



SAINT OF THE DAY

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Book Review by Pat Redick

To do this extensive work justice, I would have to review all 300 plus pages and saints in it. To give you a glimpse inside its pages, however, I feel an overview will be enough to whet your appetite for reading it.

In case you, a child, grandchild or friend has a favorite or patron saint you want them to or they desire to learn about, the whole year is listed. Almost every day of the 12 months of the year gives a manageable biography about a different saint, their oft quoted utterances, and comments pertaining to some faction(s) of their lives. Many of the Feast Days celebrated throughout the year will be very familiar to you such as Mary, Mother of God, on January 1st each year. Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11th, St. Patrick on March 17th and two days later St. Joseph on March 19th (as a graduate of St. Joes Academy in Titusville, PA, I remember the importance of this one more than most, I suspect) and March 25th Feast of the Annunciation rounds out the first quarter of any given year. The second quarter finds us celebrating, or at least remembering, St. Louis Mary de Montfort on April 28th, Pope Pius V on April 30th (along with Mary of the Incarnation, wife, mother, religious), Joseph, the worker, on May 1st, Apostles Philip and James on May 3rd and Our Lady of Fatima on May thirteenth.

Rather than continuing a litany of names and dates, I hope the inspiration in “Saint of the Day” will be evident by quoting a sentence or two from each saint celebrated on the 14th & 28th of the 12 months, if applicable, since some days do not have a designated honoree in this work. Some of the saints mentioned were completely unknown to me, such as St. Cajetan, whose feast day is celebrated optionally on August 7th. In this way, you will need to explore it yourself, but will get a taste of its flavor. The format for the most part, includes verbiage in the form of an overview, comment and quote for each day.

I strongly recommend taking the time to read this fascinating amount of condensed knowledge of people, who have actually been proclaimed saints. It provides roadmaps, with at least one route, that should interest each of the different personalities likely to read it. Actually, I found that each was an inspiration.

As no book could hold all the saints, even only those known through dedicated church year feast days, I note here that some of our most beloved ones are not mentioned in this book. A couple of those, which are mentioned in the “Lives of the Saints *Illustrated*” Volumes I and II published by Catholic Publishing Corp. are St. Richard and St. Ann. Because many are baptized with these old favorite names even today, I will note their overview from this other work. Hopefully, you will be able to find your favorite name in one of these works, or of course, if not you can always “Google” it.

April 3rd St. Richard (Bishop 1197-1253) From childhood, he preferred pious exercises and study to usual amusements. He earned a Master of Arts degree at Oxford and studied canon law in Italy. He was ordained in France and elevated to Episcopal See of Chichester. “His firmness in maintaining

St. Richard of Chichester

Day-by-day



Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits you have given me,
For all the pains and insults you have borne for
me.
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
May I know You more clearly,
Love You more dearly,
Follow You more nearly

ecclesiastical discipline and his charity to the poor commanded great admiration.” He was canonized in 1262 by Pope Urban IV.

February 7th- St. Richard of Lucca (King) Interestingly, little is known about him, except that his three children reached sainthood. He took Willibald, who had become a Benedictine monk and Wunibald, a saintly man, on a pilgrimage to Rome despite many hardships. In 722, exhausted from this trip, he died in Lucca, Italy. There is still devotion to him there. His sons helped their uncle St. Boniface evangelize Germany. “His daughter (name not given) became abbess of Heidenheim and ran a school for children of Frankish nobles.”

May 29 - Blessed Richard Thirkeld (Martyr) At a very advanced age, he was ordained a priest and sent to the area around York. There he was arrested for being a priest and imprisoned and for hearing confessions, he was condemned to death. “The saint accepted his sentence with evangelical joy...” He was hanged in 1583 and beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1886.

July 26 – St. Ann Patroness of Christian Mothers, along with her husband, St. Joachim were the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although there is not much known about them, from early Christian times, she has been honored with churches named after her, especially in the Eastern Rite. She is often depicted teaching her daughter to read the scriptures.

As the mother of three and grandmother of eleven, I often say a quick prayer asking for her to intercede in a variety of needs.

January 14th- does not have a listed saint, so will use St. Hilary, whose feast day is January 13th, (Bishop & Doctor 315?-368). “This immovable defender of orthodoxy was very gentle in reconciling the Bishops of France who, in fear of ignorance, had accepted the Arian Creed which denied Christ’s Divinity”.

January 28th-Thomas Aquinas (Priest and Doctor 1225-1274) Is known for his writings, which “are pervaded with unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge”. His greatest work, I believe, is “Summa Theologiae”.

February 14th-Cyril Monk (d 869) & Methodius Bishop (d 884) were two Greek brothers, who ultimately became missionaries, teachers, and patrons of the Slavic people. “...provided that the substantial unity of the Roman Rite is maintained, the revision of liturgical books should allow for legitimate variations and adaptations to different groups, religions, and peoples, especially in mission lands” (from *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*,37,38)

February 23th-St. Polycarp Bishop & Martyr (d156) Quote from his letter to the Philippians “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” .

March 17 -Patrick Bishop (415?-493?) What distinguishes St. Patrick is the durability of his efforts. His work spreading Christianity to Ireland and its missionaries work was greatly responsible for converting most of Europe. His quote “Christ shield me this day” and paraphrased from the Breastplate of St. Patrick is

CHRIST be with me, before me, behind me, in me,
beneath me, above me,
on my right and my left,
when I lay down, when I arise,
in the heart of every person who thinks of me,
in the eye that sees me and the ear that hears me.

March 25th- Annunciation of the Lord This Feast day focuses on “God has become one of us”. “Together with Jesus, the privileged and blessed Mary is the link between heaven and earth....She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church are meant to become.” The comment section encourages

us to realize what marvelous creatures we all are through divine grace, Gods freely given love for us and divine design. From the Quote “Enriched from the first instant of her conception with the splendor of an entirely unique holiness”she is heralded as “full of grace”.

April 2nd- optional Francis of Paola Hermit (1416-1507) Though he wished to live a life of humble solitude, he was called to use his gifts of prophecy and performing miracles. While ministering to the King of France, he was able to restore peace between that country and Brittany and between France and Spain.

April 13th-Martin I pope & Martyr (d. 655) A heresy strongly supported by the Eastern Church that Christ had no human will was opposed by this saint. He died a torturous death and is remembered by the Orthodox Church as a “Glorious defender of the faith....sacred defender of divine dogmas, unstained by error”.

May 1st Joseph, the worker, Apparently in response to the Communists sponsored May Day for workers, Pius the XII instituted this feast day in 1955. “Humanity is like God, not only in thinking and loving, but also in creating.thus, If you wish to be close to Christ,...’go to Joseph’.” This Pope is quoted as saying “....No worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it (the spirit) than the foster father of Jesus...”

May 15-Isadore the Farmer, Husband (1070-1130) He is the patron of Madrid, Spain and the United States Rural Life Conference. He worked for a wealthy landowner outside Madrid for his whole working life. He married Maria De La Cabeza, who also became a saint. He was devout in attending Mass as often as possible, He communed with God from behind the plow each day, was known for a love of the poor and there are accounts of him miraculously supplying them with food. He was concerned about the proper treatment of animals. He was canonized in 1692 with Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila, and Philip Neri, all Spaniards.

June 1, Memorial Justin, Martyr (d.165) “..He never ended his quest for religious truth, even when he converted to Christianity, after years of studying various Pagan philosophies.” He was beheaded for his adherence to the Christian religion. A quote from his Dialogue Trypho 3 “Philosophy is the knowledge of that which exists, and a clear understanding of truth; and happiness is the reward of such knowledge and understanding”.

June 13, Anthony of Padua, Priest & Doctor (1195-1231) God called him to religious life although he could have lived as a wealthy man. He first joined the Augustinians in Lisbon, then wishing to be a Martyr joined the Franciscans, due to illness, we went to Italy and was stationed in a small hermitage, where he prayed, read scriptures, and performed menial tasks. Eventually, he was asked to give a sermon, after which he was recognized as a learned scholar and was the first to teach theology to the other friars. He also wrote sermon notes for other preachers. He died in Padua in 1231, was canonized less than a year later and was declared a Doctor of the church in 1946.

July 1, Junipero Serra, Priest (1713-1784) A Spaniard and Franciscan, Brother Serra studied, taught, and preached on theology until his desire to work with the natives of the New World brought him to Central Mexico and the Baha Peninsula. He worked in that area for 18 years, and even though he was plagued with pain in his left leg, he left and went on to establish nine missions in California. His “Regulation” for the protection of Native Americans and the missions was the basis for the first significant legislation in California a “Bill of Rights” for Native Americans.

At his beatification St. Pope John Paul II proclaimed, Serra “was well aware of their (Native Americans) heroic virtues.....and sought to further their authentic human development on the basis of their newfound faith...”.

Stay with me, Lord,
for You are my life,
and without You,
I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord,
for You are my light,
and without You,
I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord,
to show me Your will.

St. Pius of Pietrelcina
from his prayer
“Stay with me, Lord”

Stay with me, Lord,
for You are my life,
and without You,
I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord,
for You are my light,
and without You,
I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord,
to show me Your will.

July 15, Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor (1221-1274) As a youth, he was cured of a serious illness through the prayers of Francis of Assisi and was baptized by him. He wrote the saints biography and other works defending and explaining the ideals of the Franciscan way of life. "Bonaventure...rose to the heights of mysticism while yet remaining an active teacher and preacher, one beloved by all who met him"

August 1, Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor (1696-1787) At the age of 16, he received a doctorate of both canon and civil law by acclamation. He soon gave up the practice of law and was ordained a priest. He founded the Redemptorist congregation in 1732. "He concentrated his pastoral efforts on popular (parish) missions, hearing confessions, and forming Christian groups." Pope Pius XII declared him patron of moral theologians in 1950.

August 15 Solemnity Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius the XII declared she "...having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to her heavenly glory." Homilies on this subject can be found going back to the sixth century.

From (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church 68*), "In the bodily and spiritual glory which she possesses in heaven, the Mother of Jesus continues in this present world as the image and first flowering of the church as she is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, Mary shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come (cf Peter3:10), as a sign of certain hope and comfort for the pilgrim people of God"

September 1, Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor (540?-604) As Pope, "...he removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking money for many services, and emptied the Papal Treasury to ransom prisoners...and to care for persecuted Jews, as well as victims of plague and famine." He was skilled at applying the daily Gospel readings to the needs of his listeners. Along with Augustine, Ambrose, and Jerome, he is considered one of the key Doctors of the Western Church.

September 15 – Memorial Our Lady of Sorrows-From the *Sabat Matar* "at the cross her station keeping/stood the mournful Mother weeping/Through her heart, His sorrow sharing/all His bitter anguish bearing/now at length the sword has passed".

October 1, Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor (1873-1897) In the Carmelite Convent, she did menial tasks with great love and with faith that they would help save souls and bless priests. She wrote "I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth." Pope John Paul II canonized her in 1977 and in 2015 her parents, Louis Martin (1823-1894) and Zélie (1831-1877) Guérin. They share this feast date with their daughter. Louis worked as a jeweler and watchmaker; Zélie made Point d'Alcenon by hand and ran a successful shop. They lived devout lives, each having wanted to enter religious life before marrying, but for different reasons this was not to be. Four of their children died in infancy and each of their five remaining daughters joined religious communities. They believed God was with them through all of the joys and trials of their lives. St. Therese wrote "God gave me a Father and Mother more worthy of heaven than earth".

October 15, Memorial Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor (1515-1582) The gift of God to her was that she was a contemplative woman and active reformer. She entered the Carmelites, despite her father's objection. "She wasbeautiful, talented, outgoing, adaptable, affectionate, courageous, enthusiastic...totally human." She sought to reform the Carmelite Order, established half a dozen new monasteries, and was at times misunderstood, misjudged and opposed. Toward the end of her life she exclaimed "Oh, my Lord! How true it is that whoever works for you is paid in troubles! And what a precious price to those who love you if we understand its value." She wrote *The Way of Perfection and the Interior Castle*.



November 1, Solemnity ALL SAINTS DAY, Pope Boniface the IV gathered up all the bones of the martyrs to be found and buried them under the Pantheon, which had previously been a Roman temple dedicated to all their gods. He then rededicated it as a Christian Church. Later, when Christians were free to worship, the Church acknowledged other paths to sanctity. The first papal canonization was in 993. Over the last 500 years, the current lengthy process for this was developed. The article concludes with quotes from (Revelations 7, 9, 14). (Worthy of note is that the next day is the feast of ALL SOULS DAY.)

November 15, Albert the Great Bishop and Doctor (1206-1280) “was a curious, honest and diligent scholar... With the goal of making all knowledge available in Latin, the Dominican wrote about natural science, logic, rhetoric, mathematics, astronomy, ethics, economics, politics, and metaphysics.” Albert taught St. Thomas Aquinas his own understanding of the works of Aristotle. “... Aquinas developed his synthesis of Greek wisdom and Christian theology.”

December 1, Blessed Charles De Foucauld Priest and Hermit (1858-1916) After a career in the French army and a time of living with his mistress Mimi, he joined a Trappist Monastery in France and later transferred to one in Syria. He was ordained a priest in 1901 and beatified in 1905. One of his important accomplishments was a dictionary and a translation of the gospels from Tuareg-French and from French-Tuareg for the people of Algeria. The five religious congregations that drew on his “peaceful, largely hidden yet hospitable life” are Little Brothers of Jesus, Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Little Sisters of Jesus, Little Brothers of the Sacred Heart, and Little Sisters of the gospel.

December 17, Hildegarde of Bingen Virgin and Doctor (1098-1179) Since there was not any Dec. 15th Saint listed, I chose this one close to that date, because my mother’s name was Hilda. (I now presume it is St. Hilda.) Hildegarde was an abbess, artist, author, composer, mystic, pharmacist, poet, preacher, and theologian. Like so many of the saints, whose lives are outlined in this work, she was born into a noble and/or a wealthy family. She was granted visions from the age of three, which she describes in *Seivias, Merits of Life, and Book of Divine Works*. Controversy followed her because she moved her monastery even though The Monks disapproved, she allowed an excommunicated young man to receive the last sacraments, she challenged the Cathars for their beliefs, and confronted the Emperor “for supporting at least three antipopes”.



“...Virtuous living reduces the estrangement from god and others that sin causes”, and “In the year 1141...a fiery light, flashing intensely, came from the open vault of heaven and poured through my whole brain...” are quotes from the mystic Hildegarde.

Let’s keep praying for each other as we all travel on this journey to the other side with

the **Bible** for our recipe book,

the **Commandments** for flashing lights,

the **Beatitudes** for street signs,

and an amazing array of aids from Christianity in case we decide to take a different route for a while or a detour on our own.

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Christmas day 2013

Brings to mind the young,
Old and all in between whose
Souls are on the other side
And by now we subscribe
To the idea that they are
The Church Triumphant
Though temporarily they could be
The Church suffering as are we
So often-doing some purgatory
On this side of the great divide!

We miss those who are away
Some truly on a military stay
And the rest distance keeps at bay
But in our hearts they rest because
On this day we are all one
Without pretense-we let the Babe's
Grace all our fears allay
So that the Communion of Saints are
Reunited in faith in a very real way!

The Church triumphant, suffering and militant
Come together to give praise on this
Important salvation day!

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