

# SAINT OF THE DAY

## September 26 – North American Martyrs (1642, 1646, 1648, 1649)

The eight North American martyrs were six priests and two lay brothers. They were heroic members of the Society of Jesus who were martyred in North America to bring the Faith that is necessary for salvation to the Huron, the Iroquois and the Mohawk Indians. Five of the eight North American martyrs were put to death in what is now Canada, and three of them in New York State. There is a shrine to the United States' martyrs at Auriesville in New York. There is a shrine to the Canadian martyrs at Fort *Saint Mary* near Midland, Ontario. The names of the eight North American martyrs are:

- Saint Rene Goupil, a lay brother martyred in 1642 in New York State,
  - Saint Isaac Jogues, a priest,
  - Saint John de Lalande, a lay brother, martyred in 1646 in New York State,
  - Saint Anthony Daniel, a priest, martyred in Canada in 1648,
  - Saint John de Brebeuf,
  - Saint Charles Garnier,
  - Saint Noel Chabanel and
  - Saint Gabriel Lalemant
- all priests, and all martyred in Canada in 1649.

Saint Isaac Jogues, after thirteen months' imprisonment by the Mohawks, had several fingers cut off his hand. He went back to Europe, but returned again to North America and was killed by tomahawk blows at Ossernenon, now called Auriesville, in New York State.

Saint John de Brebeuf declared before he died, "I have a strong desire to suffer for Jesus Christ." He was tortured terribly, and a burning torch was put into his mouth, which strangled him.

Saint Rene Goupil said, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!" as he died. He was thirty-five and the youngest of the martyrs.

Saint Noel Chabanel was thirty-six.

Saint Isaac Jogues and Saint Gabriel Lalemant were thirty-nine. The oldest of the eight North American martyrs.

Saint John de Brebeuf, was fifty-six when the Indians killed him. These martyrs were beatified in 1925 and canonized in 1930 by Pope Pius XI.

# SAINT OF THE DAY

## **September 27 - Saints Cosmas and Damian (303).**

Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian were twins. Both were physicians by profession. So much did they love those who had been baptized and received Holy Communion that they gave all their medical services to them without any charge. Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian were martyred for declaring that "there is absolutely no salvation outside the Catholic Church." Their relics are sacredly guarded in Rome. They are mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass and always in the Litany of the Saints.

## **September 28 - Saint Wenceslaus (935).**

Saint Wenceslaus was the King of Bohemia who obtained his title from the Emperor Otto I. He was a noble and royal ruler, educated in the Catholic Faith by his grandmother, Saint Ludmilla. His great devotion was to the Blessed Sacrament. His father was a Christian. But his mother, Dragomir, pretending to be a Catholic, was a pagan at heart. She did everything to make him suffer. Saint Wenceslaus was killed before the Blessed Sacrament at midnight by his brutal brother, Boleslas. Saint Wenceslaus was only thirty-two years old at the time. He had dedicated himself to God by a vow of chastity.

# SAINT OF THE DAY

## September 29 - Saint Michael

The greatest and most powerful of all God's angels is Saint Michael. His name means *Who is like to God?* This was the challenge he issued to Lucifer when Lucifer offended God and was hurled by Saint Michael out of Heaven and into hell. It was Saint Michael who appeared to Abraham to forbid him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Saint Michael brought the plagues to Egypt. Saint Michael led the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land and fought with Lucifer for the body of Moses. Saint Michael led Josue into the Promised Land. Saint Michael delivered the three young men from the fiery furnace. Saint Michael sent Habacuc to feed Daniel in the lions' den. Saint Michael escorted the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven on the day of her Assumption. Saint Michael is the Guardian Angel of the Pope. He is the special protector of the Church. He is the special angel of the Blessed Sacrament. He leads the souls of the Just into Heaven when they die. He is invoked in the lovely prayer: "Holy Archangel Michael, defend us in the battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil...." Saint Michael is invoked in all Masses for the dead, in the Offertory prayer. His name is mentioned in every solemn high Mass when the priest blesses the incense. He is the first one named after Our Lady in the Litany of the Saints. He is invoked in the prayer for the dying. Saint Michael has two feast days: one on May 8, to commemorate the dedication of a chapel to him at Monte Gargano in Italy, in 525, and one on September 29, to commemorate the dedication of the great church to him in Rome, in 530. Saint Gregory the Great was the Pope especially devoted to Saint Michael. Saint Michael appeared to Saint Joan of Arc and helped her in her battle against the English. He also appeared in France, in Normandy, in 709. A beautiful shrine was built to him on a hill there, the still famous Mont Saint-Michel. Devotion to Saint Michael went over from Normandy to Ireland, to Scotland, where he has been greatly revered and loved. Michael has become an almost total Irish name.

# SAINT OF THE DAY

## September 30 - Saint Jerome (420)

Saint Jerome--who is called in Latin, *Hieronymus*, which means *holy name*--was born in Dalmatia. He was baptized a Catholic when he was eighteen years old. After living as a hermit in Palestine, Saint Jerome came to Rome. Much against his will, because of his great humility, he was ordained a priest. He was the great friend and ally of Saint Damasus, the thirty-ninth Pope. Saint Damasus commissioned him to translate the whole Bible into Latin. It took Saint Jerome fourteen years to make his first version in Latin of the Holy Scripture, in what is known as the Vulgate. A few more years were required to make emendations, and then in the beginning of the fifth century, the lovely Latin--the language of the Church--was, in Jerome's style, the perpetual prayer of Catholics.

Saint Jerome had a great devotion and love for the Blessed Virgin Mary. He went to Bethlehem, and lived near the crib where Our Lord was born. He had two wonderful disciples there, Saint Paula, and her daughter, *Saint Eustochium*. Saint Jerome had a great devotion to the Guardian Angels. He is the Doctor of the Church who assures us--and the Church has completely confirmed this--that each one of us has a Guardian Angel for himself. It was also Saint Jerome who beautifully let us know that Saint Cleophas was the brother of Saint Joseph. This explains why Saint James, Saint Simon and Saint Jude, the sons of Saint Cleophas, and Saint James the Greater and Saint John, his grandsons, are referred to as "the brethren of Our Lord."

Saint Jerome died in Bethlehem, with his head in the manger where Our Lord was born. His body is now kept in the Church of Saint Mary Major in Rome, where Our Lord's crib is also kept. Saint Jerome wrote the lives of two wonderful saints--Saint Paul the Hermit whose feast day is January 15, and Saint Paula, whose feast day is January 26.

Saint Jerome is one of the thirty-two Doctors of the Universal Church. He is one of the eight Doctors who were priests. Two of the Doctors of the Church were Popes, three were cardinals, five were patriarchs, ten were bishops, one was an abbot and one was a deacon. We now have two women Doctors, Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Catherine of Siena.

## October 1 - Saint Remigius (Remi) (533).

He was the great Bishop of Rheims in France. He baptized King Clovis, King of the Franks, on Christmas Day in the year 496. It was due to this great apostolic achievement that France moved as a nation into the Catholic Church, though there had been many individuals and groups of Catholics there before. Saint Remigius was made Archbishop of Rheims when he was only twenty-two years old. He was bishop there for seventy-four years. He died when he was ninety-six years old.