purity of heart.

In 1472, at Vercelli, Blessed Amadeus of Savoy. As a youth he was devout but troubled by epilepsy. He was married to Yolande, the daughter of the King of France. When he was put in charge of the province of Brescia and made governor of Piedmont, he worked for peace both with his brother Philip and with the Sforzas of Milan. He was a good administrator and very generous to the poor. He died before he was forty, and his last admonition to his family and administrators was “Be just. Love the poor and the Lord will grant peace to the whole length of the land.”

In 1866, in Korea, St. Antony Daveluy and companions, who were martyred for their faith.

In 1943, in Austria, Blessed Restituta Kafka, martyr. She was born in Moravia, but her family emigrated to Vienna. She worked as a maid, then joined a nursing order in 1915. She was arrested by the Gestapo for putting up crucifixes in the hospital where she worked. She spent a year in prison, sharing her rations with those who needed them more, then she was guillotined.

March 31

The commemoration of St. Amos, the prophet.

At the monastery of Mar Saba in Palestine, in 794, St. Stephen, the nephew of St. John Damascene, with whom he entered the monastery there at an early age. Stephen served in the community in various capacities until he was 32, then became a hermit. He was a wise and compassionate guide for others, had the gift of healing, and was very fond of animals.

In 1046, at Borgo San Donnino, near Parma, St. Guy, abbot. After spending time as a hermit, he joined the monastery of Pomposa, and when the abbot resigned to become a hermit, Guy became abbot. He invited St. Peter Damian to spend two years at the monastery teaching sacred scripture.

In 1945, at Ravensbrück, Germany, Blessed Natalie Tulasiewicz. She was a school teacher with an advanced degree in Polish literature. When the Nazis took prisoners of war to work in Germany, she went to Hanover, where she worked in a factory and organized religious activities. She was arrested and tortured, then taken to Ravensbrück, where again she organized religious activities. On Good Friday, she gave a talk on Christ's Passion and Resurrection; two days later she was executed in the gas chamber.

April 1

In 304, during the persecution of Diocletian, the martyrdom of Sts. Agape and Chionia. With their younger sister, Irene, they were arrested for hiding copies of the Christian scriptures. When they refused to sacrifice to the gods or deliver up the Scriptures, they were burned to death.

In the fifth century, in the Judean desert, St. Mary of Egypt. After a dissolute youth in Alexandria, she converted before an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Jerusalem. She then spent the next 47 years as a solitary in the Judean desert east of the Jordan River. Her story was often retold in the Middle Ages, which saw her as a model of repentance. She is usually depicted with the three loaves she took out into the desert with her, or with a lion, which her legend says helped to bury her.

In 1132, St. Hugh of Grenoble, bishop. He went to Rome to be consecrated bishop of Grenoble by Pope Gregory VII and to receive spiritual advice about temptations from which he suffered. As a bishop he was an ardent reformer, seeking to free his diocese of simony, concubinage and ignorance. After two years he went to a Benedictine monastery, where he stayed for a year. The pope ordered him back to his diocese. He supported St. Bruno's effort to establish the Grand Chartreuse and would have become a Carthusian if the pope had allowed it. The feast of his nephew, Hugh, abbot of the Carthusian monastery of Bonnevaux, is celebrated this day also.

At Győr, in Hungary, in 1945, Blessed Vilmos Apor, bishop and martyr. After studying for the priesthood at Innsbruck, he became parish priest in Gyula, where he was outstanding in his commitment to the poor and to ecumenism. In 1941 he was made bishop of Győr. He protested forcefully against persecution of the Jews by the Nazis. During fighting between the Germans and Russians in 1945, Bishop Apor housed food, supplies and refugees in his basement. On Good Friday, when some drunken soldiers started to annoy a young girl in the cellar, he stood in front of the girl and told the soldiers to leave. They shot him and he died on Easter Monday.

April 2

In Caesarea in Palestine, in 306, Sts. Apphian and Theodosia, two students of Eusebius of Caesarea, who were executed during the persecution of Diocletian.

In 1507, at Plessis-les-Tours in France, St. Francis of Paola. He spent his twelfth year in a Franciscan monastery, then a few years later became a hermit. Disciples gathered around him, and he organized them into "the hermits of Brother Francis of Assisi," who were later called "Friars Minims." The order embraced charity, penance and humility, and during Lent fasted from meat, eggs and dairy products. He encouraged devotion to the wounds of Christ and to Mary. At its apogee in the mid-sixteenth century, the order had 450 houses.

In 1672, on one of the Marianas Islands near Guam, Blessed Diego de San Vitores, martyr. A Jesuit, he worked as a missionary in Mexico and the Philippines, before his request to evangelize the Marianas was granted. He was killed with a spear by an apostate Christian. Martyred with him was Blessed Peter Calungsod, a native Philippine catechist who was his assistant.

In 1967, in Venezuela, Blessed Mary of St. Joseph Alvarado Cardozo. She helped found a congregation of sisters to care for the sick, orphans and the elderly. The institute cared for the most downtrodden and promoted native Venezuelan vocations.

April 3

In 824, St. Nicetas, abbot. While he was head of the monastery of Medikon on Mount Olympus, he was summoned to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Armenian. After at first resisting, he gave in to the emperor's iconoclasm. When his friends urged him to retract, he repented. He was then put into prison. Released after the emperor's death, he became a hermit, saying the scandal he had caused made him unworthy to return to his monastery.

In 1253, St. Richard of Chichester. He studied at Oxford and Paris, and then became chancellor of Oxford. St. Edmund of Abingdon (November 16), archbishop of Canterbury, appointed him his diocesan chancellor. He went into exile with St. Edmund to Pontigny and was ordained there in 1243. Over the opposition of King Henry III he was appointed Bishop of Chichester. When he was finally allowed to take up his duties, he proved himself a model bishop.

In 1884, St. Aloysius Scrosoppi. Like his two brothers before him, he became a priest. From his care for poor girls there arose a group of Sisters of Providence, who are today active in Italy, Brazil and Paraguay. He joined the Oratorians at the age of 42. He was provincial of the Oratorians in 1866, when the government suppressed them. Aloysius continued to work on behalf of the Sisters of Providence.

April 4

In 636, at Seville, St. Isidore, bishop and doctor. He received an excellent education, and his many writings were very popular. He wanted to contribute to the formation of a Catholic, Visigothic culture. He became bishop of Seville, after the death of his predecessor and brother, St. Leander. His aims can be summed up in his advice: "If anyone wants to be always with God, he ought to pray often and to read often as well." His burial place at Leon, on the route to Compostela, became a popular place of pilgrimage.

In Sicily, in 1589, St. Benedict the Moor. Born of parents who were African slaves, he was given his freedom. He joined a group of Franciscan hermits, became their superior, and when their group was disbanded, joined the Observant Franciscans as a lay

brother. He served as a cook, then was appointed superior and novice-master, before being allowed to return to his position as a cook.

In 1894, Blessed Joseph Benedict Dusmet, bishop and cardinal. Born in Palermo, he joined there the Benedictine monastery of San Martino della Scala, where he had been educated. He was appointed superior of several other monasteries, and became abbot of San Niccolo at Catania. The monastery was suppressed in 1866, and the next year he was appointed Archbishop of Catania. He was a supporter of papal infallibility at the First Vatican Council and of the definition of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. He was made a cardinal in 1889. He remained a monk at heart and in his lifestyle, and he was put in charge of founding Sant' Anselmo. He gave everything he had to the poor.

April 5

In 1258, at Fosses in Belgium, Blessed Juliana. An orphan, she was brought up at the double community of Mount Cornillon, which ran a hospital. She joined the community and became superior. She had a dream which urged her to promote a feast in honor of the Eucharist. Caught in a tangle of controversies, she was eventually forced to leave the community, and died as a hermit. Her efforts and those of her friend St. Eva of Liège led to the establishment of the feast of Corpus Christi after her death.

At Vannes, in Brittany, in 1419, St. Vincent Ferrer. He joined the Dominicans and was a student and teacher at a number of Dominican faculties in Catalonia and then at Toledo. He was a very effective preacher. When he couldn't convince his friend, the anti-pope Peter de Luna, who took the name Benedict, to negotiate with his rival, Vincent became a roving preacher, who stressed the need for repentance. He finally helped convince Benedict to resign, and then spent the rest of his life as a preacher in Normandy and Brittany.

In 1574, at Palma de Majorca, St. Catalina Tomás. She was an orphan who worked as a shepherdess before becoming a lay sister in the Canonesses of St. Augustine. She was troubled by diabolical events, but remained steadfast. Her body was found to be incorrupt forty years after she died.

In 1744, at Kaufbeuren, Germany, the death of St. Mary Crescentia Hoss. Born of a poor family in Bavaria and christened Anna, she wished to join the local Franciscan convent, but they said they were too poor to receive her without a dowry. The Protestant mayor made shutting a neighboring tavern contingent on the monastery's acceptance of Anna. She was then accepted as a tertiary sister, but treated miserably by the nuns. She was eventually allowed to become a full member of the community and later became novice-mistress and superior. She was a visionary, a kindly superior, and generous to the poor.

The Swiss-American Congregation, which was founded in 1870, was formally erected on this day in 1881.

April 6

At the monastery of St. Gall, in 912, Blessed Notker, sometimes called “the stammerer.” He studied music and letters under three great teachers at the abbey: the Irish monk Marcellus, Radpert and Tutilo. Notker became a monk and was appointed librarian, guest-master, teacher and master of the abbey school. He is most known for his *Book of Hymns*, and may have been the inventor of the liturgical sequence.

In 1203, in Denmark, St. William of Eskil, abbot. William was a member of the regular canons at Saint-Geneviève in Paris. He was invited by the bishop of Roskilde in Denmark to reform monastic life there.

In 1252, St. Peter of Verona, Dominican priest and martyr. Although his parents were Cathars, he was raised a Catholic. He was a popular preacher. Appointed inquisitor in northern Italy, he incurred the enmity of the Cathars. He was murdered by a man who later became a Dominican brother.

In 1957, near Bergamo, Blessed Pierina Morosini, martyr. She was an excellent student, but had to quit school to support her family. She worked in a textile factory and became active in Catholic Action and in her parish. One night on the way home from work she was assaulted by a man who tried to rape her; she resisted and he killed her.

April 7

In 1719, in France, St. John Baptist de la Salle. He studied at St. Sulpice and at Rheims, was ordained and earned a doctorate in theology. He became involved in opening a school for poor boys in Rheims. He invited the teachers to live in his home, so he could train them properly. Before long he dedicated his considerable wealth and himself to the creation and advancement of the Brothers of Christian Schools. The educational principles he and his collaborators fashioned on the basis of their experience had a profound effect on the way young people were educated.

About 180 AD, probably in Palestine, St. Hegesippus, a pioneer church historian.

In 1241, Blessed Herman Joseph. From a poor family, he was educated by the Premonstratensian canons and joined their monastery in Steinfeld. He eventually was ordained. He had many mystical experiences.

April 8

At Corinth, about 170, St. Dionysius, bishop. Excerpts from some of his letters are preserved in Eusebius' *Ecclesiastical History*.

At the abbey of Pontoise, St. Walter, abbot. He was a professor before becoming a monk. He was appointed abbot of the new monastery of Pontoise. He didn't like the job and fled three times: first to Cluny, then to an island in the Loire River, and finally to Pope Gregory VII who told him to return to his post as abbot. Walter was an energetic promoter of the Gregorian Reforms.

In 1816, in France, St. Julie Billiart. She was an energetic young woman, active in her parish. When she was in her early 20s, someone attempted to murder her father, and the shock made her an invalid. At the French Revolution she had to go into hiding. In 1804 she was one of the first members of a new order, which became the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. The new congregation was devoted to education; there was no distinction between lay and choir sisters, and there was no enclosure. Their main form of self-discipline was class preparation and teaching. Under her inspiration and that of her colleague, Francoise Blin de Bourdon, the congregation flourished. Several members of the order were active at St. Paul, OR, shortly before 1850.

April 9

In 1140, at Aureil in France, St. Gaucherius, abbot. After receiving a good education, he decided to become a hermit. Gradually people flocked around him and he founded monasteries for men and women under the Rule of St. Augustine. St. Lambert of Angoulême, St. Faucherus, and St. Stephen of Muret (February 8), founder of Grandmont, were among his disciples.

In 1315, at Monte Senario, Blessed Ubald, a worldly young man, who was converted by the preaching of St Philip Benizi. He joined the Servites and became a priest.

In 1321, in India, Blessed Thomas of Tolentino, martyr. After joining the Franciscan order, he became a follower of Angelo Clareno and the Spiritual Franciscans. For that he spent some time in prison. When he was released he became a missionary to Armenia. After returning to see the pope at Avignon, he was made archbishop and departed for India and China. He was shipwrecked at Bombay, scourged, tortured and beheaded by the Muslim authorities there.

April 10

The commemoration of Ezekiel, the prophet.

At Chartres, in 1029, St. Fulbert, bishop. He studied at Rheims. When his teacher, Gerbert of Aurillac became Pope Sylvester II, he summoned Fulbert to Rome as an advisor. When Sylvester died, Fulbert became a canon at Chartres, where he built up the school. He was appointed bishop there in 1007. He was an energetic bishop. His extant writings include poems, sermons and letters.

In Tunis, in 1460, Blessed Antony Neyrot. He joined the Dominican Priory of San Marco in Florence, when it was under the direction of St. Antoninus. He was sent to Sicily. He was captured by pirates and taken to Tunis. When he was released, he became a Muslim and married. After several months he repented. He put on his habit and appeared before the ruler of Tunis and proclaimed his faith. He was eventually stoned to death.

In 1835, in Verona, St. Magdalen of Canossa. She was born into a wealthy family, but had an unhappy childhood. When she became an adult she spent much of her time helping the poor, especially abandoned girls. She then founded the Canossian Sisters of Charity and an associated male congregation.

April 11

In Gaza, around 550, St. Barsanuphius, monk. After joining a monastery, he became a hermit. Many people came to him for advice, but he communicated with them only indirectly through two associates, Serios and John the Prophet. He left behind some 850 letters whose spiritual teaching on prayer, the presence of God, humility and obedience was very influential.

In 714, at Crowland, in East Anglia, St. Guthlac, hermit. After fighting as a brigand on the Welsh border, he became a monk at Repton. After two years there he became a hermit, taking St. Antony as his model.

In 1079, St. Stanislaus of Cracow, bishop and martyr. From a knightly family, he became a priest and canon at Cracow Cathedral, and was appointed bishop there in 1072. He was a zealous reformer of his clergy and patron of the poor. He fell afoul of King Boleslaus II, who killed him. He is patron of Poland.

In 1903, in Italy, Gemma Galgani. She wanted to be a Passionist nun, but suffered from tuberculosis of the spine, from which she died when she was twenty-five. The publication of 250 of her letters to her spiritual director made clear her robust and level-headed sanctity. She experienced many strange physical and psychical phenomena.

April 12

At Rome, in 352, Pope. Julius I, a strong defender of the faith against the Arians. He built the church of Santa Maria in Trastevere.

At Verona, in about 371, St. Zeno, bishop. About ninety of his sermons survive. They show him fully orthodox in his theology. He was known for his austere life.

At Cuneo, in the Piedmont, in 1495, Blessed Angelo of Chivasso. After serving as a senator, he gave away his wealth and joined the Observant Franciscans. He preached among the poor and set up a system of pawnshops to protect them from moneylenders.

He wrote a very popular book of moral theology cases, a copy of which Luther burned in 1520. He refused to become a bishop and spent the last two years of his life as a solitary.

In 1927, at Naples, St. Joseph Moscati. He received a medical degree in 1903, and went to work at a hospital called the *Incurabili*, where he organized a treatment for rabies sufferers. He developed a form of holistic medicine. He was a professor for several years before becoming director of the *Incurabili*. He was a daily communicant and treated the poor for free.

April 13

In the Crimea, in 654, St. Martin I, pope and martyr. Having served in Constantinople, he learned about the Monothelite theory that Jesus did not have a human will. When he became pope he called a council at Rome which condemned Monothelitism. The Emperor Constans II had him kidnapped and taken to Constantinople, where he was imprisoned and scourged and then exiled to the Crimea. He wrote to the church of Rome, telling them he felt they had neglected him after his arrest. He died of starvation.

In 1113, at the monastery of Vast, Blessed Ida of Boulogne. She was the daughter of Duke Godfrey IV of Lorraine, the wife of Eustace II, count of Boulogne, and the mother of the crusader rulers Godfrey and Baldwin. When she was widowed she spent much of her considerable wealth helping monasteries. She was a spiritual associate of Cluny and a friend of St. Anselm.

In Wales, in 1124, St. Caradoc, hermit. He was a harpist at a royal court in south Wales. He became a hermit and priest and spent many years at St. Ismael's cell.

In 1867, Blessed Scubillion Rousseau. He was born near Dijon and joined the De La Salle Brothers in Paris. At his request he was assigned to the island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean. He ministered there as a teacher and catechist for thirty-four years. He instructed the slaves and was their advocate.

April 14

At Lyons, in 688, St. Lambert, bishop. He served at the court of King Clotaire, then became a monk at Fontenelle. He succeeded the founder, St. Wandrille (July 22), as abbot in 668, and was chosen archbishop of Lyons about 679.

In 1117, St. Bernard, founder of the Benedictine monastery of Tiron. He was a monk in several monasteries before joining the hermits in the forest of Craon, where Blessed Vitalis of Savigny (September 16) and Blessed Robert of Arbrissel (February 24) also stayed. Eventually he founded an abbey at Tiron, where he enforced his strict interpretation of the Rule of St. Benedict. The abbey became the center of a Benedictine congregation. Among its foundations was one on Caldey Island off the south coast of Wales. In the 17th century the Tironian Benedictines merged with the Maurists.

Near Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, in 1433, Blessed Lydwina. She was injured in an ice-skating accident when she was fifteen and spent the rest of her life as an invalid. Her health became worse as time went on, but she learned to unite her sufferings with those of Christ. She had many visions and other preternatural experiences. Her life was written by two of her contemporaries, John Gerlac, her cousin, and by Thomas a Kempis.

April 15

In 1889, on the island of Molokai, Blessed Damien De Veuster. He joined the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in 1857, and in 1863 went as a missionary to Hawaii. In 1873 he offered to go to serve permanently among the lepers on Molokai. Controversy surrounded his efforts to help the lepers. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote in his defense.

Around 500, in Wales, St. Paternus or Padarn abbot and bishop.

In 1565, at Kotor, Montenegro, Blessed Hosanna. She had visions from an early age, and at twenty-one she made vows as an anchorite. She supported herself by needlework. She was honored as a peacemaker and is a patron of ecumenism.

April 16

In 304, under Diocletian, at Zaragosa, St. Optatus and companions martyrs. Prudentius wrote a hymn about them.

In 665, St. Fructuosus, archbishop of Braga. He became a priest and used his large inheritance to found monasteries. He wrote several rules for families who decided to enter monastic life.

In 1116, St. Magnus of Orkney. After a warlike youth, Magnus refused to fight any more. When his cousin Haakon sent men to kill him in order to gain sole control of the earldom of Orkney, Magnus refused to defend himself. He died praying for his killers. His remains were buried in 1136 in the cathedral dedicated to him at Kirkwall on Mainland Orkney, and rediscovered in 1919.

In 1783, in Rome, St. Benedict Joseph Labre. At first he was educated to become a priest, but he decided instead to join the strictest religious order he could find. When the Trappists, Cistercians and Carthusians turned him down he decided to become a permanent pilgrim, having only the clothes on his back and no place to lay his head. He walked to all the main pilgrim shrines in Europe, relying on whatever people voluntarily gave him. He settled in Rome about ten years before his death. He is the patron of homeless people.

In 1879, at Nevers, St. Bernadette Soubirous. She was born at Lourdes in 1844, and never had very good health. She had not yet made her first communion when, at the

age of fourteen, she experienced a series of apparitions, which no one else beheld. People were convinced by her sincerity and common sense. She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame at Nevers in 1864, where she lived as an exemplary religious and shunned all publicity. She said she was a broom that Our Lady had used, and now she was back in the corner. After 1870, Lourdes became the most popular pilgrimage site in Europe.

April 17

In 1680, in Montreal, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. When she was four, her parents died in a smallpox epidemic which left her disfigured and partially blind. She seems to have decided not to marry, even before she became a Christian in 1676, when she was twenty. She left her village to move to a Christian one near Montreal. There she led an exemplary life for three years, before her death at the age of twenty-four. In 1980 she became the first native American to be beatified.

Persia, in 341, St. Simeon Barbsabae, bishop, and his companions, martyrs. They were martyred under King Sapor II, when they refused to worship the sun.

In 1067, in the Auvergne in central France, Robert of Chaise-Dieu, abbot. He was educated by the canons of St. Julian's church in Brioude, joined them, and was ordained a priest. He thought about joining Cluny, and then went on a pilgrimage to Rome and Monte Cassino. He returned to be a hermit. He and two companions built cells, lived a life of prayer and manual labor, and helped their poor neighbors. Many came to join them, and so Robert built a monastery, Chaise-Dieu. He was renowned for his charity to the poor. Soon he had to found many new monasteries and cells, and the Benedictine congregation of Chaise-Dieu was the result. It merged with the Maurists in 1640.

April 18

Around 328, the death of St. Alexander of Alexandria, Patriarch. When he became Patriarch in 312 he had to deal with controversies over the date of Easter and the Melitian schism, but soon these were overshadowed by the conflict over the views of the Alexandrian priest Arius, who taught that Christ was less than fully God and also not fully human, since in him the Logos took the place of the human soul. Alexander responded with tactful overtures, but Arius appealed to bishops elsewhere. The conflict soon spread to much of the Christian world and so Constantine called a general council at Nicaea. Alexander attended, accompanied by his deacon and successor, St. Athanasius (May 2).

In 1404 Blessed James of Lodi. From a wealthy family, James married Caterina Bocconi and they had three children. They left Lodi for the country town of Lodivechio during a plague. When they returned to Lodi, they found that two of their daughters had died of plague. The couple underwent a profound conversion. They became Franciscan tertiaries and eventually vowed perpetual continence. James then became a priest and devoted himself especially to the care of the sick.

In 1618, at the Carmelite convent in Pontoise, Blessed Mary of the Incarnation. Barbe Avrillot was the daughter of a high government official in Paris. At 17, she was married to Pierre Acarie, another aristocrat. He was very charitable to exiled English Catholics. The couple were popular in court and ecclesiastical circles. Their three daughters became Carmelites, and one of their sons became a priest. Barbe was very active in helping the poor, and persuaded Henry IV to allow Carmelites back into Paris. She helped establish Reformed Carmelite convents elsewhere. She received spiritual guidance from St. Frances de Sales (January 24) and Pierre de Berulle and experienced mystical contemplation. When her husband died she entered the Carmelite convent in Amiens, but later transferred to Pontoise.

April 19

In 1054, in Rome, St. Leo IX, pope. He was born in Alsace and educated at Toul. He was bishop there for twenty years, where he was an energetic reformer of both clergy and monasteries. He was named pope in 1049, and entered the city dressed as a pilgrim. He immediately began a series of reform synods in Italy, France and Germany. He assembled an impressive body of advisors and helpers, including Hildebrand (May 27) and Frederick of Liège, who became popes after him, as well St. Hugh of Cluny (May 11), Peter Damian (February 21) and Humbert of Moyenmoutier. When Humbert was sent to Constantinople to reconcile some differences with the Patriarch over Leo's policies in Sicily, Humbert ended up excommunicating the Patriarch who retaliated by excommunicating Humbert and the pope. By then, Leo had died in his bed, which he had placed next to his coffin in St. Peter's.

In Carthage, around 250, during the persecution of Decius, St. Mappaligus and Companions, martyrs. St. Cyprian wrote of them that they were "firm in their faith, patient under suffering, victorious over torture."

In 978, in the Voralberg, near Einsiedeln, St. Gerold. He gave his property to Einsiedeln, where his sons were monks, and then became a hermit, at a place now known as St. Gerold.

in 1012, St. Alphege of Canterbury, monk, bishop and martyr. He was appointed by St. Dunstan (May 19) as abbot of Bath, where he was a very strict superior. In 984 he became bishop of Winchester, and in 1005, archbishop of Canterbury. Some Danish thugs murdered him when he wouldn't pay tribute money. King Cnut had his body transferred to Canterbury in 1023, and St. Thomas a Becket commended himself to God and St. Alphege just before he died.

April 20

In the French Alps, in 374, the burial of St. Marcellinus of Embrun, bishop. He was an African missionary who was appointed bishop of Embrun by Eusebius of Vercelli.

About 930, Blessed Hugh of Anzy, who was an associate of Blessed Berno (May 11) in the reform of the Abbey of Baume and the founding of Cluny. He was appointed prior of Anzy-le-Duc where he preached against paganism and built a hospital.

In 1317, St. Agnes of Montepulciano. She joined the Sisters of the Sack and became superior of a community of theirs near Viterbo. Later she returned to Montepulciano and founded a Dominican convent there. Her tomb became a popular pilgrimage spot.

April 21

St. Anselm, bishop and doctor. Anselm was born in Aosta. He went to Burgundy, where his mother had relatives, to study. He was drawn to Bec by the fame of Lanfranc, who was teaching there. He joined Bec and became prior and abbot. He visited England several times on abbey business, and when Lanfranc died he was appointed the office of archbishop. Almost immediately he came into conflict with King William Rufus. He went into exile with St. Hugh at Cluny, and at Lyons and Rome. He returned to England when Henry I became king. There was conflict between Henry and Anselm over the investiture of clerics in their offices, but that was finally settled, and for his last three years at Canterbury Anselm enjoyed friendly relations with the king. He was always in his heart a Benedictine monk, and love is the key theme of his letters and the prayers he wrote. Guided by his motto, "faith seeking understanding," he was also the author of a number of brilliant and extremely influential theological monographs, including *Why God Became Man* and the *Proslogion*.

In 185, at Rome, St. Apollonius, martyr. He was a high ranking Roman, who was arrested for being a Christian and addressed an eloquent apology for Christianity to the senate. He was then executed.

Around 600, St. Beuno, abbot. He founded a number of monasteries in north Wales and was an advisor, and perhaps uncle, to St. Winefride.

April 22

At Constantinople, in 536, the death of St. Agapitus, pope. He was a learned man and a friend of Cassiodorus, with whom he planned to start a university in Rome. He was elected pope when he was already elderly. He went to Constantinople to dissuade Justinian from invading Italy. He failed in that mission, but managed to have the Monothelite patriarch of Constantinople replaced by St. Mennas.

In 1091, at the abbey of Brauweiler, Blessed Wolfhelm, abbot. He was educated at the cathedral school at Cologne where he became a canon. He then joined the Monastery of Saint Maximinus at Trier, but was called back to the abbey of Saint Pantaleon in Cologne. He was abbot successively of Gladbach, Siegburg and Brauweiler.

In his theological writings, he argued for the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and against the idea that pagan and Christian philosophy are necessarily in conflict.

April 23

About 303, at Lydda in Palestine, in the persecution of Diocletian, St. George, martyr. A number of extravagant stories were written about him from 500 AD, to which in the Middle Ages a tale about his slaying a dragon and saving a maiden were added. He became the patron of England, as well as of Venice, Genoa, Portugal and Catalonia.

In 994, at Toul, St. Gerard, bishop. He was born and educated at Cologne, became a canon, and then was chosen bishop of Toul. There he established a school and staffed it with some Irish and Greek monks; he enlarged the ancient monastery of St. Evroult, and founded the oldest hospital in the city. He was one of the first saints to be canonized by a pope; St. Leo IX, a native of Toul, did so in 1050.

In 997, in Prussia, St. Adalbert of Prague, bishop and martyr. He was born in Bohemia and educated by another St. Adalbert, archbishop of Magdeburg. He became archbishop of Prague in 982. He took his responsibilities very seriously, perhaps because of the influence of St. Mayol of Cluny and St. Gerard of Toul, who were at his consecration. He didn't make much headway with his people, so he went to Rome and became a Benedictine monk at the monastery of St. Boniface and Alexis. He returned to Bohemia and established a Benedictine monastery at Brzeznov. He went to Rome again, but at the urging of Emperor Otto III and St. Willigis of Mainz, he was sent back and settled in Poland. He was murdered by some Prussians when he was on a missionary journey. His body was buried at Gniezno, and his veneration spread very rapidly.

In Perugia, in 1262, Blessed Giles, one of St. Francis' first and most beloved disciples. He preached unsuccessfully to the Saracens in Tunis, then spent the rest of his life in Italy. He had ecstatic experiences, one of which he said was his fourth birth, after his birthday, his baptism, and his entry into the Franciscan community.

In 1939, Blessed Maria Gabriella Sagheddu. She was born in Sardinia: she was a headstrong, loyal and chaste young woman. When she was 18, her sister died, and she changed her way of life and became very active in Catholic Action. Three years later she became a Trappist nun at the abbey of Grottaferrata near Rome. She tried to show her gratitude for her calling by living her religious life fully. She devoted her prayer to the cause of ecumenism. She died on Good Shepherd Sunday before her 25th birthday.

April 24

In Switzerland, in 1622, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, martyr. Born Mark Roy, he earned a doctorate in philosophy at Freiburg in Breisgau, then became a tutor. He earned doctorates in civil and canon law in 1611. He quickly gave up the practice of law, became a priest, and joined the Capuchins. At the request of the bishop of Chur, he was sent to the canton of Graubünden to preach to the Protestants under the auspices of the new

Roman Congregation For the Propagation of the Faith. One day, when he finished preaching, he was assaulted by twenty armed men, and when he refused to give up his faith, he was murdered..

In France, in 1969, St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, who founded at Angers the Good Shepherd Sisters. She drew her spirituality from the seventeenth-century writers such as St. John Eudes.

In 1914, at Dinan in France, the death of Blessed Benedict Menni, who was responsible for the re-foundation of the Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God in Spain and France. He also founded a female branch of the order. He was a pioneer in the medical treatment of psychiatric patients.

In 1957, Blessed Mary Hesselblad. Born in Sweden of Lutheran parents, she emigrated to the United States as a young girl. She trained as a nurse. Finally in 1902, after 20 years of deliberation, she joined the Catholic Church. She went to Rome and asked to be admitted to the Carmelite convent which occupied St. Bridget of Sweden's old home on the Piazza Farnese. After finishing her novitiate she was allowed to take the vows and habits of a Brigittine. She toured the four surviving Brigittine monasteries and after a few years started her first house in Rome. In 1929, she occupied the house in the Piazza Farnese, after the Carmelites vacated it. In 1935 she opened a convent at Vadstena. During the war she used the house in Rome to help Jews and others threatened by the Nazis. Her order now has 37 houses.

April 25

In the first century, St. Mark, evangelist. He has been venerated as a Martyr especially at Alexandria, Venice, and Reichenau.

In 1218, at the Benedictine abbey of St. Syrus in Piacenza, St. Franca Visalta of Piacenza. She was placed in the monastery as a child oblate. When she was elected abbess, the nuns had her deposed because she was too strict. She found refuge in a Cistercian abbey, where she became abbess also.

In 1667, in Guatemala City, St. Peter of St. Joseph Betancur. Born in the Canary Islands, he decided to go to South America to help the poor people there. That he did for the rest of his life. Around him a group of like-minded individuals gathered, who evolved into the Bethlehemite Congregation. He is credited with starting the procession held on Christmas Eve, known as *posadas* ("lodgings")..

April 26

About 645, in the forest of Crecy, St. Riquier, Converted by Irish missionaries, he became a priest and missionary.. As he grew older, he retired to live a solitary life in the forest of Crecy. A monastery grew up there. After his death it was united with the monastery at Celles, and renamed Saint Riquier.

In 865, at the abbey of Corbie, St. Paschasius Radbertus, abbot. He was a founding raised by nuns at Soissons. He became a monk at Corbie, which had an excellent library. He studied theology there, and in 843 or 844 was elected abbot. He resigned in 849 and devoted the rest of his life to study and writing. He spent some years at the monastery of Saint Riquier. He wrote several biblical commentaries, the letter *Cogitis me* which was important in the development of the doctrine of the Assumption, and a book on the Eucharist which championed the real presence of Christ and taught that by receiving the Eucharist people became part of Christ's mystical body, the church.

In 1396, St. Stephen of Perm, bishop. He was born of Russian Christian parents in an area about 500 miles northeast of Moscow occupied by the mostly pagan Zyryani people. He joined a monastery in Rostov and became an expert on Byzantine theology. He learned the Zyryani language, so he could become a missionary among them. He invented an alphabet for their language, so they wouldn't have to pray in Russian, though that effort failed. He was an energetic and successful missionary bishop.

April 27

About 107, in Palestine, St. Simeon, the son of Clopas, who succeeded James the Less as bishop of Jerusalem. He survived the fall of the city but was martyred by crucifixion under the Emperor Trajan.

In 915, St. Tutilo. He became a monk at St. Gall in Switzerland at the time of Blessed Notker (April 6), and was an outstanding artist and musician.

In Lucca, in 1278, St. Zita, who spent her adult life as a devout and energetic servant in the house of a wealthy family. She is the patron of Lucca.

In Montenegro, in 1565, Blessed Osanna. Born of Orthodox parents, she joined the Catholic Church. After hearing a moving sermon on Good Friday, she withdrew to live as an anchoress in Cattaro. She became a Dominican tertiary and a community of tertiaries formed around her.

April 28

In 1841, St. Peter Chanel, martyr. Born near Lyons, he was ordained in 1827. He served as a parish priest for several years, then joined the Society of Mary in order to become a missionary. After teaching in a seminary for some years, he was sent to the islands of the South Pacific when these were entrusted to his order. He sailed with eight missionaries from Le Havre to Valpaíso in Chile, and from there for Tonga. On the way they happened to land on the island of Futuana. Peter agreed to stay there as a missionary, along with a Marist brother and a European trader who was to act as a translator. Peter had some success in making converts, but earned the animosity of the King of the island and was killed with clubs and an axe.

In 1182, at Turov in Belarus, St. Cyril, bishop. He was a monk and a recluse before being chosen bishop. A number of his writings survive: twelve sermons, twenty-four prayers, an *Exhortation to the Monastic Life*, and a penitential. He spent the last three years of his life in retirement in his monastery.

In 1716, St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort. He was born in Brittany, and educated by the Jesuits. He had limited social skills and preferred solitary prayer. He was ordained. In the next few years he struggled to find his proper ministry and developed his spirituality centered on Our Lady and the Cross. He went on preaching missions in Brittany. He wrote a number of devotional works. From his ministry derive the Montfort Fathers and the Daughters of Divine Wisdom.

In Italy, in 1962, St. Gianna Beretta Molla. As a young girl she was involved in Catholic Action. When her parents died she decided to study medicine. She opened a clinic in Milan, but wondered if she should enter the religious life. She married Pietro Molla, an engineer, in 1955. They had three children and a happy life together. When she became pregnant with her fourth child, a uterine growth was discovered. She opted for an operation to remove the growth, a procedure more dangerous for her, but less dangerous for the foetus, a choice that was in line with her life of service and self-sacrifice. The baby was born and lived, but Gianna contracted peritonitis and died a week later.

April 29

In 1380, in Rome, St. Catherine of Siena, doctor of the church. Catherine was born the 24th of 25 children in a prosperous Sienese family. She chose a life of virginity and her parents were so angry about that they turned her into a servant. She joined a group of lay Dominicans, but spent much of her time in prayer and soon developed an intense spiritual life. When she was 21 she began to spend more time in charitable work and in preaching. Her confessor and friend, Blessed Raymond of Capua, supported her in these endeavors. In 1375 she supported a young political prisoner, as he prepared to face execution and knelt with him as he was beheaded. In 1377 and 1378 she wrote her *Dialogues*, which summarize her spiritual teaching. She worked tirelessly to bring peace among Christian states and to reform the church. She urged Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon. Then she fasted in support of Pope Urban VI, and that may have hastened her death. Whatever the extent of her literacy, she knew the Bible well, and she speaks of the great Christian mysteries with depth and accuracy. In 1970 she was declared a doctor of the Church, the first time the title was given to a lay person.

April 30

In Rome, in 1572, Pope St. Pius V. He was a shepherd boy, joined the Dominicans and lectured for them at the University of Pavia. He held various offices in the Inquisition and was made a cardinal in 1557. As bishop of Mondovi, he was a strict reformer, who practiced an ascetical way of life. At the papal election of 1566, he was the

successful candidate of the reforming party led by St. Charles Borromeo. He began immediately implementing the reforms of the Council of Trent, starting with Rome itself. He called for the Christian states of Europe to oppose the advance of the Muslims in the Mediterranean, an effort which bore fruit in the battle of Lepanto. He insisted that bishops be conscientious in their pastoral charge and issued new liturgical books.

In 1672, Blessed Marie of the Incarnation Guyart. She was born in Tours. She was married at 17 and the couple had one son, Claude who became a Benedictine and her first biographer. Her husband died a year later. She worked to support herself and her son until he was twelve, then put him in the care of her sister and joined the Ursuline Convent in Tours. In 1639 she went to Quebec, where she set up a convent and school. Although her work came close to being destroyed by fire or war several times, she carried on, teaching, learning the native languages of Iroquois, Hurons and Algonquins and writing dictionaries to help with translations of the Bible and the catechism. Her convent became an advice center for the missionary enterprise in French Canada. She wrote thousands of letters of advice and encouragement.

In 1881, in Germany, Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt. A teacher, Louise Hensel (d. 1876), who also mentored Blessed Frances Schervier and Blessed Anna Katharian Emmerich, encouraged her to work for the good of society. Pauline took in blind children to her home, and it developed into the first institute for the blind in Germany. She founded the Sisters of Christian Charity. When Bismarck campaigned to subordinate all religious institutions to the state, Pauline sent sisters to New Orleans, and they eventually established a motherhouse at Wilkes Barre, PA.

May 1

St. Joseph the Worker, a carpenter of Nazareth, who by his labor provided for the needs of Mary and Jesus and introduced the Son of God to human work. On this day on which there are commemorations of human labor in many lands, Christian workers venerate him as an example and protector.

The commemoration of Jeremiah, the prophet.

In 610, in North Wales, St. Asaph, bishop. When St. Kentigern departed for Scotland, he left Asaph in charge of his monastery in North Wales. Asaph later became a bishop and in 1143 a diocese named for him was established there.

In 1930, in Milan, Blessed Richard Pampuri. He was a professor in the faculty of medicine at University of Pavia. The suffering he saw during World War I moved him to devote himself to helping the poor with medicine, food and clothing. He joined the Order of St. John of God in 1927.

May 2

In Alexandria, in 373, St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the church. In opposition to the Arians, Athanasius was a tireless champion of the true divinity of the Son of God. He was chosen patriarch of Alexandria in 328. By then he was already a noted theologian. He spent the next forty-six years alternating between leading his diocese and enduring exile. He is the author of *The Life of St. Antony*.

At Saint Gall in Switzerland, in 926, St. Wiborada, martyr. She worked as a bookbinder at Saint Gall, then assisted her priest brother, Hatto. When he joined Saint Gall, she became a recluse. She was killed by the invading Huns.

In 1391, at Linköping in Sweden, Blessed Nils Hermansson, bishop. Educated at Paris and Orléans, he became a canon of Linköping and eventually was elected bishop there. He was an energetic preacher and a supporter of the work of St. Bridget. He composed hymns for her office.

In 1459, St. Antoninus of Florence, bishop. He was a Dominican friar, who was in the novitiate with Fra Angelico. He founded the monastery of San Marco. He wrote a summary of moral theology and was especially concerned with economic issues.

May 3

Saints Philip and James, apostles. Their feasts are celebrated together, because the basilica, later known as that of the Twelve Apostles, was dedicated to the two of them. Philip is mentioned a number of times in the gospels. James the Less was bishop of Jerusalem and was martyred in 61 AD.

In 1010, at the monastery of Heiligenberg, St. Ansfrid. Appointed bishop of Utrecht by Henry II, he was a conscientious pastor. He founded two monasteries and retired to one of them before he died.

In 1912, in Sherbrooke, Canada, Blessed Mary Paradis, founder of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family.

May 4

At Engelberg, in Switzerland, in 1126, Blesseds Conrad, Adelhelm, Frowin and Berchtold. Conrad of Seldenbüren founded the abbey of Engelberg about 1120, and then entered the community. When he went to Zurich to settle a claim on some property he had given to the abbey, he was murdered. His body was incorrupt until it was burned up in a fire in 1729. Engelberg was first settled by monks from Muri, led by Blessed Adelhelm. After the community suffered under the rule of three unworthy abbots, Blessed Frowin was sent from St. Blasien in the mid-1140s to revitalize the monastery. He was a very well-read man and established a renowned scriptorium and library at Engelberg. He wrote a compendium on theological anthropology called *In Praise of Free Will* and *A Commentary on the Our Father*. His immediate successor, Berchtold, continued his work and left behind a theological treatise. Like St. Blasien, Engelberg was a double monastery. It continued to be one until the early sixteenth century, when the sisters moved to Sarnen.

At Lorch, in Austria, in 304, during the persecution of Diocletian, St. Florian. He surrendered to the governor's soldiers and was scourged, flayed, and thrown into the river Enns with a stone around his neck. He is venerated as the patron of firefighters.

In Poland, in 1505, Blessed Ladislas of Warsaw. He was educated in Warsaw and joined the observant Franciscans. He was sent on an evangelizing mission to Lithuania. He organized a campaign of prayer to protect Poland from an invasion of Tartars and Turks, whose advance was then stopped by extraordinary floods.

In 1793, Blessed John Martin Moye. He served as a parish priest in the area around Metz, where he founded the Sisters of Divine Providence, and then in Macao for twelve years, where he founded another congregation. He died in France of typhoid fever.

May 5

In 449, at Arles, St. Hilary. When his relative St. Honoratus, was called from Lérins to be bishop of Arles, he took Hilary with him. At the age of 29, Hilary was chosen to succeed Honoratus. As bishop he continued to live as a monk.

In 1038, at Hildesheim, St. Gothard, Bishop. He was educated by the canons of Niederaltaich and joined them. When the monastery became Benedictine, Gothard became a monk and then abbot. He championed the renewal of monastic life and reformed the monasteries of Tegernsee, Hersfeld and Kremsmünster. When Gothard was

sixty, Henry II appointed him bishop of Hildesheim. He was an energetic bishop, with a special concern for the destitute.

May 6

In Numidia, in North Africa, in 259, during the persecution of Valerian, Saints Marian, a reader, and James, a deacon, martyrs. When taken prisoner, they confessed their faith and were tortured on the rack and imprisoned. In prison they experienced various visions, which were shared with the Christian community. They and some companions were executed by the sword.

At Lindisfarne, in 698, St. Edbert, bishop. He was the successor to St. Cuthbert, and like Cuthbert used to spend times in solitude on an island. He was buried with St. Cuthbert, and his bones were moved to Durham with Cuthbert's.

In 1708, Blessed Francois Montmorency-Laval, first bishop of Quebec. He came from a noble family, was ordained, and was a zealous priest. He was appointed vicar apostolic of Tongking, in Vietnam, but was unable to take up that post. He was then made vicar apostolic of New France. He spent thirty years in tireless ministry, founding parishes, defending the First Peoples, and opposing Gallicanism. He founded a seminary in Quebec, and in his old age, retired to it, dying there at the age of 85.

In 1887, Blessed May-Catherine Trioiani, foundress of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Cairo.

May 7

At the monastery of Beverley, in 721, St. John, bishop. He was born at Yorkshire, educated at Canterbury under St. Aidan, and became a monk at Whitby, where he was distinguished by his learning and concern for the poor. He was consecrated bishop of Hexham in 687, and ordained Bede to the priesthood. In 705 he became bishop of York. He founded the monastery of Beverley and retired there.

In 1060, at the monastery of Niedenburg near Passau, Blessed Giselle of Bavaria. She was the niece of St. Henry II (July 13), and wife of St. Stephen of Hungary (August 16). After Stephen's death, she retired to Niedenburg, where she became abbess.

In 1728, in Rome, St. Rose Venerini. She thought of being a contemplative nun, but chose instead to be a teacher in the world. She opened a school in Viterbo, and then was placed in charge of schools in the diocese of Montefiascone, where she collaborated with St. Lucy Filippini (March 25).

May 8

At Milan, in 303, St. Victor, the Moor. He was born in North Africa and served in the Pretorian guard. He was martyred at Milan, and he is patron of that city.

In 615, at Rome, St. Boniface IV, pope. He succeeded St. Gregory the Great, and like him he was very supportive of monasticism. He transformed the Pantheon into the church of St. Mary and the Martyrs. He held a synod in 610, the acts of which were transmitted to England and elsewhere. He also corresponded with St. Columbanus.

In 1913, in Germany, Blessed Frances Nisch. She came from a very poor family and worked as a maid. After she became very ill, she was nursed back to health by Sisters of Charity of the Holy Cross. She joined that congregation and spent the rest of her life working in kitchens of the various convents of the order. She lived in a state of continual union with God, patiently doing her work. She died of tuberculosis at the age of 30.

May 9

In 1679, Blessed Thomas Pickering, martyr. He was a lay brother at the monastery in Douai. He was sent to London as procurator for a small Benedictine community in the chapel of Queen Catherine of Braganza. Falsely accused of being part of the fictitious Titus Oates plot, he was executed at Tyburn

In 1879, Blessed Mary-Teresa Gerhardinger. Born in Bavaria, she joined the Canonesses of Our Lady by whom she had been educated. When she joined, the congregation was being refounded after being suppressed by Napoleon. She was superior of the congregation for forty years and established schools in the United States and other countries. They are known now as the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

May 10

In Ireland, in 602, the death of St. Comgall, abbot. He seems to have studied with St. Finian of Moville. He founded the abbey of Bangor on Belfast Lough. St. Columba was his friend, and St. Columbanus was his disciple. A metrical rule in Irish attributed to him. It says: "These are your three rules, have nothing dearer: patience and humility and the love of the Lord in your heart."

In 1569, in Spain, St. John of Avila. He studied law at Salamanca, but switched to Alcala to study philosophy and theology under Dominic de Soto. He was ordained in 1525. He gave away his inheritance and devoted himself to preaching and offering spiritual guidance. He was a friend of St. Ignatius of Loyola and an adviser of St. Teresa of Avila. Luis of Granada wrote his biography.

May 11

In the Benedictine Confederation, today is the feast of the saintly abbots of Cluny.

Blessed Berno was a monk of St. Martin's in Autun, before becoming abbot of Baume, Gigny and finally Cluny. He died in 927.

St. Odo studied in Paris before entering Baume, where he became abbot in 924. He succeeded Berno as abbot of Cluny in 927. He extended the Cluniac observance to many monasteries and collaborated with several popes in reform and peace-making efforts. He wrote poetry and a life of St. Gerald of Aurillac (October 13). He died at Tours in 942.

St. Majolus inherited estates in Provence, which were overrun by Saracen invaders. He studied at Lyons and became archdeacon of Macon. When he was urged to become bishop of Besancon, he joined Cluny. He succeeded Aymard as abbot in 965. He collaborated with Otto the Great and Otto II in the reform of the church, but refused the latter's suggestion that he become pope. He was known as a warm and likeable man with a strong contemplative bent. He died in 994.

St. Odilo became abbot that same year.. He was known for his austere life and charity toward the poor. With Abbot Richard of Saint-Vanne he gained acceptance for the "truce of God" and the acceptance of sanctuary for those seeking refuge in a church. He inaugurated All Souls' Day. He died at Souvigny in 1049.

St. Hugh was the son of a count, and entered Cluny at 14. He was ordained when he was 20, made prior the next year, and abbot five years later, an office he held for sixty years. Under him every dimension of the Cluniac reform was expanded. He traveled extensively on behalf of the reform papacy. He was an excellent diplomat, as well as a sincere spiritual leader of a vast monastic federation. He died in 1109.

Blessed Peter the Venerable was elected abbot of Cluny in 1122. His predecessor, Pontius, was not a competent manager. Peter was a well-educated man and built up a good library at Cluny. He promoted the Cluniac reform in Spain and had the Koran translated into Latin, and later wrote a polemical work against Islam. He defended Jews and heretics against persecution. After some of Peter Abelard's theological ideas were condemned, Peter the Venerable offered him a place of refuge and later effected a reconciliation between Abelard and St. Bernard (August 20). Peter died in 1156.

Tomorrow is the namesday of our confrere Fr. Hugh Fiess.

May 12

In Rome, in the second century, Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs. According to an inscription about them written by Pope St. Damasus, they were members of the Pretorian guard, who suddenly converted to Christianity and were martyred for their faith.

In 403, St. Epiphanius of Salamis, bishop. Born of Jewish parents, he converted to Christianity with his sister, and then joined a monastery in Gaza. He journeyed among the monks of Egypt and became an intransigent opponent of Arianism and other heresies. After many years as a monk in Palestine, he became bishop of Salamis on Cyprus.

In 732, St. Germanus, bishop of Constantinople. As patriarch he condemned Monothelitism and the iconoclastic policy of Emperor Leo III.

In 1490, Blessed Jane of Portugal. After resisting efforts by her father to marry, and serving as regent while he was away fighting the Moors, she tried to give away her possessions and become a Dominican nun. After some years her family allowed her to do so.

May 13

In Rome, the dedication in the former Pantheon the Church St. Mary and the Martyrs by St. Pope Boniface IV (May 8). It later was dedicated to all the saints.

At Tongres, in Belgium, in 384, St. Severinus, bishop. He was one of the strongest supporters of St. Athanasius in the latter's long struggle against the Arians.

In Cordoba, in 931, Saints Argentea and Wulfram. Argentea was the daughter of a court who resisted the Moors for many years, but finally his sons had to surrender their castle. Argentea then became a solitary in Cordoba, where she lived with her brother. Wulfram came to Cordoba to preach the gospel, He was quickly arrested and Argentea, who had met him, declared her faith and was arrested also and both were executed.

At La Puye, in 1834, St. Andrew Fournet. He was a difficult boy, who was bored with religion and rebelled against his overbearing and pious mother. After he went to live with an uncle who was the priest in a rural village, he decided to become a priest. When he simplified his life by giving his possessions away, his sermons became simpler and more effective. He ministered during the French revolution in his rural parish. He helped found two religious congregations of women..

May 14

In the first century, the martyrdom of St. Matthias, apostle.

In Ireland, in 637, St. Carthach, bishop and abbot. He founded several monasteries, spent some time at Comgall's monastery at Bangor, and finally founded a monastery at Lismore, though he died as a hermit at nearby Inch.

In Oslo, St. Hallvard, martyr. He was sailing in his boat in Oslo fiord, when a pregnant woman called to him to save her from her enemies. Hallvard rescued her and told her pursuers he would give them the value of what they claimed she had stolen from them. They wouldn't agree, and one of them shot both Hallvard and the woman with arrows.

In 1856, in Indiana, Mother Théodore Guérin. She was born Anne-Thérèse in 1798 at Etambes, France. She was taught at home by her devout mother. Her father, a

sailor, was murdered by bandits when she was fifteen, and she spent the next ten years helping her mother. At twenty-five she joined the Sisters of Providence. She was the head of a group of sisters sent to Indiana. There she established a motherhouse at Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods and numerous schools.

In 1881, in Italy, St. Mary Mazzarello. She worked in the fields until typhoid fever weakened her and she turned to dressmaking as a job. She and a friend took in young girls as apprentices, and this developed into a vocational school. With John Bosco's help, she then founded the Daughters of Help of Christians.

In 1942, in Padua, St. Leopold Mandic, Of Croatian parents, he joined the Capuchins and wanted very much to be a missionary. However, he spent of his time in Padua, where he was a renowned confessor.

May 15

In Egypt, in 346, St. Pachomius. The son of comparatively wealthy parents, he learned to read and write Coptic in his youth. He was conscripted into the army, and became a Christian when he was demobilized. He became a disciple of the hermit Palamon, then moved to Tabbennesi, where disciples gathered around him and he organized a community of monasteries. During the intervals between liturgical hours, the monks worked at crafts and prayed by repeating biblical passages they had memorized.

In the ninth century, St. Rupert of Bingen, the patron saint of St. Hildegard's monastery there. He and his mother lived as hermits there for a few years, before he died at the age of 20.

In 1130, in Spain, St. Isidore the Farmer, the patron saint of Madrid, who was canonized in 1622 at the same ceremony with Saints Ignatius Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila and Philip Neri. He was a humble peasant, who married a peasant girl, Maria de la Cabeza, who is also venerated as a saint. He is patron of Madrid and of the United States National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

May 16

Around 250, St. Alexander of Caesarea, bishop of Jerusalem and martyr. He studied in Alexandria before being a bishop of Cappadocia. He went to Jerusalem where he was urged to become auxiliary bishop. He succeeded to that see. Origen says he was the kindest of prelates. Eusebius of Caesarea made use of the fine library Alexander assembled at Caesarea.

About 440, in Numidia, St. Possidius, bishop. He was the friend and biographer of St. Augustine. He worked hard to combat the Donatists in his diocese of Calama, before being driven from there by the Vandals.

About 575, St. Brendan of Clonfert. He founded several monasteries in southwest Ireland. Mount Brandon is named after him, and he is the hero of the immensely popular medieval story, the *Sea Voyage of St. Brendan*.

In 1265, in Bordeaux, St. Simon Stock who was an important figure of the development of the Carmelite Order. His relics are now venerated at Aylesford in Kent.

In 1657, St. Andrew Bobola, martyr. He was born of Polish parents and joined the Jesuits in Vilnius. He pastured several churches. Cossack brigands, who wanted to expel Catholics from the area, captured him and tortured him horrifically.

May 17

In 1592, in Villareal, St. Paschal Baylon. He came from a family of shepherds and eventually joined the Observant Franciscans at Loreto. He performed various physical tasks in friaries in Spain. Once, during the religious wars in France, he was sent there with letters to the minister general of the order. He was known especially for his devotion to the Eucharist.

In 1935, Blessed Antonia Messina, martyr. She spent her life in Sardinia, where she was an exemplary girl who became active in a Catholic Action group. When she was twenty she was attacked while she and a companion were collecting wood. She resisted her attacker, who stabbed and stoned her to death. Antonia's family prayed for him and expressed no desire for vengeance. He repented before he was executed and received the last sacraments.

May 18

In 526, St. John I, pope and martyr. He was a friend of Boethius. Elected pope, he sought to promote the union of East and West. Theodoric the Goth, the Arian ruler of Italy, sent him to Constantinople to bring an end to the persecution of Arians in the Eastern Empire. John's mission was mostly successful, but Theodoric, who meanwhile had executed Boethius, maltreated John, who died.

In 1160, St. Eric of Sweden, king and martyr. After consolidating the place of Christianity in Sweden he tried to spread Christianity in Finland. On the feast of the Ascension he went to Mass in Uppsala. From the church he went out with a few men to meet a large force of Danish soldiers who killed him.

May 19

In 988, at Canterbury, St. Dunstan, bishop and abbot. He was well educated and spent time at court. He decided to become a monk, but there were no Benedictine monasteries in England anymore. King Edmund gave him Glastonbury and old monastic site. During some time in exile, he had first hand example of the reformed version of Benedictine life at Ghent. He then became in quick succession, bishop of Worcester,

London and Canterbury. He collaborated with young King Edgar, and with two other monk-reformers, St. Oswald (February 29), who revived Westbury-on-Trym and later became a bishop, and St. Ethelwold (August 1), who refounded Abingdon and became bishop of Winchester. Under them there was a revival of Benedictine life and culture.

In 1296, St. Peter Celestine, pope. Peter joined the Benedictine monastery of Santa Maria di Faifula, but soon became a hermit. Around him there grew up a congregation of Benedictines, whose combination of cenobitic and solitary life resembled that of the Camaldolese. In 1293, when he was over 80, he returned to being a hermit. At 85 he was elected pope. He was completely inept and knew it, so he resigned.

May 20

In 1444, St. Bernardino of Siena. He became a Franciscan and soon developed a deep commitment to poverty and to study. He began a traveling preacher. One of his favorite themes was devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He was also a theological writer of note. He taught moderation in the pursuit of wealth and ethical behavior in business.

In 1501, Blessed Columba of Rieti. She became a Dominican tertiary at nineteen. She settled in Perugia, where she served as a peacemaker. She earned the enmity of Lucretia Borgia, who became her bitter enemy.

In 1912, Blessed Arcangelo Tadini. He was a parish priest in the diocese of Brescia, who sought to gather his parish around the Eucharist. He became a social reformer, inspired by his own experience of the evils of industrial capitalism and by *Rerum novarum*. He set up a credit union and even a cloth factory, as well as a boarding house and school for young women, and a religious order of women who were to go into the factories and work with the young women to whom they wished to minister. He was sustained in all these endeavors by a devout prayer life.

May 21

In England, in 1170, St. Godric of Finchale. He was born of an Anglo-Saxon peasant family and became a peddler. Then he became a maritime trader. He made pilgrimages to Rome, Jerusalem and Compostela. Then after much soul-searching he became a hermit at Finchale. He became associated with the Benedictine Priory at Durham, but was also esteemed by the Cistercians. He also wrote hymns. He died at a very advanced age, nursed by monks from Durham, after spending 60 years at Finchale.

In 1861, Blessed Charles de Mazenod, Bishop. He became a diocesan priest and then Bishop of Marseilles. He founded the Oblates of Mary Immaculate who played such a prominent role in the growth of the Catholic Church in Canada and the United States.

May 22

In Corsica, in the sixth century, St. Julia, martyr. She was put to death by Saracen raiders.

In 990, St. John of Parma, abbot. He was a contemporary and helper of St. Majolus of Cluny and abbot of the Abbey of St. John in Parma.

In 1310, St. Umiltà of Florence. She was wife and mother, then with her husband joined the monastery of St. Perpetua near Bologna. She became an anchoress for twelve years, before being called to found a female branch of the Vaollombrosian Benedictines.

In 1457, St. Rita of Cascia. Born into a peasant family, her family married her to a violent and unfaithful man. When he was killed in a vendetta after they had been married for 18 years, she became a nun. She cared for the sick nuns, counseled visitors, and experienced extraordinary spiritual events.

May 23

In 259, at Carthage, Saints Montanus, Lucius and Companions, martyrs. These eight martyrs, about whom contemporary accounts survive, were arrested and imprisoned in the same persecution of Valerian as St. Cyprian (September 16). They gave calm testimony to their faith, supported each other in love, and were executed by the sword.

In 1077, St. Leontius of Rostov, bishop and martyr. A monk of the monastery of the Caves at Kiev, he became bishop of Yaroslavl. He did successful missionary work there, but died of mistreatment at the hands of some pagans.

In 1173, St. Euphrosyne of Polotsk. She was the daughter of a prince, and became a nun and then a solitary. She copied books to support herself. She went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and died there.

In Rome, in 1764, St. John Baptist Rossi. He was a priest of the diocese of Rome, who ministered heroically to the sick and destitute. For a time he was assistant priest of Sancta Maria in Cosmedin. He became a revered confessor and preacher.

May 24

In 450, St. Vincent of Lerins, monk. He is most known for a book he wrote called the *Commonitorium*, which includes criteria for discerning true Christian tradition.

In 592, St. Simeon the Younger, Stylite. He lived for 40 years on top of a pillar near Antioch.

In 1153, St. David of Scotland. He was the youngest son of King Malcolm and St. Margaret. He was orphaned at eight, raised in the court of Henry I, and became king of

Scotland in 1124. He was an effective king and a strong supporter of the church. St. Aelred of Rievaulx (January 12), who served in his household before becoming a Cistercian, wrote a panegyric of him.

In Marrakesh, in Morocco, in 1631, John of Prado, martyr. He ministered among Christian slaves in Morocco. He was arrested, examined, shot with arrows, and then burned alive. When he continued to preach to his executioners, one crushed his head with a rock.

May 25

In 735, at the abbey of Jarrow in Northumbria, St. Bede the Venerable, monk and doctor of the church. Raised in the monastery, he was educated by abbots Benedict Biscop and Ceolfrith. He lived a quiet, prayerful life of study, in which he was a dedicated teacher not only of his fellow monks but of the Anglo-Saxon people. His biblical commentaries and his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* have been highly esteemed to our own day. He spent his last days translating the Gospel of John into English. St. Boniface (June 5) called him “the candle of the church, lit by the Holy Spirit.

In 1607, in Italy, St. Mary Magdalen de’ Pazzi,. Born into a very wealthy Florentine family, she entered a Carmelite convent. There she experienced many mystical states and extraordinary sufferings which are recounted in detailed records kept by her contemporaries.

In 1865, in France, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. Born in Burgundy, she was educated by her brother, who gave her the same education a seminarian would have received. After the French Revolution she collaborated with Fr. Varin who worked for the restoration of the Jesuits. She opened the first convent and school of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Amiens. She was a superior for sixty-three years and guided the growth of the order. One of her first students was Philippine Duchesne (November 18), who introduced the order in the United States.

Between 1915 and 1937, in Mexico. Blessed Christopher Magallanes and twenty-four others murdered for non-violent resistance to the anti-clerical government of Mexico.

May 26

In 1085, St. Gregory VII, pope. He was educated in Rome and spent some time in Cluny, but he does not seem to have become a monk. Elected Pope, he devoted his considerable energies to the movement named after him, “The Gregorian Reform.” This movement had two intertwined aims: the freedom of the church from secular control, and a celibate clergy appointed for religious reasons only.

At Rome, in 1595, St. Philip Neri. He was born in Florence in 1515, and educated by the Dominicans at San Marco. In 1532 he spent a year at San Germano, during which he frequently visited Monte Cassino. He moved to Rome. He lived a solitary life, supported himself by tutoring, and studied theology from the works of St. Thomas. In 1544 he had a mystical experience which changed his life. In 1551 he became a priest. People gathered around him, attracted by his charm, good humor and deep devotion to Christ. They discussed a book, then prayed, and then either walked to a church or sang. From them developed the Congregation of the Oratory.

May 27

At Canterbury, about 604, in the monastery of Saints Peter and Paul, St. Augustine, bishop and abbot. Augustine was prior of St. Andrew's monastery on the Celian Hill when, in 596, Pope Gregory sent him as leader of a group of monks to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons. King Ethelbert of Kent gave them a dwelling at Canterbury and freedom to preach. Ethelbert converted to Christianity, and Augustine was able to lay the foundations for the church in the east of England, modeling it on what he knew in Rome.

About 304, at Silistria in Bulgaria, St. Julius. Julius served in the Roman army for seven military campaigns. When he refused to sacrifice to the gods, he explained to the prefect: "It was Christ who died for our sins to give us eternal life. This same, man, Christ, is God and abides for ever and ever. Whoever believes in him will have eternal life."

May 28

At Paris, in 576, St. Germanus. He lived a quasi-monastic life for about fifteen years, then was ordained. He was made abbot of St. Symphorien in Autun, then bishop of Paris. He took care of the poor, worked for peace, and promoted the veneration of the saints. He was buried at Saint-Germain-des-Pres.

In 812, at Gellone, St. William. William was the son of the count of Toulouse, and served at Charlemagne's court. He led successful campaigns against the Moors. For that he was appointed duke of Aquitaine. He founded monasteries for men and women at Gellone, with the help of Benedict of Aniane. Later he hung up his weapons at the church of St. Julian at Brioude and entered his monastery at Gellone.

In 1117, St. Gizur of Iceland. He was the grandson of Gizur the White, one of the first Icelandic rulers to embrace Christianity. He was bishop of Iceland when the "Thing" or parliament of Iceland accepted Christianity 1000 AD.

In 1541, in London, Blessed Margaret Pole. When Henry VIII became king, she was a widow with five children. He made her a countess and governess of Princess Mary. However, when she disapproved of his marriage to Anne Boleyn she was excluded from

court. Later, the government tried unsuccessfully to implicate her in a plot against Henry. She was kept in the Tower, then finally beheaded at the age of seventy.

May 29

About 347, St. Maximinus, bishop of Trier. He was a fearless opponent of Arianism, and gave aid to both St. Athanasius (May 2) and St. Paul of Constantinople (June 7), when they were banished by Arian rulers.

In 1914, Blessed Joseph Gerard. He was a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and spent many years as a missionary in northern Basutoland in South Africa.

May 30

In 727, St. Hubert of Liège. He succeeded St. Lambert as bishop of Maastricht and worked as a missionary in the Ardennes. He is patron of hunters.

In 1431, at Rouen, St. Joan of Arc. In response to supernatural voices she heard when she was fourteen, she became an inspiration to the French during the Hundred Years War. She was turned over to the English by their Burgundian allies. She was examined by a tribunal presided over by the bishop of Beauvais, and defended herself courageously. At the age of nineteen, she was burned at the stake. As she died she called on the name of Jesus. In 1456, the Pope declared her innocent of the charges.

May 31

The feast of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth recounted in the Gospel of Luke. Elizabeth welcomed Mary as “blessed among women,” and Mary responded with her *Magnificat*. The feast was instituted in the thirteenth century, but the event it commemorates was already a favorite of Christian artists before that.

In 1524, at Camerino, Italy, Blessed Battista Varano. Converted from a worldly life, she joined the Poor Clares. She enjoyed mystic gifts. She wrote a description of these. She declared that she considered God’s graces “not such much as gifts, as deposits that He confided to my care, or rather as funds with which I should accrue benefits for Him.”

In 1787, Blessed Felix of Nicosia. He followed his father’s profession as a shoemaker. For seven years he kept applying to join the Capuchins before he was finally accepted into the order. He collected alms, prayed, healed illnesses, looked after prisoners, and nursed the sick.

June 1

Around 165, in Rome, St. Justin Martyr. Justin was a Greek, born in Samaria. He studied various philosophies in a quest for the vision of God. One day on the seashore he met an old man who told him about the Hebrew prophets and Christianity. Justin's search was ended. He became a Christian philosopher at Ephesus, and then at Rome. There he wrote his major works on Christian apologetics. He taught that the divine Logos had been at work throughout human history to prepare the world for His coming in the flesh. Justin was beheaded with six other Christians under Marcus Aurelius.

In 1035, at Trier, St. Simeon of Syracuse. Born in Sicily, he was educated at Constantinople and became a monk in the Sinai. He was sent on a harrowing journey to Normandy to raise funds for his monastery. On the way he became friends with Abbot Richard of Verdun and Abbot Eberwin of Trier. After accompanying Archbishop Poppo of Trier on a pilgrimage to Palestine he returned to Trier where he became an anchorite. He was the second person to be formally canonized by a pope.

In 1905, in Piacenza, Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini. He came from a devout family and was ordained by the bishop of Bergamo. After serving as a seminary rector, he was appointed bishop of Piacenza when he was thirty-six. He visited all the 365 parishes of his dioceses five times, held synods, reorganized his seminaries, helped the poor, and promoted workers' associations and cooperatives. He was very concerned about people emigrating from northern Italy to the Americas, so he organized the Missionaries of St. Charles to go with them to minister to them.

In Sicily, in 1927, St. Annibale Maria di Francia. He grew up a free-thinker, but experienced a sudden call to the priesthood. He worked among the poor, promoted vocations, and founded two religious orders.

June 2

In 177, the martyrs of Lyons and Vienne, whose fate is described in a letter preserved in the *Ecclesiastical History* of Eusebius. Lyons was terminus of a trade route to the Eastern Mediterranean and so a cosmopolitan city. Christians there were at first ostracized, then accused of treason and cannibalism. A number were arrested and tortured and executed. Throughout their ordeal, these martyrs showed remarkably charity for their persecutors.

In 304, at Rome, Saints Marcellinus and Peter. They were arrested and then beheaded for their faith. They are commemorated in the first Eucharistic Prayer. Constantine built a church over their tomb, and his mother, St. Helena, was buried there.

In 1451, at Castelnuovo, in Italy, Blessed Herculano of Piegara. He entered the observant Franciscans in Sarteano. After going to the Holy Land when the Franciscans were granted custody of the holy places, he returned to Tuscany. After some years as a hermit, he was sent out to preach, which he did very effectively.

June 3

In Uganda, in 1886, St. Charles Lwanga and companions. The young king, Mwanga, who was somewhat unstable, was angered when Christian pages in his court would not yield to his sexual advances. Most of them were burned to death, and they prayed as they died. After Mwanga's death, Christianity advanced rapidly in his territory.

In 545, at Tours, St. Clothilde. A Burgundian Christian, she married Clovis, king of the Franks about 492. Four years later he was baptized at Reims. After his death in 511, Clothilde tried to keep peace among her unruly relatives. She eventually retired to Tours, where she devoted herself to prayer and almsgiving.

About 518, at Glendalough, St. Kevin. He was educated by monks and ordained a priest. Then he became a hermit at the upper lake at Glendalough, before establishing a monastery for those who gathered around him. Many stories are told about his fondness for animals.

In 1963, Blessed John XXIII, pope. He was born of a poor family in the Piedmont, went to the seminary, and earned a doctorate in theology in Rome. He worked as secretary to Bishop Giacomo Radini-Tedeschi of Bergamo, taught in the diocesan seminary, edited the diocesan newspaper, and began a lifelong project of editing the visitation documents of St. Charles Borromeo. He served terms of military service both before and after his ordination. In 1925 he was sent as apostolic visitor to Bulgaria, where he spent ten frustrating years. Then he was sent as apostolic delegate to Greece and Turkey. There he set up a network to help people escape from the Nazis. He then served as papal nuncio to France. In 1953 he was made cardinal and patriarch of Venice. In 1958 he was elected pope, and set himself to opening the church to dialogue with contemporary society's needs, achievements and aspirations, so that the Church could bring Christ to the world. To that end he called the Second Vatican Council. He also wrote several important social encyclicals. He died in 1963, after the council was well underway.

June 4

In 308, at Sisak in Croatia, Quirinus, a bishop. After a spirited defense of his faith before a magistrate, Quirinus was beaten. While that was going on, he said: "I am exercising my priesthood here and now by offering myself up to God." He was finally tossed into the Raab River with a stone tied around his neck. His body is buried in Santa Maria in Trastevere.

In 387 in North Africa, St. Optatus of Milevis, bishop. He was an apologist for the Catholic church against the Donatists. He insisted on the catholicity of the church and the need to be in communion with the Bishop of Rome.

In 1608, in Italy, St. Francis Caracciolo. When he was cured of a skin disease, he gave up his easy going, aristocratic life and became a priest. A letter wrongly addressed to him invited him to help found a new religious group, the Order of Minor Clerks Regular. He did so and eventually became its leader.

In 1940, Bishop Manuel González García. As a child he belonged to the *seises*, a group of choirsters at the Seville Cathedral who dance there on the feasts of Corpus Christi and the Immaculate Conception. He became a priest, and served in an area of rundown churches and lukewarm faith. To revitalize the faith of his people, he founded several religious orders and confraternities and wrote many books. When he was made bishop of Málaga in 1920, he gave a banquet for 3,000 poor children. His ministry there was met with stiff resistance from anti-clerical Republicans who burned down his house. In 1935 he was appointed bishop of Palencia. His ministry centered on the Eucharist.

June 5

In Frisia, in 754, St. Boniface, bishop and martyr, the apostle of Germany. He was born in Devon, and educated in a local monastery and then at the abbey of Nursling, where he was a very effective teacher. When he was he forty, following in the footsteps of Sts. Wilfrid (October 12) and Willibrord (November 7), he left England to do missionary work in Frisia and Germany. With a mandate from Pope Gregory II, he evangelized and organized the German church. He founded many monasteries, and recruited missionaries from English monasteries, such as his cousin Lull who succeeded him as archbishop of Mainz, Sturm, abbot of Fulda, Burchard, bishop of Würzburg, and Lioba, abbess of Bischofstein. In 741, Boniface was called to reorganize the Frankish church. In his old age, he resigned his positions and went back to Frisia as a missionary. There, while waiting for some candidates for Confirmation, his party was attacked by robbers. He refused to fight back and was killed. Christopher Dawson judged that Boniface “had a deeper influence on the history of Europe than any [other] Englishman who ever lived.”

In 1036, at Paderborn, Blessed Meinwerk, bishop. He trained for the priesthood at Hildesheim where he became friends with the future emperor Henry II (July 13_. Later Henry had him appointed bishop of Paderborn. Meinwerk spent his own considerable fortune and a significant amount of Henry’s on his poor diocese and city, where he founded several monasteries and a school.

In 1443, Blessed Ferdinand of Portugal. The son of King John I of Portugal and an English mother, he was appointed head of a military Order formed to fight the Moors. He was captured in Tangier and died some years later, still in captivity.

Tomorrow is the name’s day of Father Prior Boniface Lautz. He is recommended to our prayers.

June 6

At Magdeburg, in 1134, St. Norbert, bishop and founder of the Premonstratensian Order. Born into a noble family, he underwent a radical conversion when he was thrown from his horse. He was ordained, gave away his possessions, and with papal permission, became a traveling preacher. He founded a very austere monastery for canons regular at Premontr  in 1121, which became the head of a large order. He was made bishop of Magdeburg in 1126.

In the first century, St. Philip the Deacon.

In 1840, St. Marcellin Champagnat. While he was in the seminary, he and some of his fellow seminarians conceived the plan to found religious orders of priests, sisters and brothers dedicated to Mary. During the next twenty-five years Fr. Champagnat worked toward that end and was the founder of the Marist Brothers.

Tomorrow is the name's day of our confrere Fr. Norbert Novak. He is recommended to our prayers.

June 7

In Eichst tt, in 786, St. Willibald. He was the son of St. Richard (February 7), nephew of St. Boniface (June 5), and brother to St. Winnibald (December 18) and St. Walburga (February 25). His father died at Lucca while he was on a pilgrimage to Rome, and Willibald went on to the Holy Land. When he returned, he spent ten years at Monte Cassino, which had recently been restored by Pope Gregory II (February 11)). About 740 the pope sent Willibald to help St. Boniface. Willibald became bishop of Eichst tt and founded the double monastery at Heidenheim, where he lived while he was bishop for forty-five years.

In the Ireland, in the sixth century, St. Colman of Dromore, bishop and monk. He was a disciple of St. Ailbhe of Emly (September 12). He built a monastery at Dromore and was the first bishop there. St. Finnian of Moville (September 10) was his disciple.

In Antwerp, in 1626, Blessed Anne of St. Bartholomew. She was a peasant girl, who became the first lay sister to be professed at St. Teresa of Avila's reformed monastery established by St. Teresa of Avila (October 15). She was St. Teresa's traveling companion and was with Teresa when she died. Six years later Anne went with a group of sisters sent to found a convent at Paris. There she was made to make profession as a nun. She subsequently became superior at several convents, before she founded one in Antwerp, where she was greatly venerated.

June 8

In 560, at Saint-Quentin, St. M dard, bishop. He became a priest when he was 33, and was an outstanding preacher and missionary. He was ordained bishop by St. Remy

(January 13). Medieval tradition invoked him as an intercessor for those suffering from toothache.

In 1899, in Oporto, Portugal, Blessed Maria Drosezzi Vischeri. She joined the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and was sent to Portugal to open a hostel for troubled girls. All the while she had mystical experiences. She believed that God wanted the world to be consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Christ. Pope Leo XIII did just that.

In 1926, in Kerala, India, Blessed Mariam Theresia Chiramel Mankidiyan. Her mother died when Mariam was twelve, and Mariam had to leave school. She and some companions began to be very involved in the life of their parish. Mariam had many mystical experiences, some of them controversial. She and her companions eventually formed a religious order, which has prospered in India.

In 1958, in Sardinia, Blessed Nicholas of Gesturi. Orphaned at an early age, he lived and worked on an older sister's farm, while attending daily Mass and devotions. When he was 29 he became a Capuchin friar, and spent over three decades walking the roads collecting alms for his friary. He was known for his silence, and became very revered. People found in him the presence of God and an invitation to peace.

June 9

In 373, in Syria, St. Ephraem, deacon and Doctor of the Church. When he was 18, he was baptized in Nisibis. When the Persians took over the city, he went to live in a cave near Edessa, and there he wrote the theological works and hymns that earned him designation as a doctor of the church. Near the end of his life, he was chosen to oversee distribution of food supplies in the Edessa region during a famine, because he could be counted on to be honest and impartial.

In 597, at Iona, St. Columba or Columcille. He was born in Donegal of parents of royal descent. He was ordained a priest and founded monasteries at Derry, Durrow and Kells. He loved learning. When he was forty he and some companions moved to Iona, from where they evangelized the inhabitants of Scotland. He wrote poetry and was transcribing a psalter the day before he died. For the next century, Iona was a great center of evangelization particularly for Northumbria.

In 1348, at the Camaldolese monastery of St. Mary in Florence, Blessed Silvester of Valdesse. He entered the community when he was 40 and served many years as a cook. He was highly esteemed for his advice and his devotion to the divine office.

In Rome, in 1837, Blessed Anne Mary Taigi. The daughter of domestic servants, she became a servant herself and married Domenico, another servant. They had seven children, two of whom died in infancy. In spite of their limited means, she was generous with those in need. She led the family in prayer each morning and evening. Her spiritual directors testified to her holiness, and many sought her advice.

June 10

In England, about 656, St. Ithamar of Rochester, the first Anglo-Saxon to be consecrated a bishop

In Rome, in 1386, Blessed Bonaventure Baduario, cardinal. From a leading family of Padua, he became an Augustinian friar, and eventually the head of his order. He was a professor at the university of Paris and a friend of Petrarch. After he became a cardinal, his support of the pope put him at odds with a relative who was the ruler of Padua. Bonaventure was assassinated by an arrow, perhaps at the instigation of his princely relative.

In Belgium, in 1924, Blessed Edward Poppe. He entered the seminary as a young man. While doing his obligatory military service, he discovered St. Thérèse's *Story of a Soul*. He was ordained in 1916 and ministered successfully in a working class parish in Ghent. He had the first of a series of heart attacks in 1919, before he was thirty. He spent his last five years as an invalid. During this time he wrote many letters, articles and religious pamphlets that had a profound influence on the people of Flanders.

June 11

In the first century, St. Barnabas, apostle. Barnabas was a levite born on Cyprus. His original name was Joseph, but he was called "son of encouragement," probably because of his cheerful disposition. He sold his property and shared the money with the rest of the disciples. He partnered with Paul on many missionary endeavors.

In 888, St. Rembert, archbishop of Bremen-Hamburg. Rembert was a monk of the Belgian monastery of Torhout, when St. Anskar called him to assist with the mission to Scandinavia. He succeeded Anskar as bishop, and wrote his predecessor's life.

In 1250, at the Cistercian convent of monastery of Le Cambre, in Belgium, St. Aleydis of Schaerbeek. She contracted leprosy when she was twenty-eight and spent the rest of her short life as a hermit and anchorite at the monastery.

In 1915, Blessed Ignatius Maloyan, bishop and martyr. He was born in southeastern Turkey, in a town which had a large Christian community. He studied for the priesthood in the Armenian Catholic Church and was ordained in 1896. He served for a while in Egypt, before returning to his home town, where he became bishop. He was one of 1,500,000 Armenian Christians tortured and killed in the genocide during World War I.

June 12

In the Egyptian desert, about 400, St. Onuphrius, a hermit.

Near Stockholm, about 1080, St. Eskil, bishop, who was martyred when he urged some Christians not to take part in a pagan ceremony.

In 1479, in Spain, St. John of Sahagún. Educated at the Benedictine abbey of San Fagún, he became a diocesan priest and served parishes first at Burgos, and then at Salamanca, where he studied theology. He joined the Augustinian friars and became a notable preacher; he was outspoken on social issues and morality.

In 1767, at Castello, Italy, Blessed Florida Cevoli. She joined the monastery at Castello when it was under the leadership of Veronica Giuliani (July 9), and succeeded her as abbess. She was a countess, but served well in all the tasks assigned her.

June 13

In 1231, near Padua, St. Anthony, doctor of the church. He was born in Portugal and became a canon regular at Coïmbra, where he spent eight years in prayer and study. He then joined the Franciscans and was sent to Morocco as a missionary. He took ill in Africa and went to Italy, where he met St. Francis and became a renowned preacher and teacher of theology. He died at the age of 36. It is thought that the tradition which makes him the patron for finding lost articles originates from an incident when a novice ran away with his psalter. Anthony's prayer that it be returned was answered, when a heavenly vision commanded the novice to return the psalter.

June 14

The commemoration of the prophet Elisha.

In Wales, around 500, St. Dogmael. Little is known about him, though he seems to have been active in south Wales and later in Brittany. His name was perpetuated at St. Dogmael's abbey, of which Caldey was a cell.

In Constantinople, in 847, St. Methodius, patriarch. He was born and educated in Sicily and went to Constantinople to secure a government job. Influenced by a monk whom he met there, he joined a monastery, then built his own monastery on the island of Chios. He went to Rome to secure the support of Pope Paschal for those who defended the use of holy images against the revived iconoclasm of Emperor Leo V, the Armenian. When he returned to Constantinople he was thrown into prison for seven years and treated very badly. When the empress Theodora reversed the iconoclastic policies of her predecessors, Methodius was released from prison and appointed patriarch. He instituted the annual Festival of Orthodoxy, still observed on the first Sunday of Lent and wrote the creedal *Synodicon*, which is read during the Festival.

June 15

In Rome, during the persecution of Diocletian around 300, Sts. Vitus, Modestus and Crescentia. During the Middle Ages, St. Vitus was one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. His intercession was invoked for epilepsy and similar conditions.

In Egypt, about 380, St. Orsiesius, who was chosen by the Pachomiiian monks as a successor to St. Pachomius.

At Pibrac, near Toulouse, in 1601, St. Germaine. She was a poor child with physical disabilities. Her parents segregated her from her healthy step-siblings and when she was old enough put her to tending sheep. Gradually, she was recognized as a holy woman. She died at the age of twenty-two.

June 16

In the last half of the sixth century, St. Aurelian. He was bishop of Arles and papal vicar for Gaul. He founded monasteries for men and women and wrote a rule for them. He corresponded with Pope Virgilius, cautioning him to proceed circumspectly in the controversy over the synod of the “three chapters,” at which the emperor condemned works of Theodore of Mopsuestia, Theodoret of Cyr, and Ibas of Edessa.

In 1106, St. Benno of Meissen, bishop. He was a monk at Hildesheim, then bishop of Meissen. He was entangled in a controversy between the emperor Henry IV and the Saxon nobility, and again in the investiture struggle between the emperor and the papacy. He was exiled and spent time as a missionary to the Slavs. Martin Luther was vehemently opposed to Benno’s canonization in 1523.

In 1246, at Aywières near Liège, St. Lutgard. Sent to a Benedictine convent school, she was a worldly young girl until she had a conversion experience, which brought her close to Christ. When she was twenty-four she sought a stricter monastic life and moved to the Cistercian monastery at Aywières. Although she never mastered the French spoken there, she became a highly esteemed counselor and healer.

June 17

In the fourth century, St. Bessarion, a monk of the Egyptian desert, renowned for his fasting and dispossession.

In the fifth century, St. Hypatius, founder and abbot of a monastery near Chalcedon. He was a defender of orthodox Christology against Nestorianism.

In Pisa, about 1161, St. Rainerius, the patron of the city. He was a merchant, who converted, spent time in Palestine, and finally returned to Pisa where he lived in association with several monasteries, but never took vows.

June 18

About 431, St. Amandus of Bordeaux, bishop. St. Paulinus of Nola (June 22) was instructed in Christianity by Amandus. Paulinus tells us that Amandus was raised a Christian, was well instructed in the Scriptures, and lived an exemplary life.

In 1165, St. Elizabeth of Schönau. She went to the Benedictine monastery of Schönau when she was twelve. Eleven years later, when coping with a bout of depression, she had the first of many visionary experiences. Like Hildegard of Bingen (September 17), with whom she corresponded, she issued prophetic calls for Christians to be true to the vocations God has given them. She left behind a considerable body of writing which survives in numerous manuscripts.

In 1697, St. Gregory Barbarigo, bishop and cardinal. Born of a very wealthy family, he became bishop of Bergamo and later of Padua. He devoted his wealth to charity, and used it to found both a seminary and library. He worked for the reunion of the Byzantine and Roman churches.

June 19

At Val-di-Castro, in 1027, St. Romuald, abbot. After seeing his aristocratic father kill a relative in a duel, he joined the Cluniac monastery at San Apollinaire-in-Classe near Ravenna. Then became a hermit and founded hermitages in northern Italy. Peter Damian (February 21) was his disciple, and together they established Fonte Avellana and Camaldoli, austere eremitical communities following the *Rule of St. Benedict*.

In Milan, in the second century, Sts. Gervase and Protase. St. Ambrose discovered their relics in the presence of St. Paulinus of Nola and St. Augustine. While their relics were being carried to the newly constructed cathedral, a blind man was cured.

In 1009, at Braunsberg. St. Boniface of Querfurt, bishop and martyr. Influenced by St. Romuald, he became a monk. Inspired by St. Adalbert of Prague, whose life he wrote, he became a missionary among the Slavic peoples. He was murdered with eighteen companions while trying to evangelize some Prussian tribes.

In 1113, Blessed Odo of Cambrai. He was a renowned teacher of the arts and sciences, moved by a book of St. Augustine to become a monk. He refounded the monastery of St. Martin, which adopted the *Rule of St. Benedict* and soon became a flourishing community of sixty monks and sixty nuns. He was made bishop, but was forced into exile by Emperor Henry V, and spent much of his last seven years writing books of theology.

June 20

In the early third century, at St. Alban's, St. Alban, martyr. He was evidently a Roman citizen who became a Christian and then was martyred with his Christian mentor, who is honored as St. Amphibalus.

In 537, near Naples, St. Silverius, pope and martyr. For his opposition to Monophysitism, he was arrested by Belisarius, Justinian's general, taken into exile, and then returned to Italy, where he died of ill-treatment.

In 1505, Blessed Osanna of Mantua. When she was fourteen, she wanted to become a Dominican tertiary, but her father would not let her. She had various visionary experiences. She became a leading figure in the household of the Duke of Mantua, though she continued to live simply and looked out for the poor. Three years before her death, she finally became a Dominican tertiary.

June 21

At Rome, in 1591, St. Aloysius Gonzaga. Over the objections of his powerful family, he joined the Society of Jesus. He embraced a regime of severe mortification, and died of the plague, after volunteering to minister to the victims of an outbreak. He was twenty-three when he died. St. Robert Bellarmine (September 17), his spiritual director, said Aloysius' example was so extreme, other people should not be encouraged to follow it.

In 866, St. Ralph of Bourges, bishop. As archbishop, he used his great learning and wealth to promote Christian education. He wrote a book of pastoral guidance for clergy.

In 1600, in London, St. John Rigby, a layman who refused to attend services in the Elizabethan church, despite the efforts of his judges to dissuade him. He wrote an autobiographical account of his imprisonment and trial.

June 22

In 1535, in London, St. John Fisher, bishop, cardinal and martyr. The son of a draper in Beverley in Yorkshire, he distinguished himself as a student at the University of Cambridge and stayed on there in various capacities. In 1502, he resigned his positions to become chaplain to Lady Margaret Beaufort, a great benefactress of Cambridge. He was made chancellor of the university in 1504, and in the same year was appointed bishop of Rochester. He was a champion of church reform, but an opponent of Luther. When he opposed Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon and the break with Rome which followed, he was imprisoned in the tower. After he was beheaded, Henry VIII had his head impaled on London Bridge for two weeks. It was removed to make room for the head of Thomas More.

Also in London, in 1535, St. Thomas More, martyr. While studying at Oxford, he became enthusiastic for Greek and humanist ideas. He then studied law in London, His

first wife bore him four children, and when she died he remarried. His household was a center of learning, prayer and hospitality. Henry VIII liked him and appointed him lord chancellor in 1529. When Henry wanted to marry Ann Boleyn, More resigned his office and the family was reduced to poverty. He was put in the Tower of London for fifteen months. He was then tried, convicted and four days later beheaded.

In 431, St. Paulinus of Nola, bishop. He was born in Bordeaux of a very wealthy and prominent family. He married, but when the couple's only child died, they decided to give away much of their wealth. They settled at Nola, near Naples, and after giving away more of their goods, each became a hermit near the tomb of St. Felix of Nola. He was chosen bishop of Nola in 409. He wrote numerous works of which some poems and letters survive.

June 23

At Ely, in 679, St. Etheldreda (or Audrey), abbess. The daughter of the king of East Anglia, and the sister of three saints, she was married to Tonbert. When he died shortly thereafter, she retired to the Isle of Ely to live a life of prayer. Five years later she was married to Egfrid, son of King Oswy. She had vowed her virginity, and when Egfrid pressed her to live with him as his wife, Wilfrid of York allowed Etheldreda to enter the monastery of Coldingham. A year later, Wilfrid made her abbess of Ely.

In 1213, in modern-day Belgium, Blessed Mary of Oignies. According to her biographer and disciple, Jacques de Vitry, she was the daughter of wealthy parents in Nivelles. She was married at 14, and later she and her husband turned their house into a hospital for lepers. She had the gift of tears. Toward the end of her life, she occupied a cell close to the Augustinian monastery at Oignies. Her fame and example influenced development of the Beguines and the Croisiers.

In 1860, St. Joseph Cafasso, a secular priest who was the spiritual director of St. John Bosco. He had a twisted spine, but pleasing voice and became a very effective theology teacher of young priests sent to the theological institute at Turin, which he eventually headed. He had a special ministry to prisoners. He inspired not just John Bosco (January 31), but several other founders of religious orders.

June 24

In Palestine, the solemnity of the birthday of St. John the Baptist. Because of the special circumstances of his birth, described in the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel, John's birthday is celebrated in addition to his death. This is one of the oldest feasts in the church's calendar. St. Augustine says it is fittingly celebrated at this time of year, when the days start to grow shorter, because John's task was to decrease so that Christ might increase.

In 1193, St. Bartholomew of Farne, one of Cuthbert's (March 20) hermit successors on the Farne islands, off Lindisfarne. Bartholomew was born in Whitby, but

ordained in Norway. He became a monk at Durham, then went to live in Cuthbert's cell on Inner Farne. He had some difficulties with two other hermits there, but overall was a cheerful and kindly man.

June 25

In 465, in Aquitaine, St. Prosper. He was a lay theologian who was involved in the semi-Pelagian controversy over grace and free will. In addition to writings related to that controversy, he wrote a chronicle of world history.

In 1142, St. William of Vercelli, abbot. After leading a life of penance and pilgrimage in his youth, he settled as a hermit in a mountainous area inland from Naples. Disciples gathered around him, and he established a severe monastery there, which became known as Montevergine and developed to be the head of a Benedictine Congregation. William went on to found several additional monasteries, eventually settling at Salerno, where he was an advisor to Roger II, king of Naples and Sicily.

June 26

At Rome, in the fourth century, Saints John and Paul, martyrs, to whom in the fifth century a basilica on the Coelian Hill in Rome was built on earlier foundations.

In 1178, St. Anthelm, bishop of Belley. He was a secular priest, serving as provost of Geneva, when he joined the Carthusians. He became the seventh prior of the Grand Chartreuse, and summoned the first general chapter of the order. He resigned to live as a hermit, but was sent to be prior of the monastery of Portes. He was then appointed bishop of Belley. In that office he took special care of a group of women solitaries and a leper house.

In 1975, St. Josemaria Escribá, founder of the Opus Dei movement. He studied theology and law, and was ordained in 1925. While continuing his studies in Madrid, he had the inspiration for Opus Dei, which at its inception was a movement of men, mostly graduate students who wanted to put the gospel into action. During the persecution of the church and the civil war of the 1930s, the members of the community were scattered. In Franco's Spain, Opus Dei grew rapidly and achieved considerable influence. Because the movement's members were not identifiable, suspicions about them arose. Escribá developed a constitution and received papal approval in 1947. Since then the movement, still controversial, has spread throughout the world. He was beatified in 1992 and canonized in 2002.

June 27

In 444, in Alexandria, St. Cyril, bishop and doctor. Cyril succeeded his uncle, Theophilus, as bishop of Constantinople. He was a vigorous, even heavy-handed supporter of orthodoxy. He presided at the Council of Ephesus, which condemned the Christological views of Nestorius.

In 1066, St. George of the Black Mountain, monk. He spent time in several monasteries, including on Mount Athos. His great work was to translate the Bible and the Greek theological heritage into his native Georgian language.

In Cambrai, in 1794, Blessed Madeleine Fontaine and three companions. These four members of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul were arrested when they refused to take the oath demanded by the Revolutionary Convention. They were condemned to the guillotine a month before Robespierre and two months before Joseph Lebon who supervised their condemnation and execution, were themselves sentenced to die.

In 1879, at La Pierraz, Switzerland, Blessed Marguerite Bays. A dressmaker, she spent her entire life in the parish where she lived. She was miraculously healed from cancer at the moment Pius IX declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Later she received the stigmata.

June 28

In 202, St. Irenaeus of Lyons, bishop. Irenaeus was a Greek, born in Asia Minor, where he knew St. Polycarp. He was well educated in Greek philosophy and literature and studied in Rome under St. Justin Martyr. He went as a missionary to Gaul and was in Rome when a violent persecution broke out there. He returned to become bishop. He wrote a large and effective work against the Gnostics.

Before the fifteenth century, on the island of Valaam, in Lake Ladoga, in Finland, Sts. Sergius and Germanus, founders of the monastery of Valaam.

In Lovere, Italy, St. Vincenza Gerosa. She was the confounder with Bartolomea Capitanio (July 26) of the congregation of Sisters of Charity. They two women met through charitable work. Their community is now known as the Sisters of the Child Mary.

June 29

The solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, apostles. Peter was martyred in Rome, during the reign of Nero. He was a Galilean fisherman, whom Jesus chose to be leader of the apostles. After denying Christ, Peter visited the empty tomb and became a leader and spokesman for the Christian community. He went to Rome, and the apocryphal Acts of Peter recount that when he was leaving the city during a persecution, he met Jesus and asked him, "Where are you going, Lord?" Jesus replied, "I am going to Rome to be crucified again." So Peter went back, and according to an ancient tradition, was crucified there upside down. What are very probably his remains were discovered under St. Peter's in the 1960s. A medal from the first half of the second century shows him as a sturdy man with a curly beard.

St. Paul was a Jew from Tarsus, 200 miles north of Jerusalem, a Roman citizen and a Pharisee well educated in the Jewish scriptures. After persecuting Christians, he was converted by a meeting with the Lord on the road to Damascus. He took the Christian gospel throughout the eastern Mediterranean and developed Christian doctrine in his preaching and letters. He defended the place of Gentiles in the church and centered his preaching on Christ crucified and risen. He was beheaded in Rome around 65 AD and buried where the basilica and monastery of St. Paul Outside the Walls now stand.

The commemoration of Benjamin, the patriarch.

In 1316, on a ship in the harbor of Palma, Majorca, Blessed Raymund Lull. He was born on Majorca, which had a mixed population of Christians and Muslims. He was wealthy, well-educated, happily married, and well-connected. He led a very worldly life until he was about 30. Then he had a vision of Christ, which convinced him he must devote the rest of his life to bringing the Moors to Christ and to church reform. He set himself to learning Arabic and wrote prolifically on theological and philosophical topics. Eventually he did go to North Africa several times to preach, but the Muslim authorities treated him roughly and deported him. He never received much official support, and died on ship which was bringing him back from North Africa after he had been stoned there and left for dead.

June 30

The commemoration of the Christians martyred in Rome under Nero. Two thirds of Rome was burned in July, 64 AD. Nero was accused of starting the fire or at least not trying to have it put out, so he announced that the Christians were responsible and ordered their arrest and execution. Tacitus, the Roman historian, who was nine years old at the time, later wrote that Nero “persecuted with every refinement the notoriously depraved Christians (as they were popularly called). Their originator, Christ, had been executed in Tiberias’ reign by the governor of Judaea, Pontius Pilate.”

In 1066, at Salanigo, near Vicenza, blessed Theobald of Provins. Theobald (or Thibaut) was the son of the Count of Champagne. Inspired by stories of the desert fathers, he became a hermit and pilgrim, before settling at Salinigo, where he led a small group of followers. Shortly before his death, he made religious profession as a Camaldolese.

In 1646, at Tyburn, Blessed Philip Powell, monk and martyr. He went to school in Augustine Baker’s home town of Abergavenny and studied law under Baker in London. He joined the Benedictine community in exile at Douai and was ordained in 1619. He worked as a missionary in Devon and Cornwall for twenty years, but was then arrested while on a ship bound for Wales. He was jailed, and later tried and convicted. His fellow prisoners drew up a testimonial to his goodness. He died bravely, saying: “Oh, what am I, that God thus honors me and will have me die for his sake?”

July 1

At Tyburn, in 1681, St. Oliver Plunkett, bishop and martyr. Born of a prominent Irish family, he went to Rome with Fr. Pier Francesco Scarampi, who was the papal envoy to the Confederation of Kilkenny. He was ordained in Rome in 1654 and worked there till 1669 when he was appointed archbishop of Armagh. He returned to Ireland and worked tirelessly to firm up the organization and pastoral effectiveness of the church, sometimes clandestinely, sometimes in the open. He was arrested in 1679 and taken to England where he was tried, convicted, hung, drawn and quartered in 1681. His 230 surviving letters show him to have been a learned and devout pastor, who courageously followed his conscience.

The commemoration of Aaron, Moses' brother.

About 466, in Egypt, St. Shenute, abbot of the White Monastery. He emphasized obedience, discouraged all study, and cautioned against extreme asceticism.

In Malta, in 1865, Blessed Ignatius Falzon. While studying law, he began teaching catechism at the local church and preaching to the soldiers in the English garrison on the island. He was also very active in caring for the poor. He studied theology and later received minor orders, but declined to become a priest, because he felt unworthy.

July 2

At Winchester, in 862, St. Swithun, bishop and advisor to Aethelwulf, King of Wessex. Swithun was an exemplary bishop, who was known for his humility and charity to the poor.

In 1139, St. Otto, bishop of Bamberg. He sought to mediate between the Pope and the German emperors during the investiture conflict. He founded a number of monasteries and organized the evangelization of Pomerania.

On 1616, St. Bernardino Realino. He trained in both medicine and law, but then entered the Society of Jesus. He was ordained in 1567 and served his order in many capacities. He was particularly dedicated to ministering to prisoners and slaves.

July 3

St. Thomas the Apostle. There are several traditions about where he went after Pentecost. The strongest of these is the link with southern India. According to the Syriac Christians of Malabar he was martyred near Madras in 73 AD. The Malabar Christians are centered in Kerala, South India. Their worship is Syriac, though their vernacular is Malayalam. There were trading ships that could have brought Christianity (and St. Thomas) to India at a very early date. The Malabar Christians maintained strong ties with the East Syrian Christians of Mesopotamia. Divisions in the Syrian church, the coming of

an oppressive Portuguese regime, and internal divisions, have divided the Malabar Christians into several different religious groupings.

July 4

In 1336, St. Elizabeth of Portugal. The daughter of King Pedro II of Aragon, she was married to King Diniz of Portugal. He was an able ruler, but fathered a number of children out of wedlock. Elizabeth saw to their upbringing. She tried to mediate between her husband, their son Alfonso, and King Ferdinand IV of Aragon. She was very active on behalf of the poor, and when her husband died she went to live with the Poor Clares at Coïmbra.

In 740, St. Andrew of Crete. He was born in Damascus and became a monk of Saint Sabas. Around 700 he was appointed archbishop of Crete. He is renowned for his sermons and hymns.

In 973, St. Ulrich of Augsburg, bishop. He was educated at Saint Gall, where he knew St. Wiborada. He became a priest and in 923, bishop of Augsburg. After the Magyars invaded in 926, murdering St. Wiborada and plundering Augsburg, Ulrich set about rebuilding the city. He founded the monastery of St. Stephen in 968 and restored the monastery of Saint Afra. Each day he visited the hospital in Augsburg to wash the feet of twelve poor people and distribute alms. He resigned his see in 972 to become a monk, and died the next year. He was the first person to be formally canonized by pope.

In 1836, at Mauriac, in France, Blessed Catherine Jarrige. She was a lacemaker, who begged funds from the rich and gave them to the poor. During the French Revolution she helped many priests escape the guillotine.

In 1925, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. The son of a prominent political figure, he studied engineering in Turin and became active in Catholic Action and in anti-Fascist movements. He contracted polio and died in 1925.

July 5

In 1530, St. Antony Zaccaria. He studied medicine and practiced as a doctor in Cremona for a while. He became a priest and ministered in Milan. There he founded the Clerks Regular of St. Paul, known as the Barnabites. Like the Theatines, Somaschi, Oratorians and Ursulines, his order was dedicated to church reform. He preached effectively, promoted devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and lived austerely.

In 1091, Blessed William of Hirsau. A monk of St. Emmeram in Regensburg, he was sent to Hirsau, which had recently been resettled by monks from Einsiedeln. He modeled monastic life at there on the observances of Cluny. Hirsau became a center of monastic reform in its own right. William wrote treatises on music and astronomy which survive.

July 6

In 1902, near Rome, St. Maria Goretti, martyr. Her father died when she was 10, and she took care of her younger siblings while her mother worked in the fields. When she was 12, a twenty-year old neighbor, Alessandro, tried to force her to have sex. When she resisted, he stabbed her. She was taken to the hospital, but died there of her wounds. Before she died, she forgave Alessandro, who repented his sin and testified on behalf of her canonization.

In 1922, at Rome, Blessed Teresa Ledóchowska. Her father was a Polish count, her mother, Swiss; her uncle, a cardinal; her brother, general of the Jesuits; and her sister, founder of a religious order. Teresa became very interested in the Catholic missions in Africa and committed to the abolition of slavery. To these causes she devoted her literary gifts. She founded and joined a religious group, the Sodality of St. Peter Claver, dedicated to the African Missions.

July 7

Around 200, St. Pantaenus, who taught at the Christian school at Alexandria and was revered by St. Clement of Alexandria, who was his pupil.

In 1304, Pope Benedict XI. He was a Dominican and succeeded Boniface VIII in 1303. His one year as pope was devoted to dealing with the complex political situation he inherited from his predecessor. Benedict was not particularly effective, but he was a humble and austere friar who did his best.

In Nicaragua, in 1977, Blessed María Meneses. She was born and raised in Nicaragua, where she joined the Salesian sisters. She spent most of her life working in Costa Rica, where her primary concern was to encourage those who were wealthy to help those who had little. She founded recreation centers for poor children, food distribution centers, a school for poor children, a clinic, and a village providing decent homes for poor people.

July 8

In the first century, Sts. Aquila and Prisca, disciples of St. Paul. This couple lived in Corinth, Ephesus and Rome, and in each place they were prominent contributors to the Christian community.

About 674, St. Disibod, bishop and Irish missionary to Germany. According to St. Hildegard's telling of his life, with two companions he founded a monastery near Bingen, which became a center of evangelization in the region. The monastery was resettled from Hirsau in the twelve century. It was a double community, and St. Hildegard lived there for over twenty years before moving to Bingen to found her own community for women. She wrote a life of Disibod.

Around 689, St. Kilian, bishop, another Irish missionary who with some companions evangelized the area around Würzburg. He and two companions were murdered, reportedly for criticizing a royal marriage.

In 1153, blessed Pope Eugene III. He was from the area around Pisa and became a monk at Clairvaux in 1137, then abbot of a Cistercian monastery outside of Rome. He was elected pope in 1145, which St. Bernard thought was a mistake, because Eugene had so little experience. However, he proved to be a vigorous church leader. He had to deal with many complex political issues. He also called the Second Crusade, which was a failure.

When Eugene died, Peter the Venerable wrote of him to St. Bernard: “Never have I known a truer friend, a more trustworthy brother, a kinder father.” St. Bernard wrote his treatise *On Consideration* for Eugene to guide him in his responsibilities as pope.

July 9

In China, between 1648 and 1930, 120 martyrs, who were canonized on October 1, 2000. Christianity had been brought to China by Nestorian missionaries in the seventh century, and by Franciscans in 1294. In the late 16th century Jesuits and later other missionaries reached the country. The first Chinese priest was ordained in 1658. The decision against the Chinese rites in 1704 was a major setback. Beginning in 1748 there was a series of sporadic persecutions culminating in the death of 25,000 Catholics during the Boxer rebellion at the end of the 19th century. Many of these martyrs were catechists.

In the Netherlands, in 1572, St. Nicholas Pieck and companions, the martyrs of Gorum. A group of Calvinists successfully besieged the town and rounded up the Catholic clergy. Nineteen of them were killed: eleven Franciscans led by Nicholas Pieck, four secular priests, and four other religious priests. Not all of these priests had led exemplary lives, but in the end they chose to die rather than renounce their Catholic faith.

In 1794, at Orange in France, thirty-two nuns, who were arrested in April, and executed one or two at a time during July. Their crime was that they would not take the Republican oath of the French Revolution, which they judged irreligious.

In 1942, in Brazil, St. Pauline Wisenteiner. She was from a poor family, but found time to teach catechism classes and visit the sick. Encouraged by some Jesuit missionaries, she began a religious congregation, which she led from 1895-1909. She lived the rest of her life as a simple sister, and devoted her life especially to the care of elderly poor people.

In 1966, in Rome, Blessed Marija Petkovic. She was in 1892 born in southern Croatia, the sixth of thirteen children. She went to a Catholic school and then was active in various Catholic organizations. She started a religious community in 1920, the Daughters of Mercy, which aimed at spreading knowledge of God’s mercy through the exercise of works of mercy. The community expanded rapidly, opening children’s

homes, nursing homes, hospitals and schools. In 1961, after forty years as superior, Maria retired to a life of prayer.

July 10

^ About 770, in Belgium, St. Amalburga who was invested as a nun by St. Willibrord (November 7).. Her relics were kept by the monks of Saint Peter in Ghent.

In 1073 and 1074, St. Antony Pechersky and St. Theodosius Pechersky, who were both abbots of the monastery of the Cave of Kiev and contributed significantly to the establishment of monasticism in Russia. Theodore led the monastery in efforts to serve the poor and to evangelize the surrounding region. He wrote: “[Christ] sought us out, found us, carried us on his shoulders, and set us at the right hand of the Father. Is he not merciful and the lover of humankind.”

In 1860, Blessed Emmanuel Ruiz and Companions, who were martyred at Damascus, in a persecution in Syria in which about 14,000 Christians were killed.

July 11

About 550 AD, at Monte Cassino, St. Benedict, abbot. This was the date on which it was claimed that his relics were transferred to the abbey of Fleury-sur-Loire. It is celebrated as Benedict’s feast day, because March 21, the date commemorating his death, falls in Lent.

In 155, St. Pius I, pope. The *Muratorian Canon* says he was the brother of Hermas, who wrote *The Shepherd*. Pius was pope when Marcion was excommunicated and when Justin Martyr was teaching in Rome.

In the early eighth century, at Disentis, in Switzerland, St. Placidus martyr, and St. Sigisbert, abbot. Sigisbert went from the monastery of Luxeuil to be a missionary on the Rhine and then founded a hermitage at Disentis. Placidus was an influential friend of Sigisbert. The local ruler had Placidus killed about 720, and Sigisbert died shortly thereafter. About 750 a monastery which still exists was established on the site of Placidus’ murder.

In 969, at Kiev, St. Olga. She succeeded her pagan husband, Igor, as ruler of the new Russian kingdom of Kiev. She converted to Christianity, but was not notably successful in persuading her subjects to embrace the new faith. Still, with her grandson, St. Vladimir, she is regarded as the founder of Russian Christianity.

July 12

In the first century, St. Veronica, who is said to have wiped Jesus face with a cloth when he was on the way to Calvary. The first report of this event is from the fourth

century. Her story was connected with a widespread devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus in the Middle Ages.

In 1073, St. John Gualbert, abbot of Vallombrosa. John entered the monastery of San Miniato in Florence, but left after four years to seek a more austere way of life. He visited St. Romuald's hermitage at Camaldoli, and then set up his own monastery at Vallombrosa, about twenty miles east of Florence. His monks were to live austere lives devoted to contemplation. He incorporated lay brothers into the life of his monastery. His congregation grew to fifty monasteries and joined the Benedictine Confederation in 1966.

July 13

In 1024, at Bamberg, St. Henry II and his wife, Kunegunda. Henry was the son of Henry the Wrangler, duke of Bavaria. After receiving a clerical education, he unexpectedly became Emperor in 1002. Henry and his wife Kunegunda were supporters of monasteries and benefactors of the poor. Henry was sometimes high-handed in his political dealings, but he was genuinely devoted to Christ. Pope Pius X declared him a patron of Benedictine oblates.

The commemoration of the prophet Joel, and the scribe Ezra.

In the first century, St. Silas, who was a Jewish Christian who went on a mission from the Church of Jerusalem to Antioch, and later accompanied Paul on some of his missionary work. He seems to be the Silvanus mentioned in the First Epistle of Peter as a brother whom Peter knew and could trust.

In 1926, in Colombia, Blessed Mariano de Jesús Euse Hoyos. He grew up at a time of anti-clericalism and was home-schooled by his devout parents. He attended the seminary in Medellín and was ordained in 1872. He spent most of his life as an extremely effective and dedicated parish priest in a rural parish in the mountains.

In 1963, Blessed Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Santiago, the first Puerto Rican to be declared "blessed." He was a layman. His brother became the first Puerto Rican Benedictine abbot and his sister became a Carmelite. He devoted much of his life to promoting appreciation of the liturgy.

July 14

In 1610, in Peru, St. Francis Solano. He joined the Observant Franciscans in Spain and when he was forty was sent to Peru. He ministered in remote areas for twenty years, putting into practice the reforms ordered by St. Turibius of Mogrovejo. He spent his last years in Lima, where he was very critical of the lifestyle of the wealthy elite.

In 1920, Juanita Solar y Fernández. She became a Carmelite at the age of twenty, after reading St. Thérèse's *Life of a Soul* (October 1) and the works of Elizabeth of the Trinity (November 8). She received the name of Teresa of Jesus, but died before her

novitiate was over, after making profession on her death bed. She was the first native born citizen of Chile to be canonized.

July 15

At Lyons, in 1274, St. Bonaventure, bishop and doctor of the church. He was born near Orvieto in 1221 and joined the Franciscans. He studied in Paris and became a professor there. He was elected minister general of the Order in 1257. He worked to bring unity in the order and wrote the definitive life of St. Francis. He was made a cardinal in 1273, and in 1274 played a major part in the council of Lyons, which aimed to bring union between the Eastern and Western churches. He left to posterity a large number of writings in which theology and spirituality are inseparable.

In 1015, St. Vladimir of Kiev. He was educated under the supervision of his grandmother, St. Olga. With the help of Viking adventurers he captured Kiev. He launched a war against the Poles, which brought him into contact with the west and Christianity. He converted to Christianity and invited missionaries from Constantinople to convert his people.

In 1570, near the Canary Islands, Blessed Ignatius Azevedo and thirty-nine companions. This band of Jesuits was sailing to Brazil to serve in the missions. Their ship was captured by French Huguenot privateers who killed all the Jesuits, but spared the rest of the passengers and crew.

In 1851, in Paris, Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey. As a girl she helped Catholics escape the anticlerical revolutionaries. When religious orders were re-established she tried several religious orders, before establishing her own order dedicated to education, the Congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny. The order grew rapidly both in France and in the French colonies, which eventually became their primary focus. They were particularly devoted to serving the black population.

July 16

The commemoration of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

In 784, St. Fulrad, abbot of Saint-Denis near Paris. Besides looking out for his monastery, he was an important advisor to the Carolingian court.

At Einsiedeln, in Switzerland, the commemoration of Our Lady of the Hermits.

1590, Blessed Bartholomew dos Mártires, bishop. He was a Dominican and taught philosophy for many years. He was appointed archbishop of Braga. He made regular pastoral visitations throughout his vast diocese and gave away almost all the money he had to the poor. He wrote a catechism and other books on pastoral practice. At the Council of Trent he was an energetic advocate of reform, and he implemented its reform measures in his diocese before retiring to a Dominican priory.

In 1846, St. Mary-Magdalen (Julie) Postel. She was educated at a Benedictine convent and decided to devote her life to God. She opened a school in her hometown near Cherbourg. During the French Revolution, she made a secret chapel in her home where priests could say Mass. She and some companions started a religious order and took over a dilapidated monastery.

July 17

At Milan, around 400, St. Marcellina. She was older sister and advisor of St. Ambrose. She vowed virginity before Pope Liberius and St. Ambrose dedicated his treatise on virginity to her.

In 855, at Rome, St. Leo IV, pope. A monk of the monastery of San Martino, near St. Peter's in Rome, he was elected pope when the Saracens were threatening Rome. He strengthened the defenses of the city by building the Leonine wall and organized a fleet that defeated the Saracens in a sea battle off Ostia in 849. He was a vigorous leader in ecclesiastical matters. He was concerned that the liturgy be properly celebrated and made many gifts to churches. He was a saintly person admired for his personal integrity.

In 1945, in Papua New Guinea, Blessed Peter ToRot. He was the son of a chief, and became a leader among the catechists in his area. He married in 1936. In 1942, the Japanese imprisoned all the Christian missionaries, but allowed Peter to organize prayer services, distribute communion, celebrate baptisms and care for the poor. In 1945 the Japanese imposed a more rigorous regime, forbidding all Christian worship and reintroducing polygamy. Peter opposed this, was arrested, and then executed by lethal injection.

In 1960, Blessed Paul Peter Gojdic, bishop and martyr. He was born in Slovakia, near the Ukrainian border, the son of a Greek Catholic priest. He was ordained a celibate diocesan priest, but then became a Basilian monk. Just after he made his monastic profession, he was appointed bishop in charge of the Greek Catholic eparchy of Presov. In 1948 the Communists tried to force all Greek Catholics to assimilate into the Russian Orthodox Church. When Paul refused to renounce his ties with Rome, he was arrested and sentenced to life in prison. After years of mistreatment he died of cancer.

July 18

In 1614, in Rome, St. Camillus de Lellis. As a youth he served in the army and gambled away his fortune. He spent some time in a hospital, and when he was well stayed on as a nurse and then administrator. He became a priest and set about establishing his own hospitals. He founded an order which aimed to practice "old-fashioned charity but with up-to-date technical skill."

About 390, in Nitria, St. Pambo. He was born in Egypt about 303. He was one of the first disciples of St. Ammon. He was ordained about 340 by St. Macarius of Egypt (January 2) and was known especially for his restraint in speech. He believed that the monastic life and living a charitable life in the world are “both perfect before God. There are other roads to perfection besides being a monk.”

In 1123, St. Bruno of Segni. He studied at Bologna and Siena, and was appointed bishop of Segni by Pope St. Gregory VII (May 25). He worked energetically on behalf of the Gregorian Reform and the First Crusade. After meeting opposition to his reforming efforts, he joined Monte Cassino, where he became abbot in 1107. Paschal II later told him to resign as the abbacy and return to his diocese. Bruno was a leading commentator on the Bible.

July 19

In Cappadocia, in 397, St. Macrina the Younger. She was the eldest of the ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia. When her fiancé died, she vowed not to marry. She helped raise her brothers. St. Basil (January 2), St. Gregory of Nyssa (January 10 / March 9) and St. Peter of Sebaste. She and her mother turned their home into a monastery for women, to which she welcomed impoverished women and servants.

In Egypt, in 450, St. Arsenius. He was born in Rome, but served in the court of the Emperor Theodosius in Constantinople. He left there to become a monk at Scetis in Lower Egypt. He lived a very solitary life there. Many sayings are attributed to him and one of his letters survives. He urged monks to attachment to their cells, perseverance, abstinence from food and sleep, and constant prayer.

In 1679, near Chester, St. John Plessington. He studied for the priesthood at Valladolid, and returned to England in 1662, and ministered at the shrine of St. Winefride at Holywell. He then became tutor to a Catholic family and ministered to the local Catholics. He was arrested in 1679, condemned, hanged, drawn and quartered. In his speech from the scaffold, he asked God “to bless the king, grant him a prosperous reign here and a crown of glory hereafter.”

In Guadalajara, Spain, in 1936, three Carmelite martyrs, Marîa Pilar of St. Francis Borgia, Teresa of the Child Jesus, and Marîa Angela of Saint Joseph. They were shot by Red Militia.

July 20

The commemoration of the prophet Elijah.

In 430, St. Aurelius, bishop of Carthage. Aurelius was the leader of the church of North Africa and presided over a number of synods dealing with the Donatist and Pelagian movements. He introduced the chanting of psalms during Mass to encourage greater lay involvement. He was a friend of St. Augustine who held him in high esteem.

In 1857, in Vietnam, St. Joseph Díaz Samjuro. He was born in Spain and became a Dominican priest. He spent the rest of his life as a missionary in Vietnam. He became a bishop there and during a persecution was arrested and executed. He founded a center to look after abandoned children which is still in operation.

July 21

In 1619, while on business in Portugal, St. Laurence of Brindisi, doctor of the church. He was born of Venetian parents in Brindisi, in the Kingdom of Naples. He became a Capuchin and became a scholar of languages. He was a very successful and dedicated preacher in Italy and then in Austria and Bohemia. Laurence became minister general of the Capuchins and held other offices in his order. He was chaplain of the army which repulsed the Turks at the battle of Szekes-Fehervar in 1601. His spirituality was Christ-centered and exalted Mary.

In the late third century St. Victor of Marseilles, martyr. Little is known about him, but Cassian founded a monastery dedicated to him at Marseilles. Excavations have uncovered early fourth century tombs on the site.

July 22

In the first century, St. Mary Magdalene. Jesus had exorcised her of seven devils, and she then was the leader of the women who accompanied him and the apostles on their missionizing journeys. She was present at Jesus crucifixion, burial and resurrection Jesus sent her to announce the resurrection to the others, and so she was called the apostle of the apostles. In the West, her story was conflated with that of the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet and with that of Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. Sts. Jerome and Gregory the Great accepted this identification, but St. Bernard and other early Cistercians did not. A medieval legend has it that after the resurrection, Mary Magdalene settled in France, but this has no historical basis.

In 668, at the abbey of Fontenelle in Normandy, St. Wandrille, abbot. He was married and a court official, when he and his wife decided to separate and become religious. He was successively a monk under St. Baudry at Montfaucon, a hermit, a visitor at St. Columban's monastery at Bobbio, and a monk of the abbey of Romain-Moûtier. On the basis of this wide experience, he founded the monastery of Fontenelle, which followed the Rule of St. Columban.

From 1934 to 1939, during the Spanish Civil War, several hundred martyrs, killed for their faith, who were among the thousands of priests and religious executed during that time.

July 23

In 1373, at Rome, St. Bridget of Sweden. She was the daughter of a powerful nobleman and married another, with whom she had eight children. When her husband died, Bridget spent three years at the Cistercian monastery of Alvastra. She had visions, and as a result of one built a monastery at Vadstena, which became the beginning of the Order of the Most Holy Savior. Each monastery in the order was to include both nuns and monks. It spread throughout Europe to number 70 monasteries. Bridget moved to Rome where she worked to get the pope to return to Rome from Avignon and to bring peace between France and England. Throughout her life, Bridget was very actively concerned with helping the poor.

At Ravenna, at an unknown date, St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr.

In 435, at Marseilles, St. John Cassian. He was probably born in Eastern Europe. He went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and became a monk in Bethlehem, then went to study the monastic life of the Desert Monks in Egypt. Around 400 he was in Constantinople, where he was ordained a deacon by St. John Chrysostom. After John Chrysostom was deposed, Cassian was part of a delegation who went to Rome on his behalf. Around 415, Cassian founded two monasteries in Marseilles. He wrote two books on monasticism and spirituality, the *Conferences* and the *Institutes*, which were very influential.

At Presov, in Slovakia, Blessed Vasil Hopko, bishop and martyr. He was ordained for the Greek-Catholic Church and served in a parish in Prague, and later in the seminary in Presov. He was made an auxiliary bishop in 1947. In 1950 the Communist Party declared the Greek-Catholic Church no longer in existence and Bishop Hopko was arrested and tortured. He was sentenced to prison for fifteen years, and there was given small doses of arsenic to undercut his health. Released in 1964, he served as auxiliary bishop until his death.

July 24

In Ireland, probably in the fourth century, St. Declan, who evangelized the area around Ardmore in County Waterford.

In Russia, in 1015, Saints Boris and Gleb. They were the sons of St. Vladimir. Their brother Svyatopolk had them killed. The Russian church honored them as martyrs because they refused to resort to violence when they were unjustly attacked.

In 1292, St. Kunegunda, Queen of Poland. She was the daughter of Margaret of Hungary (January 18). When she was to be married to Boleslaw, the future king of Poland, she asked for a salt mine as her dowry, since she knew it was something the people of Poland needed.

In 1446, in Ferrara, Blessed John of Tossignano, bishop. He studied law, then joined the Gesuati, a lay congregation dedicated to works of practical charity. He also translated parts of the Bible and writings of St. Gregory the Great and St. Bernard into Italian. He became bishop of Ferrara in 1431, and hosted the Council of Basel which met there in 1437-1439.

July 25

In the first century, St. James the Greater, apostle. He was John's brother and followed Jesus with him. The two brothers witnessed the cure of Peter's mother-in-law, the raising of Jairus' daughter, Jesus' transfiguration, and Jesus' agony in the garden of Gethsemane. He was executed by Herod Agrippa about 44 AD, the first of the apostles to die. Tradition says that his body was transported to Spain and buried at Compostela, which became a great pilgrimage shrine.

Probably in the 3rd century, St. Christopher. There undoubtedly was an early Christian martyr named Christopher, but nothing is known for sure of his life. *The Golden Legend* told of him carrying a child across a river; the child turned out to be Christ. For this reason Christopher became the patron saint of travelers

In 408, St. Olympias. She was tutored by a well-educated and devout woman. She married, but her husband died soon afterward. She established a community for women who wanted to devote themselves to church service at Santa Sophia. She was a friend of St. John Chrysostom, who urged her community to found a hospital and orphanage. When John Chrysostom was sent into exile, she continued to support him, and for that his successor Atticus suppressed her community.

In 1471, at Angers, Blessed John Soreth. As prior general of the Carmelites, and worked to reform the order. He drew up a rule for Carmelite tertiaries.

July 26

In the first century, Sts. Joachim and Anne. They are not mentioned in the Scriptures, but their names are given in the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James*.

In 1644, in Vietnam, Blessed Andrew of Phú Yên. He was a catechist, trained by Fr. Alexandre de Rhodes. He was arrested for being a Christian and beheaded. He was nineteen years old, the first Vietnamese Christian to die for his faith.

In 1942, Blessed Titus Brandsma. He was born in Friesland of devout parents. He earned a doctorate then joined the Carmelites. He taught at the Carmelite seminary in The Netherlands for fifteen years, then became a professor at Nijmegen, specializing in Dutch mysticism. Against the Nazis, he defended the Jews and Catholic schools. He was arrested and eventually sent to Dachau, where he was executed by lethal injection.

In Malta, in 1962, St. George Preca. He was ordained a priest and organized a group of celibate men whose aim was to spread the gospel in their places of work. Although they met with some opposition, the movement proved extremely effective. George himself tried to avoid the limelight.

July 27

In Nicomedia, probably in the early fourth century, St. Pantaleon, martyr, who was venerated as one of the fourteen holy helpers, because legend said he was a physician who treated the sick without requiring payment.

At Rome, in 431, St. Celestine I, pope. He opposed the Novatianists, built the basilica of Santa Sabina, and restored Santa Maria in Trastevere. He exercised authority over the entire church, intervening in disputes among Christians in North Africa, Thessalonica and Gaul, and sending emissaries to England and Ireland. He held a synod in Rome in 430 which condemned Nestorius and helped prepare the way for the Council of Ephesus the next year.

In 916, St. Clement of Ohrid and companions. Clement was the leader in the establishment of the Bulgarian Church under King Boris I.

July 28

In 198 AD, St. Victor I, pope. He was an African. He urged all Christian communities to follow the Roman method of calculating the date of Easter. Victor asked Marcia, a mistress of the emperor Commodus, to secure the release of the Christians condemned to work in the mines in Sardinia

About 565, in Brittany, St. Samson of Dol. He was ordained a priest, then became a monk, perhaps of Caldey Island. He ministered in Ireland and Cornwall, before going to Brittany, where he seems to have lived and worked as a monk, bishop and missionary.

In 1936, in Spain St. Pedro Poveda Castroverde, martyr. He was ordained a priest in 1897, and after further studies, ministered among the very poor in the town of Guadix. This aroused opposition, so he moved to Asturias where he devoted himself to training Catholic teachers. In spite of his forward-working educational vision, he was arrested by Republican troops, interrogated for a day, then murdered.

July 29

In the first century, St. Martha. She is mentioned three times in the gospel: when she asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her, at the raising of Lazarus, and just before the passion, when Martha, Mary and Lazarus entertained Jesus at dinner. Later legend had her travel to the south of France.

In Troyes, in 479, St. Lupus, bishop. He was married to a sister of St. Hilary of Arles. After some years of marriage they parted to become religious. Lupus became a monk at Lerins, and shortly after that bishop of Troyes. In 429 he accompanied St. Germanus of Auxerre on a mission to England to prevent the spread of Pelagianism.

In 1030, St. Olaf, the patron saint of Norway. After spending his youth as a marauding Viking, he became a Christian. In 1016 he became King of Norway. He insisted on the rule of law. He wanted to make Norway a Christian country, but his use of force alienated the people.

In 1099, Blessed Urban II, pope. He study under St. Bruno (October 6) and became a monk, and later prior, at Cluny. When he was elected pope in 1088, he had to cope with an anti-pope and the hostility of Emperor Henry IV. He carried on the reform policies of Gregory VII by holding synods to attack simony, lay investiture and clerical marriage. In 1095 at Clermont, he proclaimed the “Truce of God” as law and, in response to a request from the Byzantine emperor, called for the first crusade.

July 30

About 450, at Imola, St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor of the church. He was a deacon at Imola before being appointed archbishop of Ravenna. As archbishop he built churches, reformed the church, championed St. Leo the Great’s teaching on the Incarnation, and was a renowned preacher.

In 1942, St. Leopold Mandic. His parents were Croatian. He became a Capuchin priest and served in Capuchin monasteries in Venice, Zara, and Padua. He had hoped to dedicate himself to the reunion of the Eastern and Western churches, but his main apostolate turned out to be hearing confessions.

In 1959, in Mexico, St. Mary of Jesus Venegas de la Torre. She was born in a village in the state of Jalisco. She joined a group of women dedicated to caring of the sick. When they became a religious order, she wrote their constitutions. She spent her life as a religious dedicated to serving the sick.

July 31

In Rome, in 1556, St. Ignatius Loyola. He was born of a prominent family in the Basque province of Guipúzcoa. He led a fairly wild life. He became a soldier and was injured in the French siege of Pamplona. During his convalescence he underwent a conversion. He visited Montserrat and spent a year as a hermit at Manresa, during which time he struggled with scruples and wrote the *Spiritual Exercises*. He and some companions then began studies for the priesthood in Spain and then in Paris. From this core of companions emerged the Society of Jesus. Ignatius became head of the Society and lived in Rome. His body is buried in the church of the Gesù.

In 448, at Ravenna, St. Germanus of Auxerre. He studied law and became a public official. In 418 he was chosen as bishop of Auxerre. He went to England in 429 and 445 to counter the teachings of Pelagius. He died in Ravenna while on a mission to the imperial court on behalf of the Bretons.

In 1367, St. John Colombini. He married and became a successful merchant in Siena. When he was fifty, he underwent a conversion inspired by a book of saints' lives given him by his wife. He turned his house into a hospice and gave away large amounts of money. Others followed him, and they formed a confraternity known as the "Gesuati." They developed into a congregation of laymen who lived austere and were devoted to the care of the sick.

In 1860, St. Justin de Jacobis, bishop. Born in Italy, he joined the Vincentians. He was sent a missionary to Ethiopia. He was a humble man, who worked tirelessly in his mission in the midst of serious political unrest. He established a viable Catholic Church of the Ethiopian rite.

August 1

In 1787, in Italy, St. Alphonsus de' Ligouri, bishop and doctor. He was born near Naples, studied law and worked as a lawyer. In 1726 he was ordained a priest, and did missionary work as a preacher and confessor. He organized prayer groups for laymen. In 1732 he founded the Redemptorists. His *Moral Theology* (published first in 1753-1755) was very influential. He was forced to become bishop of a small diocese. He undertook a thorough reform of the diocese. Much of his life was troubled by conflicts and accusations which were not his fault. He died at the age of 91.

In 984, St. Ethelwold, a native of Winchester. He was ordained a priest there with St. Dunstan (May 19). When Dunstan became abbot of Glastonbury, Ethelwold entered the abbey. Ethelwold became abbot of Abingdon, and then bishop of Winchester. With Dunstan and Oswald (February 28), he worked for the restoration of monasticism, learning and the arts in England. A translation of the *Rule of Benedict* and the composition of the *Regularis Concordia* have been attributed to him.

In 1546, Blessed Peter Faber, one of Ignatius of Loyola's (July 31) earliest companions. He was born in Savoy to a farming family. After joining Ignatius' company, he took part in several Catholic-Protestant dialogues, then devoted himself to the Catholic Reform. To that end he preached in Germany, Portugal and Spain. He had a winning personality, and influenced St. Peter Canisius (December 21) and St. Francis Borgia (October 10).

In 1868, at La Mure, St. Peter Julian Eymard. He became a Marist priest, then founded the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Sisters, whose spirituality focused on adoration of the Eucharist. He founded the Priests' Eucharistic League and the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament.

In 1943 in Belarus, Blessed Stella Mardosewicz and ten companions. They were members of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth who offered their lives to the Nazis in exchange for the lives of 120 factory workers. They were shot and their bodies buried in a common grave.

August 2

In 371, St. Eusebius, bishop of Vercelli. He lived a monastic life with some of his clergy. He was exiled for some years because he refused to endorse an Arian-inspired condemnation of St. Athanasius. He was kept in captivity and mistreated in Palestine, Cappadocia and Egypt. When he was released he spent time traveling in support of church unity and in opposition to Arianism, and then returned to Vercelli.

In 1936, at Barbastro in Aragon, Blessed Ceferino Jiménez Malla. He was a gypsy horse trader who became a Catholic late in life. During the Spanish Civil War, he was arrested and shot for helping a priest.

August 3

Today's is the anniversary of the founding of the Monastery of the Ascension in 1965, and its independence from Mt. Angel Abbey in 1998, which are commemorated with the liturgy for the dedication of a church.

In the first century, St. Lydia. She was a Jewish proselyte, whom Paul baptized in Philippi. She offered Paul hospitality.

August 4

In 1859, at Ars, St. John Vianney. He began his education for the priesthood when he was twenty and was ordained in 1815, when he was 29. He was assigned to the remote village of Ars, where he spent the rest of his life as a zealous parish priest and sought after confessor.

In 1916, at Montreal, Blessed Frederick Jansoone. He was a Franciscan priest who served in Palestine and then in French-speaking Canada.

August 5

In the late second century, Saints Addai and Mari, whom tradition says evangelized the area in Mesopotamia around Edessa.

In 642, in the battle of Maserfield, St. Oswald. He was converted by St. Columba's (June 9) monks at Iona, after he took refuge there during a dynastic struggle. Having become king of Northumbria, he called Aidan from Iona to help convert his territories.

August 6

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

In Spain, in 304, Saints Justus and Pastor, martyrs. They were school boys during the persecution of Diocletian. They declared their Christianity and were martyred.

In 523, St. Hormisdas, who spent much of his time as pope working successfully to restore unity to the church in the wake of the Acacian schism over Monophysitism.

August 7

In 1547, at Naples, St. Cajetan. He was born at Vicenza, and studied theology and law at Padua. He became a priest and founded oratories dedicated to service of the incurably ill. Together with John Peter Caraffa, later Pope Paul IV, he founded the Theatine Order which aimed to renew priestly ministry.

In 258, at Rome, during the persecution of Valerian, Pope Sixtus II and his companions, martyrs.

In Augsburg, in 304, St. Afra, martyr.

In 1638, Blessed Agathangelo and Blessed Cassian, martyrs. They were Capuchin missionaries who sought to reconcile the Coptic Church to Rome.

August 8

In 1221, in Bologna, St. Dominic. He was born near the Abbey of St. Dominic of Silos in Spain and named after its patron. He became a canon regular as Osma. With Bishop Diego of Azevedo, Dominic devoted himself to converting the Cathar heretics in France. Their method was to live in poverty and engage in patient theological discussion. After ten years, Dominic founded an order dedicated to contemplation, sacred studies and preaching, and the order grew rapidly.

In 1091, St. Altman, bishop of Passau. He was a canon and teacher in Paderborn, and a chaplain to Emperor Henry III. As bishop of Passau, he installed canons regular at Göttweig, Sankt Pölten and Sankt Florian, and introduced the Cluniac reforms to Kremsmünster. He spent some years in exile because his support of Gregory VII's decrees against simony and clerical marriage.

In 1909, Blessed Mary MacKillop. She was born in Australia of Scottish parents. With the help of Fr. Julian Tenison Woods, she founded the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, dedicated to Catholic education and care for the poor. The order grew rapidly, but met with many difficulties from some bishops who wanted diocesan control of the order. These gave her ample opportunity to practice heroic virtue.

In 1905, at Zamora, Blessed Bonifacia Rodríguez. She founded the Servants of St. Joseph, a congregation of religious women which provided work for women and protection of for them in the work place. Her new idea met with opposition, but she persevered with equanimity.

August 9

In Florence, about 1242, Blessed John of Salerno. He was an early follower of St. Dominic (August 8) and preached against the Cathars in Italy.

In 1918, at Molokai, Hawaii, Blessed Marianne (Barbara Cope) of Molokai. She was brought to the United States from Germany by her parents when she was two. She joined the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in New York when she was twenty-four and later became provincial. But then she resigned and went to Hawaii to devote the rest of her life to serving lepers.

In 1904, Blessed Francesca Rubatto. She joined the Capuchin Sisters in Loano, Italy, when she was thirty-nine. She became their leader and sent sisters on missions in Italy, Uruguay, and Argentina. She herself helped make a foundation in the Brazilian rainforest, but the sisters were massacred with the rest of the Christians there in 1901.

In 1942. St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein). She was born in Breslau into a large Jewish family. She became an atheist when she was fourteen. She studied psychology, literature and philosophy. Edmund Husserl was one of her professors. Max Scheler, another professor, influenced her decision to become a Catholic, which she did after reading the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila. For ten years she taught philosophy and studied St. Thomas Aquinas and mysticism. She joined the Carmelites in 1933, just after Hitler became chancellor of Germany. She felt a profound identity with the Jewish people. She went to a convent in the Netherlands, but was arrested there in 1942 and executed in Auschwitz.

August 10

In 258, at Rome, the martyrdom of St. Lawrence. He was one of the seven deacons in charge of the church's goods and alms. He was martyred under Valerian four days after the martyrdom of Pope St. Sixtus (August 6). Later legend adds several charming stories. Lawrence sold the church's goods and gave the money to the poor. When asked by the prefect of Rome to produce the church's valuables, he pointed to the poor. When he was being broiled alive on a grill, he asked to be turned so the other side could be done.

About 590, St. Blaine, who was born on the Scottish island of Bute, studied and became a monk in Ireland, then returned to Bute where he founded a monastery and became a missionary and bishop.

August 11

In 1253, St. Clare of Assisi. When she was 18, Clare heard St. Francis preach. She renounced marriage and asked him for further instruction. Then she abandoned her former life and went to Francis, who sent her to stay in a Benedictine convent. Her sister joined her. Francis eventually settled them near the church of San Damiano on the edge of Assisi. At first, Clare and her convent lived in extreme austerity, but with time she moderated that. She spent her life in service to her sisters in religion.

In the fourth century, at Rome, St. Susanna.

About 560, in the Abruzzi, St. Equitius, a monastic founder and preacher who was a contemporary of St. Benedict.

August 12

About 732, at Lerins, St. Procarus and companions, martyrs. When the Saracens were coming to devastate the island, he used the available boats to save boys studying in the school and the younger monks. Most of those who remained on the island were murdered by the Saracens.

In 1689, Blessed Innocent XI, pope. He was born in Como, made a cardinal in 1645, and elected pope in 1676 when he was sixty-five. He quarreled with Louis XIV over the French crown's interference with the appointment of bishops and the French king's decision to revoke the Edict of Nantes and persecute Protestants. He condemned the Quietism of Miguel de Molinos. Throughout his life, he lived simply and was firm in opposing error and ecclesiastical ambition.

August 13

About 236, in the mines of Sardinia, the martyrdom of St. Pontian, pope, and St. Hippolytus. Hippolytus was a theologian and critic of Pope Pontian and several of his predecessors, whom he thought were tainted with the Sabellian heresy and too lax regarding forgiveness. Hippolytus and Pontian were arrested and deported to Sardinia and died there of maltreatment.

In 587, at Poitiers, St. Radegund. She was a Thuringian princess who was captured by the Franks and later married to Clothaire, the youngest son of Clovis. Clothaire was a womanizer who became tired of Radegund's charitable activities. When he murdered her brother in 550, she fled the court. She founded a monastery near Poitiers, which became a center of culture. St. Venantius Fortunatus (December 14) settled there and wrote poems extolling the community. Radegund was a great collector of relics, and when she obtained a relic of the Holy Cross, he was inspired to write the *Vexilla Regis prodeunt* and *Pange lingua gloriosi*, which are sung during Passiontide.

In 662, in the Caucasus, St. Maximus the Confessor. He was born of an aristocratic Byzantine family and became a monk and abbot. He moved to Alexandria to escape the invading Persians and there wrote a number of theological works, some of which opposed Monothelitism, the heresy which said Christ had no human will. He went to Rome in defense of orthodoxy, and there in 653 both he and Pope St. Martin I (April 13) were arrested by the Emperor Constans and sent into exile. Maximus was tried and tortured several times; he died in exile near the Black Sea. His theological and mystical writings are highly regarded to this day.

In 1621, in Rome, St John Berchmans. He was born and raised in Flanders, then joined the Jesuits. He was sent to study in Rome, and died there. His motto was, "Prize little things most of all."

During the Second World War, Blessed Jakob Gapp and Blessed Otto Neururer, two Austrian priests, who were executed for their outspoken opposition to Nazism.

August 14

In 958, at Einsiedeln, Blessed Eberhard. He resigned his position as provost of Strasbourg cathedral to join his friend Benno, the former bishop of Metz, at his hermitage at Einsiedeln. After Benno's death, Eberhard became the first abbot of the community, and during a famine used its resources to feed the hungry.

In 1196, in Latvia, St. Meinhard. He was an Augustinian Canon in Segeberg Abbey in Holstein, when he went to convert the pagan tribes in what is now Latvia. He made his headquarters at Ikšķile near Riga, and was made bishop there.

In 1901, in Tanzania, the Venerable Cassian Spiss, Benedictine monk and martyr. He was professed at St. Ottilien and later made vicar apostolic of Dar-es-Salaam. He was martyred while traveling in the back country.

In 1941, at Auschwitz, the martyrdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe. He was born in Russian controlled Poland and became a Franciscan. He had a very strong devotion to Mary. He suffered from tuberculosis, but found energy to do pastoral work and publish several religious magazines in Poland, Japan and India. When the Nazis conquered Poland he recommended non-violent resistance and extended help to thousands of Polish and Jewish refugees, though he shared the traditional Polish disdain of Jews. At Auschwitz he voluntarily took the place of a prisoner singled out for death and starvation. After two weeks of starving, he was killed by lethal injection.

August 15

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Belief in the Assumption grew by analogy to Christ's ascension and from the stories of the translation into heaven of Old Testament saints like Enoch and Elijah. Christians thought that if because of her relation to Jesus she was preserved from sin, then she was preserved from bodily corruption, the result of sin. Beginning in the fifth century accounts of Mary's Assumption begin to appear, and by the ninth century there was a feast of the Assumption in the West, and by the 20th century the doctrine was almost universally accepted by Catholics. Having consulted the bishops of the world, Pius XII declared Mary's assumption as dogma in 1950.

In 430, in North Africa, St. Alypius, a lifetime friend of St. Augustine (August 28) . In 393 he became bishop of Tagaste.

In 1568, in Poland, St. Stanislaus Kostka. The devout son of wealthy and influential parents, he was educated at a Jesuit school in Vienna. He joined the Jesuits in Rome, but died the next year.

In 1909, in the Congo, Blessed Isidore Bakanja. He was a devout Catholic. Isidore worked for a mining company, whose manager was hostile to Catholicism because he thought it destroyed European authority over the native Africans. When Isidore would not abandon his Catholic devotions, the manager had him beaten and put in solitary confinement. He was eventually rescued by the director of the company, but was so exhausted from the mistreatment that he died six months later, having forgiven the manager, who was later arrested for what he had done.

August 16

In Hungary, in 1038, St. Stephen. Stephen was the son of the first Christian king of Hungary and the husband of Gisela, the sister of St. Henry II (July 13). When he became king, Stephen promoted the growth of the Hungarian church and founded the monastery of St. Martin, the motherhouse of the Hungarian Benedictines.

In 1378, St. Rock, who was widely venerated as the saint to be invoked for protection against the plague.

In 1490, at Toledo, St. Beatrice da Silva. After spending 30 years in a Dominican convent, she founded the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

August 17

In 1308, St. Clare of Montefalco. She was a member of a community of penitents who lived under the guidance of her sister Joan. They adopted the Augustinian Rule in 1290, and the next year Clare became abbess.

In 1736, St. Joan of the Cross. She was born in Saumur in France. She took over her family's religious goods shop and ran it efficiently, but avariciously. A woman showed up one day and asked for alms, and gradually St. Joan became a great champion of the poor. She founded a community of Sisters of Providence who were devoted to helping the needy.

August 18

In 1641, St. Jane Frances de Chantal. Born into a devout and prominent family, she received thorough religious education from her widowed father. At twenty she married the baron de Chantal. Her husband was killed in a hunting accident and she raised their three surviving children. St. Francis de Sales became her spiritual director and dear friend. At his advice she founded the Congregation of the Visitation, who would work outside the convent. St. Francis wrote his treatise *On the Love of God* for them. Although the sisters eventually had to accept enclosure, the order spread rapidly.

About 319, in Palestine, St. Helena, the mother of Constantine. In 326, Helena went to Palestine and there established several churches, liberated prisoners, and helped

the needy. A sermon of St. Ambrose in 385 credits her with having found the cross on which Jesus died.

In 1255, Blessed Leonard, abbot of the monastery of Cava in Campania.

August 19

In 1680, in Caen, St. John Eudes. He was educated by the Jesuits and joined the Oratorians, where he learned the Christocentric spirituality of Bérulle under the tutelage of Charles de Condren. After working among plague victims for several years, John preached the first of over a hundred six-to-eight week-long missions he undertook on behalf of the poorly evangelized people of Normandy. In 1643 he left the Oratorians and established a seminary in Caen. He promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as token of Jesus' sharing in humanity's nature and suffering.

In 1297, at Brignoles in Provence, St. Louis of Anjou. He was the son of the King of Naples, and was held in captivity at Barcelona for seven years. He was tutored by Franciscans determined to join their order. Pope Boniface VIII finally allowed this, but insisted Louis become bishop of Toulouse. Louis died not long afterward, at the age of 23.

August 20

At Clairvaux, in 1153, St. Bernard. Born of aristocratic parents, he entered Cîteaux in 1112, when he was twenty-two. Three years later Stephen Harding (April 17) sent him to found Clairvaux, from which over 300 Cistercian monasteries were subsequently founded, including Rievaulx and Mellifont. Bernard was a charismatic personality and a brilliant literary stylist. He was extremely influential in the church of his day: a champion of austere monastic observance, an opponent of theological innovation, a preacher of the second crusade, a goad to bishops and popes, a defender of the Jews, a mystic who experienced and preached the love of God.

The commemoration of Samuel, the prophet, who anointed David.

In 685, in France, St. Philbert, who founded the monasteries of Jumièges and Noirmoutier.

In 1348, Blessed Bernard Tomomei. He was born in Siena and became a law professor there. He became a hermit, then founded the Benedictine Congregation of Our Lady of Monte Oliveto, which expanded rapidly. He died while he and his confreres were ministering to victims of a plague in Siena.

In 1866, in Rome, Maria de Mattias. She grew up a self-absorbed teenager in the mountainous region between Rome and Naples that was very disturbed by the Napoleonic Wars and banditry. At 16 she began to take her faith seriously. She worked with missionaries of the Society of the Precious Blood to re-evangelize the area, and

eventually founded the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, who combined ministry to women with adoration.

August 21

In Rome, in 1914, S. Pius X. He was a kind and simple man. On the one hand his papacy introduced innovative reforms affecting the liturgy and began the codification of canon law. He founded the Biblical Institute in Rome. On the other hand he was very suspicious of new movements in theology and biblical studies and democratic forms of secular government, which he condemned as “modernism.”

In 480, at Clermont in the Auvergne, Sidonius Apollinaris. He was from an aristocratic Gallo-Romano family, received a classical education and married. He spent some time in the court of the Emperor in Rome, where he was both an official and a writer of occasional verse. In 469 he was appointed bishop of Clermont-Ferrand. He was a conscientious bishop, gave much of his property to charity, and defended his people against the Visigoths.

In 1894, in Madagascar, Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo.. She was born into a powerful family in Madagascar. Victoria went to a mission school and requested baptism when she was fifteen. She was married to the son of an important official. He was not a good husband, but she stayed with him. She protected and encouraged Catholics during persecutions and was active in helping the poor and prisoners.

August 22

The commemoration of the Queenship of Mary.

In 1285, at Todi, St. Philip Benizi. He came from a prominent family, and studied medicine and philosophy at Paris and Padua. He joined the newly founded Servites in Florence. He wanted to remain a brother and serve the rest of the community, but he was ordained and given various positions in the order. He was elected general of the order in 1267. He was known as an effective leader and peacemaker.

August 23

In 1617, at Lima, St. Rose. As an adolescent, she took St. Catherine of Siena (April 29) as her model. She followed some of Catherine’s more extreme ascetical practices, and like Catherine became a Dominican tertiary. She set up an infirmary in one room of her family’s house and there cared for poor people.

August 24

In the first century, St. Bartholomew, the apostle. Little is known about him; he is usually identified with Nathanael. Tradition has it that he was martyred by being flayed alive. He is usually shown holding a knife or with his flayed skin folded over one arm.

In 684, St. Audoenus, bishop of Rouen. He served several kings as a court official, then became bishop of Rouen. He was an excellent bishop and founded monasteries.

In 1856, St. Emily de Vialar, who, after spending fifteen years caring for the sick and destitute, founded the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph, which under her leadership established convents in North Africa, the Balkans, Australia, and Burma.

In 1886, in Ecuador, Blessed Mary Incarnation of the Sacred Heart. She joined the Sisters of Bethlehem in Guatemala when she was fifteen. She became a leader and reformer of her order and founded schools and refuges for women in Costa Rica, Colombia and Ecuador.

August 25

In 1270, in Tunis, St. Louis IX, King of France. He was an extremely influential political figure, but his personal integrity, humility and restraint are the reasons he is honored as a saint. He and his wife Margaret, the oldest daughter of the count of Provence, had 11 children. He went on the second crusade in 1248, was captured and held prisoner, then returned to France in 1254, where he spent fifteen years implementing governmental and social reforms in France and promoting international peace. He died on the way to another crusading effort in Palestine.

In 303, St. Genesius of Arles. As a young notary. he was required to write down a decree of persecution against the Christians. He quit his job on the spot and was later captured and beheaded.

In 1648, St. Joseph Calasanz. He was born in Aragon and educated at Lérida and Valencia. He became a priest, and later went to Rome. He opened a free school there, and created a community which developed into the Piarist Order.

In 1885, in Argentina, Blessed María del Tránsito Cabanillas de Jesus Sacramentado. She was an active Catholic all her life, but when she was over fifty she tried to join several religious orders, but things didn't work out. She then helped to form the Franciscan Third Order Missionaries of Argentina, which are dedicated to the education of orphans and poor children.

August 26

In the third century, in Rome, St. Tarsicius, who was murdered while taking communion to the sick or to prisoners.

In 295, St. Maximilian, a conscientious objector, who was prosecuted, then executed because he wouldn't do military service. A reliable account of his martyrdom survives.

In 1078, Blessed Herluin, the founder of the abbey of Bec.

In 1838, in France, St. Elizabeth Bichier des Ages. After the French Revolution she decided to devote herself to prayer and serving the needy. She formed a community, the Daughters of the Cross, that grew rapidly.

In 1878, in Bethlehem, Blessed Mariam Baouardy. She was orphaned at three and raised by relatives in Alexandria. . She ran away at thirteen. She told her story to a sympathetic Muslim, but he cut her throat when she refused to embrace Islam. She joined the Carmelites and was sent to help found a community in India, and then another in Bethlehem. She had numerous mystical experiences.

August 27

At Ostia, in 387, St. Monica. She was born of a devout family. She married Patricius, who was not baptized until 370, the year before he died. She loved her son Augustine (August 28), and prayed for him throughout his turbulent youth. She followed Augustine to Milan, where she was guided by St. Ambrose. She lived to see Augustine baptized and shared a mystical experience with him before her death at the age of 55.

In the fifth century, St. Poemen, a desert father who is celebrated for his pithy sayings. He was abbot of a monastery at Skete, and then in Terenuthis.

In 543, St. Caesarius. He was from an aristocratic family and as a young man entered the monastery of Lérins. When he was thirty-three he became bishop of Arles. He was a frugal, pious and rigorous bishop. He required that the divine office be offered publicly and modified it so lay people could participate. He was a popular preacher, and his sermons were widely diffused. He founded a monastery for nuns and wrote a rule for them, and one for monks as well.

In 1848, Blessed Dominic Barberi, an Italian Passionist priest who saw to the founding of four houses of his order in England, where he preached missions. He received John Henry Newman into the Church at Littlemore in 1845.

August 28

In 430, at Hippo in North Africa, St. Augustine, bishop and doctor of the church. Born at Thagaste in what is now Algeria, he studied in Carthage, became a teacher, and spent ten years as an adherent of the Manichean sect. With influence from Plato, St. Ambrose, his mother Monica, and Christian monasticism, he was baptized in 387. He returned to Africa and led a monastic life with some companions. He later wrote a monastic rule which influenced St. Benedict and was adopted by many later religious groups. His theological works have shaped Western Christianity. He was ordained priest in 391 and became bishop of Hippo in 396. He was an active bishop at a time of upheaval, and died during a siege of Hippo by the Vandals.

About 405 in Egypt, St. Moses the Black, an Ethiopian brigand who became a monk a Skete. When some Berbers threatened his monastery, he would not let the monks use force to defend their monastery and was murdered by the raiders.

In 1784, at Mission Carmel in California, Blessed Junipero Serra. Born in Majorca, he became a Franciscan in 1730 and went to America in 1749, where he was a missionary to the Indians of Texas, Mexico and finally California.

August 29

The Feast of the Passion of John the Baptist. He condemned the ruler Herod Antipas for his illicit marriage to Herodias, the second of his ten wives. She was both his niece and his brother's wife. Herodias was offended and connived with her daughter to have John the Baptist beheaded. Various customs connected with the summer solstice gravitated around his feast. John the Baptist is usually portrayed dressed in rough garments, with a lamb or a cross of reeds, and dressed in rough garments..

In 1844, in Waterford, Blessed Ignatius Rice, the founder of the Irish Christian Brothers. He was born in county Kilkenny of prosperous tenant farmers. He received some education and went to work for his uncle in Waterford, and soon became very prosperous. He married, but his wife died. He became a millionaire, but then decided to devote himself to teaching poor boys. He founded two orders of teaching brothers who now are present throughout the world, working especially among the poor.

In 1879, in France, Blessed Mary of the Cross, who founded the Little Sisters of the Poor who ministered to the needy, especially the elderly.

August 30

About 670, St. Fiacre. Legend has it that he was born in Ireland and went to France where he became a hermit, planted a garden, and opened a hospice. His hermitage was long a pilgrimage spot. He is the patron saint of gardeners and of the taxi cab drivers of Paris.

In 1588, in England, St. Margaret Ward. When she helped a missionary priest escape from prison, she was arrested and tortured. She would not tell where the priest was hiding or renounce her faith, so she executed by hanging.

In 1954, Blessed Ildephonse Schuster. Benedictine abbot, and cardinal bishop of Milan. He became a Benedictine and devoted himself to historical studies, particularly regarding the liturgy. He taught at St. Anselmo and was elected abbot of St. Paul's Outside-the-Walls. He was made bishop of Milan and a cardinal in 1929. In the tradition of St. Charles Borromeo, he emphasized pastoral visitations; when he died he was on the fifth round of visits to the 900 parishes in his diocese. He denounced profane activities, promoted housing for poor immigrants who came to Milan from the south of Italy, and

emphasized the Eucharist. He was at first a supporter of the Fascists, but vigorously opposed the entry of Italy into the Second World War. He aided Jews fleeing from Germany and as the war was coming to and end, tried to arrange a surrender that would spare Milan from further destruction.

August 31

In the first century, St. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus and obtained his body and arranged for his burial. Many legends grew up about him. In the Grail Legend, which arose in the 12th century, Joseph was connected with the cup which was said to have caught Christ blood on Calvary, and this legend was in turn connected with Glastonbury Abbey in England.

In 358, St. Paulinus, bishop of Trier, who was a strong supporter of Athanasius (May 2) during the latter's exile in the West. Paulinus was himself exiled by the emperor Constantius and sent to Phrygia where he died. In 396 his relics were brought back to Trier under St. Felix (March 26), bishop of that city.

In 651, St. Aidan. He was a monk of Iona. He was sent as a missionary to the English, and with the help of St. Oswald (August 9), the king of Northumbria, he won many converts by his asceticism and gentleness. In 635 he was consecrated bishop of Lindisfarne, and there he established a monastery and became its first abbot.

September 1

The commemoration of the Judges, Joshua and Gideon.

In Switzerland, probably in the fourth century, St. Verena, a martyr.

In Palestine, in 459, St. Simeon Stylites the Elder. He is the earliest and best known of the pillar saints. After some years as a monk in several monasteries and as a hermit, he began living on a pillar nine feet high and six feet in diameter. He spent the rest of his life on such pillars, where he continued the extreme asceticism of his early life. He preached from his pillar twice a day, urging people to act justly and pray.

About 710, near Arles, St. Giles, abbot. He was venerated as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers as a patron of beggars, lepers, the physically handicapped, nursing mothers, shepherds, blacksmiths and horses.

In Marseilles, France, in 1274, St. Douceline, a beguin. She was traveling missionary, an ecstatic, and a counselor to Charles of Anjou.

September 2

In the sixth century, in Sicily, St. Nonnosus, a monk of the monastery of Mount Soracte. He is venerated particularly at Freising and Bamberg.

About 1070, in Denmark, St. William of Roskilde, bishop.

In 1792, the 191 known canonized martyrs, almost all of them bishops and priests, who were murdered by mob violence in Paris on September 2 and 3.

September 3

In 604, at Rome, St. Gregory the Great, pope and doctor of the church. Highly educated, he served for some years as a secular administrator. When his father died, he gave his family's property to the church, and in 574 he became a monk in a monastery he had established in the family mansion on the Coelian Hill in Rome. In 578 he was made a deacon of Rome, and in 579 he was sent as diplomatic representative of the pope to Constantinople. He was elected pope in 590 while he was working to provide help to victims of a plague in the city. He proved to be a skilled administrator and diplomat. He sent missionaries to England, wrote extensively, including the life of St. Benedict in his *Dialogues*.

In the first century, St. Phoebe, whom Paul commends in the epistle to the Romans as "a deaconess of the church of Cenchrae."

In 676, St. Aigulf, martyr. He was a monk of Fleury and then abbot of Lérins.

In 1244, Blessed Guala of Brescia. When he was already a priest, he was recruited by St. Dominic. He later became bishop of Brescia, at an especially troubled time in northern Italy.

In Nagasaki, in 1632, Blessed Antony Ixida and companions, martyrs. Antony was born of Catholic parents and became a Jesuit. He was repeatedly imprisoned and finally burned at the stake with five others.

September 4

The commemoration of Moses, prophet and lawgiver.

In 422, at Rome, St. Boniface I, pope. When he was elderly, he was chosen pope in a disputed election. He eventually was recognized as the pope and proved effective. He supported St. Augustine against the Pelagians.

In the early ninth century, St. Ida of Herzfeld. She was married to Eckbert, a Saxon ruler, and bore him five children. She nursed him in his last illness, and then embraced a life of austerity, prayer and kindness to the poor.

In 1166, St. Rosalia, who in 1624, during a plague, became patron of Palermo.

In 1547, at Carmagnola, in Italy, Blessed Catherine Racconigi. She was born into a very poor family. She had mystical experiences as a young girl. She made a private vow of virginity and became a Dominican tertiary. She spent her life working to help support her family and praying on behalf of those in purgatory and for those who suffered from the wars in Italy.

In 1943, Maria Stella and Ten Companions, the Blessed Martyrs of Nowogrodek, Belarus. These Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offered themselves to the Gestapo in place of 129 men who were arrested. The Nazis shot the nuns, and deported many of the men, but all the deportees survived.

September 5

About 698, at the monastery named after him, St. Bertin, abbot. He was a monk of Luxeuil, who was sent to assist Omer when the latter was made bishop of Thérouanne, with the mission of converting the Morini people.

In 1997, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. She was born of Albanian parents in 1910 in Skopje, which is now part of Macedonia. She joined the Loretto Sisters when she was 18, and was sent to India and was assigned to teach in Calcutta. In 1946 she received a call to serve the poorest people in India, and two years later she founded the Missionaries of Charity. The order grew rapidly. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. After she received the call from Christ to found her order, she received no further consolations and even felt separated from God.

September 6

The commemoration of Zechariah the prophet.

About 772, in Bavaria, St. Magnus of Füssen He was a monk of St. Gall who preached the gospel in Bavaria. He established a monastery which served as a missionary center.

In 1181, Blessed Eskil of Lund. He spent time at Clairvaux, where he became a friend of St. Bernard. He encouraged the foundation of several monasteries, including Alvastra, the first Cistercian monastery in Sweden.

September 7

About 560, at Nogent-sur-Seine, St. Cloud. A member of the Merovingian royal family, he became a hermit, and spent his time passing on the faith to the local people.

In Hungary, Saints Mark and Stephen, Jesuits, and St. Melchior, a diocesan priest. They ministered to the Catholics in a predominantly Calvinist area of Slovakia. They were arrested, and when they would not renounce their Catholic faith, tortured and killed.

In 1855, on Woodlark Island in the South Pacific, Blessed John Baptist Mazzucconi, a member of the Foreign Missionaries of Milan, who ministered in Papua New Guinea, and later was murdered when the ship on which he was traveling landed on Woodlark Island. Just before this he had written to his family: "I don't know what the Lord is preparing for me on this new journey beginning tomorrow: I just know one thing, that he is good and that he loves me greatly; everything else, calm and storm, danger and safety, life and earth are but passing and changeable expressions of his fervent, unchanging, eternal love."

In 1921, at Parma, Blessed Anna Eugenia Picco. Her father was a musician who left her mother for another woman. Her mother then took a lover, and she Anna grew up without much guidance. She eventually ran away from home and joined the Little Sisters of the Sacred Hearts at Parma. She became superior general and was a much beloved religious figure in Italy.

September 8

The Birthday of Our Lady. This feast came to the West in the seventh century. We know nothing about Mary's birth, though there are ancient traditions which suggest it occurred at Nazareth or Jerusalem.

In 438, St. Isaac the Great, bishop of the Armenians. He was married and they had one child before his wife died. He seems then to have become a monk. During his episcopate Armenian Christianity and culture flourished. Isaac combined elements of

Byzantine and Syrian Christianity in an Armenian mode. One of his associates developed an Armenian alphabet, and many Christian works were translated at his instigation..

About 545, St. Ciarán of Clonmacnois. After studying under St. Finnian at Clonard, he spent seven years on Inis Mór in the Aran Islands as a monk under St. Enda. After a visit to St. Senan at Slattery Island, Ciarán settled with eight companions at Clonmacnois. Ciarán died shortly after that, but the monastery became one of the great centers of monasticism and learning in Ireland.

In 725, St. Corbinian, apostle of Bavaria. He was born at Châtres near Troyes, and became a recluse there. A community grew up, but leading it was too distracting, so he went to Rome. Pope Gregory II sent him to Bavaria as a missionary.

In 1555, St. Thomas of Villanova. He studied at Alcalá, then joined the Augustinian friars at Salamanca. He was appointed bishop of Valladolid in 1544. He continued to wear his worn habit. He held a synod and drew up guidelines for his diocese which foreshadowed the disciplinary decrees of the Council of Trent. In his reforming efforts, Thomas was very kindly. He had a special concern for the poor.

In 1853, at Marseilles, Blessed Frederick Ozanam. He was born in Milan and raised in Lyons. He went to study at Paris where he became acquainted with Lacordaire, Montalembert, and especially Emanuel Bailly, whom he assisted in founding the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He earned doctorates in both law and literature. He became a professor at Paris, was happily married, and the couple had a daughter. He was very devoted to the church, to his students, to scholarship, and to the poor.

September 9

In 1654, in Cartagena, Colombia, St. Peter Claver. He was born in Catalonia and became a Jesuit. St. Alphonsus Rodriguez inspired him to become a missionary. He went to Colombia, and there devoted his long life to working among the slaves. He learned one African language and used translators in his ministry. He worked with those who were ill, and also ministered to Protestant sailors and Muslims.

About the twelfth century, Blessed María de la Cabeza, the wife of St. Isidore the Farmer (May 15).

In 1864, Blessed Jacques Laval. He was born in Normandy and became a doctor. He became a priest at Saint-Sulpice in 1838. He met Francis Libermann, who helped inspire him to go as a missionary to Mauritius in 1841. He devoted the rest of his life to ministering to the recently freed slaves on the island.

September 10

About 580, St. Finnian of Moville. He was born near Strangford Lough in Ulster, and studied under St. Colman, and St. Ninnian, He went to Rome where he was ordained, and returned to Ireland to found the monastery of Moville.

In 1305, St. Nicholas of Tolentino. He became an Augustinian friar and was ordained by St. Benevenuto (March 22). He was sent to Tolentino to preach in the streets, where he was highly regarded as a peacemaker, miracle worker and friend of the poor.

In 1641, near Lancaster Castle, the martyrdom of St. Ambrose Barlow. He joined the Benedictines at Douai and was ordained in 1617. He spent twenty-four years working as a missionary around Liverpool. He was much loved for his zeal, simplicity of life and good humor. He was arrested shortly after he had suffered a stroke. When he wouldn't promise to stop ministering, he was condemned, hanged, drawn and quartered.

September 11

In Rome, Saints Protus and Hyacinth, martyrs. Their tombs were discovered in 1845 and they are mentioned in a number of ancient documents, but nothing is known about them beyond the fact they died for their faith.

About 350, in Egypt, St. Paphnutius, a disciple of St. Antony and supporter of St. Athanasius, who became bishop of the Upper Thebaid area in Egypt.

In the fourth century, St. Felix and Regula, to whom an important monastery in Zurich was dedicated in the ninth century.

In 1227, Blessed Louis of Thuringia, the husband of St. Elizabeth of Hungary (November 17). They were a very happy couple and had three children before Louis died at the age of 27 while on Crusade.

In 1840, in China, St. John Gabriel Perboyre. He was a Vincentian priest and spent some years teaching in seminaries in France. He repeatedly asked to be sent to China. After four years of missionary work there, he was arrested, tortured for a year, and finally strangled to death.

September 12

In Ireland, in the sixth century, St. Ailbe, a bishop and missionary who is much revered in Ireland, though little is known about his life.

In 1622, six Japanese Christians who were martyred by burning at Omura, a few miles north of Nagasaki.

September 13

In 407, in the region around the Black Sea, St. John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor. John was born about 350 in Antioch, raised by his mother, and well educated in secular and religious subjects. He became a monk for seven years, but his health broke. After he recuperated, he was ordained a priest in Antioch. He was given charge of the poor and was also esteemed as a brilliant preacher and biblical commentator. He was appointed Bishop of Constantinople, which earned him the animosity of Theophilus, bishop of Alexandria, who wanted the appointment. John's integrity led him to undertake a thorough-going reform of the church of Constantinople, and his straightforward talk riled people. He reduced the size of the bishop's household and gave the money to set up hostels. With his friend St. Olympias (July 25), he provided services for widows. By the enmity of Theophilus and the Empress Eudoxia, John was twice exiled and finally died from exhaustion.

In 453, St. Maurilius, who served as bishop of Angers for thirty years.

In 1640, Blessed Mary of Jesus, Carmelite. When she entered the convent in Toledo when she was 17, she was one of the first to join St. Teresa of Avila's Discalced Carmelites;. She served as prioress and novice mistress in her community and was revered as a saint even before her death.

September 14

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which recalls the story of the finding of the relics of the holy cross by St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, and their recovery from the Persians in 628.

In Jerusalem, in 1214, St. Albert, bishop. Albert was a canon regular, who was made successively bishop of Bobbio and Vercelli. He was an effective diplomat and peacemaker, and for that reason in 1205 he was sent to Palestine as Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and papal legate. From his episcopal see in Akka he worked to keep peace among the crusaders and between them and the Moslems. He wrote a rule for some hermits who lived on Mount Carmel, and who then became the nucleus of the Carmelite Order. He was murdered this day during a procession on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

St. Peter of Tarentaise, bishop. His devout family was hospitable to monks, and Peter became acquainted with the Cistercians. He joined them and became abbot of the monastery of Tamié. He was appointed bishop of Tarentaise. He was an exemplary bishop and mediated in various disputes. He was a strong supporter of Pope Alexander III against the antipope Victor IV.

In China, in 1815, Blessed Gabriel Taurin Dufresse, martyr. He was ordained in 1774 and the next year went to China as a missionary. He worked energetically for eight

years, was arrested, then released, and in 1800 was appointed a bishop. In 1815 he was arrested, and then beheaded.

September 15

The memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows.

In 178, St. Valerian, one of the martyrs of Lyons and Vienne.

About 687, at Jumièges, St. Aichardus, abbot. He was educated at the monastery school at Poitiers, refused to live at court, and became a monk.

In 1510, St. Catherine of Genoa. She was born into a prominent family and well-educated. Her family forced her into a political marriage before she was 16. She was beautiful and intense; her husband, Giuliano, was undisciplined and unfaithful. Ten years into the marriage, her husband had a conversion, and the couple went to live and work in a hospital. She worked tirelessly to help those in need. She was also a mystic, whose thoughts are transmitted in two works, a treatise on purgatory and a *Dialogue* between the soul and the body.

In 1929, Blessed Anton Schwartz. He received his early education at the Cistercian abbey of Heiligenkreuz and with the Benedictines at the Schottenstift in Vienna. After his ordination, he worked with poor apprentices and workers and championed their cause even before the publication of *Rerum novarum*. He founded an order dedicated to helping the working poor.

September 16

In 253, at Rome during the Decian persecution, St. Cornelius, pope and martyr. During his brief months as pope, he had to deal with the Novatian schism and the related issue of how to deal with those who denied their faith during persecution and later repented. He earned the support of St Cyprian, with whom he corresponded, though the two did not always agree.

In 258, at Carthage, the martyrdom of St. Cyprian, bishop. Cyprian was a prominent and well-educated man who underwent a conversion when he was about forty-five. He became bishop and administered his diocese forcefully and lovingly, and he dealt the same way with the lapsed. A priest named Novatus, who wanted to receive the lapsed back without any penance, led a schism. Cyprian did not believe that baptisms administered by heretics and schismatics were valid, which led him to quarrel with St. Stephen, Cornelius' successor in Rome. He was exiled in 257 when he refused to renounce his faith; in 258 he was returned to Carthage and put to death by the sword.

About 432, in Scotland, St. Ninian. He was a monk at Whithorn.

In 921, in Bohemia. St. Ludmila. She converted to Christianity with her husband, Duke Borivoy of Bohemia. She helped raise her grandson, St. Wenceslas (Sept. 28) as a Christian. She was murdered by a party which opposed the Christianization of the country.

In 1087, Blessed Victor III, pope. From a prominent family, he became a monk at Cava, and then in Benevento, where he was given the name Desiderius. He spent time as a hermit and as a student of medicine in Salerno. He then joined Monte Cassino and became one of its greatest abbots. He rebuilt the abbey and promoted literature and learning. He was made a cardinal and served in various mediating roles until he was elected pope much against his will. He died two years later.

In 1122, St. Vitalis of Savigny. He received a good education, then became a hermit. With his disciples he formed the abbey and order of Savigny, which followed the Rule of St. Benedict. He was an effective preacher and spoke his mind. His order was incorporated into the Cistercians in 1147.

Tomorrow is the namesday of our confrere r. Tobiah Urrutia. He is commended to our charitable prayers.

September 17

In Rome, in 1621, St. Robert Bellarmine, bishop and doctor of the church. He was born in Tuscany and received an excellent early education, before joining the Jesuits. He studied at Padua and at Louvain, where he taught for seven years. He became a renowned preacher and theological controversialist. He began teaching in Rome in 1576 and worked on many projects: including a revision of the Latin Vulgate Bible, a catechism, and a revision of the church calendar. He worked as a mediator in the controversy over grace between Molina and Báñez. When he was made archbishop of Capua he emphasized the education of adults and of the clergy. He was recalled to Rome in 1605 and spent the rest of his life there. In his latter years, he was involved in the controversy over Galileo's championing of Copernicus' idea that the earth revolves around the sun. He was a friend of Galileo's, but he could not reconcile Galileo's position with his own overly-literal interpretation of Scripture. In his old age he wrote books *On the Ascent of the Mind to God* and *On the Art of Dying Well*.

About 705, St. Lambert, bishop and martyr. When bishop Théodard of Maastricht was murdered, Lambert succeeded him. When he was exiled during political turmoil, he spent seven years with the monks of Stavelot-Malmédy. When he was restored to his see, he proved a dedicated bishop and missionary. There are conflicting accounts of his death, but he was quickly venerated as a saint and martyr.

In 1179, St. Hildegard of Bingen. She was sent as a young girl to be educated by Jutta (December 22), a recluse attached to the Abbey of Disibodenberg. Eventually a community of nuns formed around Jutta. Hildegard joined it and some years later became its leader. From an early age, Hildegard experienced visions, and these became the basis

of several theological works, the first of which was the *Scivias*. She also wrote hymns, a musical morality play, a commentary on the *Rule of St. Benedict*, and a book of natural history and medicine, as well as hundreds of letters to people of all stations. Around 1150 she moved her community to the Rupertsberg near Bingen. In her later years she went on preaching tours in the Rhineland.

In 1895, in Kraków, Blessed Sigmund Felínski, bishop. He was born in Russian territories. His mother spent twelve years in Siberia for her Polish nationalism and support of the rights of farmers. He was educated at Moscow and Paris, then studied for the priesthood in St. Petersburg and after his ordination he ministered there. In 1862 he appointed bishop of Warsaw, which was then under Russian Rule. After eighteen months he was exiled to Siberia for twenty years. He spent his last years ministering around Kraków.

September 18

In 1603, at Osimo, St. Joseph of Cupertino. He came from a poor family and had a very deprived childhood. He had a short-attention span and a hot temper. He was, however, devout, and at seventeen joined the Capuchins. He was dismissed soon after that. He worked as a servant for a Conventual Franciscan community, joined them, and was ordained. He lived austere in service to his order, but was visited with many supernatural phenomena. These brought him to the attention of the Inquisition, which treated him severely. He was canonized in 1767.

September 19

About 305, in the region of Naples and Benevento, St. Januarius, bishop and martyr. Little is known of him except that he was a bishop who died for his faith. A relic of his blood is kept at Naples, and it mysteriously liquefies three days each year.

In 690, St. Theodore, bishop of Canterbury. He was born at Tarsus and educated in Athens. He was a sixty-five-year-old-monk, when Pope Vitalian appointed him to be bishop of Canterbury. He traveled to England with Adrian and Benet Biscop, and arrived in England in 669. He was a very effective church leader and usually managed to bring harmony in the church. He transformed a missionary church into a well-organized institution. He founded a fine school at Canterbury,

In 1591, St. Alphonsus de Orozco, an Augustinian friar who served all classes of people with equal zeal, but was an effective preacher at the royal court of Madrid. He wrote many devotional and mystical books.

September 20

Between 1839 and 1867, Saints Andrew Kim, Paul Chong, and Companions, martyrs of Korea. A Korean named Yi Sung-hun was baptized in Beijing in 1784 by a French missionary. He returned to found the first Catholic community in Korea in the

house of Kim Bom-u. The next year the government dispersed the community and arrested, tortured and exiled Kim Bom-u, who died shortly afterwards. Between 1791 and 1831 the numbers of Catholics increased, but hundreds were martyred. French missionaries arrived in 1837. Catholics, drawn from all classes of Korean life, increased in number, but persecution was intense until a treaty with France in 1886. There were further persecutions in 1905 and more recently in North Korea, where the church is still underground.

In 311, St. Methodius of Olympus, bishop and martyr, who left behind works called *On the Resurrection* and *The Banquet of the Ten Virgins*.

In 1534, near London, Blessed Thomas Johnson, one of ten Carthusians who were starved to death because they would not recognize the king as head of the church.

In 1904, in Puebla de los Angeles in Mexico, St. José María de Yermo y Parres. He was ordained for the diocese of León in 1879. When he came upon some pigs devouring two abandoned newborn babies, he started an order called the Servants of the Sacred Heart and of the Poor dedicated to helping the poor, especially young women. Shortly before his death he began a mission among the Tarahumara Indians in northern Mexico..

September 21

St. Matthew, apostle and evangelist. He was a tax-collector who followed Jesus from Capernaum. The gospel attributed to him seems to have been produced around 80 AD, perhaps in Syria, for a Jewish audience. His symbol is a man.

The commemoration of the prophet Jonah.

About 575, St. Cadoc, one of the most revered Welsh saints.

In 1246, in Russia, Saints Michael of Chernigov and Theodore, who were murdered by the invading Tartars when they refused to deny their faith.

September 22

About 287, at Martigny in Switzerland, St. Maurice and companions, martyrs. Maurice was an officer in the Roman army who suffered martyrdom with many of his men, when they refused to offer sacrifice to the gods.

In 530, St. Felix IV, pope, who was a fine administrator, known for his concern for the poor and his humility.

In the seventh century, St. Emmeram, bishop, who was a missionary around Poitiers and then in Bavaria. After his murder, his body was taken to Regensburg and buried in a monastery dedicated to him.

In 1770, at Turin, Blessed Ignatius of Santhià. He was a Capuchin friar who was a dedicated and effective spiritual guide.

September 23

At Rome, St. Linus, whom tradition says was the first bishop of Rome. He is mentioned after Peter and Paul in the First Eucharistic Prayer.

At Iona, in Scotland, St. Adomnán, abbot. He provided refuge to King Oswiu of Northumbria and became his friend. He tried to convince the monks of Iona to adopt the Roman date of Easter. In the Synod of Birr, in 697, he was responsible for the promulgation of a law protecting women and children in time of war. He wrote a *Life of St. Columba* and a book *On the Holy Places* in Palestine.

In 1527 and 1529, Saints Christopher, Antony and John, three young Indian boys in Mexico who became Christians and were murdered by Indians hostile to Christian missionary efforts.

In 1940, in Kraków, Blessed Bernardina Maria Jablonska. She joined the Albertines Sisters, whose founder, St. Albert Chmielowski, made her their leader when she was twenty-four, and she held that position for thirty-eight years.

In 1968, St. Pius of Pietrelcina, known as Padre Pio. He was born near Naples, joined the Capuchins as a young man and became a priest. Not long after that he began to feel the pains of the stigmata. He was a controversial figure after that, but the offerings his fame brought him were used to construct a hospital to relieve the suffering of the sick.

September 24

In Hungary, in 1046, St. Gerard of Csanad, bishop and martyr. He was born in Venice and entered the monastery of San Giorgio Maggiore there. He went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and ended up in Hungary. King Stephen (August 16) made him tutor of his son, Emeric (November 4) and then bishop of Csanad. After King Stephen's death, he was martyred by some men hostile to Christianity.

About 1218, Blessed Robert of Knaresborough. He was born in York, and as a young man became a hermit, and devoted himself to prayer and care of the poor.

In 1862, Blessed Anton Martin Slomsek, bishop of Maribor in Slovenia. He studied for the priesthood at Celovec, where he became an ardent supporter of Slovenian culture and language. He wrote a catechism in Slovenian and promoted education. As bishop, he promoted the foreign missions and ecumenical understanding.

September 25

In 1487, at Sachseln in Switzerland, St. Nicholas von Flue, hermit. His father was a prosperous farmer; his mother, a very pious woman, perhaps of Italian parentage, who came from Wolfenschiessen. She initiated her sons into the spirituality of the “Friends of God,” which derived from the Rhineland mystics. Nicholas married Dorothy, and they were happy together and had ten children. Nicholas was an important official in the canton of Unterwalden. In 1467, with the consent of his spiritual advisor and his wife, he became a hermit, eventually settling in Ranft, where for many years he lived fed only by the Eucharist.. He was venerated as an advisor and helped the feuding Swiss cantons avoid a civil war.

At Langres, St Ceolfrith, abbot. He was a monk under St. Wilfrid (October 12) at Ripon, before joining St. Benet Biscop (January 12) at Wearmouth. He became head of the new community at Jarrow, and during a plague only he and a boy, probably St. Bede, survived (May 25). He succeeded Benet Biscop as abbot. Bede describes him as “a man of acute mind, conscientious in everything he did, energetic, of mature judgment, fervent and zealous for his faith.” He had prepared three beautiful complete codices of the Latin Bible, one of which he meant to take to Pope Gregory II. However, Coelfrith died on the way to Rome. The bible, It now known as the Codex Amiatinus, is in the Laurentian Library in Florence.

In 1054, at Reichenau, Blessed Herman “Contractus.” He was crippled and mentally very bright. He wrote works on many subjects, especially liturgical music.

In 1392, St. Sergius of Radonezh, abbot. He became a hermit, and a monastery dedicated to the Holy Trinity grew up around him. He was a respected mediator as well as a man of prayer. Many of his disciples were important ecclesiastics. He is the most popular Russian saint.

September 26

In the late third century, in Syria, Saints Cosmas and Damian, martyrs. Little is known about them historically, but the legendary stories about them are very numerous. One legend has it that they practiced medicine without charging fees. They are patrons of physicians, nurses, dentists and pharmacists.

In 611, St. Colmán Elo. He was influenced by St. Columba, and founded a monastery at Lynam in Offaly, not far from Durrow.

In 1004, at Grottaferrata, St. Nilus. He was born at Rossano in Calabria. When he was thirty, he underwent a conversion when his wife and daughter died in an epidemic and joined a Byzantine monastery. He became abbot of Sant’Adriano. During an Arab invasion, his community took refuge at Monte Cassino. Just before his death, he founded the monastery of Grottaferrata near Rome.

In 1885, at Lyons, St. Teresa Couderc, As a young girl, she wanted to join a religious community in order to devote herself to rechristianizing the countryside. She did so, and later was one of the founders of the Religious of the Cenacle, dedicated to giving retreats for women. The development of the order was very rocky, but Teresa bore all the reversals with remarkable equanimity.

In 1899, at Gars in Bavaria, Blessed Caspar Stanggassinger. He felt called to be a priest from an early age and went to the junior seminary at Freising when he was ten years old. He joined the Redemptorists and was ordained. He was assigned to work in Redemptorist seminaries, but died of an infection when he was 28.

September 27

In 1660, in France, St. Vincent de Paul. He was born of a peasant family, and studied theology at Toulouse. He joined the circle of Pierre de Bérulle and was much influenced by St. Francis de Sales (January 24). When he was serving as a parish priest, he organized a confraternity of women to care for the sick poor. In 1625 he founded an order of priests, the Congregation of the Mission, which was dedicated to preaching and the revivifying of the Catholic religion in France. With Louise de Marillac (March 15) he founded the Daughters of Charity, a group of religious women. They wanted to work among the poor and so to avoid being bound by enclosure they who did not make permanent, public vows. By his preaching and seminary work, he contributed to the renewal of clergy in France. He was an opponent of Jansenism.

In 1457, Blessed Lawrence of Ripafratta, who supported Blessed Raymond of Capua (October 5) in the renewal of the Dominican Order. He encouraged Fra Angelico (February 18) to paint. St. Antoninus (May 10) was one of his students.

September 28

In 929, St. Wenceslas of Bohemia. He was educated by a disciple of St. Methodius. However, his mother supported an anti-Christian policy. With the help of his grandmother, he became duke of Bohemia. He was a just and decisive ruler. His brother Boleslas opposed him, and eventually killed him.

In 419, in Palestine, St. Eustochium. She was a daughter of St. Paula (January 26) and a disciple of St. Jerome (September 30), who wrote her a number of letters which survive. Eustochium went with her mother to Palestine and helped her superintend the monasteries she founded in Bethlehem. She learned Greek and Hebrew and assisted Jerome in translating the Bible.

In 782, in Germany, St. Lioba. She was a relative of St. Boniface and like him was born and raised in England. She became a nun at Wimborne, where she impressed people with her single-mindedness and her enthusiasm for learning. In 748 Boniface requested nuns to help with his evangelization work, and she and St. Walburga (February 25) were among the thirty nuns sent to help him. She was abbess of the monastery

Tauberbischofsheim and founded a number of others. She was a patient, warm and intelligent woman who urged her monks to live moderate lives and required that they learn to read Latin.

In 1494, in Pavia, Blessed Bernardino of Feltre. He studied at Padua. When he met St. James of the March (November 28), a disciple of St. Bernardino of Siena (May 13) he joined the Observant Franciscans. He became a renowned preacher, straightforward and uncompromising. He was very opposed to usury, and to counter the predations of unscrupulous lenders he established low-rate loan institutions (called *monte di pietà*) for the poor.

September 29

The feast of Michael, Raphael, Gabriel and all the angels.

In 1349, Blessed Richard Rolle of Hampole. He went to Oxford, but when he was in his late 20s he became a hermit. He eventually settled at Hampole, not far from a priory of Cistercian nuns. He spent his time praying and counseling and wrote several works, among them *The Fire of Love*. One of his maxims is that “The holy lover of God shows himself neither too merry nor full heavy in this habitation of exile, but he has cheerfulness with maturity.”

In 1364, Blessed Charles of Blois. He spent most of his life trying to gain the dukedom of Brittany, to which Duke John III had designated him heir. He was unsuccessful and at one point spent nine years in the Tower of London. Throughout the struggle he tried to minimize the effects of the war on his subjects and he once suspended a siege so his troops could go Mass.

September 30

In 420, at Bethlehem, St. Jerome, doctor of the church. He was born to a wealthy family and had an excellent education; Aelius Donatus, the grammarian, was one of his teachers. He then spent some years in travel and in 370 he became a monk at Aquileia. He was quarrelsome, and left in 374 for Antioch, where he spent four years as a hermit. He learned Hebrew from a converted Jew who had become a monk. He then studied the Bible under St. Gregory Nazianzen (January 2) in Constantinople. In 382 he went to Rome and worked for Pope Damasus (December 11) and began a revision of the Latin Bible. In Rome a group of Christian women gathered around him and lived a quasi-monastic life. In 385 he departed for Palestine, where some Roman ladies joined him at Bethlehem. He was involved in a number of controversies, particularly over the virginity of Mary and the teachings of Origen.

About 330, in Armenia, St. Gregory the Enlightener, bishop. He was born here in 260, when Armenia was under Persian occupation. In 314, he was appointed bishop. He created a native Armenian clergy and organized the church. In 330 he withdrew to a hermitage.

In 1876, in the region of Turin, Blessed Frederick Albert. He was a royal chaplain for some years, then became a parish priest in a large parish outside of Turin. He worked long and hard in service of his people. He talked Pope Pius IX out of making him a bishop. He died after a fall from a scaffolding in a church he was working on which was to be the center of a farming commune where young people would cultivate church land.

October 1

In 1897, in the Carmelite convent in Lisieux, St. Thérèse Martin. Her mother died when she was four and she was raised by her sister, Pauline, who entered the Carmelites when Thérèse was nine. Two other sisters entered the same convent, and after gaining special permission from the pope, Thérèse herself entered the community at the age of fifteen. She embraced a “little way” to holiness, based on humility and trust in God, a way all people could follow. She devoted her life and prayer to saving souls, especially priests. In the last months of her life, before she died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty-three, she suffered an agonizing illness and trials of faith. She left behind three autobiographical texts, several hundred letters, poems and other writings.

In the mid-sixth century, in Constantinople, St. Romanus, a convert from Judaism. He was a deacon, who wrote a large body of exquisite hymns.

In 566, St. Nicetius of Trier. He was born in the Auvergne, became a monk, and then was appointed bishop of Trier. He was a zealous bishop who was not afraid to criticize royalty for their lapses.

In 1900, in Italy, Blessed Luigi Maria Monti. He had a woodcarving shop where other devout men gathered. They became a group dedicated to helping the poor and sick. Luigi spent some years as a novice in the Congregation Mary Immaculate, but left to dedicate himself to caring for the poor in Rome. He studied nursing at La Sapienza University. Others joined him, and in 1904 his group, The Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception received papal approval.

October 2

The feast of the Holy Guardian Angels.

In 679, St. Leger, bishop of Autun. He was abbot of the monastery of Saint-Maxence near Poitiers, which he reformed using the *Rule of St. Benedict* as a guide. As bishop, he restored order to his troubled diocese and reformed the monasteries within it. He was murdered in the course of a political struggle.

In 1879, Blessed Antony Chevrier. He was a priest of the diocese of Lyons, and worked among the poor. A group of other priests came to live with him and work among the poor.

October 3

In 1923, at Maredsous in Belgium, Blessed Columba Marmion. He was born of an Irish father and a French mother. He studied for the priesthood in Dublin and Rome and was ordained in 1881. He served as a parish priest, chaplain and seminary professor for five years, then entered Maredsous. He helped found the abbey on Mont César at Louvain, and served as prior and professor there. He preached retreats and edited several

publications, including the *Revue Bénédictine*. He was elected abbot in 1909. He helped repopulate the Monastery of the Dormition in Jerusalem after the British expelled all the German monks. His retreats formed the basis for several very popular books that he wrote. He was beatified in 2000 AD.

In 828, in Bavaria, Blessed Utto, the founder and first abbot of Metten, which was suppressed in 1803, but repopulated in 1830. Many monks came from Metten to serve the German immigrants, and from that beginning arose the American-Cassinese Congregation.

In 959, in near Namur, St. Gerard of Brogne. He was ordained in 919 and founded a monastery on his estate at Brogne. He spent several decades reforming many monasteries according to the *Rule of St. Benedict*.

In 1281, St. Thomas Cantilupe, bishop of Hereford. He was born into a prominent family, and studied at Oxford, Paris and Orleans. He was then ordained and served several terms as chancellor of Oxford, and in 1275 was appointed bishop of Hereford. He was an energetic and effective bishop, affable and austere, who worked to assure high quality pastoral care. He quarreled with Archbishop Peckham of Canterbury, who excommunicated him. He went to Rome to appeal his case and died there. He was canonized in 1320 after thorough inquiry.

October 4

In 1226, at Assisi, St. Francis. Francis was born in 1182, the son of a cloth merchant and was a worldly young man. At 20, he became a soldier. He spent one year as a prisoner of war, the next as an invalid. He underwent a conversion and began caring for lepers. He broke with his father and spent several years as a solitary, praying, helping the poor, begging, and rebuilding three churches: San Damiano, St. Peter's, and St. Mary of the Angels or the Portiuncula. In 1208, in the Portiuncula, a reading from the gospel of Matthew clarified his vocation: he was to have no possessions and preach the gospel. Many followers gathered around him and the organization of the order gradually took shape. St. Clare (August 11) and Francis founded a female branch, the second Order, in 1212, and in 1221, he founded the third order. He received the stigmata at La Verna in 1224. While visiting St. Clare he composed the Canticle of the Sun, and he had the verse about "Sister Death" sung to him as he was dying.

About 350, St. Ammon, a monk of Nitria, who founded nearby Kellia for monks who wished to live in greater solitude. When Ammon died, St. Antony (January 17) was said to have a vision of his soul ascending to heaven.

In 1867, in New Orleans, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. He was born into a devout family in Bavaria. By the time he was eleven, he had decided to be a priest. Near the end of his seminary studies, he applied to the Redemptorists, who sent him to New York for his novitiate. He was ordained in 1845. He proved to be a holy, dedicated and

effective priest. His first assignment was under St. John Neumann (January 5) in Pittsburgh. He then served in parishes in Maryland, served in a mission band, and then in parishes in Detroit and New Orleans. While ministering to victims of Yellow Fever, he became ill and died at the age of 48.

October 5

In 1399, at Nuremberg, Blessed Raymund of Capua. He came from a noble family, studied at Bologna, and joined the Dominicans. He served in Rome, Florence and Siena, where he met St. Catherine (April 19) and became her guide. Raymund supported her efforts to launch a crusade against the Turks and end the Western Schism. He later became Master General of the Dominicans and worked to reinvigorate the order.

In 1347, in the convent of the Hospitallers of St. John at Beaulieu, in France, St. Flora. A fifteenth-century life of the saint reports that she was devoted to prayer but suffered devilish attacks, especially temptations against chastity. One story says that she tried to sneak some of the monastery's bread to some poor people, and when the prioress challenged her, she opened her cloak and the bread had turned to flowers.

In 1926, Blessed Bartholomew Longo. With his wife, Countess Anna De Fusco, he worked to evangelize people in the area of Pompeii, where he established a shrine, orphanages, a printing house and other enterprises.

In 1938, in Kraków, St. Faustina Kowalska. She was born into a poor family, and after working as a maid, joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy at 19. She worked as a lay sister in various jobs, while developing her interior life. She had a vision of Divine Mercy, in which multi-colored rays of mercy flowed from Christ's heart. She kept a diary which has been published. Pope John Paul II dedicated the Second Sunday after Easter to the Divine Mercy.

October 6

In 1101, St. Bruno, the founder of the Carthusians. He was a brilliant student at Reims, Tours and Cologne and then became director of the school at Reims. After twenty years at that post he became chancellor of the diocese. He unsuccessfully opposed the unworthy bishop and then decided to become a monk. He and some companions spent some time at Molesmes with St. Robert (April 29), but Bruno wanted more solitude. His former pupil St. Hugh of Grenoble (April 1) gave Bruno La Chartreuse. Another former pupil, Pope Urban II, called him to Rome. He founded several communities in Italy, and died at La Torre.

At Agen in southern France, in the third century, the martyrdom of St. Faith, martyr. In the fifth century, a basilica was built for her relics at Agen. In the ninth century her relics were stolen and taken to the monastery of Conques on the route to Compostela. She was widely venerated throughout the Middle Ages.

In 1849, in Canada, Blessed Mary-Rose Durocher, She was born in 1811 into a family of ten children, three of whom became priests and three sisters. In 1843 she founded the Sisters of the Most Holy Names of Jesus and Mary to provide Catholic education in Canada. They operated many schools on the West Coast of the United States.

October 7

The Feast of the Holy Rosary. Members of Rosary confraternities celebrated a feast in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, usually on the first Sunday in October. When the Turks were defeated at Lepanto on October 7, 1571, the feast was celebrated in thanksgiving for that victory.

In the first centuries of the church, St. Justina, a martyr, who is venerated at Padua.

In 1152, in Spain, St. Martin of Valparaiso. He founded the monastery there and joined it to the Cistercian Order.

October 8

The commemoration of the prophet Simeon, who, when he saw the infant Christ, declared, "Now, Lord, you may dismiss your servant in peace."

In Antioch, in the first centuries of the church, St. Pelagia, martyr. Around her a vast web of legend was woven. The stories told how she had been a great sinner, then converted and lived a life of penitence.

At Sirmium, before the fifth century, the martyrdom of St. Demetrius, a deacon.

October 9

The commemoration of the patriarch Abraham, father of all believers.

In the first century, St. Dionysius the Areopagite. He became a Christian when Paul visited Athens. Late legend has him as the first bishop of Athens. Later still he was connected with a third-century martyr named Dionysius who was a missionary bishop in Paris. Still later an unknown writer, perhaps a Syrian monk writing around 500, wrote under the pen-name Dionysius the Areopagite a group of influential writings now called the works of Pseudo-Dionysius.

In 1581, in Valencia, St. Louis Bertrán. He was a very conscientious Dominican priest. Because of his heroic work among plague victims in Valencia in 1557, St. Teresa of Avila (October 15) approached him regarding her projected reform. In 1562, he went to work as a missionary in Columbia and the Caribbean islands for six years. He returned

to Spain where he lobbied on behalf of the native peoples in America and promoted the missions.

In 1609, in Italy, St. John Leonardi A native of Lucca, he became a priest and served in the hospitals and prisons of the city. A group of young laypeople helped him. He was assiduous in preaching and implementing the teachings and reforms of the Council of Trent. St. Philip Neri (May 26) and St. Joseph Calasanctius (August 25) helped him form a religious congregation. He promoted the Forty Hours' Devotion and frequent communion.

In 1934, in Spain, St. Cyril Bertrand Sanz Tejedor and companions, martyrs. They were members of the Brothers of Christian Schools and were killed during a rebellion. The man in charge of their execution testified to the calm and dignity they showed as they were led to execution.

October 10

In 1572, in Rome, St Francis Borgia. He was born in Spain in 1510, the great-grandson of both Pope Alexander VI and King Ferdinand of Aragon, and cousin of Emperor Charles V. He went into imperial service when he was 18 and married the next year. The death of Empress Isabella in 1539 brought home to him vanity of earthly honor. He was appointed viceroy of Catalonia and proved to be efficient and honest. He came under the influence of St. Peter of Alcántara (October 19) and Blessed Peter Favre (August 11) and his spiritual life deepened. When his wife died in 1546, he made provision for his eight children and then joined the Jesuits. For the rest of his life he felt a strong tension between his demanding administrative duties and his desire for seclusion. He was elected general of the Society of Jesus in 1565. He developed Gregorian University, began the building of Gesù church, established the Jesuits in several countries, and inaugurated their missionary work in America. He wrote many spiritual books both for lay people and for his fellow Jesuits.

In 644, St. Paulinus of York, bishop. He was sent by Pope Gregory the Great to England to help St. Augustine. He was instrumental in the conversion of the king and people of Northumbria. He died as bishop of Rochester.

In 1881, in Khartoum, St. Daniel Comboni. He was born in Brescia, in 1831, the only surviving child of a poor family. He studied theology in order to become a missionary priest in Africa. He went to the Sudan in 1857. He believed that Africa should be converted by drawing on the best aspects of indigenous culture. He shuttled back and forth between Africa and Italy and founded missionary institutes for both men and women. He was appointed bishop for central Africa in 1872, and bishop of Khartoum in 1877. He wrote learned studies on Central Africa, lobbied on behalf of the African people and missions, and kept up a voluminous correspondence.

October 11

In Ireland, about 600, St. Kenneth or Canice. His legend has it that he was born in Derry, became a monk under St. Cadoc (September 23) in Wales, studied with St. Finnian (December 12) at Clonard, did mission work in Scotland where he was an associate of St. Columba, and founded a monastery at Kilkenny where the cathedral is dedicated to him.

In 965, at Reims, St. Bruno of Cologne. He was the son of Henry the Fowler and brother of Emperor Otto I. He was made abbot of Lorsch and Corvey, when he was still a young deacon, and he reformed both monasteries. He was elected archbishop of Cologne in 953, where he sought to reinvigorate the clergy and monasteries. Later, he was made Duke of Lorraine also and extended his reforming activities there as well.

In 1592, in Italy, St. Alexander Sauli. He joined the Barnabites at seventeen and taught at Pavia. He became the leader of the Barnabite order, and then bishop of Aleria in Corsica, where he worked effectively for twenty years. He lived in great poverty. He was a friend of St. Philip Neri (May 26).

In 1887, St. Mary Soledad. She was born in Madrid, and eventually became head of the Handmaids of Mary, who devote themselves to nursing the sick in their homes free of charge..

Tomorrow is the namesday of our confrere Fr. Kenneth Hein. He is recommended to our charitable prayers.

October 12

In 709, in England, St. Wilfrid, bishop. When he was fourteen, he went to Lindisfarne and spent four years there. He wasn't satisfied with the Celtic customs there and went to France and Rome, where he developed a more politically involved idea of the bishop's role. Returning to England, he became abbot of Ripon, and introduced the continental ways there. After the Synod of Whitby, he was appointed bishop of Northumbria. He endowed a large monastery at Hexham. He ran afoul of the king and of Archbishop Theodore and appealed to Rome. On his way there he did missionary work in Friesland. Upon his return to England, he had further difficulties with kings, but ended his days as bishop of Hexham.

In 670, St. Ethelburga, abbess of Barking.

October 13

In 1066, near Westminster, St. Edward the Confessor. Raised in Normandy, he became king of England in 1042. He was an effective king, who defended the country and the crown. He appointed worthy bishops and refounded the abbey at Westminster, where his relics remain.

In 909, in France, St. Gerald of Aurillac. He was a nobleman, who received a clerical education. He lived frugally, said lauds and attended Mass daily, and ruled his territory justly. He founded a monastery at Aurillac. St. Odo of Cluny wrote his life, remarking: "The poor and the wronged always had free access to him, nor did they need to bring the slightest gift to recommend their cause."

In 1503, at Trino, in Italy, Blessed Maddalena Panattieri. She was a beautiful noblewoman, who became a Third Order Dominican when she was twenty. She began by teaching children, but soon she was speaking to their parents and clergy. She often criticized usury.

In 1916, Blessed Honoratus Kozminski. He came from a devout family, but while in college he gave up his religion. He later joined the Capuchins and did pastoral work around Warsaw. Put under house arrest by the Russian government he devoted himself to hearing confessions and giving spiritual guidance. He founded lay confraternities for people who wished to join a religious community, but were forbidden to do that by Russians.

October 14

In Rome, in 222, St. Callistus, pope and martyr. Although most of what we know about him is from his critics, especially St. Hippolytus (August 13), Callistus seems to have defended Catholic doctrine and church discipline, though he was no rigorist. His tomb was discovered in 1960.

About 390, St. Justus of Lyons, bishop. He was known as a severe upholder of discipline and doctrine. At one point he abdicated his episcopal office and went to live an eremitical life in Egypt.

October 15

At Alba de Tormes, in 1582, St. Teresa of Avila, doctor of the church. She was born in 1515. Her grandfather was a Jewish *converso*. She had a happy childhood and was a charming young woman. When her mother died when she was thirteen, she was sent to a convent school. She joined a large, easy-going Carmelite convent. When she took ill, she went away to recover and was much influenced by reading Francisco de Osuna's *Third Spiritual Alphabet*. After three years she returned to the convent, where she had great difficulty praying, but began developing her ideas about convent life: she wanted small, poor, enclosed communities which would pray for the unity of the church. She fought for her ideas and in 1562 founded the convent of St. Joseph in Avila, the first of many she founded. Her spiritual life deepened, she began to write, and in spite of much opposition, she collaborated with St. John of the Cross in reforming the male branch of the Carmelite Order.

About 790, St. Thecla of Kitzingen. She was an associate of St. Boniface (June 5), and went from England on the Saxon mission. After living under St. Lioba (September 28) at Bischofheim, she was abbess of Ochsenfurt, and then of Kitzingen.

In 1584, the martyrdom of St. Richard Gwyn. He was married, had six children, and worked as a school teacher. He was arrested a number of times for his adherence to the Catholic faith, and eventually hung, drawn and quartered at Wrexham. His wife told the court that condemned him that she was ready to die with him.

October 16

In 650, St. Gall, who was born in Ireland and became a monk at Bangor under St. Comgall (May 11) and St. Columban (November 23). He went with St. Columban as a missionary to Gall. When Columban went to Bobbio, Gall stayed behind and became a hermit in Switzerland. Gradually disciples gathered around him and a renowned monastery, bearing his name, later grew up at the site of one of his hermitages.

In 786, St. Lull, who accompanied his cousin, St. Boniface (June 5), on the German mission. He succeeded Boniface as Bishop of Mainz. He was a zealous bishop and a promoter of learning.

At Trebnitz, in 1243, St. Hedwig. She and her husband, the duke of Silesia, founded many religious houses, including a convent for Cistercian nuns at Trebnitz.

In 1690, in France, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. When she joined the Visitation convent at Paray-le-Monial in 1671 she was already advanced in the ways of prayer. A series of visions of Christ instructed her to spread the love of Jesus' Sacred Heart. Her efforts to do so met with much opposition, but she received support from Blessed Claude de la Colombière (February 15). Just before she died she declared, "I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus."

In 1755, in Italy, St. Gerard Majella. As a young man he was apprenticed to a tailor, but joined the Redemptorists as a lay brother. He worked many miracles, and after his death was widely revered as the patron of women in childbirth.

October 17

About 105, in Rome, St. Ignatius, bishop of Antioch. He was arrested and sent to Rome to be executed. On the way, he was welcomed by members of various churches and wrote seven surviving letters. One letter was to the church of Rome asking Christians there not to interfere with his impending martyrdom. In his other letters, addressed to churches in Asia Minor, he urged unity with the bishop and in the Eucharist and stressed the reality of Christ's humanity and divinity. He told the Ephesians, "You are all bearers of God, bearers of his temple, bearers of Christ, and so you are adorned with no other ornament than the counsels of Jesus Christ."

In 409, in the Egyptian Desert, St. John Kolobos (“The Dwarf”). He was formed in monastic life at Skete under the Abba Ammos, and when the latter became feeble, John cared for him for twelve years. Later John moved to Nitria and formed a community of disciples. John taught that a monk should stay in his cell, keep God ever before his mind, and discipline his feelings and inclinations.

In 1794, at Valenciennes, eleven Ursuline sisters, who were guillotined for operating a Catholic school. In the same year, at Laval, nineteen priests and religious, who were among hundreds executed in that region for their faith.

October 18

In the first century, St. Luke the evangelist. Luke wrote his carefully planned Gospel for Gentile audience. The parables of the Prodigal Son and the Crafty Steward, which occur only in his gospel, are examples of his storytelling skill. He highlights the place of Jerusalem in the plan of salvation. He emphasizes Jesus mercy to sinners and his concern for outcasts. He is the patron saint of the medical profession and of painters.

In 1918, in Uganda, the martyrdom of Blessed Daudi Okelo and Jildo Irwa, catechists. They were converted as young men by Colomboni missionaries, and put in charge of a catechetical program in a dangerous area. When the two refused to quit their mission work, a group of anti-Christian thugs killed them.

October 19

In Canada, Sts. Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf and four other Jesuit missionaries, and two missionary helpers. Amid great hardships, they did missionary work among the Huron Indians. At various times from 1642 to 1649, they were murdered by hostile Iroquois.

In Oxford, in 779, St. Frideswide. She was abbess of a double monastery, which was located on the present day site of Christ Church. The town grew up around her monastery.

In Spain, in 1562, St. Peter of Alcántara, He founded an extremely austere branch of Observant Franciscans He was a friend and supporter of St. Teresa of Avila.

In 1595, St. Philip Howard, who died a prisoner in the Tower of London. He was raised a Protestant, under the tutelage of John Knox. Through the influence of his wife and the persuasion of St. Edmund Campion (December 1), he became a Catholic. He was arrested when he and his wife tried to flee to the continent.

In 1775. In Rome, St. Paul of the Cross, the founder of the Passionist Order. He wanted to combine austere monastic living and preaching to the poor.

October 20

In Constantinople, in 766, St. Andrew of Crete, monk and martyr. He went to Constantinople to defend the veneration of images and was executed by emperor Constantine V.

In 1889, in France, Blessed Mary Teresa de Soubiran. She was raised in a wealthy and devout family, and became a beguine. Then, in 1864, she founded the Society of Mary the Helper, inspired by the spirit of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The sisters devoted themselves to caring for young working women and orphans and teaching poor children. In 1874, the assistant mother general, convinced the congregation to expand very rapidly, and they fell into desperate financial straits. Mary Teresa was wrongly blamed for this and was expelled from the congregation. Mary Teresa eventually died as a member of another order. Later, the congregation righted itself and flourished.

In 1922, at Treviso, in Italy, Saint Bertilla Boscardin. She joined the Sisters of St. Dorothy and was sent to their hospital in Treviso. She seemed very inept, so she was assigned to the kitchen. However, when a shortage of help forced her superiors to assign her to the children's ward, she suddenly blossomed. She died of cancer at the age of thirty-four.

October 21

In 371, in Cyprus, S. Hilarion. He spent some time with St Antony (January 17) in Egypt, then lived as a hermit in his native Palestine. When too many people came to live with him and visit him, he took up a wandering life, and moved successively to Egypt, Dalmatia and Cyprus. St. Jerome (September 30) wrote his life a few years after Hilarion died.

About 635, St. Fintan. He founded a monastery at Taghmon in Wexford. He was a staunch upholder of Celtic church customs.

In 1450, in Sicily, Blessed Matthew of Agrigento. He was born in Spain and as a young man he became an Observant Franciscan and a companion of St. Bernardino of Siena (May 20). He preached widely in his native Sicily and promoted devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He also founded Observant Franciscan Houses in Spain, where he had strong support from King Alfonso V of Aragon.

October 22

About 200 AD, St. Albercius, bishop of Hieropolis in Phrygia. When he was 72, he journeyed to Rome and Mesopotamia. On his tombstone, he wrote how impressed he was by the faith and Eucharistic practice of the Christians he met.

At Engelberg, the commemoration of St. Eugene, a Roman martyr whose relics are at the abbey.

About 876, in Fiesole, St. Donatus, bishop. He was an Irish monk who stopped by Fiesole on the way back from a pilgrimage to Rome. He was elected bishop there and served in the capacity for several decades. He was a writer and poet, and wrote a life of St. Brigid (February 1) to whom he had a deep devotion.

Tomorrow is the namesday of our confrere Fr. Eugene Esch. He is recommended to our charitable prayers.

October 23

In 1456, St. John of Capistrano. Born in the Abruzzi, he studied law at Perugia and became governor of the city in 1412 and married the daughter of a leading family. During a civil war he was imprisoned. When he was released he became a Franciscan, studied under St. Benardino of Siena (May 20), and became an outstanding preacher and reformer. He wrote a *Mirror for the Clergy*. He worked in Hungary to convert the Hussites and helped stop the Turks.

In 524, the death of St. Severinus Boethius. He was a public figure, before retiring for a time to a life of scholarship. He wrote some very influential scholarly tractates. He fell afoul of Theodoric and was imprisoned. While he was in prison, he wrote the *Consolation of Philosophy*.

In 877, St. Ignatius, patriarch of Constantinople. He was the son of Emperor Michael I. He was deposed by the Emperor for political reasons and replaced by Photius, who was more amenable to state control of ecclesiastical matters. They were alternately installed and deposed as patriarch several times, before Ignatius was restored by the Fourth Council of Constantinople in 879, only to be succeeded by Photius again in 885. The Bishop of Rome had become involved in the squabble and this led to mutual recriminations between the various parties.

In 1478, at Rome, Blessed Catherine, Queen of Bosnia. Her son, King Tomasevic, was captured by the invading Turks. He offered to convert to Islam, but they beheaded him anyway. Catherine escaped to Rome and there spent the rest of her life praying for her country and for her two sons who disappeared when their stepbrother was killed.

In 1890, Blessed Arnold Rèche, A Christian Brother, who served the wounded heroically during the Franco-Prussian War and later became a superior and novice-master in his order.

October 24

In 1870, at the Cistercian monastery of Fontfroide, St. Antony Mary Claret. He was born in Catalonia, became a priest, and worked in Spain for ten years. In 1849 he

founded the Claretian Order which was dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was very devoted to the printed word. From 1850 to 1857 he served as Archbishop of Cuba, where he was a zealous leader of the church. He was then appointed confessor to Queen Isabella II of Spain. He preached at court and whenever he could elsewhere.

In 446, St. Proclus, Patriarch of Constantinople. He opposed the theological errors of Nestorius. He was known as a wise and gentle churchman, inclined to make peace rather than to argue.

In the sixth century, in Brittany, St. Maelor, an Irish monk who served as missionary there and on the Channel islands.

In 1915, Blessed Louis Guanella. He was a parish priest in Northern Italy, who founded several congregations dedicated to care of the sick and poor. In the same year, Blessed Joseph Baldo, who like Blessed Louis, was a zealous priest in North Italy and founded a religious congregation, and like him Blessed Joseph faced opposition from anti-clerical groups. Both men worked to empower the poor.

October 25

In England, in the 16th and 17th centuries, forty martyrs, men and women, priests, religious and lay, who were executed for their faith.

About 285, in Rome, Saints Crispin and Crispinian, martyrs. Their relics were venerated at Soissons, and they are patrons of leather workers.

In 1497, Blessed Thaddeus MacCarthy, bishop. He went to Rome to appeal for papal help when political factions kept him from acting as bishop in his diocese. The pope supported him. Bishop Thaddeus traveled back toward Ireland as a simple pilgrim. He died on the way in the Italian Alps, at a hospice maintained by the Canons Regular of St. Bernard.

October 26

About 461, St. Rusticus, bishop of Narbonne. He studied at Rome and became a monk. St. Jerome wrote him a letter giving advice on the eremitical life. In 427 he was made bishop. He was discouraged by the Arianism of the Goths and the quarrels among Catholics and asked to resign. Pope Leo the Great wrote him a letter telling him to carry on as bishop with the help of Christ.

In 664, at Lastingham, St. Cedd, a monk of Lindisfarne, who did missionary work in several Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, before being consecrated bishop of the East Saxons. He founded the monastery of Lastingham and was active at the Synod of Whitby.

In 686, in Northumbria, St. Eata, He was trained by St. Aidan, and became abbot of Melrose, where he received St. Cuthbert into the novitiate. He succeeded St. Colman

as abbot of Lindisfarne when Colman returned to Ireland rather than give up his Celtic customs.

October 27

About 380, in Ethiopia, St. Frumentius, bishop. His tutor took him and his brother Aedesius on a trip to Arabia. Most of the party were killed, but the brothers were taken to the royal court at Aksum. Frumentius prospered there and sought to spread the Christian faith. St. Athanasius (May 2) appointed him bishop of Ethiopia. Known as Bishop Salama, he is venerated as the Apostle of Ethiopia.

In 1902, Blessed Contardo Ferrini. He was born in Milan and was a brilliant and pious boy who had some excellent priest-guides as he grew up. He became very interested in poetry and mountaineering. He studied at Pavia and Berlin, returned to Pavia as a professor, and became the world's leading authority on Roman law. He loved nature and was very active in social work.

October 28

In the first century, the Apostles Simon and Jude. Simon is referred to as "the Zealot" in the Gospel of Luke, which means he may have belonged to a radical anti-Roman group. Jude is referred to as the "son of James" in the Gospel of Luke, and in the Gospel of John he speaks with Jesus at the Last Supper. Jude is widely revered as the patron of hopeless causes.

October 29

In the twelfth century, St. Abraham of Rostov. Born in the Ukraine, he converted to Christianity when his prayer for healing from a chronic disease was answered. He became a monk, and then proclaimed the gospel around Rostov. He built two churches for his converts. He is venerated as "the apostle of Rostov."

In 1860, Blessed Gaetano Errico. He was born near Naples, and became a priest there. He was a teacher for twenty years. Then he received a vision telling him to establish a new religious congregation and build a church in his hometown. He succeeded in both enterprises. The Congregation he founded is called "The Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary."

October 30

About 540 AD, St. Germanus of Capua. He may have been one of the legates sent to heal the Acacian Schism which concerned the relationship of the divine and human in Christ. He was a friend of St. Benedict (July 11). The *Dialogues* of Gregory the Great tell how St. Benedict had a vision of Germanus' soul being carried to heaven. His tomb at Cassino was destroyed during World War II.

In 1617, St. Alphonsus Rodríguez. He was born in Segovia. He married and the couple had two children, but when his mother, wife and daughter died in quick succession, he joined the Jesuits as a lay brother. He worked as a spiritual director; among those he guided was St. Peter Claver (September 9). He was very devoted to the Mary's Immaculate Conception.

October 31

At Regensburg, about 994, St. Wolfgang, bishop. He was educated at Reichenau and then at Würzburg. He had befriended a noble named Henry, and when Henry became archbishop of Trier, Wolfgang became a teacher in the cathedral school. He then became a monk at Einsiedeln. St. Ulric of Augsburg (July 4) sent him to evangelize the Magyars. In 972 Otto II appointed him bishop of Regensburg. He proved himself a keen reformer and champion of the poor. He was a tutor to St. Henry II (July 13).

November 1

The Solemnity of All Saints. This feast, which might be called the fulfillment of Pentecost, honors all who are now with God, the great multitude beyond number, which all who wish may join. The feast seems to have succeeded earlier observance of a feast of all the martyrs. It first appears in the seventh century.

In the second or third century, St. Benignus of Dijon. He spread the gospel in Burgundy and was martyred. A shrine and a monastery grew up at the site of his tomb.

In 1431, in Portugal, Blessed Nonius. He led the Portuguese to victory over Castile, a victory that firmly established Portugal as a nation. His daughter married the son of King João of Portugal. Then Nonius became a lay brother at a Carmelite friary he had established in Lisbon. He remained there the rest of his life.

In 1945, Blessed Rupert Mayer. He became a diocesan priest, but then entered the Jesuits. He served immigrants who came to Munich from the countryside. During World War I he served as an extremely zealous chaplain. He was wounded and lost a leg. He then ministered to the university students in Munich. The Nazis imprisoned him, but when his health began to fail, they interned him at the Benedictine monastery of Ettal. When the Americans liberated Ettal, he returned to Munich, but he died soon afterward.

November 2

The Solemnity of All Souls. 2 Maccabees 12.44-45 recommends prayers for the dead, and from earliest times Christians prayed for their dead. A feast for the dead, dedicated to prayers to help move them from what was later known as purgatory to heaven, first appears in the seventh century. The commemoration of the dead on November 2 spread to the universal church from Cluny, where it was established by St. Odilo.

At Argentan, in 1521, St. Margaret of Lorraine. She was born of one noble family and married into another. Left a widow with three children when she was twenty-nine, she raised her children well and was a capable administrator of their patrimony. When her children had been brought up, she retired to a convent, where she devoted herself to the poor and sick.

In 1583, at Andover, the martyrdom of Blessed John Bodey. When he was deprived of his position at Oxford because he was a Catholic, he went to Douai and studied law. He returned and was arrested and convicted. It is said that after his execution his mother gave a dinner for their friends to celebrate his glorious victory.

November 3

In 1639, in Lima, Peru, St. Martin de Porres. Martin was an illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a freed black slave. He received training in medicine. He became a *donatus*, and later a lay brother, in the Dominican friary in Lima. He energetically fulfilled his community tasks, and untiringly cared for the sick in his community and in the city. He extended practical charity to the hungry, to slaves, and to animals.

In Wales, about 650, St. Winefride. According to her legend, she was healed by St. Beuno after a rejected suitor cut off her head. A spring appeared on the site, now called Holywell, whose waters have healing properties. It has been a pilgrimage site ever since. Her relics were taken to St. Peter's Abbey in Shrewsbury in 1138.

In 753, in Germany, St. Pirmin. A refge from Spain, he did misionar work in Baden. He rebuilt the abbey of Disnis, was the first abbot Reichenau, and founded the abbey of Murbach.

In 1148, at Clairvaux, St. Malachy, bishop of Armagh. As a young priest he was involved in reforming and restructuring the Irish church. To qualify himself for this task, he studied canon law with St. Malchus, bishop of Lismore. After a year as abbot of Bangor, Malachy was appointed bishop, and he served in that capacity successively at Connor, Armagh and Down. He introduced the Canons Regular to Ireland. On a trip to Rome he met St. Bernard, and then introduced the Cistercians to Ireland at Mellifont. On another trip to Rome, he became ill and died at Clairvaux. St. Bernard wrote his life.

In Switzerland, in 1226, St. Ida. Legend relates that she escaped an abusive husband and became a hermit. Years later, he asked her forgiveness. So many people came to visit her that she finally took refuge in the Benedictine monastery of Fischingen. Originally founded by monks from Petershausen in the 12th century and suppressed in the nineteenth century, Fischingen was refounded from Engelberg in 1977 at the urging of a zealous group of laypeople.

November 4

In 1584, St. Charles Borromeo, bishop of Milan. His education was paid for by revenue from a Benedictine Abbey of which he was made commendatory abbot when he was twelve. His uncle, Pope Pius IV made him a cardinal when he was twenty-two and appointed him administrator of the diocese of Milan and assigned him various curial responsibilities as well. He was an extremely efficient person who also found time for music and physical exercise. He was a dynamic presence at the last session of the Council of Trent and spent the rest of his life implementing its decrees in his diocese. He was particularly energetic in promoting Christian education. He died at the age of 46.

In the sixth century, St. John Zedazneli and companions. They were missionaries who were instrumental in establishing Christianity and monasticism in Georgia.

November 5

In the first century, Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist (June 24, August 29).

In 1707, at Constantinople, Blessed Gomidas Keumurgian. During the late seventeenth century in Constantinople there was a movement favoring reunion with Rome. There was a backlash which led to persecution, and Blessed Gomidas was arrested, tried and beheaded. He was an Armenian priest, known for his eloquence and devotion. He converted to Catholicism when he was forty, and many Armenians in Constantinople, moved by his martyrdom, did the same.

In 1943, at Hof, Bavaria, Blessed Bernard Lichtenberg. As a parish priest in Berlin, who supported a pacifist Catholic group in 1931 and opposed the Nazis treatment of the Jews consistently from their first emergence. He was arrested several times, and died as the Gestapo were transporting him to Dachau.

November 6

In the sixth century, in Wales, St. Illtud. A seventh-century life of his disciple, St. Samson (July 28) tells that he was ordained a priest by St. Germain of Auxerre (August 3) and became the learned abbot of Llanilltud Fawr. Another source says he founded a monastery on Caldey Island.

In 1414, at Tours, Blessed Jeanne-Marie de Maillé. She was a devout girl, whose prayers were thought to have saved a boy who lived near her family. When they grew up they were married. She had wanted to be a nun, and they decided to live as brother and sister. They adopted three children and lived happily for sixteen years. Then her husband, Robert, was wounded in the Hundred Years' War and their castle was pillaged. Robert was ransomed. Thereafter the two of them added ransom of prisoners to their charitable activities. When Robert died, Joan gave up all her property and lived in poverty in Tours where she spent the rest of her life praying and visiting prisoners.

November 7

In 739, at the monastery of Echternach, St. Willibrord. When Willibrord was seven, his father decided to become a hermit, and Willibrord was sent to St. Wilfrid's (October 12) monastery at Ripon to be raised. He studied in Ireland for twelve years, and then set off from England with twelve companions to work as a missionary among the Frisians in what is today Holland. He made several trips to Rome to obtain papal approval and was ordained archbishop. In his old age he retired to the monastery he had founded at Echternach.

In 1280, Blessed Margaret Colonna. Although troubled by ill health, she devoted herself to caring for the needy, then founded a monastery of Poor Clares at Palestrina.

In 1917, Blessed Vincent Grossi, a parish priest in Italy, who founded an institute for women whose mission was to help parish priests with the religious formation of girls.

November 8

Around 300, the Four Holy Crowned Martyrs, to whom a church on the Coelian Hill is dedicated. Their legend indicates that they were Pannonian stonemasons, who were martyred under Diocletian.

At the Abbey of Einsiedeln, in 996, St. Gregory, abbot. He was born into the English royal family. He left England and became a monk at St. Andrew's on the Coelian Hill in Rome. From there he became a hermit in the Alps, and then abbot of Einsiedeln.

In 1115, at Soissons, St. Godfrey of Amiens. He was raised in a monastery, and became abbot of Nogent, which flourished under his leadership. He was appointed bishop of Amiens. He continued to live a monastic life, and was a zealous, if severe, bishop. He became discouraged and was thinking about joining the Carthusians at the time he died.

In 1308, in Cologne, Blessed John Duns Scotus. He was born at Duns in Scotland, joined the Franciscans, and was educated and taught at Oxford and Paris. He then taught at Cologne, where he died at the age of forty-three. He was one of the most brilliant philosophers and theologians of his age. His theology is focused on love: God is love, and God's love is expressed in creation and in the Incarnation through which human beings can love God in return.

In 1916, at the Carmelite monastery in Dijon, Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity. She was a lively girl, with musical talent. From the time of her first communion she began leading a deep interior life, focused on awareness of the Trinity dwelling within her. She became a Carmelite when she was twenty-one, but shortly thereafter contracted a debilitating disease. She united her sufferings with those of Christ, and was joyful in spite of her pain, until near the end when she felt desolation. Her life, and the notes and

letters that she left behind, were made known by a number of scholars, including Hans Urs von Balthasar.

November 9

The commemoration of the dedication of the church of St. John Lateran. The Lateran palace was part of the estate of Constantine's wife, Fausta. He donated it to the Christians of Rome in 312. Constantine financed the building of a large church next to the palace. It was dedicated to the Savior, but later it received the name of John the Baptist, probably derived the nearby baptistery. It has been the cathedral church of the bishops of Rome ever since.

In 467, in Ireland, St. Benen. He was a disciple and successor to St. Patrick, who named him Benignus, because of his kindly disposition. He is remembered as the first to bring the gospel to Counties Clare and Kerry.

In Deventer, in 917, St. Radbod. He was the great-grandson of the King Radbod, who opposed the missionary work of St. Willibrord. He was educated at Cologne, became a monk when he was about thirty, and then was chosen bishop of Utrecht. As bishop, he lived as a monk, became a vegetarian, and continued his studies amid his pastoral and charitable work. He wrote some hymns that survive.

In 1485, in Bologna, Blessed Louis Morbioli. He came from a large, middle-class family. As a young man he was out for a good time. When he was thirty years old, he took sick while staying with the Canons Regular of San Salvatore in Venice. This occasioned a profound transformation, and he spent the rest of his life as a wandering preacher.

November 10

In 461, at Rome, St. Leo the Great. He served as an advisor and ambassador for several popes. He was very energetic and big-hearted. He crystallized the belief that the Bishop of Rome is heir of Peter with authority from Christ over the universal church. His Tome to Flavian, bishop of Constantinople, was read and approved at the Council of Chalcedon. He did not approve of the council's decision to make Constantinople a patriarchate. In 452 he convinced Attila the Hun to spare Rome, and then helped those victimized when Gaiseric the Vandal looted Rome in 455. His letters and sermons are very clear and well-written. He was declared a doctor of the Church in 1754.

In 627, at Canterbury, St. Justus. He accompanied St. Augustine (May 27) to England, and became bishop of Rochester, and then of Canterbury.

In 1608, at Naples, St. Andrew Avellino. He was a parish priest and canon lawyer, who then joined the Theatines. He founded a house of his order in Milan, where he became a close friend of Cardinal Borromeo (November 4) and a firm promoter of the reform program of the Council of Trent.

November 11

In 397, at Tours, St. Martin, monk and bishop. According to his biographer, Sulpicius Severus, who knew Martin personally, Martin was born in Hungary, but raised in Pavia, Italy, when his father, a military man, was transferred there. His father forbid him to become a Christian and forced him to become a soldier. He was serving near Amiens, when he cut his cloak in half to share it with a beggar. He left the army and settled as a hermit at Ligugé, near Poitiers. A community formed around him. In 362, over his objections, he was made bishop of Tours. As bishop he lived as a monk in a community he founded called Marmoutier. One of his key preoccupations was to bring Christianity to rural areas.

In 826, in Bithynia, St. Theodore the Studite. He became abbot of a monastery at an early age. He was several times exiled for rebuking moral lapses in Byzantine rulers and for his defense of images. Eventually he became abbot of the monastery of Studios at Constantinople. The wise and prudent observances he developed there were adopted by many monasteries.

About 1050, at the abbey of Grottaferrata, near Rome, St. Bartholomew, who with St. Nilus (September 26), was instrumental in founding the monastery.

In 1952, in Bulgaria, three Assumptionist priests, and the bishop of Nikopol, Eugene Bossilkov, who were shot in Sofia by the Communist regime.

November 12

In 1623, at Vitebsk, St. Josaphat, bishop and martyr. He was born in the Ukraine, and educated at Vilnius in Lithuania, where he became a monk. He was a strong promoter of the union of the Ruthenian church with the Roman church. He was appointed bishop of Vitebsk. He was murdered by a rival who opposed union with Rome.

In 574, St. Millán de la Cogolla, a hermit around whose tomb an important Benedictine monastery later developed.

November 13

In 1917, in Chicago, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. She was the tenth of eleven children born to a farm couple near Pavia. She became a school teacher, ran an orphanage, then founded an order called the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The bishop of Piacenza, Blessed Giovanni Batista Scalabrini (June 1) encouraged her to send her missionaries to minister to immigrants in America. She went to New York with six sisters. They were poor and at first unwelcome, but she gradually gained support. She worked very hard, criss-crossing the country setting up schools, orphanages, and hospitals. She made nine voyages back to Italy and also went to South America to set up schools and orphanages there.

In 867, St. Nicholas I, pope. He was a staunch defender of the independence and primacy of the bishop of Rome. He stood up to kings in defense of the marriage bond and of the right of a woman to freely choose her husband. He contended with Photius, the patriarch of Constantinople. He sent a masterful reply to some questions addressed him by Boris, the ruler of the Bulgarians. He was renowned for his care for the poor.

In 1004, St. Abbo, abbot of Fleury-sur-Loire. Because of his learning, he was invited by St. Oswald to direct the school of Ramsey. After two years he returned to Fleury, where he was soon elected abbot. He was very active in political and monastic affairs, and was killed while on a peace-making mission to a monastery. He wrote the first life of St. Edmund, king and martyr (November 20).

In 1896, Blessed Augustina Pietrantonio, martyr. When she was twenty-two, she joined the Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide Thorel in Rome. She worked in hospitals, where she contracted tuberculosis. She was stabbed to death by a disgruntled former patient.

November 14

In 1180, at the Victorine monastery of Eu in Normandy, St. Lawrence O'Toole, bishop. He was born of an important Irish family and christened Lorcán. When he was ten he was taken hostage by Dermot MacMurrough, king of Leinster. He was entrusted to the safekeeping of the bishop of Glendalough, and became a monk there. He was elected abbot when he was twenty-five. He became the second archbishop of Dublin in 1161. He introduced the Arrouaisian canons regular to his cathedral and shared their life. He was very dedicated to the poor, preaching, and the liturgy. He acted as a mediator, when the English invaded Ireland. Lawrence attended the Third Lateran Council in Rome in 1179, and when he tried to implement its decrees in Ireland, he ran afoul of Henry II. He had gone to see the king in Normandy when he took ill and died.

In 1391, St. Nicholas of Sibenik and companions. Nicholas was a Franciscan sent to preach against the Bogomils in Bosnia. After twenty years he was seen on a mission to Palestine. When he and three other Franciscans went to proclaim Christianity to a leading Muslim official, he had them burned at the stake.

November 15

In 1280, at Cologne, St. Albert the Great, bishop and doctor. He was born of an aristocratic family near Augsburg, and joined the Dominicans in Padua. He taught in Cologne, Paris and a number of other places. He was bishop of Regensburg for a brief time, but was allowed to return to teaching. He was brilliant and inquisitive, and was interested in natural science as well as in philosophy and theology. St. Thomas Aquinas was one of his pupils.

About 600 AD, St. Malo, the apostle of Brittany.

About 879, St. Fintan, an Irishman who joined a community of hermits at Rheinau, near Schaffhausen.

In 1136, St. Leopold, the patron of Austria. He became margrave of Austria when he was twenty-three. He and his wife had eighteen children, one of whom was Otto of Freising, a Cistercian abbot. Leopold founded the Cistercian monastery of Heiligenkreuz, the Augustinian priory of Klosterneuberg, and the Benedictine monastery of Mariazell, all of which still exist.

In 1628, in Paraguay, St. Roque González and companions, martyrs. Roque was born in Asunción, and after some years as a parish priest, joined the Jesuits. He and his companions were killed while doing missionary work among native peoples. He is the earliest native-born American saint.

In 1904, in France, Blessed Mary of the Passion. She was born into a noble French family and after trying the Poor Clares, joined the Society of Mary Reparatrix, who sent her as a missionary to India. There was dissension in the order, and she and nineteen others founded a new order known as the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

November 16

Around 1300, at the monastery of Helfta in Saxony, Saints Gertrude the Great and Mechtild of Hackeborn. Both women were educated from early childhood at the monastery and joined it when they were old enough. Mechtild was in charge of the children in the monastery school, one of whom was St. Gertrude, and she was later Gertrude's novice mistress. Gertrude had a profound religious experience when she was twenty-five, and from that time on devoted herself to reading the Bible and the Fathers, and immersing herself in the liturgy. The influence of her reading and liturgical life is evident in her *Revelations* and *Spiritual Exercises*. Mechtild's religious experiences and teaching are contained in *The Book of Special Grace*. Their spirituality emphasized the love of Christ, symbolized by his Sacred Heart.

In 759, in Switzerland, St. Otmar. He introduced the *Rule of St. Benedict* to the Abbey of St. Gall. He imprisoned by some warring nobles and died in exile.

In 1240, at Abingdon, St. Edmund Rich, bishop. He studied at Oxford and Paris, and then became a professor in the arts faculty at Oxford. In 1222 he became canon and treasurer of Salisbury cathedral, where he also taught. He developed close ties with the Cistercians of Stanley Abbey, where one of his pupils, Stephen of Lexington, was abbot. He preached the sixth crusade in 1227. In 1233 he was appointed archbishop of Canterbury, where he proved to be a warm, peace-making champion of justice. In spite of that, he had tense relations with King Henry III and the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury. He died in France while on the way to a council in Rome and was buried at the Cistercian Abbey of Pontigny. He wrote biblical commentaries and devotional works,

the most read of which has been the *Speculum ecclesiae*, a summary of the teachings of Hugh of St. Victor on prayer.

November 17

In 680, the death of St. Hilda, abbess of Whitby. She was baptized by St. Paulinus, archbishop of York (October 10). When she decided to become a nun, St. Aidan (October 8) gave her some land for a convent. She was successively abbess of the double monasteries at Hartlepool and Whitby. She was a great promoter of theological education, especially among the clergy. Several of her monks, including St. John of Beverley (May 7) became bishops. She encouraged the poet Caedmon (February 11) and hosted the Synod of Whitby.

In 1093, in Scotland, St. Margaret. Her father was Edward the Atheling, the son of the King of Wessex; her mother was the sister of the king of Hungary. Margaret received a good education in Hungary. After the Norman Invasion of England, she took refuge in Scotland, where she married King Malcom III. They lived very happily together for twenty-five years. One of their six sons was St. David (May 24); their daughter Matilda, married Henry I of England. Margaret promoted culture and religion, and looked after the poor.

In 1200, in England, St. Hugh of Lincoln. He was born in Burgundy and became an Augustinian canon, but then joined the Carthusians at La Grande-Chartreuse. After several decades there, he went to establish at Witham the first Carthusian house in England. In 1186 he was elected bishop of Lincoln. He energetically revitalized his diocese. He was learned and cheerful, and fond of animals and children. He was also uncompromising in his concern for justice, and not afraid to stand up to three successive English kings, all of whom held him in high esteem. He staunchly opposed anti-Semitism.

In 1231 St. Elizabeth of Hungary. The daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary, she was married to Ludwig, the duke of Thuringia. They had three children during their happy, but brief marriage. Elizabeth gave away a great deal of their possessions; Ludwig told those who criticized her that Elizabeth's generosity would bring God's blessings on them all. When they had been married six years, Ludwig died. The next year she joined the Third Order of St. Francis. Having provided for her children, she settled in a small house near Marburg, to which she attached a hospice for the sick, the poor, and the old, whom she cared for. She came under the influence of Konrad of Marburg, who was a severe and domineering spiritual director. She died at the age of twenty-four.

November 18

In Rome the dedication of the basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul.

In 1852, at St. Charles, Louisiana, St. Philippine Duchesne. She was born at Grenoble of a prosperous family. She had a happy childhood and received a very good education. During the French Revolution she took care of the sick, prisoners, and educated children. In 1804 she joined the Society of the Sacred Heart, which had recently been founded by Madeleine Sophie Barat (May 25). In 1818, she and four other sisters were sent to St. Louis, where they opened a school for children of the poor. She spent the rest of her life tirelessly and enthusiastically serving her order and poor children, often in the face of great difficulties.

In 1914, at Poland, Blessed Caroline Kozka. She was born into a large and devout family in rural Poland. As a girl she helped raise her siblings and was active in her parish. When she was sixteen a Russian soldier accosted her, and when she struggled, he killed her.

November 19

The commemoration of the prophet Obadiah.

In 379, St. Nerses I, patriarch of the Armenians. He was a married court official before being appointed patriarch of the Armenians. As bishop he founded monasteries and hostels for the poor and for lepers. He held a synod with a view to organizing the rapidly growing Armenian church. This aroused royal opposition. When he refused a king entry to the church until the monarch reformed his life, the king poisoned him.

In 815, at the abbey of Ottobeuren, Blessed Tuto.

About 1282, in Germany, St. Mechtilde of Magedeburg. She was beguine before retiring to the monastery of Helfta in her old age. At Magedeburg she was guided by Dominican friar. She recorded her extraordinary mystical insights in the *Book of the Flowing Light of the Godhead*.

In 1895, in Armenia, Blessed Salvator Lilli, and his companions, martyrs. Salvator was born in Italy and joined the Franciscans when he was seventeen. He studied and served as a priest in Jerusalem, before serving for fifteen years in a church in Armenia, where he was a very effective pastor. He and some of his people were arrested, and then bayoneted to death, when they refused to convert to Islam.

November 20

In 869, in England, the martyrdom of St. Edmund. He was a revered king of East Anglia, who was killed by the invading Vikings. His body was later found incorrupt, and he became venerated as a model of heroism and holiness. His life was written by Abbo of Fleury at the request of St. Dunstan (May 19), and about 1020, King Knut founded the abbey of Bury St. Edmund.

In 1002, St. Bernward, bishop of Hildesheim. He was ordained a priest by St. Willigis (February 23) and served as a tutor for the future emperor Otto III. As bishop of Hildesheim, he was a wise, and able pastor, and built the church and monastery of St. Michael in Hildesheim. He made profession as a Benedictine not long before his death.

In 1922, Blessed Mary Fortunata Viti. When she was not yet fifteen, her mother died and her father became incapacitated, She had to raise and support her younger siblings. When she was twenty-four, she entered the Benedictine convent of Veroli as a lay sister. She spent the next seventy-two years working and praying, great in her littleness, as Pope Paul VI noted when she was beatified in 1967. Several monks at Mt. Angel Abbey promoted her beatification.

November 21

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The inspiration for the feast was a story in the *Protoevangelium of James*.

In 496, at Rome, Pope Gelasius I. He was of African descent. During his four-year papacy he had to deal with the Arian barbarians, especially Theodoric the Ostrogoth. He was inflexible in dealing with the repercussions of the Acacian schism over monophysitism. He insisted on papal prerogatives and the independence of the church. Dionysius Exiguus reports that he was humble, prayerful, and very generous to the poor.

In 1902, Blessed Mary Siedliska. As a young girl in Poland, she received religious instruction and guidance from a Capuchin friar. Under his direction she founded in Rome a religious order, The Congregation of the Holy Family of Nazareth, which worked for the welfare of families. In 1943, eleven members of the order were shot by the Nazis when they offered their lives in place of some married men who had been arrested and condemned to death.

November 22

In Rome, probably in the third century, the martyrdom of St. Cecilia. There is no solid historical information about this much revered saint. Her legend says that before her wedding to a pagan Valerian, she sat quietly, singing to God in her heart. For this reason she is venerated as the patron of musicians. She converted Valerian and subsequently followed him to martyrdom. When an attempt to suffocate her failed, she died from an incompetent effort to behead her.

In the first century, St. Philemon, to whom Paul wrote a short letter, appealing to Philemon to be generous toward Onesimus, a slave.

In 1901, Blessed Thomas Reggio, bishop of Genoa. He came from an aristocratic family and received a good education, but gave up his worldly prospects to become a priest. A few years after he was ordained, he founded the first Catholic newspaper. He

then worked tirelessly as bishop of Ventimiglia, then a very poor diocese, and later as bishop of Genoa.

November 23

About the year 100, in the Crimea, St. Clement, pope. He may be the Clement mentioned in Paul's Epistle to the Philippians (4:3). One of the earliest, non-biblical Christian documents is a letter that he wrote in the name of the Roman church to the Corinthians, urging the church there to end its dissensions.

In 400, St. Amphilochius, bishop of Iconium. He was a cousin of Gregory of Nazianzus (January 2) a friend of St. Basil (January 2), and a strong supporter of the orthodox faith.

In 615, at Bobbio, St. Columbanus. Abbot. He was born in Ireland, and at the advice of a woman hermit, became a monk. He spent many years at Bangor, under St. Comgall (Mar 10). About 590 he and twelve companions went into voluntary exile in Gaul. They preached and then founded several monasteries, the most famous of which is Luxeuil. He wrote a very austere monastic *Rule* and *Penitential*. Eventually, he came into conflict with some Frankish bishops over his Irish customs, and with the King of Burgundy, when he rebuked the king for keeping concubines. He moved to the area around Zurich, and from there to Bobbio in northern Italy. Several of his letters and poems survive.

In 1927, in Mexico, the martyrdom of Blessed Michael Pro. He was born at Guadalupe in the state of Zacatecas, Mexico. He had a happy childhood and a good education. He entered the Jesuits, and when the rebel General Carranza's forces attacked the Jesuit novitiate, he was sent to Los Gatos, and then to Spain and Belgium, where he was ordained. He returned to Mexico City, and there secretly ministered as a priest in defiance of the anti-clerical laws. He and two of his brothers were arrested after an attempt on the life of President Obregon and shot by a firing squad. Before they killed him, he raised his arms and said: "Viva Cristo Rey."

November 24

At Aquileia, probably in 304, St. Chrysogonus, martyr. He is mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer.

In 606, St. Colman, bishop of Cloyne. He was a bard at Cashel, when he was baptized by St. Brendan (May 16) at the age of fifty.

In 1891, Blessed Maria Anna Sala. She was born into a large, happy, devout family in Italy. She joined the Sisters of St. Marcellina, who had educated her, and spent the next forty years teaching in the schools of her order. She was an effective and popular teacher.

November 25

This is the traditional day to celebrate St. Catherine of Alexandria. Legend has it that she was a brilliant philosopher and was killed about 310. At first the Emperor Maxentius tried to have her killed by being placed on a spiked wheel and torn apart, but the wheel was struck by lightning. She was then beheaded, and milk flowed out instead of blood. She is the patron of St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai and of numerous churches. Her story of her life was very popular in the Middle Ages. She is the patron of scholars, nursing infants and those suffering with migraine. She was one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

In 251, in Rome, St. Moses, martyr. He was a priest in Rome, and leader of a group of priests who were the first to suffer death for their faith during the persecution of Decius. Moses died after spending almost a year in prison.

In 1951 and 1965, respectively, Blesseds Luigi and Mary Beltrame Quatorocchi. They were married in the cathedral of Mary Major on this day in 1905. They had four children: one became a Benedictine nun, one a Trappist, and one a diocesan priest. Luigi was a successful lawyer and civil servant. In 2001, in the presence of their three surviving children, they became the first couple to be beatified together,

November 26

In 311, St. Peter of Alexandria, bishop and martyr. He led the church of Alexandria through the persecution of Diocletian and was executed under Maximinus Daia.

In 1267, St. Silvester Gozzolini. He studied law for a while, then turned to theology. He became a diocesan priest, but at the age of fifty retired to live austere at a country hermitage. He then founded a Benedictine monastery at Monte Fano. The monastery developed into a small congregation of communities that stressed poverty and were more centrally organized than most traditionally Benedictine congregations.

In 1751, St. Leonard of Port Maurice. He joined a group of reformed Franciscans in Rome and became a preacher. He promoted the Stations of the Cross, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

In 1889, at Cassola, Blessed Gaetana Sterni. When she was fifteen she was married to a widower with three children. They conceived a child, but the father died before it was born and the child died soon after birth. Her husband's family demanded his three children. She entered a convent, but had to leave to take care of her younger siblings. Then at the age of twenty-six she went to live and work at a hospice for beggars in Bassano. There she spent thirty-six years serving the sick and destitute. With two friends, she formed the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Will.

In 1971, Blessed James Alberione. He was born into a farm family and entered the seminary as a teenager. He earned a doctorate in theology and worked in the seminary at Alba. He became editor of the diocesan paper and from that time on dedicated himself to the apostolate of communications. He founded the Paulines and the Daughters of St. Paul, which were dedicated to printing and selling Catholic literature, and later helped found several other congregations.

November 27

In 784, St. Virgil of Salzburg. He was an Irish monk who became a pilgrim out of love for Christ. He became abbot of St. Peter's in Salzburg and eventually bishop of the diocese. St. Boniface quarreled with him on a number of points. He was a man of great learning and an active pastor.

In 1637, St. Humilis of Bisignano. He was an illiterate Franciscan lay brother, but great was his theological knowledge that Pope Gregory XV summoned him to Rome to act as his advisor. Throughout his life he remained humble, prayerful, and a servant of the poor.

November 28

In 764, at Constantinople, St. Stephen the Younger. He was born at Constantinople. He joined a monastery in Bithynia and was elected abbot. After a dozen years as abbot, at the age of forty-two, he retired to a hermitage. When he refused to endorse iconoclasm, Emperor Constantine V arrested and exiled him. Eventually he was clubbed to death.

In 1476, at Naples, St. James of the March. He was born into a large, poor family. He entered the Franciscans, studied under Bernardino of Siena (May 20) and after his ordination became a powerful preacher. He worked with James of Capistrano (October 23) as an inquisitor and after the latter's death became papal legate to Hungary.

In 1811, in Rome, St. Joseph Pignatelli. He joined the Jesuits in his native Spain. When they were completely suppressed in 1773, Joseph lived and worked in Bologna. In the 1790s he was instrumental in restarting the Jesuits in Parma and elsewhere. Three years after his death the Jesuits were completely restored.

In 1876, in Paris, St. Catherine Labouré. She joined the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and was sent to Paris. There she had the visions depicted on the miraculous medal. She lived quietly in her convent in Paris, avoiding all publicity.

November 29

In the third century, St. Saturninus of Toulouse. He was a missionary in the region around Toulouse and was martyred when he was tied to an ox that was then goaded into running down a hill.

In 1742, St. Francis of Lucera. He was a conventual Franciscan who taught in his order's college at Lucera.

November 30

In the first century, St. Andrew. He was a fisherman from Bethsaida, the brother of St. Peter, and one of the earliest of Jesus' disciples. He is a patron of Russia and Scotland and Greece.

In 1577, in England, St. Cuthbert Mayne. He was an Anglican priest who followed his friends Gregory Martin and Edmund Campion to Douai, where he was ordained a Catholic priest in 1576. He was sent to England, where he was arrested a year later, tried, hung, drawn and quartered. He was the first "seminary priest" to be martyred.

Tomorrow is the namesday of our confrere Fr. Andrew Baumgartner. He is recommended to our charitable prayers.

December 1

At Tyburn, in 1581, St. Edmund Campion, He studied and taught at Oxford. He became uncomfortable with the Elizabethan religious settlement and went to Douai. He joined the Jesuits in Rome and made his novitiate in Bohemia. He was one of the first Jesuits sent to minister to Catholics in England. There he published several documents defending his faith and mission. After two years he was arrested and tortured, but would not relent. He and two companions were then condemned and brutally executed.

In 660, at Noyon, St. Eligius, bishop. He was a skilled goldsmith who became master of the mint for King Clotaire II in Paris. He became wealthy and founded several monasteries. He was made bishop about 640, at the same time his friend Audenus was made bishop of Rouen. He was a zealous bishop, who was especially concerned to disabuse his people of superstition. He worked with the saintly queen Bathilde (January 30) to free and protect slaves. He is the patron of veterinarians.

In 1539, Blessed Richard Whiting, Hugh Faringdon, and John Beche, abbots and martyrs. Whiting was a Cambridge graduate who refused to surrender his monastery of Glastonbury to King Henry VIII's commissioners. He was hung, drawn and quartered at the monastery, along with two of his monks. Abbots Hugh of Reading and John of Colchester were also executed for refusing, after initial equivocation, to accept the royal supremacy over the church and the dissolution of their monasteries.

In 1964, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Blessed Anuarite Nengapeta, martyr. Sister Marie-Clementine Anuarite was a young Congolese nun who worked as a teacher during a tumultuous period of Congolese history. Some Simba rebels took her and the other sisters into custody. After some days, when she refused the sexual advances of a Simba officer, she was beaten and finally stabbed and shot.

December 2

About 407, St. Chromatius, bishop of Aquileia. He baptized Rufinus, was a friend and correspondent of St. Jerome (September 30) and a supporter of St. John Chrysostom (September 13). At his suggestion St. Ambrose (December 7) wrote a commentary on the prophecy of Balaam. From Chromatius' writings some treatises on Matthew's gospel survive.

In 1381, at the monastery of Groenendael, Blessed John Ruysbroeck. When he was a boy, his mother, who became a beguine, sent him to live with his uncle, John Hickaert, who was a canon in Brussels. John was later ordained. After some years, John and his uncle and another man withdrew to Groenendael to lead a life of contemplation. John wrote many works in Flemish, which only became well known after they were translated into Latin. He wrote out of deep faith and mystical experience in a poetic but down-to-earth way.

In 1665, at Murcia, Spain, Blessed María Angel Astorch. When she was seven, she was miraculously saved when a nun prayed over her seemingly lifeless body. By nine she was fluent in Latin. She joined the Poor Clare Capuchins, and later founded a new monastery for them at Murcia.

In 1941, in Padua, Blessed Liduina Meneguzzi. After working as a domestic, she joined the sisters of St. Francis de Sales. In 1937, at her request, she was sent to work in Ethiopia. There she worked in a hospital treating soldiers of all faiths with loving compassion, assuring them of “Father God’s” goodness.

December 3

The commemoration of Zephaniah the prophet.

In 1552, in China, St. Francis Xavier. Francis was born in a castle near Pamplona. At seventeen he went to the University of Paris, where he became one of the first followers of his fellow Basque aristocrat, Ignatius of Loyola (July 31). At the age of 35, in 1541, he was appointed apostolic nuncio in the East and set sail for Goa, which the ship reached after a voyage of thirteen months. There, living as a poor man among the poor, he had considerable missionary success among the low-caste people, whose cause he championed. He then worked for several years in Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka. Then he set out for Japan, where he made many converts. He returned to India, and then set out for China, where he died not long after arriving. He was forty-six. He was canonized in 1622, along with St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Teresa of Avila (October 15) and St. Philip Neri (May 26).

December 4

In 749, St. John of Damascus, doctor of the church. John was born of Christian parents in Arab controlled Damascus, and lived during the Iconoclast troubles. He was well educated, and followed his father into service at the caliph’s court. When he was in his early forties, John left court, gave his possessions away, and joined the monastery of St. Sabas, near Jerusalem. There he wrote in defense of icons, and produced many theological works in the course of a long lifetime. He was very devoted to Mary, and excellent as an author of hymns and poems.

In 1865, in Cologne, Blessed Adolf Kolping. The son of a shepherd, he went to work at a shoe factory, working twelve-hour days, and then studying at night. At the age of twenty-four, he earned his high school diploma. He then studied for the priesthood and was ordained at the age of thirty-two. His ministry was to industrial workers and artisans who found themselves adrift in the cities. He defended their rights, encouraged them to work efficiently, and urged and helped them to gain an education. He established what came to be known as “Kolping Families” and “Kolping Houses” which offered adult education and accommodation. Today, these are found in forty countries.

December 5

In 532, at his monastery near Jerusalem, St. Sabas. He was born in Cappadocia and was attracted to monastic life at an early age. He joined the monastery of St. Euthymius (January 20) In Jerusalem, where he proved to be hard working and prayerful. After Euthymius' death, Sabas spent four years, and then was prevailed upon to form a semi-eremitical laura. He was appointed archimandrite over the hermits of Palestine, and sent on a number of missions to Constantinople and elsewhere. His monastery, the Great Laura, still exists in the desert ten miles from Jerusalem.

In 304, at Theveste in North Africa, St. Crispina, a married woman, who was the mother of several children. An account of her trial shows her to have been a brave and outspoken woman.

In 1161, St. Christina of Markyate. When she was sixteen, her parents took her to the shrine of St. Alban. She was impressed with the life of the monks there, and determined to seek such a life for herself. She made a private vow of virginity. Her parents forced her to go through a marriage ceremony, but she would not consummate the marriage. The case was taken before several church officials, and finally the Bishop of Lincoln, who at first sided with her but then changed his mind. She escaped with the help of a hermit, and her appeal to the archbishop of Canterbury was upheld. She went into hiding from her parents, first with an anchoress, and then with a hermit. She spent the rest of her life as a hermit at Markyate. She became a friend and guide to Abbot Geoffrey of St. Alban's.

In 1686, Blessed Nicholas Stenson. A Dane, he studied medicine at Copenhagen and Leiden and became a renowned scientist. Some of his contributions to geology are still known as "Stenno's laws." He converted to Catholicism in 1667, while he was working at a hospital in Florence. He became a priest in 1875 and served as vicar apostolic of Hanover and then as suffragan bishop of Münster.

December 6

In the fourth century, St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra. Around this very popular saint a web of wonderful legends has accumulated: how he saved three girls from prostitution by throwing dowry money through a window of their house, and how he saved three young clerks from being murdered and ground into sausage. His relics were stolen from Muslim-controlled Myra and taken to Bari. The custom of exchanging gifts on his feast day may have originated among Dutch Protestants, who brought it to New York.

In 558, St. Abraham, bishop of Kratia in Bithynia. He went from Emesa to Constantinople with his mentor, and there both became monks. Abraham tried to flee from being elected abbot and then bishop, but he was prevailed upon to accept these offices. After thirteen years as a conscientious bishop, he fled to a monastery and spent the last twenty years of his life there as a hermit.

In 1300, in Granada, Blessed Peter Pascual. He received his doctorate in Paris then returned to his native Valencia, taught theology at Barcelona and was appointed bishop of Jaén, which was under Moorish control. His efforts on behalf of Catholic captives, and his missionary work, led to his arrest while he was making a visitation. He was ransomed, but he applied the money toward the freeing of other captives. He died from the deprivations of his captivity, or perhaps he was murdered.

December 7

At Milan, in 397, St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the church. Ambrose was the son of a high Roman official, and he followed in his father's footsteps. When his father died, he was raised in Milan by his mother and his sister St. Marcellina (July 17). When he was about 35 and still a catechumen, he was selected by popular acclaim to be bishop of Milan, which was divided between Catholic and Arian Christians. He was generally conciliatory person, though who stood up against efforts to turn Catholic churches over to Arians, and on several occasions he stood his ground against Emperor Theodosius, for whom he preached a laudatory eulogy. He gave away all the church's gold vessels to help victims of the Gothic invaders, saying, "If the Church possesses gold, it is in order to use it for the needy, not to keep it." He studied theology, especially the writings of Origen and Basil under the tutelage of St. Simplician (August 13).

In Gaul, in 657, the abbess, St. Fare. St. Columbanus baptized her. When she insisted on becoming a nun, her father founded for her the double monastery that became known as Faremoûtier-en-Brie where she was abbess.

In 1880, in Italy, St. Josepha Rossello. She was born into a large family. She was a lively and intelligent girl who became a Franciscan tertiary when she was sixteen. She worked as a servant in a wealthy household for seven years and sent her earnings to her family. Then she and three other women offered themselves to the bishop of Savona to undertake a work on behalf of girls and young women in his see city. They were the nucleus of a very fast-growing Congregation called the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy. In 1875 they made their first foundation in South America.

December 8

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. A feast honoring Mary's conception by St. Anne seems to have been celebrated in Palestine at a fairly early date. Justin Martyr (April 14), Irenaeus (June 28) and John of Damascus (December 4) speak of her as the "new Eve" who was free from sin. The feast came to Rome in the ninth and was celebrated as the "Conception of Our Lady" in England in the first half of the eleventh century. St. Bernard and most early Dominican theologians opposed the feast, but the Franciscans adopted it in 1263. Gradually the feast won universal approval, and the Council of Trent declared that a decree on original sin did not apply to Mary. The Immaculate Conception of Mary was declared a dogma of the church in 1854.

In 1181, at Monte Siepi, in Italy, St. Galgano. He was a nobleman, who, after a worldly youth, became a hermit near the monastery of Monte Siepi. The monastery later was a Cistercian community.

In 1869, In Ecuador, Blessed Narcisa de Jesús Morán. She was orphaned and supported herself as a manual laborer. She settled in Lima, where she lived in a hostel of the Lay Brothers of St. Dominic and devoted herself to a life of prayer and asceticism.

December 9

In 1548, in Mexico, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin. Juan Diego is said to have been a poor, childless widower and a devout convert to Christianity. In 1531, on his way home from Mass, an olive-skinned girl of fourteen told him to tell his bishop that she wanted a church built on the spot, where she, the mother of all nations, would show her compassion on them. The bishop was not convinced. Another day Juan was bringing a priest to bless his uncle, who had smallpox, when the lady appeared again and told him she would take care of the uncle. He was to pick flowers in his cloak and take them to the bishop. When he opened the cloak and flowers fell out before the bishop, the Virgin's image was instantaneously imprinted on the cloak. By that image, Mary identified with the conquered peoples and gave impetus to their conversion and to the union of conquerors and conquered in faith and mutual respect.

In 1631, in Germany, Blessed Liborius Wagner. He was raised a Lutheran, but converted to Catholicism when he was twenty-eight. He became a priest and was assigned to the parish of Altenmünster, where he was devoted to his people, both Catholic and Lutheran. The invading Swedish army arrested, condemned and executed him, because he would not renounce his faith.

In 1640, in Lorraine, St. Peter Fourier. He was a Canon Regular, who was assigned to a poor rural area, where he lived very austere, and served all his people, whether Catholic or Huguenot. He organized a school for the girls in the area; the women teachers in the school became an order of canonesses. Peter later was commissioned to reform and organize the Canons Regular of Lorraine, and in 1632 became their superior general.

December 10

In 741, St. Gregory III, pope. He was a Syrian, an educated and charitable man, whose acclamation as successor to Gregory II in 731 was confirmed by the Byzantine ruler of Ravenna. The year before, in Constantinople, Emperor Leo the III had forbidden the veneration of holy images. Gregory sent messengers to Leo protesting his decree, but they were rebuffed. Gregory then summoned a synod, which approved the excommunication of anyone condemning the veneration of images or destroying them. In retaliation, Leo seized all the papal estates in southern Italy, asserted the jurisdiction of the patriarch of Constantinople over Illyricum, and sent an army in a failed attempt to capture him and bring him to Constantinople. Gregory encouraged the missionary and

organizational work of St. Boniface (June 5) in Germany and sent St. Willibald to help him (July 7, formerly June 7).

In 1591, seven martyrs who were executed in London for their Catholic faith, and in 1610, also in London, St. John Roberts who was executed at Tyburn with Blessed Thomas Somers, a diocesan priest. John Roberts was born in Wales, studied at Oxford, taught school, and then went to Douai, where he was received into the Catholic Church. He studied at the English College at Valladolid, and then joined the Benedictine monastery of San Benito there. He went to England five times as a missionary, but each time was arrested and deported. He helped found the English monastery at Douai, which was eventually transferred to Downside. In 1610 he returned to England, during a time of plague and a persecution resulting from the Gunpowder Plot. He put up a spirited defense at his trial, but was condemned to death. A Spanish lady arranged a joyful dinner for him and twenty other Catholic prisoners at Newgate prison, then washed the feet of all the martyrs-to-be. The next day they were hung, and their heads were then displayed on London Bridge.

In 1880, in Turin, Blessed Marantonio Durando. His politically prominent father was a champion of the Italian unification, his mother a devout Catholic. He joined the Vincentians, and after six years of preaching parish mission, became head of the Vincentian house in Turin, re-established there the Daughters of Charity, and formed a large network of charitable groups in the region.

December 11

In Rome, in 384, Pope Damasus I. He was elected in a contested election, which led to violence, for which some said Damasus was responsible. He lived in great splendor. He promoted devotion to the martyrs, provided inscriptions for their tombs, and made the catacombs more accessible to pilgrims. He legislated for the wider church through decretals. He commissioned Jerome to prepare a new Latin translation of the Bible.

In 493, in Syria, St. Daniel the Stylite. He went to join a monastery when he was twelve. Later, he accompanied his abbot to another monastery, where they had a discussion about whether St. Simeon the Stylite's witness was self-promoting or genuine asceticism and witness. About ten years later Simeon died and Daniel himself took up residence on a pillar. There he was ordained by Gennadius, patriarch of Constantinople. He became a great celebrity, and many people, including Emperor Leo I, came to see him. Daniel died at the age of 84, after spending 33 years on his pillar.

In 1632, the martyrdom of Blesseds Martin Lumberas and Melchior Sánchez. The two Spanish, Augustinian friars were among the 100,000 missionaries which Philip II of Spain sent to convert the Philippines. They then went to Japan to preach the gospel there. After a few weeks they were arrested, and when they wouldn't renounce their faith, they were executed.

In 1974, St. María Maravillas de Jesús Pidal. Her father was a prominent Catholic politician. She became a Discalced Carmelite and was instrumental in founding communities in Spain and India. Near her convent at Cerro de los Angeles, in the geographical center of Spain she built a housing estate for two hundred working families and a school for their children. She lived a very austere life, and remained cheerful and energetic, in spite of suffering the dark night of the soul.

December 12

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At Tepeyac, northwest of Mexico City, Juan Diego had a vision of a beautiful lady: "Her clothing appeared like the sun." She asked him to tell the bishop to build a church there: "In it, I will show ... all people all my love, my compassion, my help and my defence.... There I will hear their laments and remedy and cure all their miseries, misfortunes and sorrows." Later she appeared again, and her image suddenly was imprinted on his cactus-cloth cloak. A shrine was built on the spot, and in 1945 Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared patroness of the Americas.

In 549, St. Finnian of Clonard. After training in Wales, he founded his great monastery at Clonard in Meath, on the Boyne River, where many of the Ireland's greatest early saints trained. The oldest extant penitential is ascribed to him.

December 13

About 304, in Sicily, St. Lucy. Her legend recounts that she was born in Syracuse of well-to-do parents and raised a Christian. She wanted to devote her life to God and give her possessions to the poor. When she resisted a Roman soldier's sexual assault, he denounced her as a Christian. She was arrested and executed. Her Latin name has connotations of light, and she is a patron of those with eye troubles.

About 720, St. Odilia, abbess. According to her legends, she was born blind, and her father, a Frankish nobleman, wanted her killed. Her mother saved her, and Odilia was raised by the nuns at Baume-les-Dames near Besançon. She was cured of her blindness by Bishop Erhard of Regensburg (January 8), and henceforth was called Odilia, "daughter of light." She founded a monastery in an old castle called the Hohenburg in the diocese of Strasbourg. The monastery of St. Otilien is located on the site of a chapel dedicated to her.

In 1671, Blessed Anthony Grassi, an Oratorian priest in Fermo. He was a renowned confessor and gentle superior.

December 14

In 1591, at Úbeda in Spain, St. John of the Cross, doctor of the church. John's mother was a poor widow and she sent him to an orphanage. He went to work as an aide in a hospital that treated venereal diseases. He was so dedicated and joyful that the director sent him to be educated as a priest. He joined the Carmelites, studied at

Salamanca, and was ordained. He met St. Teresa of Avila (October 15). He was a member of the first of her reformed friaries for men. So great was the opposition to the reform that his Order imprisoned him for a year in deplorable conditions. There he had deep spiritual experiences and wrote exquisite poems. He escaped and would have been happy to just go somewhere to pray and write poetry, but he was forced into administration and prose writing.

In 605, in Poitiers, St. Venantius Fortunatus, bishop. He was educated at Ravenna and cured of eye trouble through the intercession of St. Martin of Tours (November 11). He went on pilgrimage to Tours to give thanks at St. Martin's shrine. He settled near St. Radegonde (August 13) at Poitiers, and became the chaplain of her convent, where the sisters treated him very kindly. He was elected bishop of Poitiers when he was sixty-nine and died within a year. Venantius Fortunatus is known mainly for his poetry, particularly the *Vexilla regis prodeunt* ("The royal banners forward go") and *Pange lingua gloriosi* ("Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle"), which are sung during Passiontide, and his Easter hymn, *Salva festa dies* ("Hail this festival day").

In 1315, at Orvieto, Blessed Bonaventure Buonaccorsi. He was a notorious leader of the Ghibelline faction, who was converted by the preaching of St. Philip Benizi (August 22), whose Servite Order he joined. He devoted himself to preaching reconciliation and peace.

In 1858, at the monastery Kfifan, in Lebanon, St. Nimatullah (Youssef) Al-Hardini. One of five sons to become a priest or monk, Youssef became a Maronite monk in 1828 and received the name Nimatullah. He said: "A monk's first concern, night and day, should be not to hurt or trouble his brother monks." He was devoted to the Eucharist and the Immaculate Conception.

In 1876, in Germany, Blessed Frances Schervier. The daughter of an industrialist, she was devoted to alleviating the lot of those whom industrialization displaced or exploited. She founded a religious order, the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis, which consisted of two "families," one of which prayed and the other did works of mercy. She visited a foundation of the order and helped her sisters minister to soldiers during the American Civil War. She also did hospital work with her sisters during the Franco-Prussian War.

December 15

In Asia Minor, in 956, St. Paul of Latros. He sought solitude, but disciples came and he organized a laura for them at Latros. He then retreated further into solitude, but at the urging of his monks, he finally returned to Latros.

In 1617, in Genoa, Blessed Victoria Fronari-Strata. She was born into a well-off family and happily married. Her husband died young, and Victoria devoted herself to raising their six children, prayer, and the poor. When she was forty-two she founded a religious order, the Order of the Annunciation.

In 1651, also in Genoa, Blessed Virginia Centurione-Bracelli. From an aristocratic family, she was widowed when she was twenty and had two young daughters. She raised them, while devoting herself to the poor. She who founded schools for abandoned children and two religious institutes.

December 16

In 999, St. Adelaide of Burgundy. She was married for dynastic reasons to Lothair, the nominal king of Italy. When he died, his rival Berengarius of Ivrea wanted to marry her. When she refused, he put her in prison. She got out and married Otto the Great. They were happily married for twenty years and had five children. When she was sixty, she became regent for her young grandson, Otto III. She worked for peace, founded monasteries and aimed at the conversion of the Slavic peoples.

In 1717, Blessed Mary of the Angels, an Italian Carmelite who served as novice-mistress and prioress, and lived a life of deep and mystical prayer.

In 1916, Blessed Honoratus Kzminski. When the Russians suppressed the religious orders in Poland, he organized groups of Catholic lay people to carry on the work of the religious orders.

In 1940, Blessed Philip Siphon. Blessed Agnes Phila, and Companions, the martyrs of Thailand. Thailand had a history of tolerance for Catholic missionaries, but that changed in the 1930s, when the country increasingly came under Japanese influence, and in an isolated incident Fr. Siphon and seven women, two Thai nuns, four girls and an elderly woman, were martyred.

December 17

In 779, St. Sturm, the first German known to have become a Benedictine monk. He was entrusted to St. Boniface (June 5), who had him educated at the monastery of Fritzlar. He was ordained and then became a hermit. At Boniface's suggestion, he built a monastery at Fulda, where Boniface then made him abbot in 744. Sturm went to study Benedictine life at Monte Cassino for several years, then returned to serve as abbot for 30 years.

In 1213, in Rome, St. John of Matha. He was born in Provence, lived as a hermit, then studied theology at Paris and was ordained. While celebrating his first Mass, he received the inspiration to devote his life to ransoming Christian slaves from the Muslims. For this he founded the Order of the Most Holy Trinity.

In 1901, in Barcelona, St. Joseph Manyanet y Vivès. He established several orders dedicated to the education of young people, and he published several books on Christian family life. He helped inspire the architect, Antonio Gaudi to design the church of the *Sagrada Familia* in Barcelona.

December 18

In the seventh century, St. Flannan, bishop of Killaloe. After a pilgrimage to Rome, he became bishop of Killaloe.

In 761, in Germany, St. Winnibald, abbot of Heidenheim. His father Richard took him and his brother Willibald (June 7) on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. When Richard died at Lucca, the brothers went to Rome. Winnibald stayed on in Rome, and St. Boniface (June 5) enlisted his help in the German mission. He did missionary work in Bavaria, and then with his sister Walburga (February 25) founded the double monastery of Heidenheim, at the request of Willibald who was then bishop of Eichstätt.

December 19

In 401, Pope Anastasius I. He was pope only for two years, but earned the respect of Sts. Jerome (September 30), Augustine (August 28) and Paulinus of Nola (June 22).

In 1370, Blessed Pope Urban V. Born in Languedoc, he became a Benedictine. He was highly educated in theology and canon law. In 1352 he became abbot of St. Germain in Auxerre, and in 1361 of St. Victor in Marseilles. When the College of Cardinals deadlocked trying to elect one of their own as successor to Pope Innocent VI, they chose him. At Avignon, he continued to live as a monk. In 1366, partially at the urging of Petrarch, Urban returned to Rome, which was almost in ruins and starvation. He tried to organize the city, but in the end the chaos seemed overwhelming. In spite of urging from Petrarch and St. Bridget of Sweden, he felt he had to flee back to France; he died a few months later.

December 20

In 250, at Alexandria, St. Ammon and companions. A Christian was on trial, and some Christian soldiers tried to bolster his resolve. The magistrate noticed this, Ammon and his companions declared themselves Christians, and they were executed with the prisoner.

In 1073, St. Dominic of Silos. He was born in the Pyrenees and became a shepherd. He liked solitude and silence and became a monk at San Millán de la Cogolla. He became prior, but was exiled by the King of Navarre for defending the monastery's property. He then went to a decaying monastery at Silos, which then revived. St. Dominic, the founder of the Dominicans, was named after him.

December 21

In Fribourg, in Switzerland, St. Peter Canisius, doctor. He was born in Hijmegen, and studied at Cologne. He joined the Jesuits, published editions of St. Cyril of Alexandria (June 27) and St. Leo the Great (November 10) and was ordained. He attended to sessions of the Council of Trent, and then taught at Messina in the first Jesuit school. He then ministered to the students at Ingolstadt, and then to the poor of Vienna. He wrote an immensely popular and influential catechism. After two years founding a school at Prague, he settled at Augsburg. In 1580 he was sent to Fribourg where he preached and oversaw the college that became the University of Fribourg.

In 1860, in Germany, Blessed Peter Friedhofen, a chimney sweep who founded the Brothers of the Charity of Mary, Help of Christians, who work in hospitals and old people's homes.

December 22

In 1136, Blessed Jutta of Diessenberg. She was a noble woman who became a recluse next to the monastery of St. Disibod. There she brought up St. Hildegard (September 17). A community of Benedictine nuns grew up around her, and after her death pilgrims came to her tomb. Hildegard succeeded her as magistra of the women's community at St. Disibod, and later moved the community to Bingen.

December 23

In 250, the ten martyrs of Crete, who were tortured and executed by the sword at the order of the governor of Gortyna.

At Skalholt in Iceland, St. Thorlac, bishop. After his ordination at the age of twenty, he studied abroad, before returning to Iceland. He formed a monastery of Canons Regular at Thykkvibaer, and in 1774 was elected bishop of Skalholt. He introduced the Gregorian Reform to Iceland, insisting on the financial independence of the church, clerical celibacy and the sanctity of Christian marriage.

In 1473, in Poland, St. John of Kanty. He studied at Cracow, was ordained, and became a professor there. He modeled his austere lifestyle on the teachings of the Desert Fathers. He came to be highly revered by people of all social strata.

In 1771, in Montreal, St. Margaret d'Youville. She was born in Canada into a poor family. At twenty-one she married a fur trader. The marriage was not happy. She was appalled at her husband's dealings with the native peoples. Her husband died, leaving her with two sons to raise. She supported the family by operating a small store. When her sons entered the seminary, Margaret and some other women rented a house in a poor part of town and began taking care of sick and impoverished women. At first they were derisively called "Grey Sisters," and as the order developed she kept the name. They took over the operation of the General Hospital in Montreal, and when it burned

down, they received great public support from English, French and native peoples to rebuild it. By then the charity of the Grey Sisters was legendary.

December 24

About 550, St. Tharsilla, the aunt of St. Gregory the Great, who lived with her sister Emiliana as a nun in her father's house.

In 1728, Blessed Bartholomew dal Monte. He left his father's banking business to become a priest. He devoted his life to preaching missions, inspired in part by a mission he attended that was preached by Leonard of Port Maurice (November 26).

In 1865, at Bergamo, Blessed Paula Cerioli. She was left a widow when she was in her late thirties. Her children had all died, so she devoted herself to the care of poor children, especially those in rural areas.

In Lebanon, in 1898, St. Sharbel Markhlouf. He was born of a poor family in a remote village. He joined a monastery when he was twenty-three, was trained at several others, and ordained a priest. He spent the rest of his life as an austere hermit, devoting his days to preparation, celebration and thanksgiving for the Eucharist. His grave became a much visited pilgrimage shrine. He was beatified at the Second Vatican Council.

December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. After the passage of countless ages from the creation of the world, God created humankind in his image and likeness then made covenants with Noah and Abraham, and Moses. Finally, at a time when the world was at peace under Augustus Caesar, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, wishing to consecrate the world by his coming, was conceived by Holy Spirit, and nine months later was born in Bethlehem of Judea, becoming man from the womb of the Blessed Virgin.

In Rome, around 304, St. Anastasia, veneration of whom began at Sirmium in Pannonia. Later, The popes celebrated the second Mass of Christmas at a church dedicated to her in Rome.

In 1258, St. Peter Nolasco, the founder of the Mercedarian Order, dedicated to ransoming Christians enslaved by the Moors.

About 1306, Blessed Jacopone of Todi. Jacopone often wished that his wealthy father who beat him often were dead. He completed his university studies, but lived a disordered life. When he was about thirty-eight he married Vanna di Guidone, who was a devout young woman. When she was accidentally killed a year later, Jacopone was shattered and for ten years he lived eccentrically and penitentially. He then joined the Spiritual wing of the Franciscans, and was active in their opposition to Pope Boniface VIII. For that he was imprisoned for five years. During those years he overcame his guilt

and anger and experienced intense contemplative union with God. While in prison he wrote many religious lyrics or *Laude*.

December 26

About the year 34, in Jerusalem, St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. He was a Greek-speaking Jew and is listed first among the deacons created to serve the Hellenist Christians in Jerusalem. His arrest, trial and execution are described in the Acts of the Apostles.

In 268 or 269, St. Dionysius, pope. He oversaw the rebuilding of the church in Rome after the persecution of Decius. He also had to deal with several Christological errors. Dionysius of Alexandria described him as a praiseworthy and learned person. He was generous in giving aid to the church of Cappadocia, which suffered from an invasion of Gothic peoples.

In 1890, in Spain, Blessed Vincentia López y Vicuña, who founded a religious order dedicated to helping poor girls.

December 27

About the year 100, St. John the Evangelist. He is traditionally regarded as the author of the Fourth Gospel and identified with the Beloved Disciple mentioned in that Gospel. Tradition has it that he died at an advanced age in Ephesus.

In 399, St. Fabiola, a wealthy and restless Roman matron, who was a friend of St. Jerome (September 30). She devoted her wealth to churches and hospitals.

December 28

The Feast of the Holy Innocents. They were murdered by Herod who was trying to eliminate a possible rival to the throne, but failed to kill Jesus.

In 368, in Upper Egypt, St. Theodore, a disciple and successor of St. Pachomius.

In 1837 In Rome, St. Gaspar del Bufalo. As a young priest he was jailed for four years by Napoleon's army, because he would not change allegiance from the pope to Napoleon. Once he was released, he devoted himself to preaching missions. He was particularly devoted to the Precious Blood of Christ, and founded the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood.

In Naples, in 1894, Blessed Catherine Volpicelli, who found in her devotion to the Eucharist and the Sacred Heart inspiration to found an institute called the Servants of the Sacred Heart, which includes three classes of members: professed members living in community, oblates, who are professed but live with their families, and associates who do not take vows. All wear secular dress. They are engaged in ministry in Italy and Brazil

December 29

The commemoration of the prophet Nathan and King David.

In 1170, in England, St. Thomas Becket. He was a Norman and educated by the Canons Regular of Merton Abbey. He became archdeacon under Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury. He was sent to Rome to secure approval of Pope Eugene III for the succession of Henry II to the throne. Henry made Thomas his chancellor. He lived in splendid fashion, though he was also generous to the poor. Thomas tried to warn the king not to make him archbishop of Canterbury, because inevitably he would be required to resist the king's encroachments on the rights of the church. The king appointed him anyway, and Thomas changed his way of life. He wore a hairshirt, rose early to read the Scriptures, said or attended Mass daily, and distributed alms. When conflict with the king became too intense, Thomas went into exile for six years. He returned to England, aware it was probably to die. Four knights, who heard the king denounce Thomas, murdered him in his cathedral.

About 485, near Constantinople, St. Marcellus. He was abbot of a monastery near Constantinople. The monks there *akoimeto*i, that is, they sang the office continuously day and night.

In Normandy, in 596, St. Evroult. He was an official at the court of King Chilperic I. He entered a monastery at Bayeux, but found the esteem he received there a temptation, so left with three others to be a hermit. A community grew up around him and over the course of the time he established fifteen other monasteries.

December 30

At Esztergom, in Hungary, in 1036, Blessed Sebastian, bishop. Sebastian became bishop in 1102, a year after St. Stephen was crowned king. The two of them worked together for the evangelization of Hungary and the organization of the church there.

In 1280, at Palestrina, Blessed Margaret Colonna. She was the daughter of a prince, who died young and left her to be raised by her brothers. She did not want to marry, and devoted her short life to the poor and to establishing a Poor Clare convent.

In 1900, at Genoa, Blessed Eugenia Ravasco. When she was twenty-three she founded the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary dedicated to helping poor and abandoned girls. Their mission broadened to include care of the dying, prisoners and those alienated from the church. They work in many countries now.

December 31

At Rome, in 335, St. Silvester I, pope. He was pope for twenty-two years during the reign of Constantine. He received his residence at the Lateran from Constantine.

About 440, in Palestine, Saints Melania the Younger and Pinian. Melania, the granddaughter of Melania the Elder, was married to Pinian. Melania had wished to remain celibate, but her father insisted on the marriage. The couple had two children, both of whom died. Thereafter, the couple and her mother, Albina, lived a monastic form of life on a country estate. They were generous to the poor, after gradually a community of single and married people grew up around them. They eventually sold off their very extensive properties, gave the money to charitable causes and freed their slaves. About 408, when Alaric's Goths invaded Italy, they went to an estate of theirs at Tagaste. In 417 they went to Jerusalem. By then they had given away their immense wealth and were paupers. After visiting the monks of Egypt, they settled in Jerusalem, where Melania became a close associate of St. Jerome. She established several monasteries and lived in one.

In 1640, in southern France, St. John-Francis Régis. He joined the Jesuits when he was eighteen. He spent many years as a priest ministering with great effectiveness to peasant communities in the south of France. St. John Vianney (August 4) found his vocation while on a pilgrimage to St. John-Francis' grave and later wrote a life of him.

In 1876, St. Catherine Labouré. She was born into a large farm family, and never went to school. She joined the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, and was sent to their convent in the rue du Bac in Paris. Soon after arriving there, she had the first of several visions, which ended with Mary appearing to her, and Catherine being asked to have a medal struck depicting what she saw. This became the "miraculous medal." Catherine spent the rest of her life in self-chosen obscurity, serving her community as portress and poultry farmer and caring for old people in a hospice.

Tomorrow is the name's day of our confrere Br. Sylvester Sonnen. He is commended to our charitable prayers.