

True Cross of Our Lord

Ex ligno crucis (wood from the Cross)

“There they crucified him, and with him two others” *John 19:18*

The Cross on which Christ was Crucified was brought from the Holy Land to Rome by St. Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the Fourth Century. The largest remaining portions of it are in Santa Croce Church, in Rome. Due to scarcity, the Church no longer issues relics of the True Cross.

This particular reliquary containing *extraordinarily* large portions of the True Cross was once given as a gift by the bishop of Limoges (France) to the bishop of Marseilles (France) at his Episcopal consecration (see official documentation on back).

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2



Fragment of the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary

De velo (from the Veil)

Profile:

Mother of Jesus. Spouse of the Holy Spirit. Betrothed of Saint Joseph.

Born: unknown, perhaps 20BC; celebrated on 8 September.

Died: unknown; assumed into heaven on a date unknown but celebrated each year on 15 August.

Inside this reliquary is a piece of fabric taken from the Veil worn by the Blessed Virgin. Our Lady's Veil has been venerated from the earliest centuries since she was assumed into Heaven. This particular portion was encased within this theca within the Vatican. It was given to this ministry to allow for world wide veneration.



St. Peter

Vicar of Christ, Prince of the Apostles

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Simon; Prince of the Apostles; Cephias.

Feasts:

29 June (feast of Peter and Paul).
22 February (feast of the Chair of Peter, emblematic of the world unity of the Church).
18 November (feast of the dedication of the Basilicas of Peter and Paul).

Profile:

Fisherman by trade. Brother of St. Andrew the Apostle who led him to Christ. Was renamed "Peter" (Rock) by Jesus to indicate that he would be the rock-like foundation on which the Church would be built. Was the first Pope. Miracle worker. Martyr.

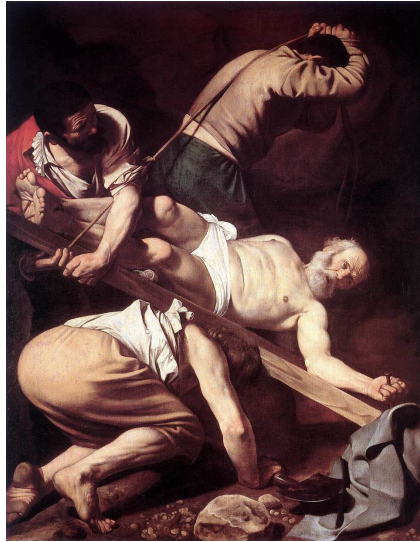
Born: date unknown.

Died: martyred circa 64 (crucified head downward because he claimed he was not worthy to die in the same manner as Christ).

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

bakers; bridge builders; butchers; clock makers; cobblers; feet problems; fever; fishermen; harvesters; locksmiths; longevity; masons; net makers; the papacy; Rome; ship builders; shipwrights; shoemakers; the Universal Church; watch makers; Codex, Portugal.



St. Paul the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Saul of Tarsus.

Feasts:

25 January (celebration of his conversion)
29 June (feast of Peter and Paul)
18 November (feast of the dedication of the Basilicas of Peter and Paul)

Profile:

Birth name was Saul.

Was a Talmudic student and Pharisee, and a Tent-maker by trade. Hated and persecuted Christians as heretical, even assisting at the stoning of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. On his way to Damascus to arrest another group of them, he was knocked to the ground, struck blind by a heavenly light, and given the message that in persecuting Christians, he was persecuting Christ Himself. The experience had a profound spiritual effect on him, causing his conversion to Christianity. He was baptized, changed his name to Paul to reflect his new persona, and began traveling and preaching. Martyr.

Born : approximately the year 3 at Tarsus, Cilicia (modern Turkey).

Died: martyred by beheading circa 65 at Rome, Italy.

Patronage:

against snakes, authors, Catholic Action, Cursillo movement, evangelists, hailstorms, journalists, lay people, Malta, missionary bishops, musicians, newspaper editorial staff, poisonous snakes, public relations personnel, public relations work, publishers, reporters, Rome, rope braiders, rope makers, saddlemakers, saddlers, snake bites, tent makers, writers.



St. Andrew the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

30 November.

Profile:

The first Apostle. A fisherman by trade (along with his brother, Simon Peter). Follower of John the Baptist. Went through life leading people to Jesus, both before and after the Crucifixion. Missionary in Asia Minor and Greece, and possibly areas in modern Russia and Poland. Martyred on a saltire (x-shaped) cross; he is said to have preached for two days from it.

Born: at Bethsaida; date unknown.

Died: crucified on a saltire (x-shaped) cross in Patrasso, Greece, circa 60 AD.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

Achaia; anglers; diocese of Constantinople; fish dealers; fish mongers; fishermen; gout; Greece; maidens; old maids; Russia; Scotland; singers; sore throats; Spanish armed forces; spinsters; unmarried women; women who wish to become mothers.



St. Jude the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

28 October.

Profile:

Son of Cleophas, who died a martyr, and Mary who stood at the foot of the Cross, and who anointed Christ's body after death. Brother of St. Lesser. Nephew of Mary and Joseph; blood relative of Jesus Christ, and is reported to look a lot like him. May have been a fisherman.

Writer of a New Testament letter.

Preached in Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia with St. Simon. Healer. Exorcist (exorcised pagan idols, which caused the demons to flee and their statues to crumble). Martyr.

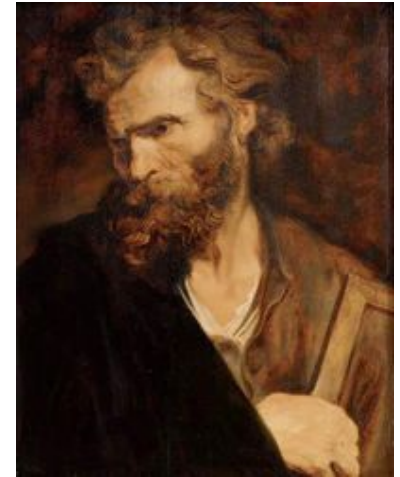
Born: date and location unknown.

Died: beaten to death circa 107 with a club, then beheaded post-mortem in Persia; relics at St. Peter's, Rome, at Rheims, and at Toulouse, France.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

desperate situations; forgotten causes; hospital workers; hospitals; impossible causes; lost causes.



St. Philip the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

3 May.

Profile:

Was a disciple of St. John the Baptist who was chosen by Jesus to be an Apostle. Brought the Apostle Bartholomew to Christ. Close confidant of Jesus. Little is known about him, but Scriptural episodes give the impression of a shy, naive, practical individual. Preached in Greece and Asia Minor. Martyr.



Born: at Bethsaida, Palestine; date unknown.

Died: martyred circa 80 at Hierapolis, Phrygia.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

hatters; Luxembourg; pastry chefs; San Felipe Indian Pueblo; Uruguay.

St. Thomas the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

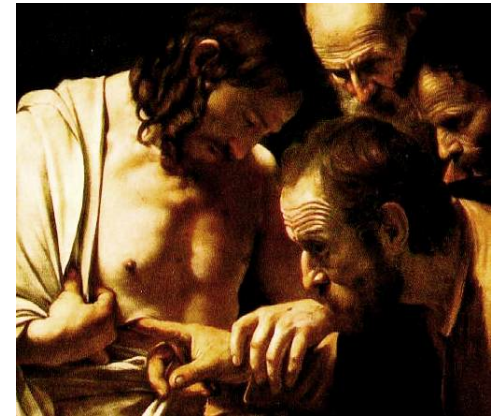
Didymus; the Twin;
Apostle of India; Doubting
Thomas.

Feast:

3 July.

Profile:

He was ready to die with Jesus when Christ went to Jerusalem, but is best remembered for doubting the Resurrection until allowed to touch Christ's wounds. Preached in Parthia, Persia and India, though he was so reluctant to start the mission that he had to be taken into slavery by a merchant headed that way. He eventually gave in to God's will, was freed, and planted the new Church over a wide area. He formed many parishes and built many churches along the way. His symbol is the builder's square, from an ancient story that built a palace for King Guduphara in India. Martyr



Born: date and location unknown.

Died: stabbed with a spear circa 72 in India.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against doubt; architects; blind people; builders; construction workers; Ceylon; East Indies; geometricians; India; masons; Pakistan; people in doubt; Sri Lanka; stone masons; stonecutters; surveyors; theologians.

St. Matthew the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Levi; the Apostle of Ethiopia.

Feast:

21 September.

Profile:

Son of Alphaeus, he lived at Capernaum on Lake Genesareth. He was a Roman tax collector, a position equated with collaboration with the enemy by those from whom he collected taxes. Jesus' contemporaries were surprised to see the Christ with a traitor, but Jesus explained that he had come "not to call the just, but sinners."



Matthew's Gospel is given pride of place in the canon of the New Testament, and was written to convince Jewish readers that their anticipated Messiah had come in the person of Jesus. He preached among the Jews for 15 years; his audiences may have included the Jewish enclave in Ethiopia, and places in the East.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: martyred near Hierapolis or Ethiopia; date unknown.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

accountants; bankers; bookkeepers; customs officers; financial officers; guards; money managers; security forces; security guards; stock brokers; tax collectors.

St. Matthias the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

14 May.

Profile:

As was an original witness to the Resurrection of Jesus, he was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot after his suicide. Preached the Gospel for more than 30 years in Judea, Cappadocia, Egypt and Ethiopia. Remembered for preaching the need for mortification of the flesh with regard to all its sensual and irregular desires.



Born: date and location unknown.

Died: Martyred by stoning at Colchis in 80 AD.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

alcoholism; carpenters; reformed alcoholics; smallpox; tailors.

St. James the Greater, Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

One of the Sons of Thunder;
Iacobus Major; Iago; Santiago

Feast:

25 July.

Profile:

Son of Zebedee and Salome,
brother of St. John the Apostle,
and may have been Jesus' cousin.
He is called "the Greater" simply
because he became an Apostle
before St. James the Lesser.

Apparent disciple of St. John the
Baptist. Fisherman. He left
everything when Christ called
him to be a fisher of men. Was present during most of the recorded
miracles of Christ. Preached in Samaria, Judea, and Spain. First
Apostle to be martyred.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: Martyred in the year 44 at Jerusalem; stabbed with a sword by
King Herod Agrippa.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the
formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against arthritis; against rheumatism; apothecaries; arthritis sufferers;
blacksmiths; Chile; druggists; equestrians; furriers; Guatemala;
horsemen; knights; laborers; Loiza, Puerto Rico; Medjugorje, Bosnia-
Herzegovina; Montreal, Canada; Nicaragua; pharmacists; pilgrims;
rheumatoid sufferers; riders; soldiers; Spain; Spanish conquistadors;
tanners; veterinarians.



St. James the Lesser, Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Jacobus Minor; James the Younger.

Feast:

3 May.

Profile:

Cousin of Jesus. Brother of St. Jude
Thaddeus. One of the first to have
visions of the risen Christ. First
Bishop of Jerusalem. He is called "the
Lesser" simply because he became an
Apostle after St. James the Greater.

Having been beaten to death, a club
almost immediately became his
symbol. This led to his patronage of
fullers and pharmacists, both of
whom use clubs in their professions.

Reported to have spent so much time in prayer that his knees
thickened, and looked like a camel's. Soon after the Crucifixion, James
said he would fast until Christ returned; the resurrected Jesus
appeared to him, and fixed a meal Himself.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: Martyred circa 62 at Jerusalem by being thrown from a pinnacle
of the Temple, then stoned and beaten with clubs, including fuller's
mallets, while praying for his attackers.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the
formal canonization process).

Patronage:

apothecaries; druggists; dying people; fullers; hat makers; hatters;
milliners; pharmacists; Uruguay.



St. Simon the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Simon the Cananean; Simon the Zealot

Feast:

28 October.

Profile:

One of the most obscure among the apostles of Jesus; little is recorded of him in Scripture aside from his name. Evangelized in Egypt and Mesopotamia. Several places claim to have been the site of his martyrdom. He is not to be confused with "Simon the brother of Jesus" mentioned in the Mark 6:3.



Born: date and location unknown.

Died: Martyred circa 107 AD; Abyssinians claim he was crucified in Samaria; Lipsius says he was sawn in half at Suanir, Persia; Moses of Chorene writes that he was martyred at Weriosphora in Iberia.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

curriers; sawmen; sawyers; tanners.

St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

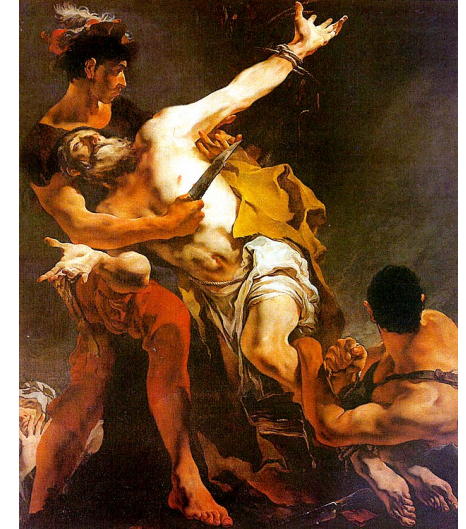
Nathaniel; Nathanael bar Tolomai.

Feast:

24 August.

Profile:

Probably a close friend of St. Philip; his name is always mentioned in the Gospels in connection with him, and it was Philip that brought Bartholomew to Jesus. May have written a gospel, now lost; it is mentioned in other writings of the time. May have preached in Asia Minor, Ethiopia, India and Armenia.



Born: date and location unknown.

Died: Martyred; skinned alive at Albanopolis, Armenia.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

Armenia; bookbinders; butchers; cobblers; Florentine cheese merchants; Florentine salt merchants; leather workers; nervous diseases; neurological diseases; plasterers; shoemakers; tanners; trappers; twitching; whiteners.

St. John the Apostle

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Beloved Apostle; Beloved Disciple; John the Divine; John the Evangelist.

Feast:

27 December.

Profile:

Son of Zebedee and Salome. Fisherman. Brother of St. James the Great, and called one of the *Sons of Thunder*.

Disciple of St. John the Baptist. Friend of St. Peter the Apostle. Called by Jesus during the first year of His ministry, becoming so close as to be known as *the beloved disciple*. The only one of the Twelve not to forsake Jesus during His Passion, standing at the foot of the Cross. Made guardian of Our Lady by Jesus, he took her into his home. Imprisoned with Peter for preaching after Pentecost. Survived all his fellow apostles being the only one that was not martyred.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: circa 101 of natural causes at Ephesus (modern Turkey).

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against poison; art dealers; authors; bookbinders; booksellers; burns; composers; editors; engravers; friendships; lithographers; painters; papermakers; poisoning; printers; publishers; tanners; theologians; typesetters; writers.



St. Luke the Evangelist

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

18 October.

Profile:

Born to pagan Greek parents, and possibly a slave. One of the earliest converts. Physician, studying in Antioch and Tarsus. Probably traveled as a ship's doctor. Legend has that he was also a painter who may have done portraits of Jesus and Mary. He met St. Paul at Troas, and evangelized Greece and Rome with him, being there for the shipwreck and other perils of the voyage to Rome, and stayed in Rome for Paul's two years of in prison. Wrote the *Gospel According to Luke*, much of which was based on the teachings and writings of Paul, interviews with early Christians, and his own experiences. Wrote a history of the early Church in the *Acts of the Apostles*.

Born: at Antioch; date unknown.

Died: martyred circa 74 in Greece.

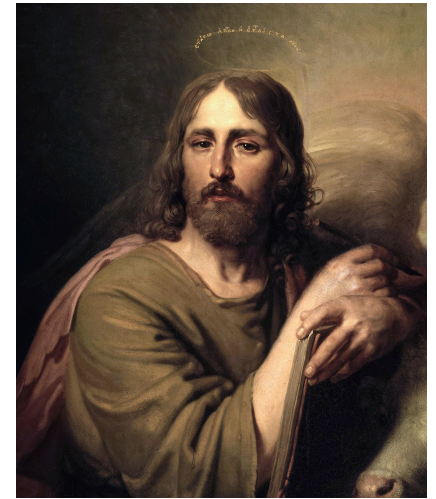
Name Meaning:

Bringer of light (Luke).

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

artists, bachelors, bookbinders, brewers, butchers, doctors, glass makers, glassworkers, gold workers, goldsmiths, lacemakers, lace workers, notaries, painters, physicians, sculptors, stained glass workers, surgeons, unmarried men.



St. Mark the Evangelist

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:
John Mark.

Feast:
25 April.

Profile:
Believed to be the young man who ran away when Jesus was arrested (Mark 14:51-52), and the "John whose other name was Mark" (Acts 12:25). Disciple of St. Peter who traveled with him to Rome, and was referred to as "my son Mark" by the first Pope. Author of the earliest canonical Gospel. Traveled with his cousin St. Barnabas, and with St. Paul through Cyprus. Evangelized in Alexandria, established the Church there, and founded the first famous Christian school.



Born: date and location unknown.

Died: martyred on 25 April, 68, at Alexandria, Egypt.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:
against impenitence; attorneys; barristers; captives; Egypt; glaziers; imprisoned people; insect bites; Ionian Islands; lawyers; lions; notaries; prisoners; scrofulous diseases; stained glass workers.

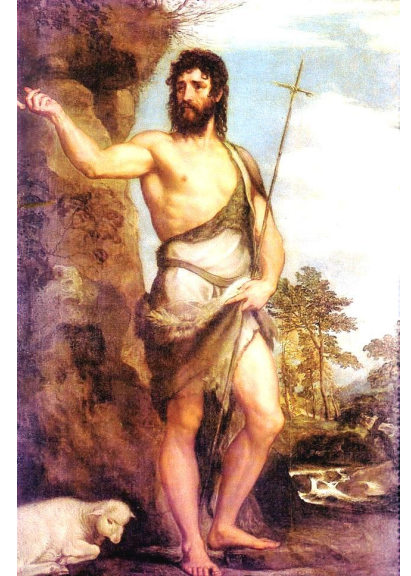
St. John the Baptist

Precursor of the Lord, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:
24 June (birth).
29 August (martyrdom).

Profile:
Cousin of Jesus Christ. Son of Zachary, a priest of the order of Abia; and of Elizabeth, a descendent of Aaron. An angel brought Zachary news that Elizabeth would bear a child filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment of his birth. Zachary doubted and was struck dumb until John's birth.



Prophet. Began his ministry around age 27, wearing a leather belt and a tunic of camel hair, living off locusts and wild honey, and preaching a message of repentance to the people of Jerusalem. He converted many, and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. Baptized Christ, after which he stepped away and told his disciples to follow Jesus. Imprisoned by King Herod and beheaded by him.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: martyred by beheading circa 30 at Machaerus.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:
baptism; bird dealers; converts; convulsions; convulsive children; cutters; epilepsy; epileptics; farriers; French Canadians; hail; hailstorms; Jordan; Knights Hospitaller; Knights of Malta; lambs; monastic life; motorways; printers; Quebec; spasms; tailors.

St. Mary Magdalene

Penitent

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

The Penitent; the Apostle to the Apostles.

Feast:

22 July.

Profile:

Friend and follower of Jesus who was exorcised of seven demons by Him. Magdalene was given the great honour of being the first to witness the Resurrection of the Savior. She was the one who informed the Apostles of it. For this reason she is called the Apostle to the Apostles.



Born: date and location unknown.

Died: of natural causes in France, to which she had gone with Mary and Lazarus. Was interred in an oratory constructed by St. Maximinus at Villa Lata (Saint Maximin).

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

apothecaries; contemplative life; contemplatives; converts; druggists; glove makers; hairdressers; hairstylists; penitent sinners; people ridiculed for their piety; perfumeries; perfumers; pharmacists; reformed prostitutes; sexual temptation; tanners; women.

St. Martha

Virgin

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Wonder Worker of Southern Gaul.

Feast:

29 July.

Profile:

Sister of St. Lazarus and St. Mary of Bethany. Friend of Jesus, hostess to him in her house. Complained to Jesus that she was doing all the work of hosting Him while her sister Mary was sitting at His feet listening to Him, whereupon she was told that Mary had taken the better part.



Tradition states that she may have been part of an early mission to France.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: circa 80; location unknown.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

butlers; cooks; dietitians; domestic servants; homemakers; hotel-keepers; housemaids; housewives; innkeepers; laundry workers; maids; manservants; servants; servers; single laywomen; travellers.

St. Joseph

Foster Father of Jesus Our Lord, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin

Ex pallio (piece of his cloak)

Also known as:

Joseph the Worker

Feast:

19 March; 1 May (Joseph the Worker).

Profile:

Descendant of the house of David. Layman. Carpenter. Earthly spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Foster and adoptive father of Jesus Christ. Visionary who was visited by angels. Noted for his willingness to immediately get up and do what God told him. One of the most beloved and popular saints in the Church.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: 1st century, prior to the Passion, presumably of natural causes.



Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against doubt; against hesitation; Americas; bursars; cabinetmakers; Canada; Canadian Armed Forces (in 1941); Carinthia; carpenters; Catholic Church (1847 by Pope Pius IX); China; confectioners; craftsmen; Croatian people (in 1687 by decree of the Croatian parliament); dying people; emigrants; engineers; expectant mothers; families; fathers; happy death; holy death; house hunters; immigrants; interior souls; laborers; married people; Mexico; people in doubt; people who fight Communism; Peru; pioneers; pregnant women; protection of the Church; social justice; travellers; unborn children; Vatican II; Viet Nam; wheelwrights; workers; working people.

St. Lawrence

Deacon, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Laurent; Lawrence of Rome.

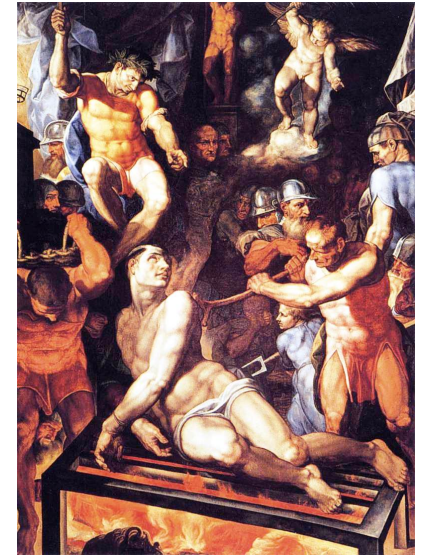
Feast:

10 August.

Profile:

Third-century archdeacon of Rome during Roman persecutions. By decree of Emperor Valerian, Pope St. Sixtus II and six deacons were beheaded, leaving Lawrence as the ranking Church official in Rome.

Four days later, Lawrence was commanded to appear for execution, and to bring with him the Church's treasure. He arrived, accompanied by a multitude of Rome's crippled, blind, sick, and indigent, announcing that these were the true treasures of the Church.



Lawrence was 'grilled' to death. He was so strong-willed during this torture that instead of giving in to the Romans and releasing information about the Church, at the point of death he exclaimed "I am done on this side! Turn me over."

Born: at Huesca, Spain; date unknown.

Died: martyred on 10 August 258; cooked to death on a gridiron.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

butlers; cooks; dietitians; domestic servants; homemakers; hotel-keepers; housemaids; housewives; innkeepers; laundry workers; maids; manservants; servants; servers; single laywomen; travelers.

St. Dismas, the Good Thief

Ex crucis (particle of the cross on which he was crucified)

Also known as:

The Good Thief; the Penitent Thief; Desmas.

Feast:

25 March.

Profile:

One of the thieves crucified with Jesus, the other being traditionally known as Gestas; Dismas is the one who rebuked the other for mocking Jesus even in his own dying moments.

He then asked Jesus for entry into heaven, which Christ granted, assuring him that he would be with Him in Paradise that very day (Luke 23:43). This assurance, guaranteed by the Son of God Himself, makes Dismas the first canonized saint.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: crucified circa 30 at Jerusalem.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

Criminals; death row inmates; funeral directors; prisoners; reformed thieves; undertakers.



St. Januarius

Bishop, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

19 September.

Profile:

Fourth century bishop of Benevento, Italy, during Diocletian's persecution. Arrested while visiting imprisoned deacons, and later martyred with them.

His blood was preserved, and dried. *Since at least 1389, on his feast day, and on the Saturday before the first Sunday in May, the blood liquefies.*

Born: Benevento or Naples, Italy (records vary); date unknown.

Died: martyred circa 304 at Naples or Pozzuoli (sources vary) first thrown to wild beasts; when the animals would not attack him, he was beheaded.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

blood banks; Naples; volcanic eruptions.



St. Cecilia

Virgin, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

22 November.

Profile:

As a young woman she married Valerian of Trastevere. Cecilia told him that she was accompanied by an angel, but to see it, he must be baptized. He agreed, and returning from the ceremony, found her with an angel. The angel placed a crown on each of them, and offered Valerian a favor; he asked that his brother be baptized.



With his brother Valerian was arrested and martyred for his faith. Cecilia buried them at her villa on the Appian Way, and was arrested for the action. She was ordered to sacrifice to false gods; when she refused, she was martyred in her turn. Her grave was discovered in 817, and her body removed to the church of St. Cecilia in Rome.

An early record notes the following: "While the profane music of her wedding was heard, Cecilia was singing in her heart a hymn of love for Jesus, her true spouse." It was this phrase that led to her association with music, singers, musicians, etc.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: martyred circa 117; suffocated for a while, and when that did not kill her, she was decapitated.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

composers; martyrs; music; musicians; musical instrument makers; poets; singers.

St. Agnes of Rome

Martyr

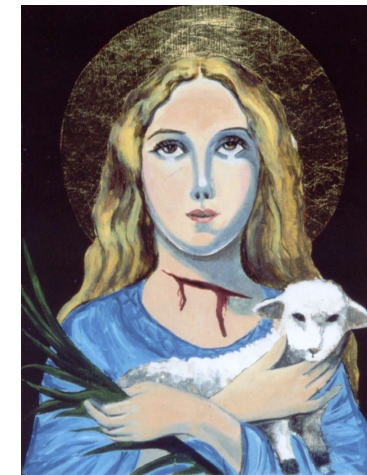
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

21 January.

Profile:

Foster-sister of St. Emerentiana. At age 12 or 13 Agnes was ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods and lose her virginity by rape. She was taken to a Roman temple to Minerva (Athena), and when led to the altar, she made the Sign of the Cross. She was threatened, then tortured when she refused to turn against God. Several young men presented themselves, offering to marry her, whether from lust or pity is not known. She said that to do so would be an insult to her heavenly Spouse; that she would keep her consecrated virginity intact, accept death, and see Christ. She was beheaded and burned, or tortured and stabbed to death, or stabbed in the throat (sources vary).



On her feast day two lambs are blessed at her church in Rome, and then their wool is woven into the palliums (bands of white wool) which the pope confers on archbishops as symbol of their jurisdiction.

Born: date and location unknown.

Died: martyred on 21 January 254 or 304 (sources vary) at Rome; buried beside the Via Nomentana, Rome.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

engaged couples; bodily purity; chastity; Children of Mary; crops; engaged couples; gardeners; Girl Scouts; girls; rape victims; virgins.

St. Helen

Widow

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Helena; Flavia Julia Helena Augusta

Feast:

18 August.

Profile:

Converted to Christianity late in life. Married Constantius Chlorus, co-regent of the Western Roman Empire. Mother of Constantine the Great. Her husband put her aside for a second marriage with better political connections. On his death, her son ascended to the throne and treated her as royalty. She used her high position and wealth in the service of her religious enthusiasm, and helped build churches throughout the empire.

She led a group to the Holy Land to search for the True Cross. She and her group unearthed several crosses in 326. At the suggestion of St. Macarius of Jerusalem, she took them to a woman afflicted with an incurable disease, and had her touch each one. One of them immediately cured her, and it was pronounced the True Cross. She built a church on the spot where the cross was found, and sent pieces to Rome and Constantinople; the Feast of the Holy Cross on 14 September celebrates the event.

Born: 250; location unknown.

Died: 330 of natural causes.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

archeologists; converts; difficult marriages; divorced people; empresses.



St. Ignatius of Antioch

Bishop, Church Father, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Theophoros; God-Bearer.

Feast:

17 October.

Profile:

Convert from paganism. Succeeded St. Peter as bishop of Antioch, Syria. Served during persecution of Domitian. During the persecution of Trajan, he was taken to Rome to be killed by wild animals. On the way, a journey which took months, he wrote a series of encouraging letters to the churches under his care. First writer to use the term the "Catholic Church." Apostolic Father. Legend says he was the infant that Jesus took into his arms in Mark 9.

Born: circa 50 in Syria.

Died: thrown to wild animals circa 107 at Rome.

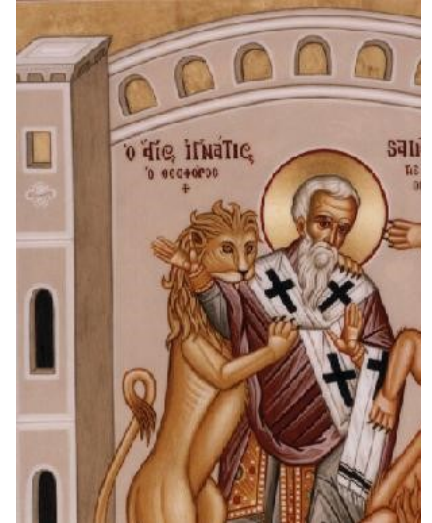
Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

Church in eastern Mediterranean; Church in North Africa; throat diseases.

No earthly pleasures, no kingdoms of this world can benefit me in any way. I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire.

— St. Ignatius of Antioch



St. Irenaeus
Bishop, Church Father, Martyr
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:
Irenaeus of Lyons.

Feast:
28 June.

Profile:
Disciple of St. Polycarp of Smyrna.
Priest in 177. Bishop of Lyons.
Worked and wrote against
Gnosticism, basing his arguments
on the works of St. John, whose
Gospel is often cited by Gnostics.
Considered the first great Western
ecclesiastical writer, he emphasized
the unity of the Old and New
Testaments, and of Christ's simultaneous human and divine nature.
Father of the Church.



Born: circa 130 in Asia Minor.
Died: martyred in 202 in Lyons, France.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:
Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama.

The glory of God is man fully alive.
— St. Irenaeus

St. Justin Martyr
Church Father, Martyr
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:
Justin; Justin the Philosopher.

Feast:
1 June.

Profile:
Pagan philosopher who converted
at age 30 by reading the Scriptures
and witnessing the heroism and
faith of martyrs. Used his
philosophical skills to dispute
with pagans and explain the faith,
becoming one of the first great
Christian apologists. Opened a
school of public debate in Rome.



Born: circa 100 at Nablus, Palestine.
Died: beheaded in 165 at Rome, Italy.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:
apologists; lecturers; orators; philosophers; speakers.

*As by the Word of God, Jesus our Savior was made Flesh and had both
Flesh and Blood for our salvation, so also the food which has been blessed
by the word of prayer instituted by Him is both the Flesh and Blood of
Jesus Incarnate.*
— St. Justin Martyr.

St. Lucy

Virgin

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

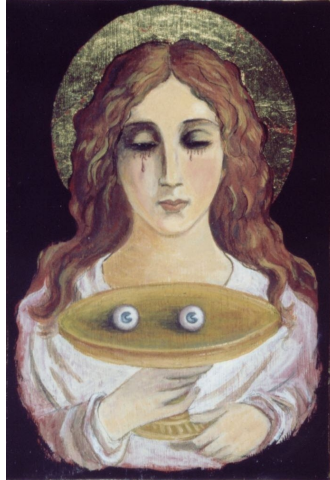
Lucy of Syracuse.

Feast:

13 December.

Profile:

Promised her virginity to God, but her pagan mother arranged a marriage for her. She prayed at the tomb of St. Agatha to convert her mother, and her long hemorrhagic illness was cured. Her mother agreed with Lucy's desire to live for God.



Her rejected pagan bridegroom, Paschasius, denounced Lucy as a Christian to the governor of Sicily. She was sentenced to forced prostitution, but when guards went to fetch her, they could not move her even when they hitched her to a team of oxen. Ordered tortured and killed instead. After torture that included having her eyes torn out, she was surrounded by bundles of wood which were set afire; they went out. She was finally executed by being stabbed to death with a dagger.

Born: circa 283 at Syracuse, Sicily.

Died: stabbed in the throat circa 304 at Syracuse, Sicily.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against hemorrhages; authors; blind people; blindness; cutlers; dysentery; epidemics; eye disease; eye problems; glaziers; hemorrhages; laborers; martyrs; peasants; saddlers; salesmen; sore eyes; sore throats; stained glass workers; Syracuse, Sicily; throat infections; writers.

St. Patrick

Bishop, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

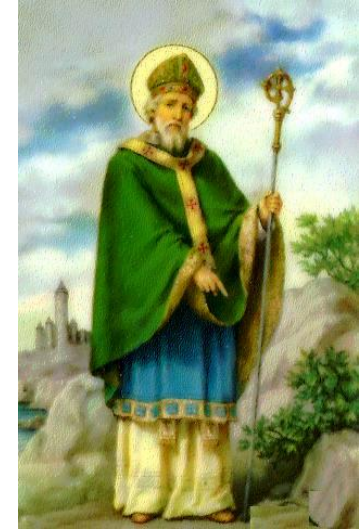
Apostle of Ireland; Maewyn Succat; Patricius.

Feast:

17 March.

Profile:

Kidnapped from the British mainland around age 16, and shipped to Ireland as a slave. Sent to the mountains as a shepherd, he spent his time in prayer. After six years of this life, he had a dream in which he was commanded to return to Britain; seeing it as a sign, he escaped. He studied in several monasteries in Europe. Priest. Bishop. Sent by Pope St. Celestine to evangelize England, then Ireland, during which his chariot driver was St. Odran. St. Jarlath was one of his spiritual students. In 33 years he effectively converted Ireland. In the Middle Ages Ireland became known as the *Land of Saints*, and during the Dark Ages its monasteries were the great repositories of learning in Europe, all a consequence of Patrick's ministry.



Born: 387-390 at Scotland.

Died: 461-464 at Saul, County Down, Ireland.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against ophidiophobia; against snakes; engineers; excluded people; fear of snakes; Ireland; Nigeria; ophidiophobics; snake bites.

St. Blaise

Bishop, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

3 February.

Profile:

Physician. Bishop of Sebaste, Armenia. Lived in a cave on Mount Argeus. Healer of men and animals. According to legend, sick animals would come to him for help, but would never disturb him at prayer.

Agricola, governor of Cappadocia, came to Sebaste to persecute Christians. His huntsmen went into the forests of Argeus to find wild animals for the arena games, and found many waiting outside Blaise's cave. Discovered in prayer, Blaise was arrested, and Agricola tried to get him to recant his faith. While in prison, Blaise ministered to and healed fellow prisoners, including saving a child who was choking on a fish bone; this led to the blessing of throats on Blaise's feast day. Thrown into a lake to drown, Blaise stood on the surface and invited his persecutors to walk out and prove the power of their gods; they drowned. When he returned to land, he was beaten, his flesh torn with wool combs (which led to his patronage of those involved in the wool trade), and then beheaded.

Born: Armenia; date unknown.

Died: flesh torn by iron wool-combs, then beheaded circa 316.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against wild beasts; animals; builders; carvers; construction workers; coughs; goiters; healthy throats; stonecutters; throat diseases; veterinarians; whooping cough; wool-combers; wool weavers.



St. Polycarp

Church Father, Bishop, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

23 February.

Profile:

Associate of, converted by, and disciple of St. John the Apostle. Friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Fought Gnosticism. Bishop of Smyrna (modern Izmir, Turkey). Revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century. The Asia Minor churches recognized Polycarp's leadership and chose him representative to Pope Anacletus on the question the date of the Easter celebration. Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has survived, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi, Macedonia. At 86, Polycarp was to be burned alive in a stadium in Smyrna; the flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger, and his body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. Apostolic Father.

Born: circa 69; location unknown.

Died: stabbed to death circa 155 at Smyrna body burned.

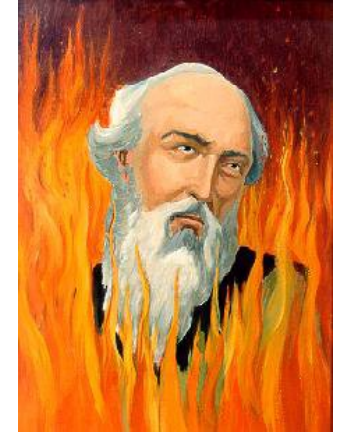
Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against earaches; dysentery.

Stand fast, therefore, in this conduct and follow the example of the Lord, 'firm and unchangeable in faith, lovers of the brotherhood, loving each other, united in truth,' helping each other with the mildness of the Lord, despising no man.

— St. Polycarp



St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower")

Virgin, Doctor

ex lineo pulvere, mixto pulveri corporis ... prima capsula funeralis
(wood from her first coffin mixed with particles of flesh)

Also known as:

Teresa of the Infant Jesus; Therese of the Child Jesus; the Little Flower.

Feast:

1 October.

Profile:

Born to a middle-class French family. Her father, Louis, was a watchmaker, her mother, who died of cancer when she was 4, was a lace maker; both have been canonized as saints by the Church. Cured from an illness at age eight when a statue of the Blessed Virgin smiled at her. Carmelite nun at age 15. Defined her path to God and holiness as "The Little Way," which consisted of love and trust in God. At the direction of her spiritual director, and against her wishes, she dictated her famed autobiography *Story of a Soul*. Many miracles attributed to her. Declared a Doctor of the Church in 1997 by Pope John Paul II.



Born: 2 January 1873 at Alcon, Normandy, France.

Died: 7pm Thursday 30 September 1897 at Lisieux, France of tuberculosis.

Canonized: 17 May 1925 by Pope Pius XI.

Patronage:

African missions; AIDS sufferers; air crews; aircraft pilots; Australia; black missions; bodily ills; florists; flower growers; foreign missions; France; illness; loss of parents; missionaries; parish missions; Russia; sick people; sickness; Spanish air crews; tuberculosis.

St. Pius X

Pope

Ex carne (portion of flesh)

Feast:

21 August.

Profile:

Son of a village cobbler, he lived an impoverished childhood as one of eight children. Felt a calling to the priesthood from his youth. Chosen as the 257th pope, taking the name *Pius X*.



Issued a decree reducing the age for reception of First Communion from age 12 to 7. Destroyed the last vestiges of Jansenism by advocating frequent and even daily Communion. Reformed the liturgy, promoted clear and simple homilies, and brought Gregorian chant back to services. Revised the Breviary, and teaching of the Catechism. Reorganized the Roman curia, the administrative elements of the Church. Worked against the modern antagonism of the state against the Church. Initiated the codification of Canon Law. Promoting Bible reading by all the faithful. Supported foreign missions. His Last Will and Testament read: "I was born poor; I lived poor; I wish to die poor."

Born: 2 June 1835 at Riese, diocese of Treviso, Venice, Austria (now Italy) as Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto.

Died: 20 August 1914 at Vatican City from natural causes aggravated by worries over the beginning of World War I; buried under the altar of the chapel of the Presentation, St. Peter's Basilica.

Canonized:

29 May 1954 by Pope Pius XII.

Patronage:

first communicants; pilgrims.

St. Paul of the Cross

Confessor

Ex corpore (part of the body)

Also known as:

Paolo Francesco Danei.

Feast:

19 October.

Profile:

Son of a merchant. Pious youth. After receiving a vision, and while still a layman, he founded the *Congregation of Discalced Clerks of the Most Holy Cross and Passion (Passionists)* in 1721 to preach about Jesus Crucified. Preacher of such power that hardened soldiers and bandits were seen to weep. At one point all the brothers in the order deserted him, but in 1741 his rule was approved by Pope Benedict XIV, and the community began to grow again. Priest. Missionary.



Born: 3 January 1694 at Ovada, Piedmont (northern Italy).

Died: 18 October 1775 at Rome, Italy.

Canonized:

29 June 1867 by Pope Pius IX.

Patronage:

Passionists.

It is an excellent and holy practice to call to mind and meditate on our Lord's Passion, since it is by this path that we shall arrive at union with God. In this, the holiest of all schools, true wisdom is learned, for it was there that all the saints became wise.

— From a letter written by St. Paul of the Cross

St. Teresa of Avila

Virgin, Doctor, Foundress

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Teresa of Jesus; Teresa Sanchez Cepeda Davila y Ahumada.

Feast:

15 October.

Profile:

Grew up reading the lives of the saints, and playing being a "hermit" in the garden. Crippled by disease in her youth, which led to her being well educated at home, she was cured after prayer to St. Joseph. Her mother died when Teresa was 12, and she prayed to Our Lady to be her replacement. Began receiving visions soon after taking her religious vows. Considered her community too lax in its rule, so she founded a reformed convent of St. John of Avila. Founded several houses, often against fierce opposition from local authorities. Mystical writer who became renowned for her knowledge of the spiritual life. Proclaimed a Doctor of the Church on 27 September 1970 by Pope Paul VI.



Born: 28 March 1515 at Avila, Castile, Spain.

Died: 4 October 1582 at Alba de Tormes.

Canonized: 12 March 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

Patronage:

bodily ills; headaches; lacemakers; laceworkers; loss of parents; people in need of grace; people in religious orders; people ridiculed for their piety; sick people; sickness; Spain.

There is no such thing as bad weather. All weather is good because it is God's.

— St. Teresa of Avila

St. Angela of Foligno

Widow, Foundress

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

4 January (7 January in the USA).

Profile:

Born a wealthy non-Christian. Married young, and had several children. Lived wild, adulterously, and sacrilegiously. Following a vision in 1285, she had a profound conversion. After the death of her mother, husband, and children, she began to live a life of prayer and penance. Became a Franciscan tertiary and founded an order she founded to care for the poor. Noted for her charity, patience and humility. Visionary, mystic, and writer.



Born: 1248 at Foligno, Umbria, Italy.

Died: 4 January 1309 at Foligno, Italy, of natural causes; buried in the Church of St. Francis in Foligno, Italy.

Canonized: 9 October 2013 by Pope Francis.

Patronage:

death of children; people ridiculed for their piety; sexual temptation; temptations; widows.

God presents himself in the inmost depths of my soul. I understand not only that he is present, but also how he is present in every creature and in everything that has being.

—St. Angela

St. Catherine of Siena

Virgin, Doctor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

29 April.

Profile:

Youngest child in a large family. At the age of 6 she had a vision in which Jesus appeared and blessed her. Her parents wanted her to marry, but she became a Dominican tertiary. Mystic. Stigmatist. Received a vision in which she was in a mystical marriage with Christ, and the Infant Christ presented her with a wedding ring. Counselor to Pope Gregory XI and Pope Urban VI. Proclaimed Doctor of the Church on 4 October 1970.



Born: 25 March 1347 at Siena, Tuscany, Italy.

Died: 29 April 1380 of a mysterious and painful illness that came on without notice, and was never properly diagnosed.

Canonized: July 1461 by Pope Pius II.

Patronage:

against fire; bodily ills; Europe; fire prevention; firefighters; illness; Italy; miscarriages; nurses; nursing services; people ridiculed for their piety; sexual temptation; sick people; sickness; Siena Italy; temptations.

Charity is the sweet and holy bond which links the soul with its Creator: it binds God with man and man with God.

—St. Catherine

St. Alphonsus Liguori

Bishop, Confessor, Doctor

Ex corporis (particle of the body)

Feast:

1 August.

Profile:

Extremely intelligent. Received a doctorate in law at age 16; had his own practice by age 21, becoming a leading lawyer. As he matured, he liked less and less of the world, and finally felt a call to the priesthood, being ordained at age 29.



Noted for his simple and clear preaching, and his gentle, understanding in the confessional. Writer on asceticism, theology, and history; a brilliant theologian. Founded both a women's order (the *Redemptoristines*) and a men's order (the *Redemptorists*). Ordained a bishop and worked to reform the clergy and revitalize the faithful. Afflicted with severe rheumatism, and often could barely move or raise his chin from his chest. But he vowed early to never to waste a moment of his life, and lived that way for over 90 years. Declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871.

Born: 1696 at Marianelli near Naples, Italy.

Died: 1787 at Nocera, Italy.

Canonized: 26 May 1839 by Pope Gregory XVI.

Patronage:

against scrupulosity, arthritis, confessors, final perseverance, moralists (teachers of morality), scrupulous people, theologians, vocations.

I love you, Jesus my love, I love you more than myself. I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.

— St. Alphonsus Liguori

St. Anthony of Padua

Confessor, Doctor

Ex cineribus (particles of flesh)

Feast:

13 June.

Profile:

When the remains of St. Berard and his companions, the first Franciscan martyrs, were brought to be buried in his church, Anthony was moved to leave his order and enter the Friars Minor (Franciscans). One day when a scheduled speaker failed to appear, the brothers pressed him into speaking. He so impressed them that he was thereafter constantly traveling, evangelizing, preaching, and teaching theology through Italy and France.



A gifted speaker, he attracted crowds everywhere he went, speaking in multiple tongues; legend says that even the fish loved to listen. Wonder worker. One of the most beloved of saints. Proclaimed a Doctor of the Church on 16 January 1946. Upon exhumation his tongue and throat were found to be incorrupt.

Born: 1195 at Lisbon, Portugal.

Died: 13 June 1231 at Padua, Italy.

Canonized: 30 May 1232 by Pope Gregory IX.

Patronage: against shipwrecks; against starvation; American Indians; amputees; animals; asses; barrenness; boatmen; Brazil; elderly people; expectant mothers; faith in the Blessed Sacrament; fishermen; harvests; horses; lost articles; mail; mariners; oppressed people; paupers; poor people; Portugal; pregnant women; sailors; seekers of lost articles; shipwrecks; sterility; swineherds; Tigua Indians; travel hostesses; travellers.

St. Clare of Assisi

Foundress, Virgin

Ex cineribus (particles of flesh)

Feast:

11 August.

Profile:

After hearing St. Francis of Assisi preach in the streets, she confided to him her desire to live for God. She eventually took the veil of religious profession from Francis.

Founded the *Poor Clares* and led it for 40 years. Everywhere the Franciscans established themselves, there also went the *Poor Clares*. Clare's mother and sisters later joined the order.

Clare was humble, merciful, charming, optimistic, and chivalrous. She would get up late at night to tuck in her sisters who had kicked off their covers.

Toward the end of her life, when she was too ill to attend Mass, an image of the service would display on the wall of her cell; thus her patronage of television. She was ever the close friend and spiritual student of Francis, who apparently led her soul into the light.

Born: 16 July 1194 at Assisi, Italy.

Died: 11 August 1253 of natural causes.

Canonized: 26 September 1255 by Pope Alexander IV.

Patronage:

embroiderers; eye disease; eyes; gilders; goldsmiths; gold workers; good weather; laundry workers; needle workers; Santa Clara Indian Pueblo; telegraphs; telephones; television; television writers.



St. Dominic Savio

Confessor

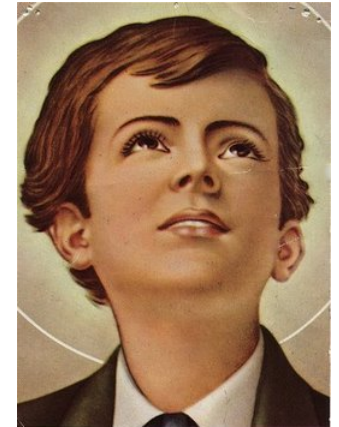
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

9 March.

Profile:

One of ten children of a blacksmith and seamstress. Protégé of St. John Bosco. Altar boy at age 5. At 12 he entered the Oratory School to prepare for becoming a priest. Well-liked and pious, his health forced him to give up his dream of the priesthood. He died at age 15. His dying words: "What beautiful things I see!"



His birthplace is now a retreat house for teenagers; the home where he grew up in Morialdo is now a retreat house for children. The final house in which he lived is the home in Mondonio where the Savio family moved when he was 10, and where he eventually died. There you can see his father's metal shop, and his mother's tailoring shop. His tomb is in the basilica of *Mary, Help of Christians* in Turin, not far from the tomb of his mentor, teacher and biographer, St. John Bosco.

Born: 2 April 1842 at Riva di Chieri, Italy.

Died: 9 March 1857 at Mondonio, Italy.

Canonized: 12 June 1954 by Pope Pius XII.

Patronage:

boys, children's choirs, choir boys, choirs, falsely accused people, juvenile delinquents, Pueri Cantors.

I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God.

— St. Dominic

St. Faustina Kowalska

Virgin

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

5 October.

Profile:

The third of ten children, Faustina became a nun. Began to have visions, receive revelations, and experience hidden stigmata. She began recording these mystical experiences in a diary; being nearly illiterate, it was written phonetically, without quotation marks or punctuation, and runs to nearly 700 pages. It was published as *Divine Mercy in my Soul*.



In the 1930's, Sister Faustina received a message of mercy from Jesus that she was told to spread throughout the world, a message of God's mercy to each person individually, and for humanity as a whole. Jesus asked that a picture be painted of him with the inscription: "Jesus, I Trust in You." She was asked to be a model of mercy to others, to live her entire life, in imitation of Christ's, as a sacrifice. She commissioned a painting in 1935, showing a red and a white light shining from Christ's Sacred Heart.

Born: 25 August 1905 at Glogowiec, Poland as Elena Kowalska.

Died: 5 October 1938 at Krakow, Poland of tuberculosis.

Canonized: 30 April 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage:

Poland; those who seek God's mercy; those in need of intercession.

I was praying for sinners and offering all my sufferings for them. The Evil spirit could not stand that.

— St. Faustina

Bl. Bartolo Longo

Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

5 October.

Profile:

Bartolo was raised in a pious family; but during university studies he fell into a dissolute life, becoming hostile to the Church, participating in street demonstrations against the Pope, and involving himself in the occult. After making a pact with the devil—trading his soul for "lots of sex"—he became a Satanist priest.



His family constantly prayed for him. Finally coming to his senses, Bartolo knew he was in mortal danger, but he did not know how to free himself of the devil. He was told the 15 promises of Our Lady to those that promote the rosary; he promoted it constantly, especially to college students, in order to free himself. His work became so influential that he is now called the Apostle of the Rosary.

Born: 11 February 1841 at Latiana, southern Italy.

Died: 5 October 1926 of pneumonia.

Beatified: 26 October 1980 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage:

satanists; students; promoters of the rosary.

My only desire is to see Mary who saved me and who will save me from the clutches of Satan.

— Last words of Bl. Bartolo

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Foundress

Ex corpore (portion of her body)

Feast:

4 January.

Profile:

Born into a wealthy and influential Episcopalian family. She married a wealthy businessman age 19, and became the mother of five.

About ten years into the marriage William died, leaving Elizabeth an impoverished widow with five small children. For years Elizabeth had felt drawn to Catholicism, believing in the Real Presence in the Eucharist and in the lineage of the Church going back to Christ and the Apostles. She converted and entered the Church on 14 March 1805.

To support her family, and insure the proper education of her children, she opened a school in Boston. Though a private and secular institution, from the beginning she ran it along the lines of a religious community. At the invitation of the archbishop, she established a Catholic girl's school in Baltimore, Maryland, which was the beginning the parochial school system in America. To run the system she founded the Sisters of Charity in 1809, the first native American religious community for women.

Born: 28 August 1774 in New York City, as Elizabeth Ann Bayley.

Died: 4 January 1821 in Emmetsburg, Maryland of natural causes.

Canonized: 14 September 1975 by Pope Paul VI.

Patronage:

Apostleship of the Sea (two of her sons worked on the sea); death of children; in-law problems; loss of parents; opposition of Church authorities; people ridiculed for their piety; widows.



St. Francis of Assisi

Founder, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

4 October.

Profile:

Son of a rich cloth merchant. Street brawler and soldier. Captured during a conflict between Assisi and Perugia, he spent over a year as a prisoner of war. During this time he received a message from Christ calling him to leave this worldly life.

Took the Gospels as the rule of his life, Jesus as his literal example. Dressed in rough clothes, begged for sustenance, and preached purity and peace. His family disapproved. Francis formally renounced his wealth and inheritance. He visited hospitals, served the sick, preached in the streets, and took all men and women as siblings. He began to attract followers and in 1209, founded the Franciscans. Spiritual father to St. Clare of Assisi. In September 1224, he received the stigmata.

Born: 1181 at Assisi, Umbria, Italy, as Francis Bernardone.

Died: 4 October 1226 at Portiuncula, Italy, of natural causes.

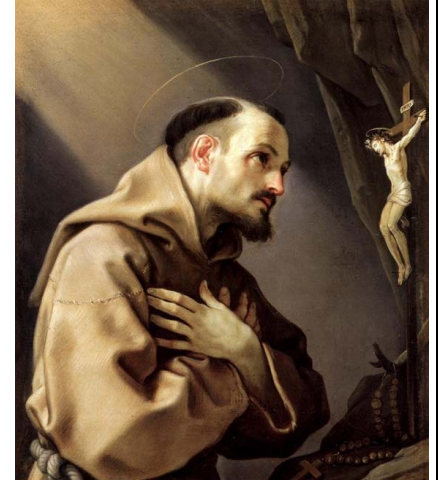
Canonized: 16 July 1228 by Pope Gregory IX.

Patronage:

against dying alone; against fire; animals; Catholic Action; ecologists; ecology; the environment; families; fire; Franciscan Order; Italy; lace makers; merchants; needle workers; peace; tapestry workers; zoos.

Sanctify yourself and you will sanctify society.

— St. Francis of Assisi



St. Francis Xavier

Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

3 December.

Profile:

Studied and taught philosophy at the University of Paris. Friend of St. Ignatius of Loyola who convinced him to use his talents to spread the Gospel. One of the founding Jesuits. Priest.

Tremendously successful missionary for ten years in India, the East Indies, and Japan. In that time he baptized more than 40,000, dined with head hunters, washed sores of lepers, taught catechism. He tolerated the most appalling conditions on long sea voyages, enduring extremes of heat and cold. Wherever he went he would seek out and help the poor and forgotten. He traveled thousands of miles, most on his bare feet. Had the gift of tongues. Miracle worker. Prophet. Healer. Body is incorrupt.

Born: 7 April 1506 at Javier, Spanish Navarre.

Died: 2 December 1552 at Shangchuan island, off the coast of China, of a fever.

Canonized: 12 March 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

Patronage:

China; Fathers of the Precious Blood; Goa, India; Japan; missionaries; Missioners of the Precious Blood; missions; navigators; New Zealand; parish missions; plague epidemics; Propagation of the Faith.

Many, many people are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is no one to make them Christians.

— St. Francis Xavier



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Virgin

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

13 November (in USA).

22 December (rest of world).

Profile:

One of thirteen children. She received a convent education, and training as a teacher. A priest asked her to teach at a girl's school, which she did for six years. Took religious vows in 1877, and was so good at her work that when the orphanage closed in 1880, her bishop asked her to found the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor children in schools and hospitals. Pope Leo XIII then sent her to the United States to carry on this mission.

She and six Sisters arrived in New York in 1889. They worked among immigrants, especially Italians. Mother Cabrini founded 67 institutions, including schools, hospitals, and orphanages in the United States, Europe and South America. Mother Cabrini became a United States citizen, becoming the first US citizen to be canonized.

Born: 1850 at Sant' Angelo Lodigiano, Lombardy, Italy.

Died: 22 December 1917 at Chicago, Illinois, USA of malaria.

Canonized: 7 July 1946 by Pope Pius XII.

Patronage:

emigrants; hospital administrators; immigrants; orphans.

We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend on material success; nor on sciences that cloud the intellect. Neither does it depend on arms and human industries, but on Jesus alone.

— St. Frances Xavier Cabrini



St. Gerard Majella

Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

16 October.

Profile:

Son of a tailor who died when the boy was 12, leaving the family in poverty. Gerard tried to join the Capuchins, but his health prevented it. He was accepted as a Redemptorist lay brother serving his congregation as sacristan, gardener, porter, infirmarian, and tailor. Wonder worker.



When falsely accused by a pregnant woman of being the father of her child, he retreated to silence; she later recanted and cleared him, and thus began his association as patron of all aspects of pregnancy. Reputed to bilocate and read consciences. His last will consisted of the following small note on the door of his cell: "Here the will of God is done, as God wills, and as long as God wills."

Born: 23 April 1725 at Muro, Italy.

Died: 16 October 1755 at Caposele, Italy of tuberculosis.

Canonized: 11 December 1904 by Pope St. Pius X.

Patronage:

childbirth; children; expectant mothers; falsely accused people; good confessions; lay brothers; motherhood; mothers; pregnant women; pro-life movement; unborn children.

Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy your heart?

— St. Gerard Majella

St. Gertrude the Great

Virgin, Mystic

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

16 November.

Profile:

We know nothing of her parents what became of them. She was raised in the Cistercian abbey of Helfta, Saxony from age five. A bright student, and gentle person. At age 26, when she had become too enamored of philosophy, she received a vision of Christ who reproached her; from then on she studied the Bible and the works of the Church Fathers. Received many visions and mystical instruction, which formed the basis of her writings. Helped spread devotion to the Sacred Heart. Her writings have been greatly praised by St. Teresa and St. Francis de Sales, and continue to be in print today. A famous prayer for the release of the souls in Purgatory was revealed to her, with the promise that each time it is prayed 1000 souls would be released.



Born: 6 January 1256 at Eisleben, Germany.

Died: on a Wednesday of Easter season in 1302 of natural causes.

Canonized: never formerly canonized; received equivalent canonization and a universal feast day declared in 1677 by Pope Clement XII.

Patronage:

nuns, travellers, West Indies.

May my soul bless you, Lord God, my creator; may my soul bless you and from the marrow of my innermost being may thanks be given for your mercies, with which your most intemperate love has so undeservedly surrounded me!

St. Ignatius Loyola

Founder, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

31 July.

Profile:

Youngest of twelve children. Soldier who served in several campaigns. Wounded in the leg by a cannonball. During recuperation the only books he had access to were a collection of lives of the saints, and a book on the Life of Christ. These completely changed him. On his recovery he took a vow of chastity and hung his sword before the altar of the Virgin of Montserrat. Began studying theology. Became a priest. His meditations, prayers, visions, and insights led to forming the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) on 15 August 1534. A powerful teacher and missionary; a brilliant leader.

The Jesuits today have over 500 universities and colleges, 30,000 members, and teach over 200,000 students each year.

Born: 1491 at Loyola, Guipuzcoa, Spain as Inigo Lopez de Loyola.

Died: of fever on 31 July 1556 at Rome, Italy.

Canonized: 12 March 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

Patronage:

Basque country; Jesuit Order; Jesuits; retreats; soldiers; Spiritual Exercises (by Pope Pius XI).

If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint.

— St. Ignatius Loyola



St. John Vianney

Confessor

Ex corpore (portion of his body)

Also known as:

Curé of Ars.

Feast:

4 August.

Profile:

Farm hand who in his youth taught other children their prayers and catechism. Ordained in 1815, though it took several years of study as he had little education, was not a very good student, and his Latin was terrible. Assigned for a while to Ecully. In 1818 he was assigned to the parish of Ars, a tiny village near Lyons, which suffered from very lax attendance; he began visiting his parishioners, especially the sick and poor. Spent days in prayer, doing penance for his parishioners. Gifted with discernment of spirits, prophecy, hidden knowledge, and working miracles. Tormented by evil spirits, especially when he tried to get his 2-3 hours of sleep each night. Crowds came to hear him preach, and to make their reconciliation because of his reputation with penitents; by 1855 there were 20,000 pilgrims a year to Ars. Spent 40 years as the parish priest.

Born: 8 May 1786 at Dardilly, Lyons, France.

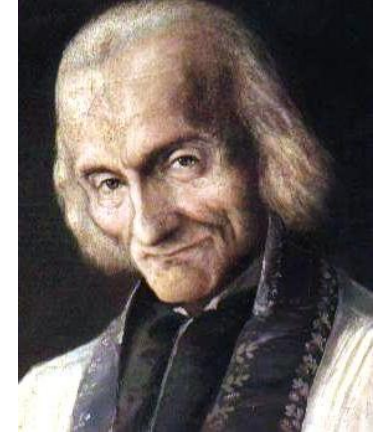
Died: 4 August 1859 at Ars, France of natural causes. Upon exhumation his body found to be incorrupt.

Canonized: 31 May 1925.

Patronage: confessors; priests.

If people would do for God what they do for the world, what a great number of Christians would go to Heaven.

— St. John Vianney



St. John Neumann

Bishop, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

5 January.

Profile:

Son of a German father and Czech mother. Entered seminary in Bohemia, but since there was an over-abundance of priests decided to go to America.

Arrived unannounced in Manhattan in 1836. The bishop was happy to see him as there were only 36 priests for the 200,000 Catholics in New York and New Jersey. Ordained and sent to a small country church. Built himself a small log rectory, rarely lit a fire, slept little, often lived on bread and water, and walked miles to visit farm after remote farm. John's parishioners were from many lands and tongues, but John knew twelve languages, and worked with them all.

Joined the Redemptorists. Became bishop of Philadelphia in 1852 and built fifty churches, opened almost one hundred schools, and grew the number of parochial school students in his diocese from 500 to 9,000. First American man and first American bishop to be canonized.

Born: 28 March 1811 at Prachitz, Bohemia (Czech Republic).

Died: 5 January 1860 of a stroke in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

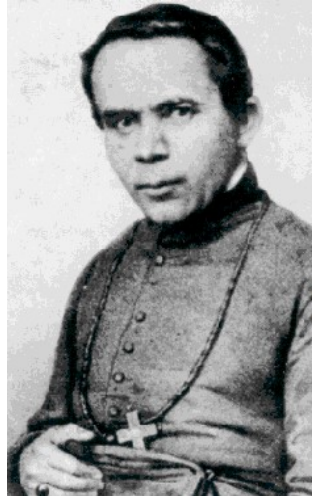
Canonized: 19 June 1977.

Patronage:

USA; Philadelphia.

A man must always be ready, for death comes when and where God wills it.

— St. John Neumann



St. John of the Cross

Confessor, Doctor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

Doctor of Mystical Theology.

Feast:

14 December.

Profile:

Born in poverty. Studied at Salamanca. Carmelite priest, ordained in 1567 at age 25. Persuaded by St. Teresa of Avila to begin the Discalced (bare-foot) reform within the Carmelites. Took the name John of the Cross. Spiritual director and confessor at St. Teresa's convent. His reforms did not set well with some of his brothers, and he was persecuted, being imprisoned at Toledo, Spain; escaping only after nine months. Vicar-general of Andalusia. His reforms revitalized the Order. Perhaps the Church's greatest contemplative and spiritual writer. Proclaimed Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI on 24 August 1926.

Born: 24 June 1542 at Fontiveros, Spain.

Died: 14 December 1591 at Ubeda, Andalusia, Spain.

Canonized: 27 December 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII.

Patronage:

contemplative life; mystical theology; mystics; Spanish poets.

*Never was fount so clear,
undimmed and bright;
From it alone, I know proceeds all light
although 'tis night.*

— St. John of the Cross



St. Joseph Cupertino

Confessor

Ex carne (particle of flesh)

Feast:

18 September.

Profile:

Born in a stable to a poor family. Starting at age eight, he received ecstatic visions that left him gaping and staring into space.

Dismissed from two religious communities for lack of education and for his ecstasies which made him unsuitable for work. Accepted as an oblate at the Franciscan convent near Cupertino. His virtues were such that he became a priest at 25. Joseph still had little education, could barely read or write, but received such a gift of spiritual knowledge that he could solve intricate questions.

His life became a series of visions and ecstasies, which could be triggered any time or place by the sound of a church bell, church music, the mention of the name of God or of the Blessed Virgin, etc. Yelling, beating, pinching, burning, piercing with needles - none of this would bring him from his trances. He would often levitate and float (which led to his patronage of air travel), and could hear heavenly music.

Born: 17 June 1603 as Joseph Desa at Cupertino, in Naples, Italy.

Died: 18 September 1663 at Osimo, Italy of a severe fever.

Canonized: 16 July 1767 by Pope Clement XIII.

Patronage:

air crews; air travellers; aircraft pilots; astronauts; aviators; flyers; paratroopers; students; test takers.



St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

Virgin

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

16 October.

Profile:

Healed from a crippling disorder by a vision of the Blessed Virgin, which prompted her to give her life to God. After receiving a vision of Christ fresh from the Scourging, she was moved to join the Order of the Visitation at Paray-le-Monial in 1671.



Received a revelation from our Lord in 1675, which included 12 promises to her and to those who practiced a true devotion to His Sacred Heart, whose crown of thorns represent his sacrifices. The devotion encountered violent opposition, especially in Jansenist areas, but has become widespread and popular. After her death her body was found to be incorrupt.

Born: 22 July 1647 at L'Hautecourt, Burgundy, France.

Died: 17 October 1690 of natural causes.

Canonized: 13 May 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

Patronage:

against polio; devotees of the Sacred Heart; loss of parents; polio patients.

What a weakness it is to love Jesus Christ only when He Caresses us, and to be cold immediately once He afflicts us. This is not true love. Those who love thus, love themselves too much to love God with all their heart.

— St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

St. Maria Goretti

Virgin, Martyr

Ex carne (portion of flesh)

Feast:

6 July.

Profile:

Beautiful, pious farm girl. At the age of eleven was attacked in a rape attempt by 19-year-old, Alessandro Serenelli. When she resisted he tried to choke her into submission, stabbing her fourteen times. Surviving in hospital for one day, she solemnly declared her forgiveness for her attacker, and asked God's pardon on him. She died in terrible agony of the infected wounds while holding a crucifix and medal of Our Lady, all the while imploring God to bring Alessandro to heaven with her.



Maria appeared to Alessandro while he was in prison. Dressed in white, she gathered 14 lilies – the same as the number of times he stabbed her – and, smiling, gave them to him in an act of forgiveness. This vision led to his conversion, and he later testified on her behalf during the cause of her beatification.

Born: 16 October 1890 at Corinaldo, Ancona, Italy.

Died: stabbed during a rape attempt and died the following day on 6 July 1902 at age of 11.

Canonized: 1950 by Pope Pius XII; attended by over 500,000, including her mother, *the only time a parent has witnessed her child's canonization.*

Patronage:

against impoverishment, against poverty, children of Mary, girls, loss of parents, martyrs, rape victims, young people in general.

*I forgive Alessandro Serenelli, and I want him with me in heaven forever.
– dying words of St. Maria Goretti*

St. Vincent de Paul

Confessor, Founder

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

27 September.

Profile:

Born to a peasant family. A highly intelligent youth. Ordained at age 20. Taken captive by Turkish pirates to Tunis, and sold into slavery. Freed in 1607 when he converted one to Christianity.



Returning to France, he served as parish priest near Paris where he started organizations to help the poor, to nurse the sick, to found jobs for the unemployed, etc. With St. Louise de Marillac, founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity. Instituted the Congregation of Priests of the Mission (Lazarists). Worked always for the poor, the enslaved, the abandoned, the ignored, the pariahs.

Born: 1581 near Ranquine, Gascony near Dax, southwest France; the town is now known as Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, Landes, France.

Died: 1660 at Paris, France.

Canonized: 16 June 1737 by Pope Clement XII.

Patronage:

charitable societies; charitable workers; charities; horses; hospital workers; hospitals; lepers; leprosy; lost articles; prisoners; spiritual help; St. Vincent de Paul Societies; volunteers.

The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it. – St. Vincent de Paul

Bl. Francis Xavier de Seelos

Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

5 October (USA).

4 October (rest of world).

Profile:

Wanted to be a priest from an early age. Joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), and was ordained in 1844.

Spiritual student of St. John Neumann. Superior and novice master. Led a simple life, preached a simple message, and was always available to those in need. His sermons drew crowds from neighboring towns, there were lines outside his confessional, and he never tired of working with children. Proposed as bishop of Pittsburgh in 1860, but begged to be excused "from this act of God", and his desire was granted by Pope Pius IX. During the American Civil War, all men were obliged to be available for active military duty. Seelos met with President Abraham Lincoln, and obtained an agreement not to send seminarians to the front.

Itinerant mission preacher in both English and German in Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. He worked with yellow fever victims until he was taken by the illness the next year.

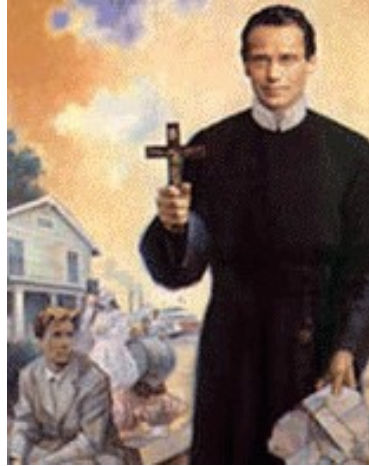
Born: 11 January 1819 at Füssen, Bavaria, Germany.

Died: 4 October 1867 of yellow fever.

Beatified: 9 April 2000 by Pope John Paul II at Rome, Italy.

Patronage:

Redemptorists; immigrants; pastors.



St. Padre Pio

Capuchin Franciscan Priest, Confessor

parte di una pezzuola con la quale San Pio ha asciugato il sangue della piaga del suo costato (piece of cloth with which he dressed his side stigmata wound)

Also known as:

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina.

Feast:

23 September.

Profile:

Entered Capuchin friars at age 15. Ordained at age 22. Received the stigmata on 20 September 1918; the first priest ever to have it. He would hear confessions by the hour, reportedly able to read the consciences of those who held back sins. Reportedly able to bilocate, levitate, and heal by touch. Predicted to a young Karol Wojtyła that he would be pope; he became Pope John Paul II. His canonization miracle involved the curing of a 7 year old boy dying with meningitis. The child's condition improved suddenly when he was at the moment of death. When he awoke he said that he had seen an elderly man with a white beard and a long, brown habit, who said to him: "Don't worry, you will soon be cured."

Born: 25 May 1887 at Pietrelcina, Italy as Francesco Forgione.

Died: 23 September 1968 of natural causes.

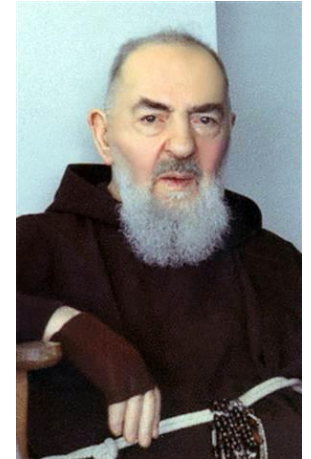
Canonized: 16 June 2002 by Pope John Paul II at Rome, Italy.

Patronage:

Italy; mystics; confessors.

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

— St. Padre Pio



North American Martyrs

St. Jean Brébeuf **St. Jean de Lalande**
St. Gabriel Lalemont **St. René Goupil**
St. Charles Garnier
Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Also known as:

Isaac Jogues and Companions;
Jesuit Martyrs of North America;
Martyrs of New France

Feast:

19 October; 26 September in
Canada.

Profile:

Three of the eight Jesuit missionaries from Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, who were martyred in the 17th century in Canada and Upstate New York; the others being St. Noël Chabanel, St. Antoine Daniel, St. René Goupil, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Jean de Lalande.



They were each killed during the wars between the Huron and Iroquois natives. They had converted many of the Huron, although even among the Huron tribes they were not universally trusted. Many Huron considered them to be evil spirits who brought death and disease wherever they travelled. The Iroquois considered them legitimate targets as the missionaries were nominally allies of the Huron, and they had often helped organize resistance to Iroquois invasions.

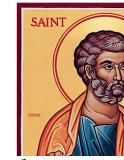
Canonized: 29 June 1930 by Pope Pius XI.

Patronage:

Canada; missionaries; North America.

The 11 Apostles, St. Matthias (Judas' replacement), and St. Paul

St. Peter



**Vicar of Christ,
Prince of the
Apostles**

Ex altare (piece of an altar over which he celebrated Mass)

St. Philip

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. Andrew

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. Jude

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. Bartholomew

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. Matthew

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. Thomas

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. Matthias

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. John

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. Simon

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. James the Less

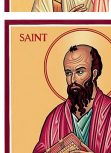
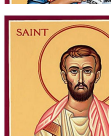
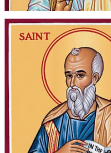
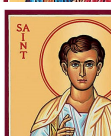
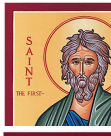
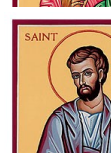
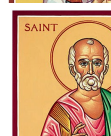
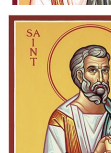
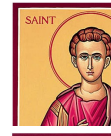
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

St. James the Great

*Ex indumentis
(piece of clothing)*

St. Paul

*Ex columna
(column of his beheading)*



Crib of Our Lord

Ex praesepio (piece of the manger)

Profile:

As the Scriptures attest, Our Lord was laid to rest in a manger in the town of Bethlehem (Luke 2:7). A manger is a place in the stable where the food for domestic animals is put.

Contained in this reliquary are pieces of wood from what is believed to be the actual manger in which the Child Jesus rested.

At the present time the bulk of the remains of the manger are preserved in the Archbasilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. They consist of five pieces of board which, as a result of the investigation conducted by Father Lais, sub-director of the Vatican Observatory, during the restorations of 1893 were found to be taken from a sycamore tree of which there are several varieties in the Holy Land.

A manger ... a poor bed for so great a king!



Bl. Michael J. McGivney

Priest, Confessor

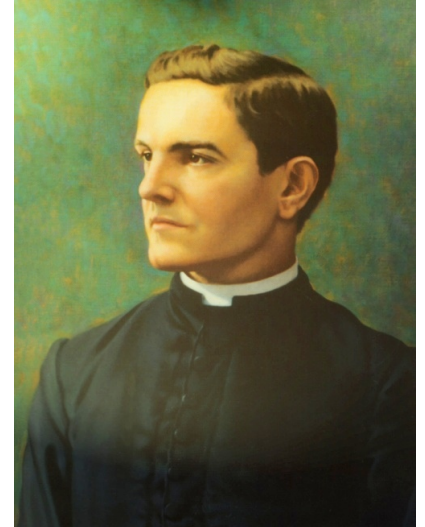
Part of the cassock in which he was buried containing particles of the body

Feast:

13 August.

Profile:

Founder of the Knights of Columbus. Entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland in 1873, but had to leave and return home to help finish raising his siblings due to the death of his father. Returned to the seminary and was ordained on December 22, 1877 by Archbishop James Gibbons at the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.



On February 2, 1882, while an assistant pastor at Saint Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, he founded the Knights with a small group of parishioners. Died from tuberculosis on the eve of the Assumption in 1890, when he was only thirty-eight years old.

The Knights of Columbus now have over 1.7 million member families and thirteen thousand councils. During the 2004-2005 fraternal year, \$134 million and 68 million manhours were donated to charity by the order.

Born: August 12, 1852, at Waterbury Connecticut.

Died: August 14, 1890, at Thomaston, Connecticut.

Beatified: 31 October 2020, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford, Connecticut, United States by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin (on behalf of Pope Francis).

Patronage: The Knights of Columbus.

Fragment of a Thorn from the Crown of Thorns

“The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head.” John 19:2



Contained in this reliquary is what is believed to be a fragment of the Crown of Thorns which pierced the head of Our Lord. Writers of the first six centuries A.D. speak of a relic of the Crown of Thorns known to be still in existence and venerated by the faithful in Jerusalem and then Mount Zion. After being transferred to Byzantium, the seat of the Roman Empire, where it remained some 500 years, the Crown was transferred in 1238 by Baldwin II, the Latin Emperor of Constantinople, to St. Louis, King of France. St. Louis built the Sainte-Chapelle, a large and beautiful church in Paris to receive and house it (completed 1248). Though relics have been removed from it over the centuries, the major remnants of the Crown are still at the Sainte-Chapelle.

Fragment of the Holy Lance

“one of the soldiers with a lance opened his side and immediately there came out blood and water.” John 19:34



The small piece of metal in this display case contains iron filings taken from what is believed to be the Lance which pierced the side of Christ. The relic, shaped in the form of a lance head, is tied to a ribbon. The two ends of the ribbon have been threaded through slits the document and have been joined together on the back with an Episcopal seal, thus permanently securing the relic to its authenticating document.

The document was signed at Ancona, Italy, on 23 March 1747 by Bishop Nicola Manciforte.

Unknown Bishop and Martyr

Class of relic unknown

“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?”
1 Corinthians 6:2

This theca belonged to an order of religious sisters in New Jersey. At some point in its history the glass which protects the relic was broken (probably by being dropped). Unfortunately, it was not immediately repaired and, over time, the name of the saint became unglued from its place and was lost, along with the memory of who the saint is. The only identifying features of the saint are the letters E.M., which stand for Bishop (*Episcopus* in Latin) and Martyr, respectively.



I was given this relic in 2000. It has been placed in this frame to protect it. Though it is unfortunate that we do not know the identity of the saint, what is important is that here we have one of the holy who we are sure is in heaven. Because of his heroic witness, he deserves our respect.

Pray for us, holy brother. May we too be filled with the fire you possess. Amen.

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints” Ephesians 1:18

St. Martin de Porres

Dominican Brother, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:
3 November.

Profile:
Illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a young freed black slave. Grew up in poverty. Volunteered at the Dominican priory in Lima, Peru.

Begged more than \$2,000 a week from the rich to support the poor and sick. Placed in charge of the Dominican's infirmary; known for his tender care of the sick and for his spectacular cures.

His superiors dropped the stipulation that “no black person may be received to the holy habit or profession of our order” and Martin took vows as a Dominican brother in 1603.

Established an orphanage and children's hospital for the poor. Lived in self-imposed austerity, never ate meat, fasted continuously, and spent much time in prayer and meditation.

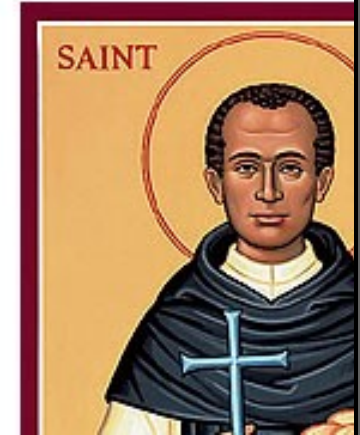
Venerated from the day of his death. Many miraculous cures, including raising the dead attributed to him. First black saint from the Americas.

Born: 9 December 1579 at Lima, Peru.

Died: 3 November 1639 of fever in Lima, Peru.

Canonized: 16 May 1962 by Pope John XXIII.

Patronage:
African-Americans; against rats; barbers; bi-racial people; black people; hair stylists; hairdressers; hotel-keepers; innkeepers; inter-racial justice; mixed-race people; paupers; Peru; poor people; race relations; racial harmony; social justice; television



St. Nicholas (Santa Claus)

Bishop, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

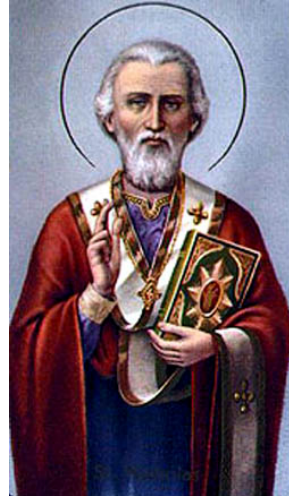
Feast:

6 December.

Profile:

Bishop of Myra, Lycia (modern Turkey). Generous to the poor, protector of the innocent and wronged. Some examples:

- Upon hearing that a man had fallen on such hard times that he was planning to sell his daughters into prostitution, Nicholas went by night to the house and threw three bags of gold in through the window, saving the girls from an evil life.
- Raised to life three murdered boys who were been pickled in a barrel to hide the crime. Led to his patronage of children and of barrel-makers.
- Induced some thieves to return their plunder. This explains his protection against theft and robbery, and his patronage of them - he's not helping them steal, but to repent and change.



Born: Date and location unknown.

Died: circa 346 at Myra; relics at Bari, Italy.

Canonized: Date unknown.

Patronage:

against imprisonment; against robberies; against robbers; apothecaries; bakers; barrel makers; boatmen; boot blacks; boys; brewers; brides; captives; children; coopers; dock workers; druggists; fishermen; Greece; grooms; judges; lawsuits lost unjustly; longshoremen; maidens; mariners; merchants; murderers; newlyweds; old maids; paupers; pawnbrokers; perfumeries; perfumers; pharmacists; pilgrims; poor people; prisoners; sailors; scholars; schoolchildren; shoe shiners; spinsters; students; thieves; travellers; unmarried girls.

St. Paul Miki

Martyr

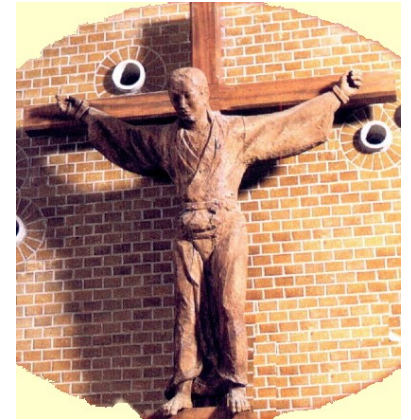
Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

6 February.

Profile:

Born wealthy, the son of the military leader Miki Handayu. Felt a call to religious life from his youth. Jesuit in 1580, educated at the Jesuit college at Azuchi and Takatsuki. Successful evangelist. When the political climate became hostile to Christianity, he decided to continue his ministry, was soon arrested. On his way to martyrdom, he and other imprisoned Christians were marched 600 miles so they could be abused by, and be a lesson to, their countrymen; they sang the *Te Deum* on the way. His last sermon was delivered from the cross. One of the Martyrs of Nagasaki.



Born: 1562 at Tsunokuni, Japan.

Died: crucified on 5 February 1597 at Nagasaki, Japan.

Canonized: 8 June 1862 by Pope Pius IX.

Patronage:

Japan.

The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason that I die. I believe that I am telling the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ's example, I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain.

— St. Paul Miki

St. Longinus

Martyr

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

16 October.

Profile:

Soldier who pierced the side of Jesus during the Crucifixion.

Convert. Martyred by order of Pontius Pilate.

Born: Cappadocia; date unknown.

Died: martyred in Cappadocia in the 1st century; relics in the church of Saint Augustine, Rome, Italy.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

Soldiers; military.



But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced."

— John 19:30-37

St. Thomas Aquinas

Confessor, Doctor of the Church

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

28 January.

Profile:

Wanted to join the Dominicans. His family kidnapped and imprisoned him for a year to keep him from joining. He persisted and they allowed him to join the order in 1245.

Studied under St. Albert the Great. Ordained in 1250. Taught theology in Paris and in Italy. Wrote amazingly learned theological and philosophical works. Author of the *Summa Theologiae*.

On 6 December 1273 he experienced a divine revelation which so enraptured him that he abandoned all his writing, saying that all his work was "straw" compared to the reality of the divine glory. He died four months later while en route to the Council of Lyons.

His works have been seminal to the thinking of the Church ever since. He was proclaimed Doctor of the Church in 1567.

Born: circa 1225 at Roccasecca, Aquino, Naples, Italy.

Died: 7 March 1274 at Fossanuova near Terracina of natural causes.

Canonized: 18 July 1323 by Pope John XXII.

Patronage:

academics; against storms; against lightning; apologists; book sellers; Catholic academics; Catholic schools; chastity; colleges; learning; lightning; pencil makers; philosophers; publishers; scholars; schools; storms; students; theologians; universities.



St. Peregrine

Servite Brother, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

1 May.

Profile:

Born wealthy, he spent a worldly youth, and became involved in politics. Peregrine was initially strongly anti-Catholic. During a popular revolt, he struck the papal peace negotiator, St. Philip Benizi, across the face. St. Philip calmly turned the other cheek, prayed for the youth, and Peregrine converted.

Received a vision of Our Lady who told him to go to Siena, Italy, and there to join the Servites. After training and ordination, they assigned him to his home town. He lived and worked, as much as possible, in complete silence, in solitude, and without sitting down for 30 years in an attempt to do penance for his early life. When he did speak, he was known as a fervent preacher, excellent orator, and gentle confessor.

Victim of a spreading cancer in his foot, Peregrine was scheduled for an amputation. The night before the operation, he spent in prayer; that night received a vision of Christ who healed him with a touch. The next morning, Peregrine found his cancer completely healed.

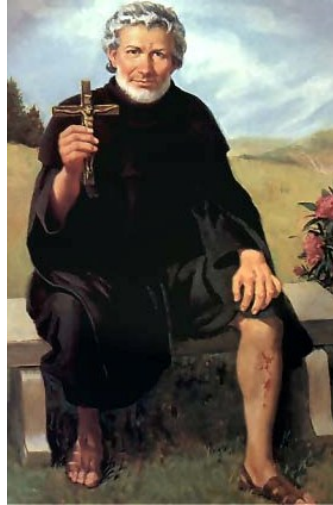
Born: 1260 at Forli, Italy.

Died: 1345 at Forli, Italy of natural causes.

Canonized: 27 December 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII.

Patronage:

against cancer, AIDS sufferers, breast cancer, cancer patients, open sores, sick people, skin diseases.



St. Anthony the Abbot

Abbot, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

17 January.

Profile:

Following the death of his parents sold his inheritance and gave everything to the poor. Joined a religious community that lived nearby, and moved into an empty sepulchre. At age 35 he moved alone to the desert. Lived alone the next 20 years.

Barricaded his dwelling for solitude, but admirers broke in. He miraculously healed people, and agreed to be the spiritual counsellor of others. Word spread, and so many disciples arrived that Anthony founded two monasteries on the Nile, one at Pispir, one at Arsinoe.

Briefly left his seclusion in 311, going to Alexandria to preach against Arianism, and to comfort the victims of Maximinus' persecution. Retired again to the desert, living in a cave on Mount Colzim.

Descriptions paint him as uniformly modest and courteous. His example led many to take up the monastic life, and to follow his way. His biography was written by his friend, St. Athanasius.

Born: 251 at Heracleus, Egypt.

Died: 356 at Mount Colzim of natural causes.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against pestilence; amputees; animals; basket makers; basket weavers; brushmakers; butchers; cemetery workers; domestic animals; eczema; epilepsy; epileptics; ergotism; erysipelas; gravediggers; graveyards; hermits; monks; pigs; relief from pestilence; skin diseases; skin rashes.



St. Jean-Théophane Vénard

Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

2 February; 24 November as one of the martyrs of Viet Nam.

Profile:

Missionary to southeast Asia, leaving on 19 September 1852. Worked fifteen months at Hong Kong, then transferred to West Tonkin, Vietnam.

Just before Théophane's arrival, new anti-Christian orders had forced priests and bishops to go into hiding in forests and caves. Father Vénard, whose health had never been good, suffered terribly, ministering to his flock by night and, when he could find a secure location, by day for nearly four years. Betrayed by a parishioner, he was arrested on 30 November 1860. Tried for his faith, he was given ample opportunity to save himself by denying Christ; he declined. He was kept in a cage for several weeks prior to his execution, during which he wrote a series of joyful, consoling letters to his family. One of the Martyrs of Vietnam.

Born: 21 November 1829 at Saint-Loup, diocese of Poitiers, France.

Died: beheaded on 2 February 1861 at Tonkin, Vietnam.

Canonized: 19 June 1988 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage: Missionaries; Viet Nam.

A slight sabre-cut will separate my head from my body, like the spring flower which the Master of the garden gathers for His pleasure. We are all flowers planted on this earth, which God plucks in His own good time: some a little sooner, some a little later...Father and son may we meet in Paradise. I, poor little moth, go first. Adieu.

– St. Théophane in a letter to his father just before his martyrdom



St. Rita of Cascia

Widow

Ex carne (portion of flesh)

Feast:

22 May.

Profile:

Betrothed by her parents to an ill-tempered, abusive man. Obedient, Rita married him; mothered twin sons.

She put up with Paolo's abuses for eighteen years before he was murdered by political enemies. Her sons swore vengeance, but through Rita's prayers and interventions, they forgave the offenders.

Upon the deaths of her sons, Rita felt the call to religious life. She was admitted to an Augustinian monastery at age 36. She spent her time in prayer and charity, and working for peace in the region.

Rita is well-known as a patron of desperate, seemingly impossible causes and situations. This is because she has been involved in so many stages of life - wife, mother, widow, and nun, she buried her family, helped bring peace to her city, saw her dreams denied and fulfilled - and never lost her faith in God, or her desire to be with Him.

Born: 1386 at Roccaparena, Umbria, Italy.

Died: 22 May 1457 at Cascia of tuberculosis. Upon exhumation her body found to be incorrupt.

Canonized: 24 May 1900.

Patronage: abuse victims; against loneliness; against sterility; bodily ills; desperate causes; difficult marriages; forgotten causes; impossible causes; infertility; lost causes; parenthood; sick people; sickness; sterility; victims of physical spouse abuse; widows; wounds.



St. Pope Pius V

Pope, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

30 April.

Profile:

Born to an impoverished family. Worked as a shepherd as a boy. Received an excellent education in piety and holiness, including a scholastic education from a Dominican friar; he joined the Order in 1518, taking the name Michele. Studied in Bologna, Italy. Appointed teacher of philosophy and divinity in Genoa. Professor of theology in Pavia for sixteen years. Master of novices and prior of several Dominican houses, worked for stricter adherence to the Order's Rule. Inquisitor in Como and Bergamo. Commissary general of the Roman Inquisition in 1551. On 4 September 1556 Michael was ordained Bishop of Nepi and Sutri against his will. Inquisitor in Milan and Lombardy in 1556. Created cardinal on 15 March 1557. Grand inquisitor on 14 December 1558. Part of the conclave of 1559. Bishop of Mondovi, Italy on 17 March 1560. As bishop, Michael worked to lead his flock with words and examples, and served as a continual messenger encouraging personal piety and devotion to God. 225th pope.

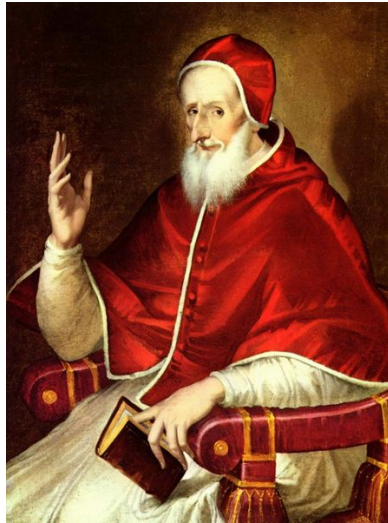
Born: 17 January 1504 at Bosco, diocese of Alessandria, Lombardy, Italy as Antonio Ghisleri.

Died: 1 May 1572 in Rome, Italy, apparently of a renal disorder.

Canonized: 22 May 1712 by Pope Clement XI.

Patronage:

Dominican Order, Popes.



St. Charbel Makhlouf

Confessor, Hermit

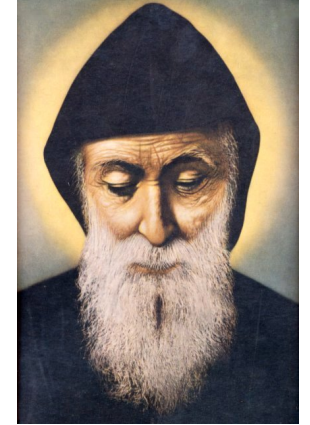
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

24 July.

Profile:

Son of a mule driver. Raised by an uncle who opposed the boy's youthful piety. The boy's favorite book was Thomas a Kempis's *The Imitation of Christ*. At age 23 he snuck away to join the Baladite monastery of Saint Maron at Annaya where he took the name Charbel in memory of a 2nd century martyr. Professed his solemn vows in 1853. Ordained in 1859, becoming a heiromonk (priestmonk).



He lived as a model monk, but dreamed of living like the ancient desert fathers. Hermit from 1875 until his death 23 years later, living on the bare minimums of everything. Gained a reputation for holiness, and was much sought for counsel and blessing. He had a great personal devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and was known to levitate during his prayers. Briefly paralyzed for unknown reasons just before his death.

Several post-mortem miracles attributed him, including periods in 1927 and 1950 when a bloody "sweat" flowed from his corpse. His tomb has become a place of pilgrimage for Lebanese and non-Lebanese, Christian and non-Christian alike.

Born: 8 May 1828 at Beka-Kafra, Lebanon as Joseph Zaroun Makhlouf.

Died: 24 December 1898 at Annaya of natural causes.

Canonized: 9 October 1977 by Pope Paul VI.

St. Anne

Mother of the Blessed Virgin

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

26 July.

Profile:

Mother of Our Lady. Grandmother of Jesus Christ. Wife of St. Joachim. Probably well off. Tradition says that Anne was quite elderly when Mary was born, and that she was her only child. Believed to have given Mary to the service of the Temple when the girl was three years old. Devotion to her has been popular in the East from the very early days of the Church; widespread devotion in the West began in the 16th century, but many shrines and churches have developed since.



Born: Date and location unknown.

Died: Date and location unknown.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process). Her cultus (i.e., devotion) was extended to the whole Church in 1584.

Patronage:

against poverty; Brittany; broommakers; cabinetmakers; Canada; carpenters; childless people; equestrians; France; grandmothers; grandparents; homemakers; horse men; horse women; housewives; lace makers; lace workers; lost articles; Micmaqs; miners; mothers; old-clothes dealers; poverty; pregnancy; pregnant women; Quebec; riders; seamstresses; stablemen; sterility; turners; women in labour

St. Oliver Plunkett

Bishop, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

1 July.

Profile:

Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland, and Primate of all Ireland. Extended his ministry to Gaelic speaking Catholics of the highlands and the isles of Scotland. Forced to conduct a covert ministry during the suppression of priests.



Arrested and tried at Dundalk in 1679 for conspiring against the state by plotting to bring 20,000 French soldiers into the country, and for levelling a tax on his clergy to support 70,000 men for rebellion. Lord Shaftesbury knew that Oliver would never be convicted in Ireland, and had him moved to Newgate prison, London. The first grand jury found no true bill, but he was not released. The second trial was a kangaroo court; Lord Campbell, writing of the judge, Sir Francis Pemberton, called it a disgrace to himself and his country. Plunkett was found guilty of high treason "for promoting the Catholic faith," and was condemned to a gruesome death. He was the last Catholic to die for his faith at Tyburn, and the first of the Irish martyrs to be beatified.

Born: 30 September 1629 at Loughenew, County Meath, Ireland.

Died: hanged, drawn, and quartered on 1 July 1681 at Tyburn, England.

Canonized: 12 October 1975 by Pope Paul VI at Rome, Italy.

Patronage:

Ireland.

Martyrs of Gorkum

Ex ossibus (particle of bone collected from each martyr)

Feast:

9 July.

Profile:

Nineteen martyrs hanged by Calvinists on 9 July 1572 at Gorkum, Holland for loyalty to the Pope and for their belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Prior to being hanged they were put on exhibition and made to suffer various tortures such as mutilation and burning. Each was offered his freedom if he would renounce the authority of Rome and the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Each refused.



List of Martyrs:

- Adrian Beanus
- Adrian van Hilvarenbeek
- Andrew Wouters
- Antony van Hoornaer
- Antony van Weert
- Antony van Willehad
- Cornelius van Wyk
- Godfrey of Duynen
- Godfrey of Merville
- James Lacops
- Jerome of Weden
- John of Cologne
- John of Osterwick
- John van Hoornaer
- Leonard Vechel
- Nicholas Janssen Poppel
- Nicholas Pieck
- Peter of Assche
- Theodore van der Eem

Born: various.

Died: hanged by Calvinists on 9 July 1572 at Gorkum, Holland.

Canonized: 29 June 1865 by Pope Pius IX.

Patronage:

Netherlands; missionaries.

St. Charles Borromeo

Bishop

Ex praecordiis (from the internal organs)

Feast:

4 November.

Profile:

Nephew of Pope Pius IV. Suffered with a speech impediment. Studied in Milan, and at the University of Pavia. Civil and canon lawyer at age 21. Created cardinal at age 22.

Worked with the sick, and helped bury the dead during the plague outbreak in Milan in 1576. Teacher, confessor and parish priest to St. Aloysius Gonzaga, giving him his first communion on 22 July 1580.



Spent his life and fortune in the service of the people of his diocese. He directed and fervently enforced the decrees of the Council of Trent, fought tirelessly for peace in the wake of the storm caused by Martin Luther, founded schools for the poor, seminaries for clerics, hospitals for the sick, conducted synods, instituted children's Sunday school, did great public and private penance, and worked among the sick and dying, leading his people by example.

Born: 2 October 1538 in the castle at Aron, diocese of Novara, Italy.

Died: 3 November 1584 at 8:30 pm of a fever at Milan.

Canonized: 1 November 1610 by Pope Paul V.

Patronage:

against ulcers; apple orchards; bishops; catechists; catechumens; colic; intestinal disorders; seminarians; spiritual directors; spiritual leaders; starch makers; stomach diseases.

Sts. Cosmas and Damian

Martyrs

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

26 September.

Profile:

Physicians who accepted no payment for their services and were, therefore, called anargyroi, "the silverless". In this way they brought many to the Catholic Faith. When the Diocletian persecution began, the Prefect Lysias had Cosmas and Damian arrested, and ordered them to recant their faith. They remained constant under torture and were finally beheaded with the sword.



They are invoked in the Canon of the Mass and in the Litany of the Saints.

Martyrs. Many fables grew up about the brothers, connected in part with their relics.

Born: Arabia.; date unknown.

Died: tortured and beheaded *circa* 287-303.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

apothecaries, barbers, blind people, chemical industry, chemical manufacturers, doctors, druggists, hairdressers, hernias, midwives, physicians, pharmacists, relief from pestilence, surgeons.

St. Augustine

Confessor, Doctor

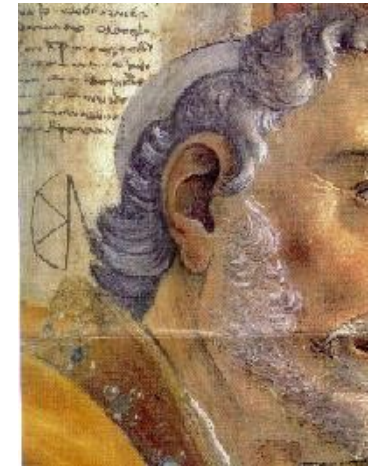
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

28 August.

Profile:

His father was a pagan who converted on his death bed; his mother was St. Monica, a devout Christian. Trained in Christianity, he lost his faith in youth and led a wild life. Lived with a woman from the age of 15 through 30. Very learned and intelligent; taught rhetoric at Carthage and Milan. Paid little regard for the morals of his mother.



A summation of his thinking at the time comes from his *Confessions*: "God, give me chastity and continence - but not yet."

Was finally converted by the prayers of his mother and the help of St. Ambrose of Milan, who baptized him. Ordained priest. Famed preacher. Bishop of Hippo in 396. Founded religious communities. Fought Manichaeism, Donatism, Pelagianism and other heresies. Proclaimed Doctor of the Church.

Born: 13 November 354 at Tagaste, North Africa.

Died: 28 August 430 at Hippo.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage: brewers; printers; city of Saint Augustine, Florida; sore eyes; theologians.

Our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you.

— St. Augustine

St. Monica

Mother

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

27 August.

Profile:

Mother of St. Augustine, whose writings about her are the primary source of our information. A Christian from birth, she was given in marriage to a bad-tempered, adulterous pagan named Patricius. She prayed constantly for the conversion of her husband (who converted on his death bed), and of her son Augustine (who converted after a wild life). Spiritual student of St. Ambrose of Milan. Reformed alcoholic.



Born: 322 at Tagaste (Souk Ahrus), Algeria.

Died: 387 at Ostia, Italy.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

abuse victims; alcoholics; alcoholism; difficult marriages; disappointing children; homemakers; housewives; married women; mothers; victims of adultery; victims of unfaithfulness; victims of verbal abuse; widows; wives.

Nothing is far from God.

— St. Monica

St. Maurice the Legionary

Soldier, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

22 September.

Profile:

Layman. Soldier. Officer in a legion of Christian soldiers from Upper Egypt during the reign of Emperor Maximian Herculius. His legion, as many as 6600 men, was massacred en masse by their own side when they refused to participate in pagan sacrifices prior to battle. One of the Martyrs of the Theban Legion.

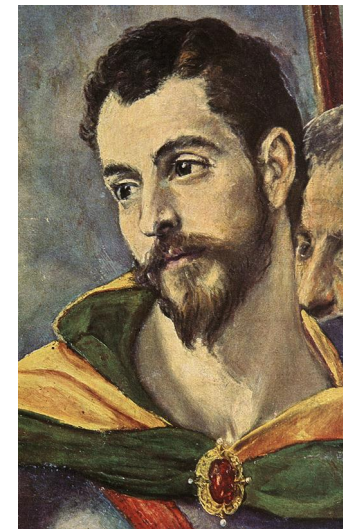
Born: Date and location unknown.

Died: martyred *circa* 287 at Aaunum, an area of modern Switzerland.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against cramps; alpine troops; armies; Austria; cloth makers; cramps; dyers; gout; infantrymen; Pontifical Swiss Guards; Sardinia; soldiers; swordsmiths; weavers.



St. Charles Lwanga

Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:
3 June.

Profile:
Ngabi clan. Servant of King Mwanga of Uganda. Convert, joining the Church in June 1885. One of the Martyrs of Uganda who died in the Mwangi persecutions.

Born: 1865 at Bulimu, Buganda, Uganda.

Died: burned to death in 1886 at Namugongo, Uganda.

Canonized: 18 October 1964 by Pope Paul VI at Rome, Italy.

Patronage:
African Catholic Youth Action; Catholic youth; converts; torture victims; Uganda



St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

Foundress

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:
12 January.

Profile:
Prayed to know what to do with her life. The governor of Montreal, Canada, was in France looking for teachers for the New World. He invited Marguerite to come to Montreal to teach school and religion classes. She agreed.

Opened her first school in 1658. Returned to France in 1659 to recruit more teachers, and returned with four; in 1670, she went to France again, and brought back six more. These brave women became the first sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame.

Marguerite and her sisters helped people in the colony survive when food was scarce, opened a vocational school, taught young people how to run a home and farm. Marguerite's congregation grew to 18 sisters, seven of them Canadian, among whom two were Native.

On the last day of 1699, a young sister lay dying. Mother Marguerite asked the Lord to take her life in exchange. By the morning of 1 January 1700, the sister was completely well, Mother Marguerite had a raging fever, suffered 12 days, and died on 12 January 1700.

Born: 17 April 1620 at Troyes, France.

Died: 12 January 1700 of fever.

Canonized: 31 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage:
against poverty; Canada; impoverishment; loss of parents; people rejected by religious orders; poverty.



St. Leo the Great

Pope, Doctor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

10 November.

Profile:

Italian nobility. Strong student, especially in scripture and theology. Priest. Eloquent writer and homilist.

Pope from 440 to 461 during the time of the invasion of Attila the Hun. When Attila marched on Rome, Leo went out to meet him and pleaded for leave. As Leo spoke, Attila saw the vision of a man in priestly robes, carrying a bare sword, and threatening to kill the invader if he did not obey Pope Leo. As Leo had a great devotion to St. Peter, it is generally believed the first pope was the visionary opponent to the Huns. When Genseric invaded Rome, Leo's sanctity and eloquence saved the city again.

Called the Council of Chalcedon to condemn heresies of the day. Fought Nestorianism, Monophysitism, Manichaeism, and Pelagianism. Built churches. Wrote many letters and sermons encouraging and teaching his flock, many of which survive today; it is for these writings that Leo was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1574.

Born: circa 400 at Tuscany, Italy.

Died: 11 April 461 at Rome, Italy.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage: Rome.



St. Thomas Becket (St. Thomas of Canterbury)

Bishop, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

29 December.

Profile:

Civil and canon lawyer. Soldier and officer. Archdeacon of Canterbury. Chancellor of England. Ordained on 2 June 1162 and appointed archbishop of Canterbury on 3 June 1162.

Opposed King Henry II's interference in ecclesiastical matters. At that time the Church had its own court system and any member of the Church could decide to be tried in a Church court rather than a royal court. Henry believed that this undermined his authority; he thought the Church courts were too soft on offenders. For example, a royal court would blind or cut off the hand of a thief; a Church court might send a thief on a pilgrimage.

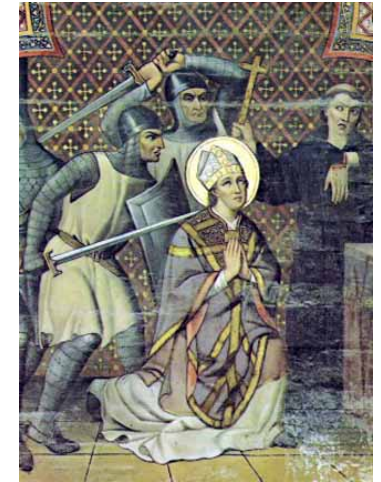
Thomas opposed Henry in this, which infuriated Henry. He is said to have shouted out "who will rid me of this troublesome priest?" Four knights heard what Henry had shouted and took it to mean that the king wanted Becket dead. They rode to Canterbury and carried out the deed, killing Thomas with swords.

Born: 21 December 1118 at London, England.

Died: murdered by the King's guard on 29 December 1170 in the Cathedral at Canterbury, England.

Canonized: 21 February 1173 by Pope Alexander III.

Patronage: clergy; Exeter College Oxford; England; secular clergy.



St. Margaret of Cortona

Penitent, Religious

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

22 February.

Profile:

She eloped with a young nobleman and lived as his mistress for nine years. In 1274 he was murdered by brigands, and his body dumped in a shallow grave.



Margaret saw the incident as a sign from God. She publicly confessed to the affair and began to earn her keep by tending to sick women. She later began caring for the sick poor, living on alms, asking nothing for her services. Became a Franciscan tertiary in 1277. Margaret developed a deep and intense prayer life, and was given to ecstasies during which she received messages from heaven.

In 1286 she received charter to work with the sick poor. She gathered others of like mind, and formed them into tertiaries. They were later given the status of a congregation, and called the Poverelle (Poor Ones). Prophesied the date of her own death.

The calumny of her earlier life followed her the rest of her days, and she was forever the target of local gossips.

Born: 1247 at Loviano, Tuscany, Italy.

Died: 22 February 1297 at Cortona, Italy of natural causes.

Canonized: 1728 by Pope Benedict XIII.

Patronage:

against temptations; falsely accused people; hoboos; homeless people; insanity; loss of parents; mental illness; mentally ill people; midwives; penitent women; people ridiculed for their piety; reformed prostitutes; sexual temptation; single laywomen; tertiaries; tramps.

St. Athanasius

Bishop, Confessor, Doctor

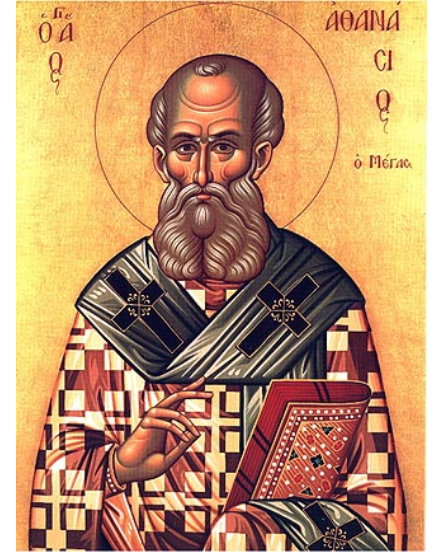
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

2 May.

Profile:

Studied the classics and theology in Alexandria. Deacon and secretary to bishop Alexander of Alexandria. Attended the Council of Nicea in 325 where he fought for the defeat of Arianism and acceptance of the divinity of Jesus. Formulated the doctrine of homo-ousianism which says that Christ is the same substance as the Father; Arianism taught that Christ was different from, and a creation of, the Father, a creature and not part of God. Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt *circa* 328. When the dispute over Arianism spilled over from theology to politics, Athanasius got exiled five times, and spent more than a third of his episcopate in exile. Biographer of St. Anthony the Abbot. Confessor of the faith and Doctor of the Church, he fought for the acceptance of the Nicene Creed.



Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt *circa* 328. When the dispute over Arianism spilled over from theology to politics, Athanasius got exiled five times, and spent more than a third of his episcopate in exile. Biographer of St. Anthony the Abbot. Confessor of the faith and Doctor of the Church, he fought for the acceptance of the Nicene Creed.

Born: *circa* 295 at Alexandria, Egypt.

Died: 2 May 373 at Alexandria, Egypt; relics in San Croce, Venice, Italy.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

catechists; Egypt

St. Malachy

Bishop, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

2 November.

Profile:

Ordained a priest at age 25. Studied under St. Malchus. Preacher and clerical reformer. Instituted celibacy regulations and other disciplines on the Irish clergy; reintroduced the use of canonical hours prayers. Archbishop in Armagh, Ireland at age 35, the chosen successor of St. Cellach. Spiritual teacher of Bl. Christian O'Conarchy

A miracle worker and healer, he sometimes cured people instantly by laying his hands upon them. Friend of St. Bernard of Clairvaux who helped him establish the Cistercians in Ireland, wrote a biography of him, and sat with him as he died.

His influence in Irish ecclesiastical affairs has been compared with that of Boniface in Germany. He reformed and reorganized the Irish Church and brought it into subjection to Rome; like Boniface, he was a zealous reformer and a promoter of monasticism.

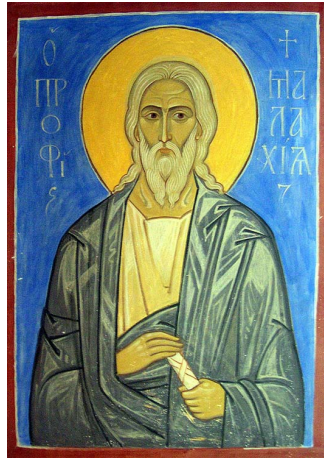
Born: 1094 at Armagh, Ireland.

Died: 2 November 1148 at Clairvaux.

Canonized: 1190 by Pope Clement III; first papal canonization of an Irish saint.

Patronage:

Archdiocese of Armagh, Ireland; diocese of Down and Connor, Ireland.



St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Abbott, Confessor, Doctor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

20 August.

Profile:

Benedictine at age 22. Founded and led the monastery at Clairvaux which soon had over 700 monks and 160 daughter houses. Revised and reformed the Cistercians. Advisor to, and admonisher of, King Louis the Fat and King Louis the Young. Attended Second Lateran Council. Fought Albigenianism. Helped end the schism of anti-Pope Anacletus II. Preached in France, Italy, Germany. Helped organize the Second Crusade. Friend and biographer of St. Malachy O'More. Spiritual advisor to Pope Eugenius III, who had originally been one of his monks. First Cistercian monk placed on the calendar of saints. Proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius VIII.

Born: 1090 at Fontaines-les-Dijon, Burgundy, France.

Died: 21 August 1153 at Clairvaux.

Canonized: 18 January 1174 by Pope Alexander III.

Patronage:

beekeepers; bees; candle makers; chandlers; Gibraltar; Queens College Cambridge; wax-melters; wax refiners.

In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; invoking her, you shall never lose heart.
— St. Bernard of Clairvaux



St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother

Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Also known as:

St. Gabriel Possenti.

Feast:

27 February.

Profile:

One of thirteen children. After a youth devoted to the world and society, attending the theatre, chasing women and the hunt, he was led to the Passionist Order by Our Lady. His life was not marked by great events or controversy, but given to prayer, sacrifice, and a devotion to Our Lady and the contemplation of her sorrows over the suffering of Jesus. Many miracles are attributed to him after his death. Cured St. Gemma Galgani when she prayed to him. Pope Benedict XV gave him as a pattern for young people.



Born: 1 March 1838 at Assisi, Italy.

Died: 27 February 1862 at Abruzzi, Italy of tuberculosis.

Canonized:

13 May 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

Patronage:

Abruzzi region of Italy; Catholic Action; clerics; students; young people in general.

St. Josephine Bakhita

Religious

Ex corpore (portion of flesh)

Feast:

8 February.

Profile:

Born to a wealthy Sudanese family, she was kidnapped by slave-traders at age 9, and given the name Bakhita by them. Sold and resold in the markets at El Obeid and Khartoum, finally purchased in 1883 by Callisto Legnani, Italian consul who planned to free her. She accompanied Legnani to Italy in 1885, and worked for the family of Augusto Michieli as nanny. She was treated well in Italy, and grew to love the country. An adult convert, joining the Church on 9 January 1890, she took the name of Josephine as a symbol of her new life.



She entered the Institute of Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice, Italy in 1893, taking her vows on 8 December 1896 in Verona, and serving as a Canossian Sister for the next fifty years. Her gentle presence, her warm, amiable voice, and her willingness to help with any menial task were a comfort to the poor and suffering people who came to the door of the Institute. After a biography of her was published in 1930, she became a noted and sought after speaker, raising funds to support missions.

Born: 1868 at Oglassa, Darfur, Sudan.

Died: 8 February 1947 of natural causes in Italy.

Canonized: 1 October 2000 by Pope John Paul II at Rome.

Patronage:

Sudan.

St. John Berchmans

Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

13 August.

Profile:

Son of a shoemaker, and one of five children, three of whom entered religious life. Great devotion to his position as an altar boy. He spent much of his time caring for his mother, who was in poor health. Jesuit novice in 1616, deciding to become a Jesuit after reading the life of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. Student at the Jesuit College at Malines. Studied philosophy in Rome. John had a dream of helping and teaching multi-lingual migrants, and he studied all the chief languages of Europe. He wanted to work in China after ordination. He died of unknown causes following his participation in a public debate defending the faith, and while clutching his rosary, crucifix, and rules of his order; he did not live to be ordained.



John Berchmans was not noted for extraordinary feats of holiness or austerity, nor did he found orders or churches or work flashy miracles. He made kindness, courtesy, and constant fidelity an important part of his holiness. The path to holiness can lie in the ordinary rather than the extraordinary.

Born: 13 March 1599 at Driest, Brabant, Belgium.

Died: 12 August 1621 at Rome, Italy.

Canonized: 1888 by Pope Leo XIII.

Patronage:

altar boys; altar girls; altar servers; Oblate novices; young people.

St. Teresa of the Andes

Religious

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

12 April.

Profile:

Devoted to Christ from her adolescence. She read an autobiography of the St. Thérèse de Lisieux; the experience had a profound effect on her already pious character, coming to the realization she wanted to serve God. She entered the monastery of the Discalced Carmelite nuns at Los Andes on 7 May 1919, and was given the name Teresa of Jesus. A model for young people. The first Chilean and the first member of the Teresian Carmel in Latin America to be beatified. An estimated 100,000 pilgrims who visit her shrine in Los Andes each year.



Born: 13 July 1900 at Santiago, Chile as Juanita Fernandez Solar.

Died: 12 April 1920 at Los Andes, Chile.

Canonized: 21 March 1993 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage:

bodily ill, Chile, illness, sick people, sickness, young people in general.

A Carmelite sanctifies herself in order to make all the Church's members holy.

— St. Theresa of the Andes

St. John Baptist de La Salle

Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

7 April.

Profile:

Born to a wealthy family. Ordained a priest in 1678. Spiritual director of the Sisters of the Holy Infant who were devoted to teaching poor girls.

Founded the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Christian Brothers) in 1681, established and supported academic education for all boys. He liquidated his personal fortune, and his Brothers expected him to use it to further his education

goals, but he surprised them by saying they would have to depend on Providence. The money (about \$400,000) was given away to the poor in the form of bread during the great famine of 1683-1684. Saint John kept enough to endow a salary for himself similar to that which the Brothers received so he wouldn't be a burden on them.

Instituted the process of dividing students into grades. Established the first teacher's school. Started high schools and trade schools.

Proclaimed the patron of all teachers of all youth by Pope Pius XII in 1950.

Born: 1651 at Rheims, France.

Died: 1719 at Rouen, France.

Canonized: May 24, 1900 by Pope Leo XIII.

Patronage:

educators; school principals; teachers.



St. Peter Chrysologus

Confessor, Doctor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

30 July.

Profile:

Adult convert. Deacon. Priest. Bishop of Ravenna, Italy in 433. Fought paganism and the Monophysite heresy, enforced reforms, and built several churches and ornate altars in his see.

Preacher with such language skills, he was given the name Chrysologus, meaning *golden word*. 176 of his sermons have survived; it is the strength of these beautiful explanations of the Incarnation, the Creed, the place of Mary and John the Baptist in the great plan of salvation, etc., that led to his being proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1729 by Pope Benedict XIII.

Born: 406 at Imola, Italy.

Died: 2 December 450 at Imola, Italy.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

Preachers.



St. Jane Frances of Chantal

Widow, Foundress

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

12 August.

Profile:

Married in 1592 at age twenty to Baron de Chantal. Mother of four. Widowed at 28 when the Baron was killed in a hunting accident and died in her arms. Taking a personal vow of chastity, she was forced to live with her father-in-law, which was a period of misery for her. She spent her free time in prayer, and received a vision of the man who would become her spiritual director. In Lent, 1604, she met Saint Francis de Sales, and recognized him as the man in her vision. She became a spiritual student and close friend of Saint Francis, and the two carried on a lengthy correspondence for years. On Trinity Sunday, 6 June 1610 she founded the Order of the Visitation of Our Lady at Annecy, France. The Order was designed for widows and laywomen. Spent the rest of her days overseeing the Order—69 convents were founded—and acting as spiritual advisor to any who desired her wisdom. Visitation nuns today live a contemplative life, work for women with poor health and widows, and sometimes run schools.

Born: 28 January 1572 at Dijon, Burgundy, France.

Died: 13 December 1641 at the Visitation Convent, Moulins, France.

Canonized: 16 July 1767.

Patronage:

forgotten people; in-law problems; loss of parents; parents separated from children; widows.



St. Josaphat

Bishop, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

12 November.

Profile:

Raised in the Orthodox Ruthenian Church which, on 23 November 1595, united with the Church of Rome. Became a monk in the Ukrainian Order of St. Basil (Basilians) in Vilna at age 20. Ordained a priest in 1609.

Josaphat's Basilian superior, Samuel, never accepted unity with Rome, and looked for a way to fight against Roman Catholicism and the Uniats, the name given those who brought about and accepted the union of the Churches. Learning of this Josaphat brought it to the attention of his archbishop. The archbishop of Kiev removed Samuel from his post, replacing him with Josaphat.

Famous preacher. Worked to bring unity among the faithful, and bring strayed Christians back to the Church.

Late in 1623 an anti-Uniat priest named Elias shouted insults at Josaphat from his own courtyard, and tried to force his way into the residence. When he was removed, a mob assembled and forced his release and invaded the residence. Josaphat was martyred by the mob.

Born: 1580 at Volodymyr, Lithuania (modern Ukraine) as John Kunsevyc.

Died: struck in the head with a halberd, shot and beaten with staves on 12 November 1623 at Vitebsk, Belarus; body thrown into the Dvina River but later recovered; buried at Biala, Poland; upon exhumation his body found to be incorrupt.

Canonized: 1876; first Eastern saint canonized by Rome.

Patronage: Ukraine.



St. Conrad of Parzham

Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

21 April.

Profile:

Youngest of nine children born to a farming family in a region recovering from the Napoleonic wars. His mother died when he was 14. Devoted from an early age to solitary prayer and peacemaking, he was a familiar site at all the churches and shrines in his region, often waiting at the door at sunrise for first Mass.



Capuchin tertiary at age 31; Capuchin novice at age 33, taking the name Conrad. Assigned to the shrine of Our Lady of Altotting. For more than 40 years Conrad was a porter, admitting people to the friary, obtaining supplies, dispensing alms, encouraging them open themselves to God, and generally assisting the thousands who came to the friary on pilgrimages. Worked with local children, teaching them the faith and practices, and supported charities for them. Notes for the gifts of prophesy and of reading people's hearts.

Three days before his death he realized he could no longer perform his duties, and relinquished the position. He celebrated Mass, and took to his sick bed for the last time. Local children whom he had taught the rosary recited it outside his window until the end.

Born: 22 December 1818 at Parzham, Bavaria as Johann Birndorfer.

Died: 21 April 1894 of natural causes.

Canonized: 1934 by Pope Pius XI.

Patronage:

Capuchin-Franciscan Province of Mid-America.

St. Veronica Giuliani

Virgin

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

9 July.

Profile:

Even in her youth she had a deep spirituality and desired nothing more than to dedicate her life to God. Received visions as a child, and her first words were reported to be "Do justice, God sees you."

Veronica's father presented suitors in hopes that one would marry her; Veronica became ill at the idea of not devoting her life to God, and Veronica finally received her father's blessing.

Joined the Poor Clares on 17 July 1677 at age 17, receiving the veil on 28 October. Soon after she began receiving visions of Christ accompanied by the pain of the wounds of the Passion. Much scepticism of her stigmata, and many examinations, but it was never disproved; Veronica never tried to prove it, just submitted to the exams.

Novice mistress for over thirty years. Abbess for more than a decade. Author of the 10-volume Diary of the Passion which catalogues her religious experiences.

Born: 1660 at Mercatello, Urbio, Italy as Ursula Giuliani.

Died: 9 July 1727 at Citt' di Castello, Italy.

Canonized: 1839 by Pope Gregory XVI.

Patronage:

Franciscans.



St. Catherine Labouré

Mystic, Religious

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

31 December.

Profile:

Ninth of eleven children born to a farm family, and from an early age felt a call to the religious life. Never learned to read or write. Forced to take over running the house at age eight after her mother died and her older sister joined the Sisters of Charity. Worked as a waitress in her uncle's cafe in Paris. Upon entering a hospital run by the Sisters of Charity she received a vision in which Saint Vincent de Paul told her that God wanted her to work with the sick, and she later joined the order, taking the name Catherine.



On 18 July 1830 she had a vision of Our Lady who described to her a medal which she wished struck. On one side it has the image of Our Lady, and the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee"; on the other are the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Our Lady told Catherine that wearers of the medal would receive great graces, it has become known as the Miraculous Medal, and its wearing and devotion has spread worldwide. Miracles reported at her tomb.

Born: 2 May 1806 at Fain-les-Moûtiers, Côte d'Or, Burgundy, France.

Died: 31 December 1876 at Enghien-Reuilly, France.

Canonized:

27 July 1947 by Pope Pius XII.

Patronage:

Those who wear the Miraculous Medal.

Bl. Anna Maria Taigi

Wife, Mother, Laywoman

Ex corpore (portion of her body)

Feast:

9 June.

Profile:

Wife and mother of seven. Was vain and concerned about her dress and appearance. Her husband was ill-tempered and caustic. But while at prayer at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, she felt a sudden strong inspiration to ignore the things of this world. Began to live a holy and austere life, and to listen to the Spirit. Found holy spiritual directors and received instruction from them. Gave all she could to the poor. Visited the sick and counselled many who were hospitalized. Worked hard to evangelize her own family, changing her husband's demeanor, and they all regularly assembled in a small personal chapel to pray together.



Devoted herself to prayer. Began to receive mystical gifts: prophecy and heavenly and prophetic visions. Her simple presence had a powerful effect on many, and she converted many. Counsellor to cardinals, royalty, and three popes.

Born: 29 May 1769 at Siena, Italy

Died: 9 June 1837 at Rome, Italy of natural causes.

Beatified: 30 May 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

Patronage:

Housewives, mothers.

St. Apollonia

Virgin and Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

9 February.

Profile:

Virgin. Deaconess. During an anti-Christian uprising in Alexandria, Egypt, caused by a pagan prophecy, the mob seized Apollonia as a leader among the local Christians. After her teeth were broken with pincers, she was given the choice of renouncing Christ or being burned alive; she leapt herself on to a fire that had been prepared to burn her. Martyr.

Born: Date and location unknown.

Died: burned to death *circa* 249 at Alexandria, Egypt.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against tooth disease, against toothache, against tooth problems, dentists.



St. Dymphna

Virgin, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

30 May.

Profile:

Daughter of a pagan Irish chieftain and a beautiful devoted Christian woman whose real name has not come down to us. Her mother died when she was a teenager. Her father searched for a woman to replace his wife, but found none pleasing to him. He fell in love with her, his own daughter and made advances on her. She fled to Belgium with St. Gerebernus, an elderly priest and family friend.

Her father searched for them, and his search led to Belgium. When he found them in Gheel, he beheaded Gerebernus, and demanded that Dymphna surrender to him. She refused, and he killed her in a rage.

The site where she died is known for its miraculous healings of the insane and possessed. There is now a well-known institution on the site, and her relics are reported to cure insanity and epilepsy.

Born: Date unknown at Ireland.

Died: martyred by her father in the seventh century at Gheel, Belgium.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

against sleepwalking, against epilepsy, against insanity, against mental disorders, against mental illness, epileptics, family happiness, incest victims, loss of parents, martyrs, mental asylums, mental health caregivers, mental health professionals, mental hospitals, mentally ill people, nervous disorders, neurological disorders, outsiders, possessed people, princesses, psychiatrists, rape victims, the rejected, runaways, sleepwalkers, therapists.



St. Philomena

Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

11 August.

Profile:

In 1802 the remains of a young woman were found within the catacombs of Rome. The tomb's symbols indicated that the body was a martyr named Philomena. The bones were exhumed, catalogued, and all but forgotten since there was so little known about the person.

In 1805 Canon Francis de Lucia was in the Vatican's Treasury of Relics. When he reached the relics of Philomena he was suddenly struck with spiritual joy, and requested to enshrine them in a chapel in Mugnano. After his own dramatic healing by the relics he was allowed to translate the relics to Mugnano. Miracles immediately began to be reported at the shrine including cures of cancer, healing of wounds, heart ailments.

Philomena is the only person recognized as a Saint solely on the basis of miraculous intercession as nothing but her name and martyrdom is known about her. Was the favourite saint of St. John Vianney.

Born: Date and location unknown.

Died: Martyred at about age 14 in the early days of the Church.

Canonized: never formally canonized.

Patronage:

against barrenness; against bodily ills; against infertility; against mental illness; against sickness; against sterility; babies; children; Children of Mary; desperate causes; forgotten causes; impossible causes; infants; lost causes; Living Rosary; newborns; orphans; poor people; priests; prisoners; sick people; students; test takers; toddlers; young people; youth.



St. Thomas More

Layman, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

22 June.

Profile:

Lawyer. Twice married (first wife had died). Father of one son and three daughters. Devoted family man. Widely known for his learning and knowledge, and for his virtue and devotion to God. Friend of King Henry VIII. Lord Chancellor of England from 1529 to 1532, a position of political power second only to the king. Fought heresy, especially the incursion of Protestantism into England. Opposed the king on the matter of royal divorce (refused to acknowledge King Henry VIII's freedom to marry Anne Boleyn while he was already sacramentally married to Catherine of Aragon), and refused to swear the heretical Oath of Supremacy which declared the king the head of the Church in England. Resigned the Chancellorship, and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Beheaded. His body taken to St. Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London, England; his head was parboiled and then exposed on London Bridge for a month as a warning to other "traitors."

Known as the Great Martyr of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Born: 7 February 1478 at London, England.

Died: beheaded on 6 July 1535 on Tower Hill, London, England.

Canonized: 19 May 1935 by Pope Pius XI.

Patronage:

adopted children; civil servants; court clerks; difficult marriages; large families; lawyers; marriage; politicians; politics; statesmen; step-parents; widowers.



St. Bernadette of Lourdes

Virgin

Ex capillis (a hair)

Also known as:

Bernadette Soubirous; the Sleeping Saint of Nevers.

Feast:

16 April.

Profile:

Oldest of six children in a very poor family. Worked as a servant and shepherdess. On 11 February 1858, she received a vision of the Virgin. She received seventeen more in the next five months, and was led to a spring of healing waters. She joined a community of sisters. Always sick herself, and often mistreated by her superiors, she died with a prayer for Mary's aid. Since the appearances of Mary to young Bernadette in 1858, more than 200 million people have visited the shrine of Lourdes. Upon exhumation her body was found to be incorrupt.



Born: 7 January 1844 at Lourdes, France.

Died: 16 April 1879, Nevers, France of natural causes.

Canonized: 1933 by Pope Pius XI.

Patronage:

bodily ills, illness, Lourdes France, people ridiculed for their piety, poverty, shepherdesses, shepherds, sick people, sickness.

You must receive God well; give Him a loving welcome, for then He has to pay us rent.

— St. Bernadette

Pope St. John XXIII

Pope, Confessor

Ex corpore (portion of his body)

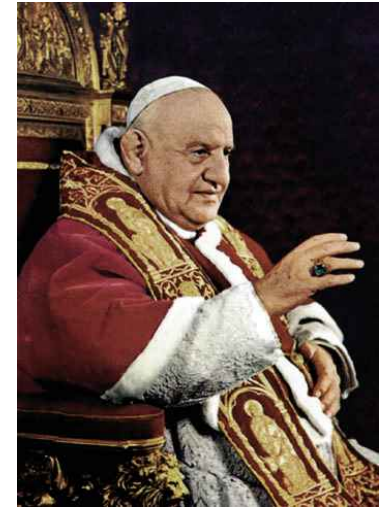
Feast:

11 October.

Profile:

Born to an Italian peasant family. Ordained priest on 10 August 1904. Created cardinal on 12 January 1953. Elected 261st pope on 28 October 1958.

As pope he promoted social reforms for workers, poor people, orphans, and the outcast. He advanced cooperation with other faiths and traditions including Protestant, Greek Orthodox, and the Church of England.



Convened the Second Vatican Council to consider ways to renew the Church, promote diversity within the unity of the Church, and consider reforms promoted by ecumenical and liturgical movements.

His heartiness, his overflowing love for humanity individually and collectively, and his freshness of approach to ecclesiastical affairs made him one of the best-loved popes of modern times.

Born: 25 November 1881 at Sotto il Monte, diocese of Bergamo, Italy as Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli.

Died: 3 June 1963 at Rome, Italy of natural causes; body on display inside Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

Canonized: 27 April 2014 by Pope Francis.

Patronage: diplomats; popes; social justice causes; people who struggle with their weight

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Franciscan Priest, Martyr

Ex capillis capitis (hairs from the head)

Feast:

14 August.

Profile:

Ordained Franciscan priest. Devoted to the Blessed Virgin. Founded a prolific Catholic magazine in Poland which at its peak it had a press run of 750,000 copies a month. Spread this ministry to Japan and India. Upon return to Poland was arrested by the Nazis for his publications. Sent to Auschwitz death camp; branded as prisoner 16670.



Received more beatings at Auschwitz than other prisoner. At one point he was beaten, lashed, and left for dead. The prisoners managed to smuggle him into the camp hospital where he spent his recovery time hearing confessions. When he returned to the camp, Maximilian ministered to other prisoners, including conducting Mass and delivering communion using smuggled bread and wine.

Volunteered to take the place of another prisoner sentenced to death place, and died as he had always wished - in service.

Born: 7 January 1894 at Zdunska Wola, Poland as Raymond Kolbe.

Died: 14 August 1941 by lethal carbonic acid injection after three weeks of starvation and dehydration at the Auschwitz, Polandian death camp. Body burned in the ovens and ashes scattered

Canonized: 10 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage:

against drug addiction; drug addicts; families; journalists; prisoners; the Pro-Life movement.

St. Louis de Montfort

Priest, Confessor, Founder

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

28 April.

Profile:

Born poor. Studied in Paris, France, and ordained in 1700. Very devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Wisdom and the Company of Mary. Preached often on the Rosary and authentic Marian devotion. Pope Clement XI conferred on him the title and authority of Missionary Apostolic, which enabled him to preach in all of France.

Greatest contribution to the Church are his books *Total Consecration to the Blessed Virgin*, *True Devotion to Mary*, and *The Secret of the Rosary*. Consecration to Mary was for him the perfect manner of renewing one's baptismal promises. His spirituality has been espoused by millions, especially Pope John Paul II, who consecrated himself to Mary according Louis' formula. In *True Devotion to Mary*, he prophesied that the army of souls consecrated to Mary will be Her instrument in defeating the Devil and his Antichrist. As Satan gains power in the world, so much more shall the new Eve triumph over him and crush his head.

Born: 31 January 1673 at Montfort-La-Cane, Brittany, France.

Died: 28 April 1716 at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sovre, France of natural causes.

Canonized: 20 July 1947 by Pope Pius XII.

Patronage:

Devotees of Mary; the rosary.



Bl. Josaphata Hordashevskia

Virgin, Foundress of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

25 March.

Profile:

Ukrainian Catholic. Founded the Sisters Servant of Mary Immaculate, taking the name Josaphata, from St. Josaphat, the famed martyred bishop.

The Sister Servants concentrate on teaching and caring for the sick. Involved in copious apostolic activity: founded day care centers so parents could work the fields, studied herbal medicines and compounded home-made remedies for people who could not afford physicians, and read the lives of the saints to the illiterate. She and the Sisters worked in areas of typhus and cholera epidemics, helped restore churches, and taught people to make liturgical vestments.

Because many men and women of the day could not deal with a woman as governor of a congregation, she met great opposition from laity and clergy. Lies were told about her, but she confronted all it with prayer, and today the Sisters have marvelous apostolates in Ukraine, Canada and Brazil.

Born: 1869 at Lviv, Ukraine as Mykhailyna Hordashevskia.

Died: 7 April 1919 of tuberculosis of the bone; buried at Krystynopil, Ukraine; remains transferred to a chapel at the Generalate of the Sisters Servants in Rome in November 1982.

Beatified: 27 June 2001 by Pope John Paul II at Ukraine.

Patronage:

atheists; the poor; immigrants; Ukranians.



St. Dominic

Priest, Confessor, Founder

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

8 August.

Profile:

Son of Bl. Joan of Aza. Augustinian Priest. Founded the Order of Friars Preachers (Dominicans) in 1215, a group who live a simple, austere life, and an order of nuns dedicated to the care of young girls.

Received a vision from Our Lady who showed him a wreath of roses, representing the rosary. She told him to say the rosary daily, teach it to all who would listen, and that this would help him in his apostolate against heresy. Dominic is often credited with the invention of the rosary; it actually pre-dates him, but he certainly spread devotion to it, and used it to strengthen his own spiritual life.

Reported miracle worker who brought four people back from the dead. Legend says that Dominic received a vision of a beggar who, like Dominic, would do great things for the Faith. Dominic met the beggar the next day. He embraced him and said, "You are my companion and must walk with me. If we hold together, no earthly power can withstand us." The beggar was St. Francis of Assisi.

Born: 1170 at Calaruega, Burgos, Old Castile.

Died: noon 6 August 1221 at Bologna, Italy.

Canonized: 13 July 1234 by Pope Gregory IX at Rieti, Italy.

Patronage:

astronomers; astronomy; Dominicans; Dominican Republic; falsely accused people; Santo Domingo; scientists.



Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati

Layman, Dominican Tertiary, Confessor

Ex linteo sepulcrali (piece of the wood of his coffin)

Feast:

4 July.

Profile:

His mother was a painter; his father was an agnostic, the founder and editor of the liberal Italian newspaper *La Stampa*. A pious youth, average student, outstanding athlete and mountain climber, he was extremely popular with his peers, known by the nickname "Terror" due to his practical jokes. Tutored at home for years with his younger sister Luciana. Studied mineralogy in an engineering program after graduating high school. Worked often with Catholic groups like Apostleship of Prayer and the Company of the Most Blessed Sacrament that ministered to the poor and promoted Eucharistic adoration, Marian devotion, and personal chastity. Became involved in political groups like the Young Catholic Workers Congress, the Popular Party, the Catholic Student Federation, Catholic Action and Milites Mariae that supported the poor, opposed Fascism and worked for the Church's social teachings. Enrolled as a Dominican tertiary on 28 May 1922, taking the name Girolamo (Jerome). Especially devoted to the teachings of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Thomas Aquinas. Spent his fortune on the needy and visited the sick; during this ministry he contracted the disease that killed him.

Born: 6 April 1901 in Turin, Italy.

Died: 4 July 1925 in Turin, Italy, of poliomyelitis.

Beatified: 20 May 1990 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage:

the young; World Youth Day.



St. Gemma Galgani

Virgin, Stigmatist

Ex carne (portion of flesh)

Feast:

11 April.

Profile:

Daughter of a poor pharmacist; mother died when she was seven, her father when she was eighteen, and she took care of her seven brothers and sisters. Laywoman. Cured in her 20's of spinal tuberculosis by prayer to St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows. Rejected by the orders to which she applied who would not believe her cure, she became a Passionist tertiary. Stigmatist, receiving the wounds on her hands and feet each Thursday evening through Friday afternoon starting in June 1899 and continuing into 1901. Visionary; she saw her guardian angel daily, and visits from the devil who tempted her to spit on the cross and break a rosary. Her canonization faced stiff opposition by those who either disbelieved or wished to avoid attention to her visions and stigmata.

Born: 12 March 1878 at Borgo Nuovo di Camigliano, Lucca, Tuscany, Italy.

Died: 11 April 1903 (Holy Saturday) of tuberculosis.

Canonized: 2 May 1940 by Pope Pius XII.

Patronage:

apothecaries; druggists; loss of parents; pharmacists; temptations.

If I saw the gates of Hell open and I stood on the brink of the abyss, I should not despair, I should not lose hope of mercy, because I should trust in You, my God.

— St. Gemma Galgani



Bl. James Kern

Norbertine Priest, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

20 October.

Profile:

Born in Austria. Entered seminary, but was drafted into the First World War. Horribly injured in the fighting, his wounds would go on to cause him intense suffering throughout his life. Returned to seminary at the end of the war, but something occurred shortly afterwards which dramatically affected him.

A priest of the Norbertine Order – Fr. Bogumil Zahradnik – left the Catholic Church and became leader in the schismatic Czech National Church. Moved to offer himself in atonement and reparation for the sins of this scandalous priest, Francis joined the Norbertines who received him as a seminarian, giving him the name James. Gravely ill and with great suffering, he made his final vows and was ordained priest in 1922. As a priest, he bore his constant pains with courage and without word of complaint. In and out of hospital, he had three ribs removed using only local anesthetic. With great enthusiasm, he engaged in his priestly ministry, spending long hours in the Confessional and zealously working with young people. He moved many by his preaching which always came from the heart.

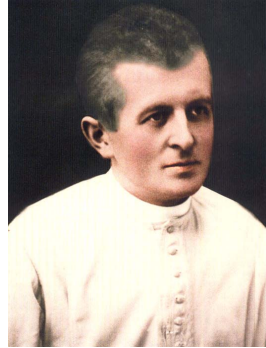
Went to his eternal reward on October 20th, 1924, at only 27 years of age, having been ordained just two years. When he beatified him, Pope John Paul II called him a “hero.”

Born: 11 August 1897 in Vienna, Austria.

Died: at noon on 20 October 1924 at Vienna, Austria.

Beatified: 21 June 1998 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage: confessors; Norbertines; victims souls; youth.



St. Stephen of Hungary

King, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

16 August.

Profile:

Born to a pagan family, but was baptized at age 10 with his father. King of the Magyars in Hungary. Married to Bl. Gisella of Ungarn, sister of Emperor St. Henry II. Evangelized both their peoples.

A king and ruler with a heart full of love of God and neighbour. He surrounded himself with saintly people. St. Astricus served as his advisor. Father of St. Emeric; arranged for St. Gerard Sagredo to tutor his son.

Stephen united the Magyars into a single nation, suppressing revolts led by pagan nobles. Crowned king on Christmas Day 1001 by Emperor Otto III by authority of Pope Sylvester II. Organized dioceses, and founded monasteries.

Born: 969 at Esztergom, Hungary.

Died: 15 August 1038.

Canonized: 1083 by Pope St. Gregory VII.

Patronage:

against the death of children; bricklayers; Hungary; kings; masons; stone masons; stonemasons.



Bl. Maria Stella and 10 Companion Martyrs (The 11 Martyrs of Nowogródek)

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Martyrs

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

1 August.

Profile:

A group of eleven Holy Family of Nazareth nuns who were murdered by Nazis in exchange for 120 condemned citizens of Nowogródek, Belarus.

Born: date and place of each varies.

Died: murdered on 1 August 1943 by the Gestapo in Nowogródek, Belarus

Beatified: 5 March 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage:

Belarus; persecuted people; prisoners; religious sisters.

Complete Names of the 11:

Bl. Maria Stella (born Adelaide Mardosiewicz) (1888-1943)

Bl. Maria Imelda (born Jadwiga Zak) (1892-1943)

Bl. Maria Rajmunda (born Anna Kukulowicz) (1892-1943)

Bl. Maria Daniela (born Eleanor Juzwik) (1895-1943)

Bl. Maria Kanuta (born Jozefa Chrobot) (1896-1943)

Bl. Maria Gwidona (born Helena Cierpka) (1900-1943)

Bl. Maria Sergia (born Julia Rapię) (1900-1943)

Bl. Maria Kanizja (born Eugenia Mackiewicz) (1904-1943)

Bl. Maria Felicyta (born Paulina Borowik) (1905-1943)

Bl. Maria Heliodora (born Leokadia Matustzewska) (1906-1943)

Bl. Maria Boromea (born Veronika Narmuntowicz) (1916-1943)



St. Stanislaus Papczyński

Priest, Confessor, Founder

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

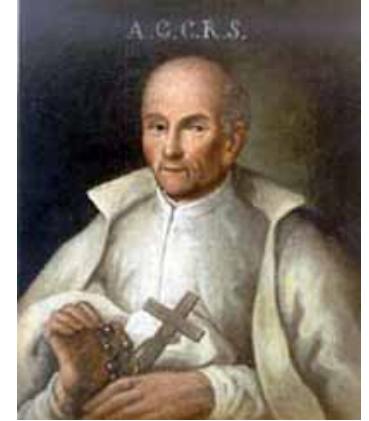
Feast:

17 September.

Profile:

Diligent student. His parents had hoped he would marry, but he entered the Piarist Order and was ordained a priest in 1661.

Valued as a confessor and a preacher, nevertheless, he sense God wanted something more of him. He called this time “a lengthy martyrdom” which he spent in frequent meditation on the Passion of Christ. Finally realized that God wanted him to found a new religious community. In 1669, with the approval of his superiors, he made an oath to found the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.



The focus of the new Order was to be apostolic with emphasis on teaching the truths of the faith. It also stressed the importance of preaching and pastoral care in the Sacrament of Confession.

After more than 30 years of foundation, Fr Papczyński pronounced his solemn vows on 6 June 1701 and then received the profession of the other Marians. The result: the first Polish Order in Poland’s history. Fr. Papczyński died just a few months later on 17 September 1701.

Born: 18 May 1631 in Podegrodzie, Malopolskie, Poland.

Died: 17 September 1701 in Góra Kalwaria, Mazowieckie, Poland of natural causes.

Beatified: 17 September 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Canonized: 5 June 2016 by Pope Francis.

Patronage:

The Order of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception; Poland.

St. Josemaria Escriva

Priest, Confessor, Founder of Opus Dei

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

26 June.

Profile:

As a young man saw the bare footprints left in the snow by a monk; moved, a desire for religious vocation kindled in him. Studied for the priesthood. Ordained 28 March 1925.

Rural parish priest. Following a profound spiritual retreat, he founded Opus Dei in Madrid on 2 October 1928, which emphasized sanctity while living in the midst of the world: heroically infusing one's personal, family, and social duties with Christian sanctity.

Forced into hiding during the religious persecution of the Spanish Civil War. Ministered covertly to his parishioners. All the while preaching the universal call to holiness tirelessly.

Opus Dei received the approval of the Holy See on 16 June 1950. By the time of his death, Opus Dei had spread to five continents with over 60,000 members of 80 nationalities, and today has over 80,000 members.

Born: 9 January 1902 at Barbastro, Spain.

Died: 26 June 1975 of natural causes in his office in Rome, Italy.

Canonized: 6 October 2002 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage: labor; laborers, Opus Dei; Spain; work; workers.

Blessed Josemaria untiringly preached the universal call to holiness and apostolate. Christ calls everyone to become holy in the realities of everyday life. Hence work too is a means of personal holiness and apostolate, when it is done in union with Jesus Christ.

— Pope John Paul II, beatification homily St. Josemaria



St. Francis de Sales

Founder, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

24 January.

Profile:

A Doctor of Law who became employed as a Senate advocate. Then he received a message telling him to "Leave all and follow Me." He took this as a call to the priesthood, a move his family fiercely opposed. However, he pursued a devoted prayer life, and his gentle ways won over the family.

Priest. Provost of the diocese of Geneva, Switzerland, a stronghold of Calvinists. Preacher, writer and spiritual director in the district of Chablais. His simple, clear explanations of Catholic doctrine, and his gentle way with everyone, brought many back to the Roman Church.

Bishop of Geneva at age 35. Traveled and evangelized prolifically, working with children whenever he could. Friend of St. Vincent de Paul. Helped found the Order of the Visitation with St. Jeanne de Chantal. Proclaimed Doctor of the Church.

Born: 1567 at Chateau of Thorens, Savoy.

Died: 28 December 1622 at Lyon.

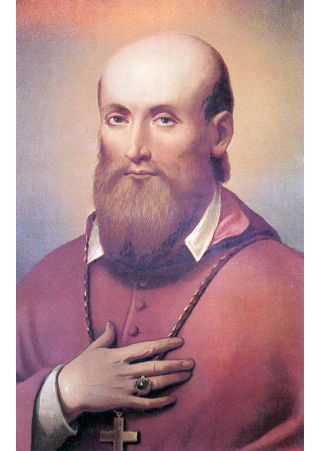
Canonized: 19 April 1665 by Pope Alexander VII.

Patronage:

authors; Catholic press; confessors; deaf people; deafness; educators; journalists; teachers; writers.

Nothing makes us so prosperous in this world as to give alms.

— St. Francis de Sales



Bl. Francisca Siedliska
(Bl. Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd)
Virgin, Foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:
21 November.

Profile:
Remained indifferent to religion until she met a zealous Capuchin priest, who prepared her for her first Holy Communion, at which time she offered herself completely to God. Desired a religious vocation, but her father opposed the idea; she had to wait to execute her mission of founding a new order. Founded her new congregation in 1875, receiving the blessing of Pope Pius IX. Named her order after the Holy Family, viewing it as the perfect model of total abandonment to the love of God.



The congregation spread rapidly. Having taken the name “Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd”, she devoted herself to her congregation, presiding at religious exercises, holding conferences, and writing letters of encouragement to her more than 29 foundations.

Her efforts slowly drained her of physical strength and Franciszka Siedliska died in Rome on the Feast of the Presentation of Mary, 21 November 1902.

Born: 12 November 1842, at Roszkowa Wola, Poland.
Died: 21 November 1902, at Rome, Italy of natural causes.

Beatified: 23 April 1989 Pope John Paul II.

Patronage: Poland; Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

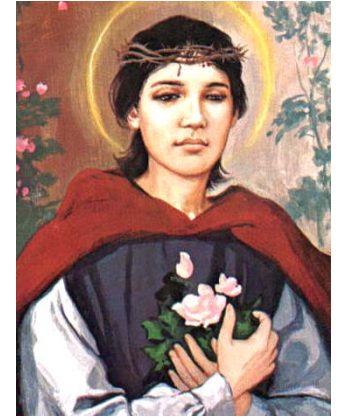
Thus I envisioned our life in Nazareth as a life of love externally given to work, service, performance of whatever Our Lord may require...

— Bl. Francisca Siedliska

St. Rose of Lima
Dominican Tertiary, Virgin
Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:
23 August.

Profile:
Born to Spanish immigrants to the New World. A beautiful girl and devoted daughter, she was so devoted to her vow of chastity that she used pepper and lye to ruin her complexion so she would not be attractive. Lived and meditated in a garden, raising vegetables and making embroidered items to sell to support her family and help the other poor. Dominican tertiary in 1606. Mystic. Visionary. Received invisible stigmata. Suffered from assorted physical and mental ailments. First saint born in the Americas. Founder of social work in Peru. Great devotion to Saint Catherine of Siena.



Born: 20 April 1586 at Lima, Peru as Isabel.

Died: 24 August 1617 at Lima, Peru of natural causes.

Canonized: 2 April 1671 by Pope Clement X.

Patronage:
against vanity; Americas; Central America; embroiderers; florists; gardeners; India; Latin America; Lima, Peru; needle workers; New World; people ridiculed for their piety; Peru; Philippines; Diocese of Santa Rosa, California; South America; vanity; Villareal Samar, Philippines; West Indies.

Bl. Tarsykia Matskiv

Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate Nun, Virgin, Martyr

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

18 July.

Profile:

Ukrainian Catholic. Entered the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate on 3 May 1938, taking her vows on 5 November 1940. Made a private vow to her spiritual director that she would give her life for the conversion of Russia and the good of the Church. When the Bolsheviks arrived to destroy her convent, Sister Taryskia was the one who answered the door; she was shot without warning. Martyr.



Born: 23 March 1919 at Khodoriv, Lviv District, Ukraine as Olha Mackiv.

Died: shot by a Russian soldier at 8:00 am on 18 July 1944.

Beatified: 27 June 2001 by Pope John Paul II at Ukraine.

Patronage:

Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate; Ukraine.

Bl. Contardo Ferrini

Layman, Franciscan Tertiary

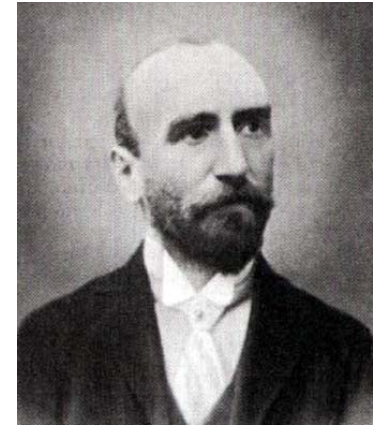
Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

17 October.

Profile:

Born in Milan in 1859. Very good student. By age 17 had obtained his Bachelor's degree. By 21 had graduated in law and, after a period of specialization in Berlin, at 24 was already teaching Roman law at the University of Pavia in Italy. He then taught at Messina and Modena and in 1894 returned to Pavia, where he remained until his death.



A noted scholar, lawyer, and researcher, he also cultivated a strong spirituality that will allow him to stand out in a society that was strongly anti-clerical. This attitude will be his main form of evangelization: his lifestyle was his "silent apostolate". He was able to speak of God even to the distant, to the indifferent, and even to atheists. Was a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society which cared for the poor and engaged in many other charitable activities. For four years was also on the municipal council of Milan, where he fought to keep religious education in primary schools.

Born: 4 April 1859 at Milan, Italy.

Died: 17 October 1902 at Suna, Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Italy of natural causes.

Beatified: 13 April 1947 by Pope Pius XII.

Patronage:

Colleges; schools; universities.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Virgin

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

17 April.

Profile:

Daughter of a Christian Algonquin woman and a non-Christian Mohawk chief. Orphaned during a smallpox epidemic, which left her with a scarred face and impaired eyesight. Converted and baptized at the age of 20 in 1676 by a Jesuit missionary. Shunned and abused by relatives for her faith. Escaped through 200 miles of wilderness to a colony of Christian Indians in Sault-Sainte-Marie, Canada. Lived a life dedicated to prayer, penance, and care for the sick and aged. Every morning, even in bitterest winter, she stood before the chapel door until it opened at four and remained there until after the last Mass. Took a vow of chastity in 1679.

Devoted to the Eucharist and to Jesus Crucified. Died at age twenty-four. Miracle worker. Her grave became a pilgrimage site and place of miracles for Christian Native Americans and French colonists. First canonized Native American.

Known as the "Lily of the Mohawks," devotion to her has established Native American ministries in Churches all over the USA and Canada.

Born: 1656 at Osserneon (Auriesville), modern New York, USA.

Died: 17 April 1680 at Caughnawaga, Canada, of natural causes.

Canonized: 21 October 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Patronage: Canada; ecologists; ecology; environment; environmentalism; environmentalists; exiles; loss of parents; Native Americans; North America; people ridiculed for their piety; the USA.



St. Benedict

Abbott, Founder of the Benedictine Order, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

11 July.

Profile:

Twin brother of St. Scholastica. Studied in Rome, Italy, but was dismayed by the lack of discipline and indifference of his fellow students. Fled to the mountains near Subiaco, to live as a hermit. Reportedly fed by a raven. His virtues caused an abbey to request him to lead them. Founded the monastery at Monte Cassino, where he wrote the Rule of his order. His discipline was such that an attempt was made on his life; some monks tried to poison him, but he blessed the cup and rendered it harmless. Returned to his cave, but continued to attract followers, and eventually established twelve monasteries. Had the ability to read consciences, the gift of prophesy, and could forestall attacks of the devil. Destroyed pagan statues and altars, drove demons from groves sacred to pagans. At one point there were over 40,000 monasteries guided by the Benedictine Rule. A summation of the Rule: "Pray and work."

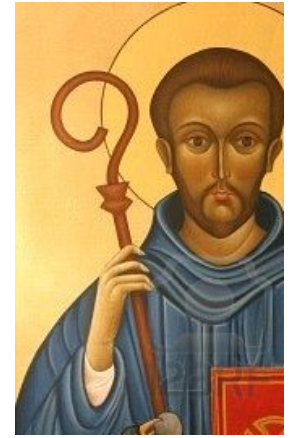
Born: circa 480, Nursia, Umbria, Italy.

Died: 21 March 547 of a fever while in prayer at Monte Cassino, Italy.

Canonized: 1220 by Pope Honorius III.

Patronage:

against erysipelas; against fever; against gall stones; against inflammatory diseases; against kidney disease; against nettle rash; against poison; against temptations; against witchcraft; agricultural workers; cavers; civil engineers; coppersmiths; dying people; Europe; farm workers; farmers; monks; people in religious orders; school children; servants who have broken their master's belongings; speleologists; spelunkers; students; Subiaco, Italy.



St. André Bessette of Montréal

Holy Cross Lay Brother, Confessor

Ex tela imbuta sanguinis (cloth infused with his blood)

Feast:

6 January.

Profile:

Orphaned at age twelve. Raised by an uncle. Worked as a farmhand, shoemaker, baker, blacksmith, and factory worker. At 25 he applied to join the Holy Cross Brothers. Initially refused due to poor health, but he gained the Bishop's support and was accepted.

Doorkeeper and labourer for the order at Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. Spent much of each night in prayer. Especially devoted to Saint Joseph: "Some day, Saint Joseph will be honored on Mount Royal."

Had a special ministry to the sick. Would rub the sick person with oil from a lamp in the college chapel, and many were healed. Word spread. When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, Andre volunteered to help; no one died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. By his death, he was receiving 80,000 letters each year from the sick who sought his prayers and healing.

For many years the Holy Cross brothers had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother Andre climbed the steep hill and planted medals of St. Joseph on it. Soon after, the owners yielded. It is the site of St. Joseph's Oratory, the largest oratory to St. Joseph in the world.

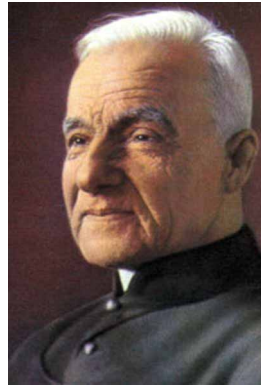
Born: 9 August 1845 near Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Died: 6 January 1937 of 'gastric catarrh' at Montreal, Quebec, Canada. More than a million people attended his funeral.

Canonized: 17 October 2010 Pope Benedict XVI.

Patronage:

Canada; Congregation of the Holy Cross; Montreal; the sick.



St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Virgin, Religious, Foundress

Ex capillis (from the hair)

Feast:

5 September.

Profile:

Born as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Daughter of an Albanian businessman who died when she was nine years old. Became a Loretto Nun, and worked as a missionary and teacher in Calcutta, India in 1928. In 1948, after hearing a request from Our Lord, she left the convent to work with the poorest of the poor. She founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. A model of humility and charity, she worked selflessly with her sisters to bring comfort to the poor and the unwanted. She built hospices, hospitals and clinics, treating the people for whom society had given up hope as if it were Jesus Himself that was being served. The Missionaries of Charity made no distinction among persons, neither in terms of race or religion: all received the same royal Christian love from.

Among her many awards is included the Nobel Peace Prize, which she received in 1979.

The Missionaries today work in 30 countries.

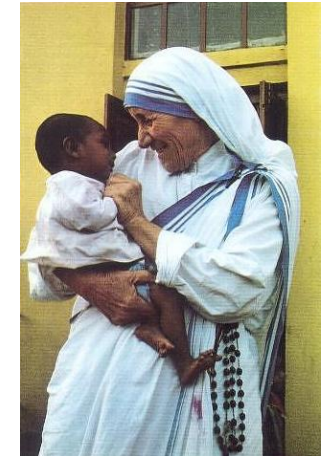
Born: 26 August 1910 in Skopje, Albania (modern Macedonia).

Died: 5 September 1997 in Calcutta, West Bengal, India of natural causes.

Beatified: 19 October 2003 by Pope John Paul II.

Canonized: 4 September 2016 by Pope Francis.

Patronage: Calcutta; the destitute; India; the poor; the sick; the unwanted; World Youth Day; the youth.



St. Edith Stein

Philosopher, Carmelite Nun, Martyr

Ex indumentis (piece of her clothing)

Feast:

9 August.

Profile:

Youngest of seven children in a Jewish family. Lost interest and faith in Judaism by age 13. Brilliant student and philosopher with an interest in phenomenology. Earned her doctorate in philosophy in 1916 at age 25. Witnessing the strength of faith of Catholic friends led her to an interest in Catholicism, which led to studying a catechism on her own, which led to "reading herself into" the Faith. Baptized on 1 January 1922.



Carmelite nun in 1934, taking the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Profound spiritual writer. Teacher in the Dominican school in Speyer, Germany and lecturer at the Educational Institute in Munich, Germany. However, anti-Jewish pressure from the Nazis forced her to resign both positions. After fleeing to the Netherlands in 1938 she and her sister Rose, also a convert to Catholicism, were captured and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz where they died in the ovens like so many others.

Born: 12 October 1891 at Breslaw, Dolnoslaskie, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland).

Died: Gassed on 9 August 1942 in the ovens of Oswiecim (a.k.a. Auschwitz) in Malopolskie, Poland.

Canonized: 11 October 1998 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage: against the death of parents; Europe; martyrs; philosophers; phenomenologists.

St. Mary of Jesus Crucified

Carmelite Nun, Virgin

Ex indumentis et sanguine (piece of her clothing infused with her blood)

Feast:

26 August.

Profile:

Twelve of her thirteen brothers died in infancy. Orphaned at two. Raised by a paternal uncle who betrothed her in an arranged marriage at age 13, but she refused insisting on a religious life. As punishment he hired her out as a servant, making sure she had the lowest and most menial of jobs. When a Muslim servant with whom she worked failed to convert her to Islam he cut her throat and dumped her in an alley. She lived; the Virgin Mary herself treated her wound.



In 1860 she moved in with the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Supernatural events began to occur around her, and the Sisters would not have her. Entered the Carmelite monastery at Pau.

Fought off a demonic possession for 40 days, received the stigmata, was seen to levitate, had the gift of prophecy and knowledge of consciences, and permitted her guardian angel to speak through her. Helped found the missionary Carmel of Mangalore, India. Returned to France in 1872. Built a Carmelite monastery in Bethlehem in 1875. Known for her devotion to the Holy Spirit, even sending word to Pope Pius IX that the Spirit was not emphasized enough in seminaries.

Born: 5 January 1846 at Abellin, Galilee, Palestine as Mary Baouardy.

Died: 26 August 1878 at Bethlehem of gangrene following an injury received at the construction site of the Bethlehem monastery.

Canonized: 17 May 2015 by Pope Francis.

Patronage: Bethlehem; those oppressed by the devil; Carmelites.

Sts. Zélie Guérin and Louis Martin *Parents of St. Therese of Lisieux*

Spouses and Laypersons
Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:
12 July.

Profile:
Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin married after just three months of courtship. Thinking that they could live more virtuous lives by being celibates, the couple lived as brother and sister for ten months after their wedding. On the recommendation of a priest, however, they finally consummated their marriage. They were models of Christian living and would later have nine children, though only five – all daughters – would survive infancy. All five became nuns, the most famous of which is St. Thérèse of Lisieux.



Born: Louis: 22 August 1823, Bordeaux, France.
Zélie: 23 December 1831, Saint-Denis-sur-Sarthon, France.
Died: Louis: 29 July 1894, Arnières-sur-Iton, Eure, France.
Zélie: 28 August 1877, Alençon, Orne, France.

Beatified: 19 October 2008 at the Basilique de Sainte-Thérèse, Lisieux, France, by Cardinal José Saraiva Martins.

Canonized: 18 October 2015 by Pope Francis.

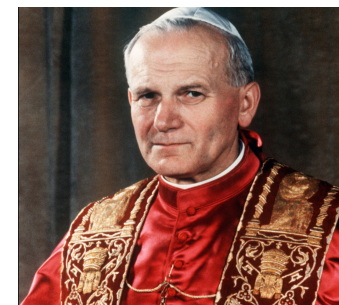
Patronage:
Parents; mothers; fathers.

Pope St. John Paul II

Confessor
Ex capillis (from the hair)

Feast:
22 October.

Profile:
Studied for the priesthood secretly during the German occupation of Poland. Was a parish priest and then a university professor before Pope Paul VI appointed him Archbishop of Krakow.



Proved himself a noble and trustworthy pastor in the face of Communist persecution. Prominent contributor to Vatican II. Elected Pope on 16 October 1978, the first non-Italian pope since 1522.

The most traveled pope in history, having visited nearly every country in the world which would receive him. Emphasized the universal call to holiness; beatified 1,340 blessed and canonized 483 saints, more than the combined tally of his predecessors during the preceding five centuries. Is regarded as the single biggest influence in the fall of communism in the USSR. As the Vicar of Christ he consecrated each place that he has visited to the Blessed Virgin Mary. On 25 March 1984 consecrated the world to Mary in union with all the Bishops of the Catholic Church, in fulfillment of Our Lady's promises at Fatima.

Respected in both the Catholic and non-Catholic world, at the time of his death he was the most beloved person man on earth.

Born: 18 May 1920 at Wadowice, Poland, as Karol Józef Wojtyła.
Died: 2 April 2005 in the Apostolic Palace, Vatican City of natural causes.

Canonized: 27 April 2014 by Pope Francis.

Patronage: Poland; popes; World Youth Day.

St. John Bosco

Confessor

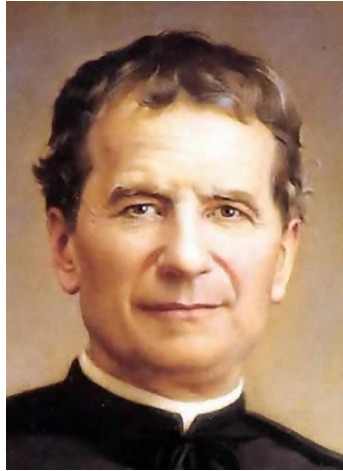
Ex carne (from the flesh)

Feast:

31 January.

Profile:

His father died when he was two years old. As soon as he was old enough he worked odd jobs to help support his family. Would go to circuses, fairs and carnivals, practice the tricks that he saw magicians perform, and then put on one-boy shows. After his performance, while he still had an audience of boys, he would repeat the homily he had heard earlier that day in church.



Worked as a tailor, baker, shoemaker, and carpenter while attending college and seminary. Ordained at age 26. A teacher, he worked constantly with young people, finding places where they could meet, play and pray, teaching catechism to orphans and apprentices. Wrote short treatises aimed at explaining the faith to children, and then taught children how to print them. Founded the Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) in 1859, priests who work with and educate children, and the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, for the same purpose, in 1872.

On January 31, 1988, Pope John Paul II declared him the Father and Teacher of Youth.

Born: 16 August 1815 at Becchi, Castelnuovo d'Asti, Piedmont, Italy.

Died: 31 January 1888 at Turin, Italy of natural causes.

Canonized: 1 April 1934 by Pope Pius XI.

Patronage:

apprentices; boys; editors; laborers; schoolchildren; students; young people.

St. Sebastian

Martyr

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

20 January.

Profile:

Officer of the Roman army; captain of the guard. Favorite of Diocletian. During Diocletian's persecution of the Christians, Sebastian visited them in prison, bringing supplies and comfort. Reported to have healed the wife of a brother soldier by making the Sign of the Cross over her. Converted soldiers and a governor.

Charged as a Christian, was tied to a tree, shot with arrows, and left for dead. He survived, recovered, and returned to preach to Diocletian. The emperor then beat him to death.

Born: at Milan, Italy, circa 263 AD.

Died: martyred circa 288 at Rome.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

archers; armourers; arrowsmiths; athletes; bookbinders; diseased cattle; dying people; enemies of religion; fletchers; gardeners; gunsmiths; iron mongers; lacemakers; laceworkers; lead workers; masons; plague; police; Pontifical Swiss Guards; racquet makers; soldiers; Spanish police officers; stone masons; stonecutters.



Bl. Christina the Astonishing

Virgin

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

24 July.

Profile:

At age 21, she experienced a seizure so severe that it apparently killed her. During her funeral, she suddenly recovered and levitated to the roof of the church. Stated that she had been to hell, purgatory, and heaven, and had been returned to earth to pray for souls in purgatory.



Practiced mortification for the salvation of souls. Slept on rocks, wore rags, and ate what came to hand; would roll in fire or handle it without harm, stand in freezing water in the winter for hours, spend long periods in tombs, or allow herself to be dragged under water by a mill wheel, though she never sustained injury. Given to ecstasies during which she led the souls of the recently dead to purgatory, and those in purgatory to paradise. Could smell the sin on people: she would climb trees or buildings, hide in ovens or cupboards, or levitate to avoid contact with them.

Always obeyed the commands and directions of Church authorities.

Born: 1150 at Brusthem near Liege, Belgium.

Died: 24 July 1224 at Saint Catherine's convent, Sint-Truiden, Belgium of natural causes.

Beatified: no formal beatification has taken place, but the Vatican has listed her as a Blessed in the Roman Martyrology.

Patronage:

against insanity; against madness; against mental disorders; against mental handicaps; against mental illness; lunatics; mental health caregivers; mental health professionals; mentally ill people; psychiatrists; therapists

St. Joan of Arc

Virgin

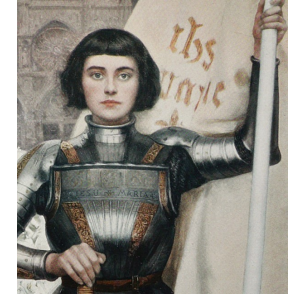
Earth from the site where she was burned at the stake

Feast:

30 May.

Profile:

Shepherdess. From age 13 received visions from St. Margaret of Antioch, St. Catherine of Alexandria, and St. Michael the Archangel.



In the early 15th century, England controlled much of what is modern France. Her visions told her to find the true king of France and help him reclaim his throne. She resisted for more than three years, but finally went to Charles VII and told him of her visions. Carrying a banner that read "Jesus, Mary", she led troops from one astounding victory to another. Severely wounded; but her victories from 23 February 1429 to 23 May 1430 brought Charles VII to the throne. Captured by the Burgundians. Sold to the English for 10,000 francs. Put on trial by an ecclesiastical court conducted by Cauchon, Bishop of Beauvais, a supporter of England, and was burned at the stake as a heretic. In 1456 her case was re-tried, and she was acquitted (23 years too late).

"About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they're just one thing, and we shouldn't complicate the matter."

– St. Joan of Arc, as recorded at her trial.

Born: circa 1412 at Domrémy, Duchy of Bar, in the Kingdom of France.

Died: Burned at the stake on 30 May 1431 (aged approx. 19) at Rouen, Normandy (then under English rule).

Canonized: 16 May 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

Patronage:

France; captives; military personnel; people ridiculed for their piety; prisoners; rape victims; soldiers; those opposed by Church authorities; women in the military service; women in the police service.

St. Jerome

Priest, Confessor, Doctor of the Church

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

30 September.

Profile:

Born to a rich pagan family, he led a misspent youth. Studied in Rome. Lawyer. Converted in theory, and baptized in 365, he began his study of theology, and had a true conversion. Monk. Lived for years as a hermit in the Syrian deserts. Reported to have drawn a thorn from a lion's paw; the animal stayed loyally at his side for years. Priest.

Student of St. Gregory of Nazianzen. Secretary to Pope Damasus I who commissioned him to revise the Latin text of the Bible. The result of his 30 years of work was the Vulgate translation, which is still in use. Friend and teacher of St. Paula, St. Marcella, and St. Eustochium, an association that led to so much gossip that Jerome left Rome to return to the desert solitude. He lived his last 34 years in the Holy Land as a semi-recluse. Wrote translations of histories, biographies, the works of Origen, and much more. Doctor of the Church, Father of the Church. Since his own time, he has been associated in the popular mind with scrolls, writing, cataloguing, translating, which led to those who work in such fields taking him as their patron.

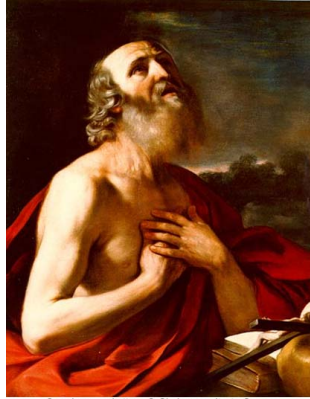
Born: circa 347 at Strido, Dalmatia.

Died: circa 419 of natural causes at Bethlehem.

Canonized: by acclamation of the people of God (i.e., prior to the formal canonization process).

Patronage:

Archeologists; archivists; Bible scholars; librarians; libraries; schoolchildren; students; translators.



Guercino e sua bottega, S. Girolamo penitente, Cesena

St. Lawrence of Brindisi

Priest, Confessor, Doctor of the Church

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

21 July.

Profile:

Felt an early call to religious life. Joined the Capuchin Friars in 1575 at age 16. Studied theology, the Bible, French, German, Greek, Spanish, Syriac, and Hebrew at the University of Padua. Brilliant student; known for his facility with languages. Ordained a priest. Taught theology. Served as linguist and military chaplain. Forceful, effective, and renowned preacher in multiple languages. Founded convents. Wrote catechisms.

Made chaplain of the army of the Holy Roman Empire in 1601. Rallied the German princes to fight a much superior Ottoman Turkish force, and was asked to lead the army into battle at Stuhlweissenburg (modern Székesfehérvár, Hungary) carrying no weapon but a crucifix. Turks were completely defeated. Carried out important and successful diplomatic peace missions to Munich, Germany and Madrid, Spain. Assigned in 1605 to evangelize in Germany, where he had great success. Convinced Philip III of Spain to join the German Catholic League. Often fell into ecstasies while celebrating Mass. Proclaimed Doctor of the Church by Pope John XXIII in 1959.

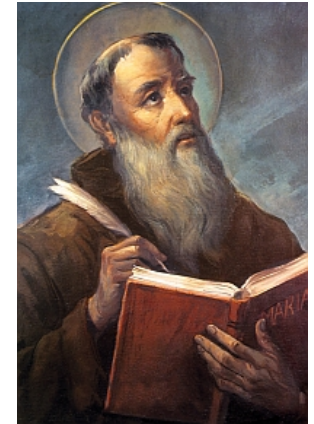
Born: 22 July 1559 at Brindisi, Italy as Julius Caesar Rossi.

Died: 22 July 1619 at Lisbon, Portugal of natural causes.

Canonized: 8 December 1881 by Pope Leo XIII.

Patronage:

Brindisi, Italy; linguists; diplomats; those struggling to learn languages; Muslim converts; invokes for the conversion of Muslims.



Bl. Solanus Casey

Priest, Confessor

Ex ossibus (particle of bone)

Feast:

31 July.

Profile:

Born in Wisconsin, USA. Joined the Franciscan Capuchins in 1897. Ordained a priest in 1904, but because he was unable to complete the German language requirements of seminary (a language he did not know and which he labored to learn), Fr. Solanus was limited in his duties, not being permitted to preach or to hear Confessions. Assigned as porter (doorman) of his house, first in New York and then in Detroit, Michigan. Prayed with whoever came to the door. Exercised a wonderful ministry of counseling, healing, and prayer in this manner. Thousands per year came to see him ... even non-Christians and the occasional atheist. Copious amounts of miraculous healings and divine favors reported by those for whom he prayed.

His simple faith, soft voice, and deep prayer life, led him to be a much sought-after spiritual advisor. Was seen by some to levitate into the air when he prayed. Credited with saving the Chevrolet Automobile Company from bankruptcy in 1925 by his prayers. Days after he prayed, Chevrolet received an order for 45,000 cars.

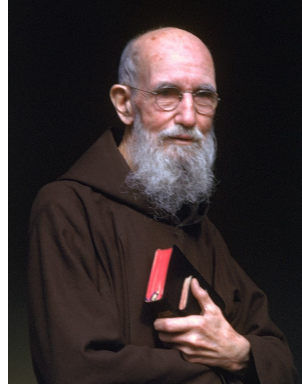
Born: 25 November 1870 in Oak Grove, Wisconsin.

Died: 31 July 1957 in Detroit, Michigan of natural causes.

Beatified: 18 November 2017 by Cardinal Angelo Amato.

Patronage:

Detroit, Michigan; auto workers; the auto industry; struggling students; academically struggling seminarians.



St. Peter Damian

Bishop, Confessor, Doctor of the Church

Ex ossibus (particles of bone)

Feast:

21 February.

Profile:

Excelled in studies, becoming himself a professor. Gave up teaching to become a Benedictine monk. Elected prior of his house. Expanded the monastery, greatly improved its library, and founded sister hermitages.



Attended:

a synod in Rome in 1047, and encouraged Pope Gregory VI to support a revitalization of Church zeal and priestly discipline. Wrote *Liber Gomorrhianus* (The Book of Gomorrah), in which he describes the vices of many clerics of his day: their greed, their committing simony, and their perversions of the flesh.

A prolific correspondent, he also wrote dozens of sermons, seven biographies, and poetry, including some of the best Latin of the time. He tried to retire to live as a simple monk, but was routinely recalled as papal legate, called upon to make peace between arguing monastic houses, clergymen, and government officials, etc. Declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828.

Born: circa 1007 at Ravenna, Italy.

Died: 22 February 1072 of fever at Ravenna, Italy.

Canonized: 1823 by Pope Leo XII.

Patronage:

Faenza, Italy; victims of sexual abuse; priests; bishops.

Stone from a Cave within which St. Michael the Archangel appeared

Feast:
29 September.

Profile:
Archangel Michael was the leader of the army of God during Lucifer's revolt. Considered the guardian angel of Israel, and the guardian and protector of the Church. In the Book of Daniel (12:1), Michael is prophesied as rising up to defend the Church against the Anti-Christ.



The feast of the Apparition of St. Michael celebrated annually on May 8 commemorates his appearances in the year 492 within a mountain cave, near San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. A local nobleman lost his best bull. After much searching, he found it kneeling in a cave. Mysteriously unable to approach it, he shot the bull with an arrow, but the arrow turned around and struck him instead.

He consulted the bishop as to what all this meant. The bishop ordered three days of prayer and fasting. Afterward St. Michael appeared to the bishop three times, ordering a chapel to be built in honor of the Holy Angels in the cave. He did so, and it stands to this day. This stone is from the cave's interior, where the apparition occurred.

Patronage:
against danger at sea; against temptations; ambulance drivers; artists bakers; bankers; banking; barrel makers; battle; boatmen; coopers; the dying; grocers; haberdashers; hatmakers; hatters; a holy death; knights; mariners; against temptations; paramedics; paratroopers; police officers; radiologists; radiotherapists; sailors; security guards; sick people; soldiers; storms at sea; swordsmiths.

St. Damian of Molokai

Confessor

Ex indumentis (particle of clothing)

Feast:
15 April.

Profile:
Son of a small farmer. Studied at the college at Braine-le-Comte, Belgium. Joined the Picpus Fathers on 7 October 1860, taking the name Damien. Seminarian in Paris, France. Volunteered for missionary work while still in seminary, and was sent to Hawaii. Ordained in Honolulu on 24 May 1864. Missionary on islands where his single parish was the size of all of his native Belgium. Resident priest in the leper colony on Molokai where for years he worked alone to minister to the patients' spiritual and medical needs. His work turned a wretched dump for the unwanted into a real community with the best treatment of the day, and patients who lived strong spiritual lives. He contracted leprosy in 1885, and though severely crippled by the disease, Father Damien worked until the end.



Born: 3 January 1840 on the family farm at Tremeloo, Belgium as Joseph de Veuster

Died: 15 April 1889 at Molokai, Hawaii from leprosy. Was buried next to St. Philomena Church, Molokai, Hawaii. Reinterred in the church of St. Antonius, Leuven, Belgium in 1936.

Canonized: 11 October 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI

Patronage:
against leprosy; lepers; Hawaii.

Bl. Margaret of Castello

Virgin

Ex ossibus (from the bones)

Feast:

13 April.

Profile:

Born a blind, lame, deformed, hunchback midget. Her parents were nobility, and kept her hidden from the world out of shame. When she was six years old, they walled her up in a room attached to their residence's chapel; she could not get out, but could attend Mass and receive the Sacraments. Her parent's chaplain instructed her in the faith. After 14 years of imprisonment, her parents took her to a shrine to pray for a cure. When none occurred, they abandoned her there. The town's poor took her in as one of their own and looked after her.



She became a lay Dominican, and spent her life in prayer and charity, looking after children. When she died, the townspeople thronged her funeral, and demanded she be buried in a tomb inside the church. The priest protested, as that an honor reserved for few, but a crippled girl was miraculously cured at the funeral, and he consented. When her body was later exhumed in 1558, it was found to be incorrupt. The bishop described her body as follows: "She measured four feet long, with her head being rather large in proportion to her thin figure. Her forehead was broad, with a face tapering to the chin with a quite prominent nose. Her teeth were small and serrated. Her hands and feet were small with her right leg an inch and a half shorter than the left (the cause for her limp). Patroness of the Pro-Life movement.

Born: in 1287 at Mercatello sul Metauro, Città di Castello, Papal States.

Died: 12 April 1320 (aged 32–33) Città di Castello, Papal States.

Beatified: 19 October 1609 by Pope Paul V.

Patronage:

the Pro-life movement, disabled persons, against impoverishment.

St. Gianna Molla

Mother

Ex capillis (from the hair)

Feast:

28 April.

Profile:

One of the greatest saints of modern times. A pious girl raised in a pious family. Became a physician and surgeon, working especially with mothers, babies, and the poor. Active in Catholic Action. She was married to Pietro Molla on 24 September 1955. Mother of three, she continued her medical career, treating it as a mission and gift from God. During her pregnancy with her fourth child, she was diagnosed with a large ovarian cyst. Her surgeon recommended an abortion in order to save her life; she refused and died a week after childbirth, caring more for her unborn child than for her own life. Today that child is a physician herself, and involved in the pro-life movement.



Born: 4 October 1922 in Magenta, Milan, Italy.

Died: 28 April 1962 in Monza Maternity Hospital of complications from an ovarian cyst.

Canonized: 16 May 2004 by Pope John Paul II.

Patronage:

unborn babies; pregnant mothers; difficult pregnancies; the Pro-life movement.

If you must choose between me and the baby, no hesitation; choose -- and I demand it -- the baby, Save him!

— St. Gianna Molla to her physician at his suggestion she have an abortion to save her life.

Bl. Teresa Demjanovich

Virgin

Ex capillis (from the hair)

Feast:

8 May.

Profile:

Born to immigrants to the USA from what is modern-day eastern Slovakia. Raised in the Byzantine-Ruthenian rite.

Valedictorian of her high school class.

Teacher at the St. Aloysius Academy in

Jersey City, New Jersey. Many remarked on her humility and piety.

Could be found kneeling in the chapel at all hours. Devoted to praying the rosary. Entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth in 1925. Excelled in perfection. In June 1926, her spiritual director asked her to write the conferences for the novitiate.

Wrote 26 conferences which, after her death, were published in a book, *Greater Perfection*. In November 1926, became gravely ill. After a tonsillectomy, she returned to the convent, but could barely walk to her room. After a few days, she asked if she could return to the infirmary, but her superior, thinking it odd that someone so young could be so sick, told her, "Pull yourself together." Her brother arranged for her to be taken to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with "physical and nervous exhaustion, with myocarditis and acute appendicitis." She would never recover. Made profession of permanent religious vows *in articulo mortis* (danger of death) on 2 April 1927. Favours and cures attributed to her intercession are continually being reported.

Born: 26 March 1901 in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Died: 8 May 1927 in Convent Station, New Jersey, of complications following appendicitis.

Beatified: 4 October 2014.

Patronage:

Americans.

