

## YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE FEATURE SAINTS:

**St. Francis of Paola:** Feast day: April 2

Patronage: Panama, boatman, naval officers, mariners

Born: 3-2-1416 Died: 4-2-1507 Canonized: 1519 by Pope Leo X

Born in Paola, Italy Francis' family were very devout Catholics who had a special devotion to St. Francis of Assisi, who Francis of Paola was named after. He was educated by the Franciscans of San Marco, and at the age of 13, had a vision which made him eager to join the Franciscans. At age 15 he became a Franciscan hermit, and in 1463 Francis, and a few other companions founded a community that was considered the Foundation of the Friars Minor. The Rules emphasized penance, charity and humility, as well as fasting from meat. He worked many miracles and was able to see into the hearts of people. Pope Sixtus IV in 1479 approved the order of the Hermits of St. Francis, today known as Minim Friars. Francis died at 91 on Good Friday.

**St. Julie Billart:** Feast: April 8

Patronage: against poverty, bodily ills, disease

Born: 6-12-1751 Died: 4-8-1816 Canonized: June 22, 1969

Born in Cuvilly Picaray, France, Julie was the sixth of seven children. At the young age of 7, she knew the whole Catechism by heart. Because of her holiness and devoutness, the parish priest allowed her to make her First Holy Communion and Confirmation at the age of 7, which in those days was considered especially young. When Julie was 22, she became paralyzed due to a gun wound and was confined in bed. She did not feel sorry for herself though, during this difficult time Julie was found in prayer, receiving Holy Communion daily, making altar clothes and teaching children the Catechism so that they could be prepared to receive First Eucharist. After completing a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she was cured. The bishop of Amiens needed help in starting a new religious order, in which St. Julie offered to help. This new order was called Sister of Notre Dame. Their main task was to educate and take care of the poor. On June 19, 1806 the vows for the Community that Julie made, were approved. In a span of 12 years she founded 12 convents. Today this order has spread throughout the whole world.

**St. Catherine of Siena:** Feast: April 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>

Patronage: against fires, bodily ills, Pennsylvania, ridiculed for piety, impure temptations, consecrated virgins

Born: 3-25-1343 Died: 3-29-1380 Canonized: 1461

As a young girl, Catherine delighted herself in prayer. Even at the young age of 7, she was known for her piety and even made a vow of virginity. It is said that her father wanted her to marry, and once upon entering her room and finding her in prayer, he saw a dove with was above her head. After seeing this, he realized that there was a special relationship with her and our Lord. Catherine would continue to have many apparitions of Jesus, and once He gave her His heart in exchange for hers. At the age of 15 she became a Third Order Dominican from home. Although those who join Third Orders in any religious order, are not required to take a vow of virginity, Catherine of Siena did, and in doing so is thought to have started the religious group called Consecrated Virgins, which is almost like joining a convent, except for those who are unable to join due to health or other reasons. Catherine brought many back to Christ and the true Pope back to Rome. During her time there were 3 different men who claimed to be the true pope. After much effort she succeeded in bringing back Pope Gregory XI. Catherine would also become the

consular to Pope Urban VI, who would correct and change all the cardinals who were disloyal to the pope. She spent the rest of her life praying and weeping for unity and peace. Saint Catherine of Siena died at the age of 33 in Rome.

**St. Pope Pius V:** Feast Day: May 5 Patronage: Italy, Peitrelcina

Born 1-17-1504 Died:5-1-1572 Canonized: May 22, 1712

Papacy Began: January 7 1566 Papacy Ended: May 1, 1572

Known as Michele Ghislieri, at the age of 14, he entered the Dominican Order, which was very large in numbers at the time and the orders were not following the traditional rules. Michele was appointed Inquisitor, which gave him the opportunity to restore the order as it was originally by its founders, much like what St. Therese and St. John of Avila did to the Carmelite Order. Soon after he was appointed Commissariat of the Holy Office, and is credited to having Standardizing the Order of the Mass which remained unchanged for a period of 400 years. He became Pope after the death of Pope Pius IV on January 8, 1566. He died of cancer on May 1, 1572.

**St. John of Avila or St. John of the Cross:** Feast: May 10

Patronage: Andalusia, Spain, Spanish secular Clergy

Born: 1-6-1499 Died:5-10-1569 Canonized: May 31, 1970

St. John was born to a poor very devout family. John's father did come from a wealthy family however when he fell in love and married an orphan, the family rejected him, and left him in deep poverty. When John was 7, his father died, and the mother relocated to the city so that she could find work and her son could go to school for poor children. John was studying at the Jesuit School when he got the calling to become a Carmelite. Carmelites are known for their deep prayer life in which John strived for. However little did he know, that the Carmelite order was straying far from its origin. In 1571 John was ordained a priest, and the lack of discipline in the monastery distressed him very much. He felt alone and like an outcast, until he met St. Therese of Avila, who liked John, was battling the same liberalism in her convents. However, she already succeeded in the founding of two Carmelite Convents which followed the Traditional Rules. John then attempted to found his own Carmelite order, however, the Carmelite monks who liked the liberal rules, captured John and locked him in a cell that was roughly 6"x10". They were hoping to kill him, however miraculously he escaped, and was able to start his own Carmelite Monastery which followed the traditional rules and values. During his time he wrote spiritual poetry such as the "Dark Night" and "Spiritual Canticle".

**Our Lady of Fatima:** Feast Day: May 13

Date of the Apparitions: May 13<sup>th</sup>-October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1917 (the 13<sup>th</sup> of every month)

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1917 three shepherd children by the name of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco in Fatima had a visitation from the Blessed Mother. She would appear on the 13<sup>th</sup> of every month in the Cova de Ira until October, each time with different messages. Her main message was for the whole world to be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart, or else the breakout of WWII would start and a rise to Communism. Mary also stressed the importance of praying the rosary and that people would do penance. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, who promised the children that she would perform a miracle so that all who were there would believe, fulfilled her promise by making the sun dance in the sky, and come so close to the earth, that many thought that it would be the end. During this apparition, Mary spoke to the three children dressed as

our Lady of Mount Carmel and spoke about the importance of wearing the religious habit. After the sun dance in the sky, it dried all the fields around them, and the 70,000 that were standing in the fields were dried after it rained for 3 days. Then iridescent rose petals fell to the ground.

**St. Phillip Nerri** Feast Day: May 26

Patronage: Rome, Special forces, Institution of Christ the King

Sovereign Priest, laughter, humor, and joy

Born: 7-21-1515 Died: 5-25-1595 Canonized: March 12, 1622

Brought up in a wealthy family, Philip was educated by the Dominican Monks. At the age of 18 he went to San Germanoto stay with his uncle, a wealthy merchant. Phillip hoped to inherit his uncle's business, but experienced a religious conversion then went to Rome to become a Jesuit priest. While studying for priesthood, Phillip was known to have gone all over Rome and took pleasure in taking care of people thus gaining the title of "Apostle of Rome" he did this for 17 years. In 1544 Phillip met St. Ignatius of Loyola, who at the time was starting his own Jesuit Order. Phillip as well as other followers eagerly joined. In 1548, Phillip founded a Confraternity of the Most Holy Trinity of Pilgrims and Convalescents. The goal of this Confraternity was to take care of the pilgrims who came to Rome, and to help those who were homeless. When the Jesuit Order was looking for Missionaries to send to India, Phillip hoped that he would be selected, until he realized that he could be a missionary in Rome, without ever leaving his country. He would go all around Rome, with many other followers preaching the gospels. With the permission of the Pope, he organized a Community of secular priest, and named it The Congregation of the Oratory. Phillip was also known for giving confessions that would last 17 hours. When he would say Holy Mass, he was known to levitate. Phillip had a great sense of humor and loved to make other people as joyful as he was.

**St. Pope John XXIII** Feast Day: June 3

Patronage: Papal delegates, Patriarchy of Venice, Vatican Council II and Christian Unity

Born: 11-25-1881 Died: 6-3-1965 Canonized: April 27, 2014

Born to a poor family of share croppers, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Pope John XXIII) became a priest and served in many places such as France, Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey, and eventually became the Patriarch of Venice. When the papal election began, Cardinal Roncalli purchased a return ticket to Venice, not expecting that he would be elected as the next Pope. He was very kind and simple to those around him and even raised the wages of all those who took care of the Papal Estate. Pope John XXIII surprised the whole world when he introduced Vatican II, which many did not expect him to do because of his old age. Unfortunately he did not live to see the completion of Vatican II. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, he died of stomach cancer. While living he would make Pastoral Visits in Rome, and would go to hospitals and jails to visit those who were imprisoned.

**St. Norbert** Feast Day: June 6

Patronage: invoke during childbirth for a safe delivery

Born: 1080 Died: June 6, 1134 Canonized: 1582

Saint Norbert was born and educated in Xaten, his parents were very wealthy. When he was of age, Norbert became a subdeacon and his only task was to chant the Divine Office, which he paid someone else to chant because he did not want to. Norbert became the Chaplain to King V in Cologne and was paid good money, which made him change his mind about becoming a priest. God however had other plans for him. One day while riding his horse, a lightning bolt struck

his horse's leg, thus throwing him to the ground. After this nearly tragic accident, Norbert realized that he better listen to God's call. He joined the Abbey of St. Stigeberg and was very devout. At the age of 35 Norbert finally became a priest who had a great devotion to Mary the Mother of God, and to the Holy Eucharist. He founded an abbey of Furstenberg, with such severe rules that many who joined died. After speaking with Pope Gelasius II he became an itinerant preacher until the year 1119, when Pope Calixtus asked him to found another Religious order in France following the Rules of St. Augustine. He was very vigilant in protecting the Church's rights against the secular world. Norbert also composed many of the Gregorian Chants of the church, along with St. Gregory.

**St. Columba** Feast Day: June 9

Patronage: Derry Ireland, Floods, book binders, poets, Ireland, Scotland Born: December 7, 521 Died: June 9, 597

St. Columba was born in Ireland and became an abbot and missionary. He founded many Monasteries in Ireland before going to Scotland to spread Catholicism. It was there that he founded a religious order on Iona which became the main religious and political institution for centuries. St Columba lived in Scotland for the remainder of his life, and is called one of the 12 apostles of Ireland.

**St. Margaret of Scotland** Feast Day: June 10

Patronage: Scotland, the Queens Ferry, and Anglo-Saxon relations

Born: 1045 Died: 1093 Canonized: 1250

St. Margaret was an English princess who was born in Hungary. In 1070 she married Malcolm III of Scotland. Her piety granted her the title, "The Pearl of Scotland". She established The Queens Ferry which crossed the Fifth of Fourths, carrying pilgrims going to the Dufermline Abbey. Margaret was very much loved by those under her ruling. She was known to have great piety and holiness. During this time, in Scotland, they were not following the guidance of the Pope, which Margaret fought against. She eventually succeeded, so that they were in compliance with Rome. She would attend mass daily and make sure that the needs of the sick and orphans were met before her own needs. St. Margaret also instigated the restoration of the monastery in Iona. She fasted and was very weak, so when she heard that her husband died in battle, she died shortly after.

**St. Anthony of Padua** Feast Day: June 13 Patronage: lost articles,

oppressed people, against starvation and amputees

Born: Aug 15, 1195 Died: June 13, 1231 Canonized: May 30, 1232

St. Anthony came from a wealthy family. In many ways he was like St. Francis of Assisi. Anthony had a strong desire to become a knight, and was leading a life of sin. He had a conversion and went to join the Augustinian monastery where he became a priest. He wanted a more prayerful life but found it difficult due to his popularity. One day he saw the procession of the 7 Franciscan martyrs who died in Morocco. Anthony was eager to join the Franciscan order. At first, St. Francis of Assisi was hesitant about accepting a learned man. However St. Anthony had great humility and the order realized that they would benefit greatly by allowing priest to join. Anthony wanted traveled to Morocco so that he could become a martyr, but a strong storm prevented him from doing so and landed him and a few others in Padua. Anthony had many miracles, such as drinking poison and not dying, healing the sick, preaching to the fish, and even holding the child Jesus. He converted many people, and spoke in such a way that he touched the hearts of many. Today, his tongue is incorruptible.