

Saint Francis of Assisi

FOUNDER OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDERS



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Feast Day: October 4

Patron: Animals and birds, ecologists and ecology, merchants, Italy, the organization Catholic Action

Dates: 1181–1226

Year Canonized: 1228

Prayer by Saint Francis:

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing. To you, alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them, precious and beautiful.

from the Canticle of the Sun by Saint Francis

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, CARMELITE NUN • ALSO KNOWN AS THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS AND THE "LITTLE FLOWER"



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Feast Day: October 1

Patron: Foreign missions, florists, gardeners, aviators, France

Dates: 1873–1897

Year Canonized: 1925

Quotes:

“You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them.”

“Our Lord needs from us neither great deeds nor profound thoughts. Neither intelligence nor talents. He cherishes simplicity.”

“One word or a pleasing smile is often enough to raise up a saddened and wounded soul.”

“Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.”

from *The Story of a Soul:
The Autobiography of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*

Saint Teresa of Ávila

DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH • FOUNDER OF THE DISCALCED CARMELITES • ALSO KNOWN AS TERESA OF JESUS



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Feast Day: October 15

Patron: Spain, those with headaches, aviators, writers

Dates: 1515–1582

Year Canonized: 1622

Quotes:

“Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love.”

“What a great favor God does to those He places in the company of good people!”

“It is love alone that gives worth to all things.”

“Let nothing trouble you, let nothing frighten you. All things are passing; God never changes. Patience obtains all things. He who possesses God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.”

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS (THE JESUITS)



Feast Day: July 31

Patron: Faith retreats, soldiers

Dates: 1491–1556

Year Canonized: 1622

Prayer by Saint Ignatius:

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace.
That is enough for me.

from the Suscipe of Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Saint Nicholas

BISHOP



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Feast Day: December 6

Patron: Children, merchants, travelers, sailors, brides and grooms, bankers, New York City, Greece, Russia, and many more

Dates: fourth century

Year Canonized: Unknown

Prayer:

We thank you for good Saint Nicholas who was known for his love and care for children.

Through his intercession we ask you to help us always to take care of children, to protect and guide them, and to keep them safe. Help us to be open to all that children can teach us about pure joy and unconditional love. May we in turn help our children to grow into the beautiful persons that you created them to be. Keep us mindful of the needs of others and to reach out with love and generosity as Saint Nicholas did. We rejoice in your servant Nicholas and pray that we too may follow you with singleness of heart and mind. Amen.

Saint Theodora Guerin

FOUNDER OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS



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Feast Day: October 3

Patron: Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Dates: 1798–1856

Year Canonized: 2006

Quotes:

“Love the children first, then teach them.”

“What does it matter what becomes of us, provided God’s work be accomplished?”

“What strength the soul draws from prayer! In the midst of a storm, how sweet is the calm it finds in the Heart of Jesus.”

“Put yourself gently into the hands of Providence.”

“With Jesus, what shall we have to fear?”

“In all and everywhere may the will of God be done.”

“You will be happy yourself in making others happy.”

quotes used with the permission of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Terre Haute, Indiana

Saint Elizabeth Seton

FOUNDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY • FOUNDER OF THE FIRST FREE SCHOOL FOR CATHOLIC GIRLS



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Feast Day: January 4

Patron: Apostleship of the Sea (two of her sons worked on the sea); loss of parents; opposition of Church authorities; people ridiculed for their piety; Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana; widows

Dates: 1774–1821

Year Canonized: 1975

Quotes:

“We must pray literally without ceasing, I mean that prayer of the heart which is independent of time and place, which is rather a habit of lifting up the heart to God, as in a constant communication with him.”

“Who can bind the soul which God sets free?”

“Never mind, all will go right, since we look to God alone.”

quotes from Daily Thoughts of Mother Seton (Msgr. Joseph B. Code, ed.)

Saint Joseph

HUSBAND OF MARY, FOSTER FATHER OF JESUS



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Feast Days: March 19, May 1

Patron: The Americas, carpenters, emigrants, engineers, families, fathers, the Universal Church, protection of the Church, social justice, workers

Dates: first century

Year Canonized: Unknown

Prayer:

God, our Father,
Creator and ruler of the universe,
in every age you call people
to develop and use their gifts for the
good of others.
With Saint Joseph as our example and guide,

help us to do the work you have asked
and come to the rewards you have promised.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

adapted from the collect for the feast of Saint Joseph, the Worker

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

FRANCISCAN PRIEST AND MARTYR



Feast Day: August 14

Patron: Families, prisoners, journalists, pro-life movement, drug addicts

Dates: 1894–1941

Year Canonized: 1982

Quote:

No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is to seek truth and to serve it when we have found it. The real conflict is the inner conflict. Beyond armies of occupation and the hecatombs of extermination camps, there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we ourselves are defeated in our innermost personal selves?"

from the last issue of the Knights of the Immaculate

Blessed Maria and Luigi Quattrocchi

MARRIED PARENTS



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Feast Day: November 25

Patron: Families, married couples, parents, the Domestic Church

Dates: Maria 1884–1965

Luigi 1880–1951

Year Beatified: 2001

Prayer for Married Couples:

God the eternal Father keep you in love with each other, so that the peace of Christ may stay with you and be always in your home. May your children bless you, your friends console you and all live in peace with you. May you always bear witness to the love of God in this world so that the afflicted and the needy will find in you generous friends, and welcome you into the joys of heaven. Amen.

*adapted from The Rites of the Catholic Church,
Marriage Blessing*