

Resurrection LIVES



Saints for
THE 2019 EASTER SEASON

INTRODUCTION

The Easter season, which is actually not just one day but forty days long, is the time when we are encouraged to proclaim the Good News of Christ's resurrection to new life with God. But even more than just proclaiming it, we are invited to be transformed by our contact with the risen Christ and live resurrection lives. The saints whom we remember and celebrate during this season exemplify what we are also trying to do. As Vatican Council II reminded us: "The saints have been traditionally honored in the Church and their authentic relics and images held in veneration. For the feasts of the saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in his servants, and display to the faithful fitting examples for their imitation" (*Constitution on the Liturgy [Sacrosanctum Concilium]*, #111). So may these holy men and women, clergy and laity, rich and poor, popes and peasants encourage and embolden us to live our resurrection lives to the full.

—Steve Mueller

April 29

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA VIRGIN & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (1347–1380)

At the age of 7 Catherine had a vision of Christ in glory and dedicated herself to God. She joined the Dominican Third Order (1365) and after a vision (1368) in which Christ accepted her as his “bride,” she began actively caring for the poor and tending the sick. She was a prolific correspondent, counseling popes and princes, and a renowned reformer and peacemaker. She is also known for her spiritual reflections (*The Dialogue*). She was canonized (1461), declared patroness of Italy (1939), a doctor of the Church (1970) and, with St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), co-patroness of Europe (1999). Like her, may we offer both our prayer and our actions in service of God.



*How might I seek greater renewal and reconciliation
in my household, workplace and parish?*



April 30

ST PIUS V

POPE (1504–1572)

Antonio Ghislieri spent much of his early life tending sheep. He entered the Dominican Order (1518) and after ordination taught philosophy and theology. He was appointed bishop, cardinal and finally pope (1566). As pope he implemented the reforms decreed by the Council of Trent (1545-63). He revised the *Roman Missal* and the breviary, published the *Roman Catechism* and restored moderation to the papal court.



May 1

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Although popular devotion to Joseph, husband of Mary, may have begun as early as the 8th century, it was not until the 15th century that his name was entered in the Church calendar. Since that time, devotion to Joseph has been marked by growing enthusiasm and, in 1955, Pope Pius XII proclaimed a second feast day on May 1, which recognizes Joseph as the skilled craftsman and coincides with Labor Day in many countries.

May 2

ST. ATHANASIUS

BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

(C. 295–373)

Born and educated in Alexandria in Egypt, Athanasius attended the Council of Nicaea (325) as the bishop's secretary. Then as Bishop (328) he was a formidable defender of the Council's teaching on Christ's divinity, incurring the wrath of a succession of non-Christian emperors who exiled him. He wrote several treatises on Catholic doctrine, especially on the Incarnation, and introduced monasticism to the West. Through his example, his learning and his writings, he remains one of the most renowned Greek Fathers and a Doctor of the Church. May we recognize the truth of his advice that "one cannot possibly understand the teaching of the saints unless one has a pure mind and is trying to imitate their life."



*How might I defend Christian teaching and values
when they are threatened?*



May 3

STS. PHILLIP & JAMES APOSTLES (FIRST CENTURY)

Philip and James were apostles of Jesus. John's Gospel records several conversations between Jesus and Philip which indicate that he was present throughout the Lord's public ministry and was instrumental in bringing others to Christ. James the son of Alphaeus is called "James the Less" perhaps because he was younger than the other apostle James. He is mentioned in Mark and in Acts. Little is known of his life beyond these biblical details.



May 10

BLESSED DAMIEN JOSEPH DE VEUSTER PRIEST (1840-1889)

Born in Belgium, at 19 he entered the Picpus Fathers. Sent to the Hawaiian Islands and ordained (1864), he served as a parish priest before volunteering as chaplain for the leper colony on the island of Molokai (1873) where he spent the rest of his life working to improve the living conditions of the lepers. He eventually contracted leprosy and died there. Beatified in 1995, he is also honored by Hawaii with a statue in the US Capitol.

May 14

ST. MATTHIAS

APOSTLE (FIRST CENTURY)

The Acts of the Apostles (1:15-26) tells us that Matthias was chosen after the resurrection to replace Judas. Peter, quoting a psalm, told the 120 people gathered that they must choose a new apostle: someone who had been with them from the time of the baptism of the Lord until the resurrection, someone who could join them in bearing witness to these events. Two names were put forward and the assembly cast lots, the lot falling to Matthias. Nothing more is known of his life or apostolic work.



*How might I be ready when God calls me
to witness to the resurrection?*

May 15

ST. ISIDORE

(1070–1130)

Isidore “the farmer” was born in Madrid, Spain, to a family of poor farm laborers. He and his wife, St. Maria (Torribia) de la Cabeza, spent their lives working on the estate of Juan de Vergas and were renowned for their piety, love of animals and generosity to the poor. After his death, his remains were transferred to a beautiful shrine (1170) and his fame spread. Many miracles were attributed to him, including the cure of King Philip III (1615) who saw to it that Isidore



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How might I support the good work of those trying to protect our food sources and environment?

May 18

ST. JOHN I POPE & MARTYR (D. 526)

Nothing is known of his life before he became pope (523). Italy was then ruled by Theodoric the Goth, an Arian, who was angry because the emperor Justin I in Constantinople was persecuting Arians. Theodoric sent John to persuade Justin to end the persecutions. The first pope ever to travel to the East, John was enthusiastically received and treated with great honor. When he returned to Ravenna (526), although Justin had accepted almost all of Theodoric's demands, Theodoric was not satisfied. So he imprisoned the pope who died soon after, probably of starvation. His remains were taken to Rome where he was considered a martyr and buried in St. Peter's with the epitaph "victim for Christ."



*How might I be willing to suffer in order
to bring Christ to others?*

May 20

ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA

PRIEST (1380–1444)

Child of a noble family, Bernardine was orphaned at age 7 and raised by loving relatives who provided him with an excellent education. During an outbreak of the plague (1400), he ministered to the sick, inspiring other young men to take the same risk. He



entered the Franciscans (1402) and was ordained (1404). Commissioned to preach, he won converts all over northern and central Italy thanks to his intelligence, eloquence and intuitive understanding of the needs of

his listeners. Having refused several bishoprics, he became vicar general of the Franciscans, brought reform and inspired vocations.

How might I follow Bernardine's advice to "love God and God will prosper you"?

May 21

ST. CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES PRIEST, & COMPANIONS, MARTYRS (1869–1927)

Born in Mexico to a farming family, he entered the seminary at age 19. After ordination, he worked with the poor and the indigenous people, founding schools and catechism centers and forming agrarian co-operatives. In the 1920s when the anti-Catholic Mexican government closed all seminaries, he made several unsuccessful attempts to start a new one. On May 21, 1927, while on his way to say Mass, he was arrested on the false charge of promoting armed rebellion and 4 days later executed with 21 priests and 3 laymen. Before his martyrdom he forgave his executioners. He was canonized in 2000. Let us imitate his courage to witness to Christ despite difficulties and forgive those who persecute us.



*How might I witness to Christ to those
who deny or despise him?*

May 22

ST. RITA OF CASCIA

RELIGIOUS (1381–1457)

Born in Umbria, Italy, Rita wanted to be a nun but was forced by her family to marry a cruel and ill-tempered man. When he was murdered 18 years later, she urged forgiveness but her twin sons wanted



to avenge his murder but died before they could do so. Now a widow, Rita sought to enter the convent, but was refused three times because she had been married and was not a virgin. Finally she was admitted to the Augustinian convent at Cascia (1413), and lived there 40

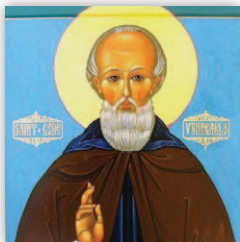
years in prayer, contemplation and service of the poor. Canonized in 1900, she is a patron of impossible causes. Like her, let us seek reconciliation not retaliation for violence.

*How might I best help widows
who are vulnerable and in need?*

May 25

ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE
PRIEST & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
(673–735)

Considered the most learned man of his time, he is the only English Doctor of the Church. Born in northern England, at age 7 he was sent to a Benedictine monastery where he remained for life. At 19, he became a deacon and at 30, a priest. Though he excelled in biblical commentary and history, he also wrote poetry, biography and history (his most famous work is the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, an important source for Anglo-Saxon history). His wisdom and learning earned him the respectful title of “Venerable,” which the Church formalized in 853. May we recognize his wisdom that “Whatever good thing is done is made perfect only by love.”



*How might I grow in my knowledge and love
of God's Word and Church history?*



May 25

ST. GREGORY VII POPE (C. 1020–1085)

Born in Tuscany, Hildebrand of Sovana, was sent to a Roman monastery to be educated under John Gratian. When Gratian became Pope Gregory VI (1045), Hildebrand became his secretary. He also served the next several popes in various roles. Finally, Hildebrand was acclaimed pope (1073), and as Gregory VII asserted papal over civil authority, provoking much conflict. When Norman troops sacked Rome, even the Romans turned against the pope and Gregory fled Rome and died in exile.

May 25

ST. MARY MAGDALENE DE'PAZZI VIRGIN (1566–1607)



Born Caterina di Geri de'Pazzi to a prominent family in Florence, she rejected her parents' proposed suitors and convinced her family of her religious vocation. At 17 she became a Carmelite nun. Her biography, compiled by her confessor, gives a detailed account of her intense spiritual journey with its periods of desolation and ecstasy. Mary Magdalene had the gifts of prophecy and healing.

May 27

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY BISHOP (D. C. 604)

In 596, Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine—prior of St. Andrew's monastery in Rome—and about 40 monks to evangelize England. The group was well received by King Ethelbert of Kent. Augustine was soon made bishop and instructed to develop a hierarchy for England and to substitute Christian feasts for pagan celebrations. Apart from the Welsh refusal to accept either Augustine or the Roman traditions he proposed, the mission was successful. Augustine established a Benedictine monastery at Canterbury. As the first Archbishop of Canterbury and the “Apostle of the English,” he continued to spread Christianity in Britain until his death. Like him, let us bring Christ to those who do not yet know him.



*What might I do to help spread Christ's message
to those around me today?*

June 1
ST. JUSTIN
MARTYR (C. 100–165)

Justin, a Samaritan, was called “The Philosopher.” A convert to Christianity, this layman used his knowledge of philosophy to explain Christian doctrine.



Denounced to the authorities by a disgruntled debating opponent, Justin was brought to trial and martyred about the year 165. The official account from court records still exists and shows how Justin and his companions, when brought before the Roman prefect, declared themselves to be Christians, refused to sacrifice to the gods and were condemned to death. His writings include one of the earliest descriptions of the Mass.

How may I imitate his desire to discover the seed of truth even in the thoughts and words of his opponents?