



In Caelo
et in
Terra

365 Days with the Saints

This book is dedicated to Mary, Queen of Apostles, an ancient title for the Mother of God and the particular Marian devotion of the Daughters of St. Paul. Mary is the Queen of Apostles because she was the first apostle, the first to give Jesus to the world. From heaven, Mary continues to invite us to become more like her Son and to receive Christ fully in our minds, wills, and hearts.

May Mary, Queen of Apostles, protect, guide, and bless all who read this book. Through her intercession, may we all receive the strength, love, joy, and peace that comes through Christ so that we may one day join all the saints in heaven.





Thank you



In Memory of Fr. James T. Edwards

The Hunt Family

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In Memory of Helen M. Ravarino

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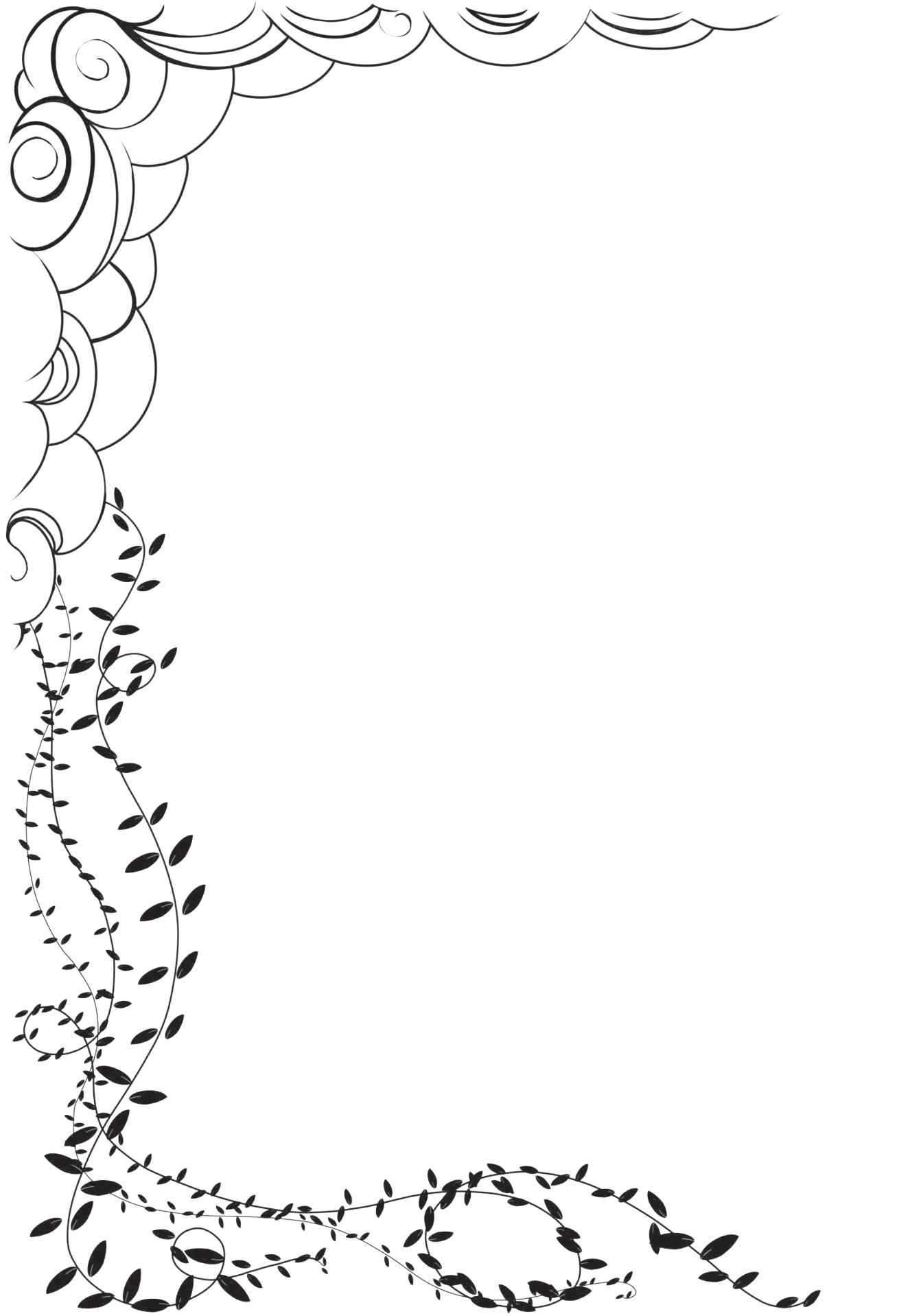
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*With profound gratitude to all those whose generosity and
support have made this book possible.*

—Daughters of St. Paul

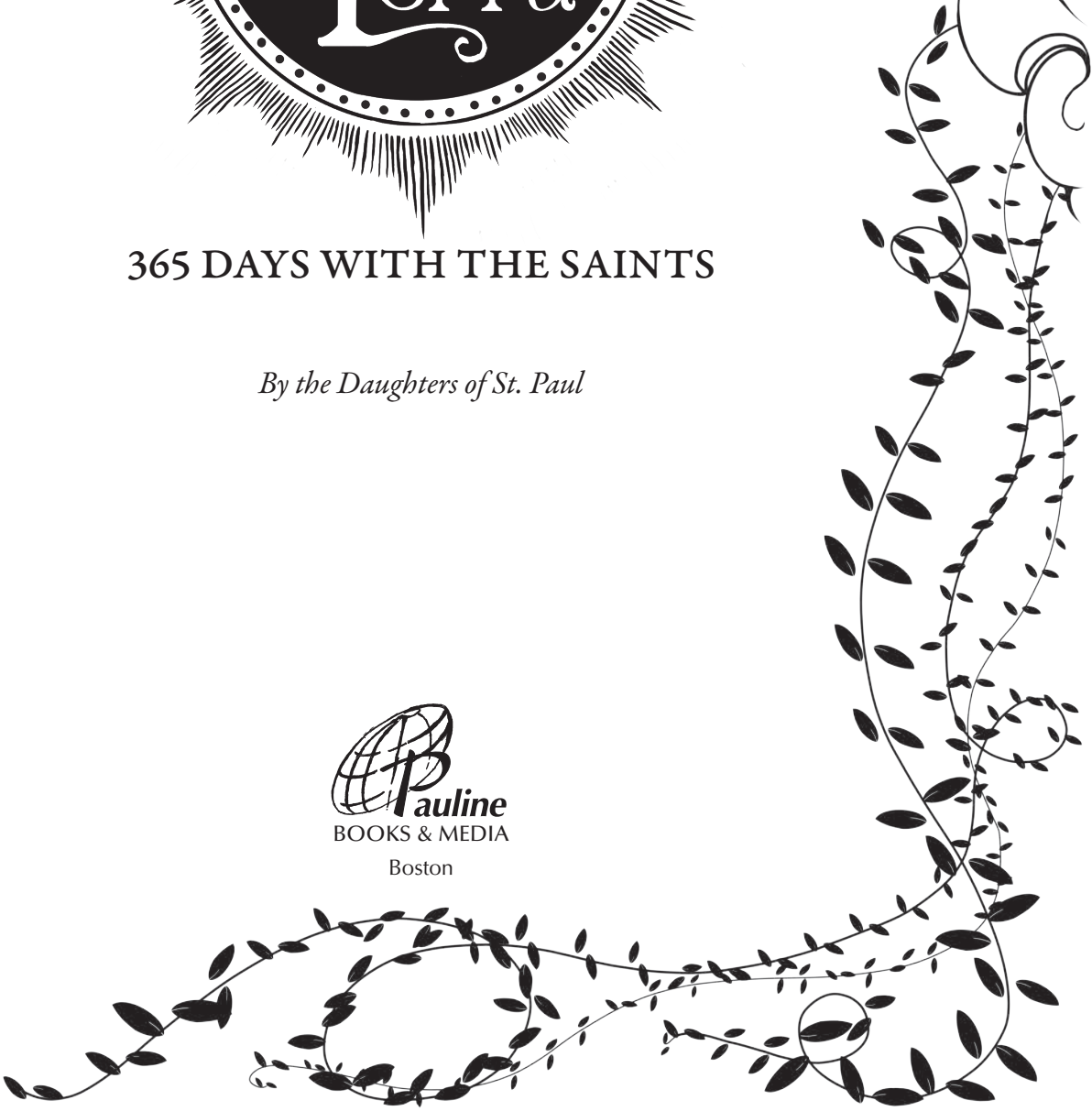




365 DAYS WITH THE SAINTS

By the Daughters of St. Paul


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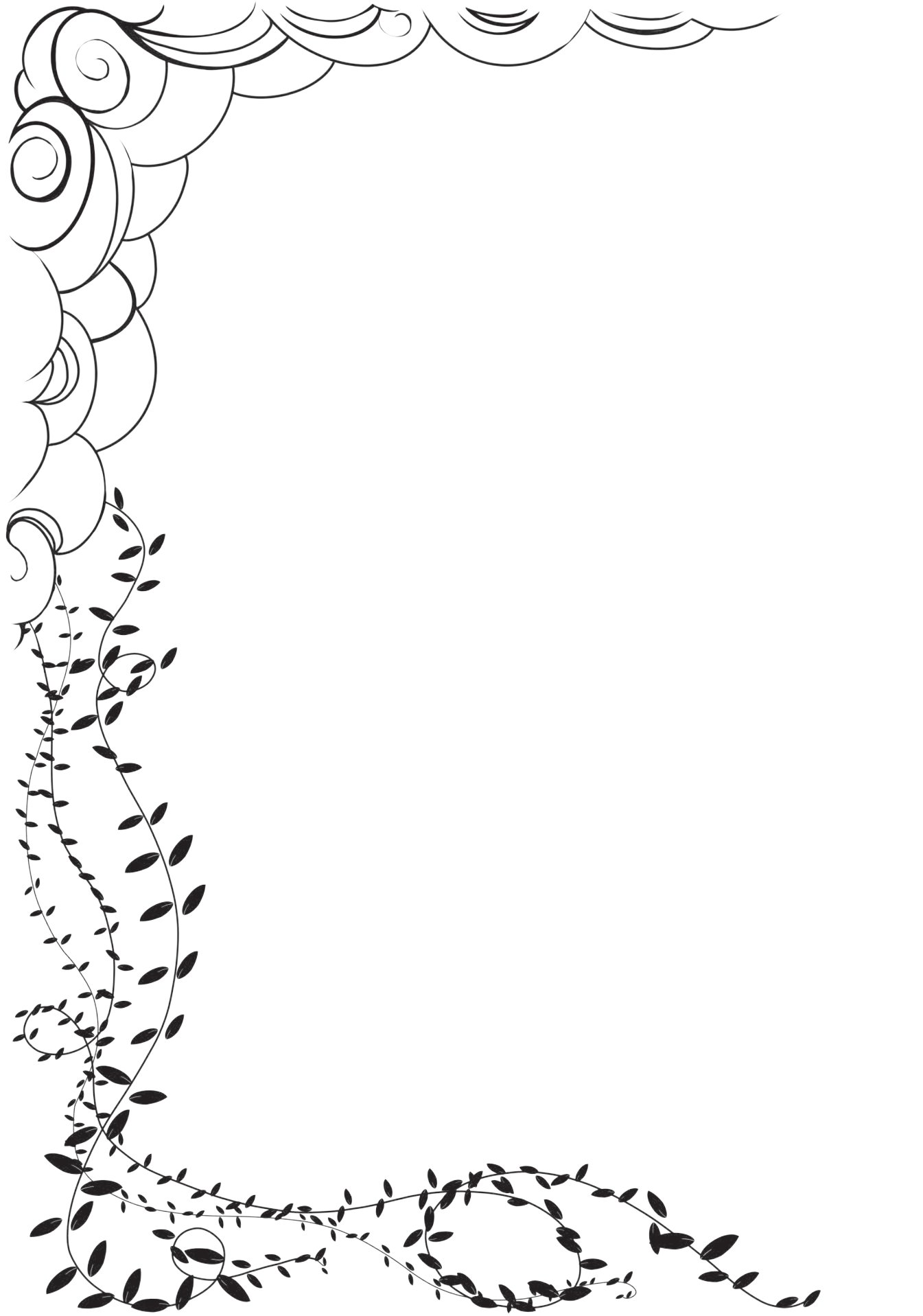
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CONTENTS

Preface	xi
January	2
February	33
March	62
April	93
May	123
June	154
July	184
August	215
September	246
October	276
November	307
December	337
Appendix of Prayers	369
List of Contributors	381
Index of Names	385
Index of Feast Days	391
Index of Patron Saints	403







PREFACE

Sicut in caelo et in terra is Latin for “on earth as it is in heaven.” You might recognize the phrase as an excerpt from the beginning of the Lord’s Prayer:


Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

The Lord’s Prayer, taught to us by Jesus, reveals the Father’s desire for intimacy with us. The Father loves us so much that he sent his only Son to save us.

Heaven truly met earth in the Person of Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine. He offered himself to us at the moment of the Incarnation and fulfilled this total self-offering in the sacrifice of the Cross. The Son of God gave his life for love of us. When Christians are immersed in the waters of Baptism, we receive the grace that Jesus made possible through the Cross. In Baptism, we are purified of our sins, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit gives us the grace to become saints.

The lives of the blessed and saints are proof that God’s grace is real. The blessed and saints in the history of the Church show us the heights to which our Baptism calls us. In difficult moments in history, these men and women were lights in the darkness and witnesses of God’s glory, bringing the Good News to all. They joyfully persevered through life’s trials and lived the call to holiness in unique, fascinating, and inspiring ways. They feasted on the Eucharist and allowed their lives to be broken open as witnesses to God’s strength made perfect in their weakness.

Jesus Christ’s true Presence in the Eucharist is the ultimate meeting place of heaven and earth. In this transformation of a humble morsel of bread, heaven and earth come together in an intimate and tangible way. At every Mass we attend, we are fed with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus




Christ—the life with the power to transform us. Like the saints, we too are invited to embrace the spiritual transformation to which God calls us. We are invited to become food for others and to claim our unique place within the Body of Christ in order to make manifest God’s kingdom of heaven on earth.

Transformation in Christ through the Eucharist is central to our life as religious sisters with the Daughters of St. Paul. We produced this book to help readers to foster deeper bonds with the holy men and women in heaven who show us how to live in Christ here on earth. Our hope is that the saints’ lives will help you to discover your own story in Christ, develop new friendships, and feel encouraged to call on the saints’ intercession. About thirty of our sisters prayed for you as they wrote, edited, designed, and illustrated this book. And all of our sisters in all of our convents and Pauline Books & Media bookstores around the world are praying for you.

As you pray through this book, we pray that it will build you up in faith and inspire hope in your life. We pray that it challenges you to live more deeply the call to holiness in God’s good plan for your life. May we all be evermore united in Jesus Christ, Way for our will, Truth for our mind, and Life for our hearts—and may God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*Your sisters in Christ,
Daughters of St. Paul*

A decorative border on the right side of the page, featuring a vertical scrollwork design at the top that transitions into a vine with small leaves. The scrollwork consists of overlapping, curved lines that spiral downwards. The vine starts near the bottom of the scrollwork and extends to the bottom of the page, with several loops and a small circular motif at the bottom right.

*“For everyone, each day is a chain of little things,
a succession of minutes, continuous occasions
of trials, difficulties, and precious little moments.
One who knows how to sanctify everything
weaves his life with golden thread.”*

— BLESSED JAMES ALBERIONE



JANUARY 1

Saint Basil the Great

c. 330–January 1, 379

Feast: January 2 (with Saint Gregory Nazianzen)

Patron: Russia, monks, tailors

Basil came from a family of saints. His parents are Saint Basil the Elder and Saint Emmelia of Caesarea. Four of their ten children also became saints: Basil, Macrina, Gregory of Nyssa, and Peter. Basil studied in Athens, where he became close friends with Saint Gregory Nazianzen. After this, Basil had a spiritual awakening that led him to focus on his interior life. He visited various monasteries and later established his own. He wrote a Rule for monks that became the foundation of monastic life in the East. His Rule influenced Saint Benedict who wrote the Rule that would influence the West.

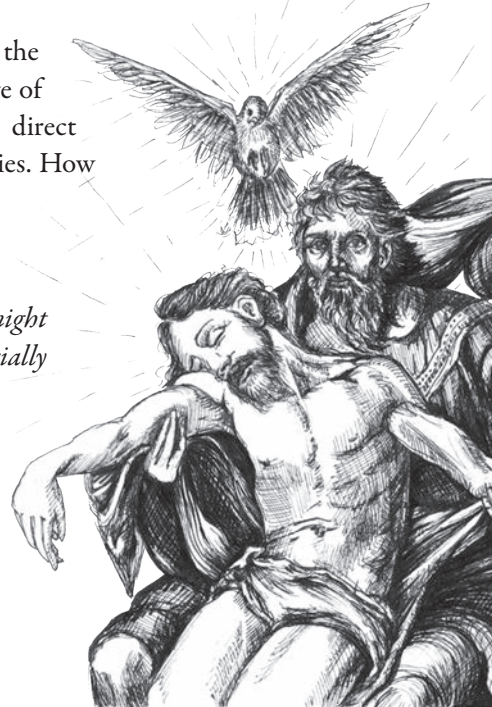
Basil eventually left the monastery to become a hermit. However, Archbishop Eusebius of Caesarea soon summoned him to refute Arius' teachings that Christ was not divine. Basil had much success in refuting Arianism and in 370 became a bishop himself. Basil also wrote important works that helped the Church articulate the dogma of the Trinity. As bishop, Basil was known for his tireless work for the sick and the poor, for whom he built many soup kitchens and a huge hospital. He was so beloved by Christians and non-Christians alike that upon his death, the entire city mourned.

Reflection

Basil's life shows us the importance of the Christian family. He was raised in an atmosphere of holiness by devout parents. Faith flourishes in direct proportion to the flourishing of Christian families. How can I support family life in society today?

Prayer

Saint Basil the Great, pray that as Catholics we might hold fast to the faith and witness it to others, especially through holiness in our families. Amen.





JANUARY 2

Saint Gregory Nazianzen

c. 325–c. 390

Feast: January 2 (with Saint Basil the Great)

Patron: Rhetoricians, philosophers

Gregory was born to pious parents, Saint Gregory the Elder and Saint Nonna. In fact, everyone in Gregory's immediate family is a canonized saint. Gregory is known for his close friendship with Saint Basil, whom he met in rhetorical school. It's no wonder then that young Gregory grew to be a very holy man, surrounded as he was by models of sanctity.

Gregory was shy, and most likely would have shunned public life and embraced life as a hermit given the choice. However, at the behest of his father, Gregory was ordained a priest and later became a bishop. Though shy, he had a gift for apologetics and speaking and was particularly known for his sermons on the Trinity. Called the "Theologian," Gregory was an outspoken critic of Arianism and was later named a Doctor of the Church. But Gregory's intellectual prowess was not the focus of his energies. For him, following God's will was most important. In the last years of his life, this focus led Gregory to submit his resignation as bishop and retire to a life of solitude. Today, his remains are buried in Saint Peter's in Rome.

Reflection

Gregory was a man of great integrity who, through much personal sacrifice, dedicated his life to the Church and to the truth. Setting aside personal preferences, Gregory worked untiringly for the people of God. Like holy and hardworking Gregory, how can I grow closer to Christ and become more Christ-like?

Prayer

Saint Gregory Nazianzen, you put God before all else and tirelessly lived your life in service to the truth. Help me to look beyond my own interests to help bring others to you. Amen.



JANUARY 3



Saint Geneviève

c. 422–c. 512

Feast: January 3

Patron: Paris, for help in times of plague and disasters

As the patron saint of Paris, Geneviève has long been popular in France. She lived during the fifth century, a tumultuous time of great instability that eventually led to the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. Geneviève was born to pious parents in Nanterre, outside Paris. As a young girl, she is said to have met Saint Germanus of Auxerre who was passing by her village. He sensed greatness in the girl and invited her to give her life to God. When she was around fifteen, she became a consecrated virgin.

After the death of her parents, Geneviève moved to Paris and became known for her visions, prayer, penance, and good works. Unfortunately, Geneviève had many envious critics, who at one point even conspired to drown her. But she did not let this deter her from the work of God. When Attila the Hun was on the verge of attacking Paris in 451, Geneviève persuaded the people to stay, do works of penance, and pray for deliverance. Instead of attacking the city, Attila suddenly withdrew his troops. Later, when the Frankish king Childeric held Paris under siege and people were starving, Geneviève led a brave expedition to obtain grain.

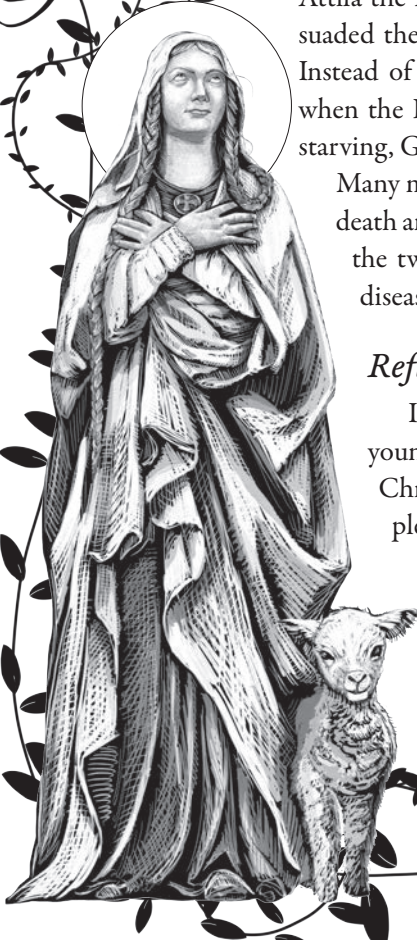
Many miracles were attributed to Geneviève's intercession right after her death and in later times. When her relics were carried throughout Paris in the twelfth century during an epidemic of ergot poisoning (a fungal disease affecting grain), many people were miraculously cured.

Reflection

In some ways Geneviève's story is similar to Joan of Arc's: a valiant young woman defends a people under attack. Like Geneviève, all Christians are called to help build a civil society based on the principles of justice and love. How do I help in this endeavor?

Prayer

Saint Geneviève, you were a woman of faith, courage, and prayer. Intercede for me that I may meet all life's trials with constancy and perseverance. Amen.



JANUARY 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

August 28, 1774–January 4, 1821

Feast: January 4

Patron: Catholic schools, children near death, and persons who suffer prejudice because of their Catholic faith

Elizabeth was born into a wealthy and influential Episcopalian family in New York City. When she was only three years old, her mother died. At age nineteen, Elizabeth married William Seton, a wealthy businessman. They had a happy marriage and five beautiful children. When Williams' shipping business failed, however, his tuberculosis flared up due to the stress. In an attempt to save his life, Elizabeth traveled to Italy with her husband and one of their daughters. William died shortly after their arrival. While in Italy, Elizabeth attended church with her Catholic hosts. She was deeply impressed by their belief that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

Upon returning to New York, Elizabeth was penniless with five children to support. She became Catholic in 1805, despite her family and friends' vehement disapproval. Elizabeth opened a boarding school to sustain her family, but parents withdrew their children upon learning that she was a Catholic. Later, encouraged to begin a religious community, Elizabeth founded the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph in 1809. While continuing to care for her family, Elizabeth ran boarding schools and opened orphanages for needy children. She passed away after a long struggle with the same illness that killed her beloved husband. In 1975, Elizabeth became the first native-born American citizen to be canonized.

Reflection

Despite suffering financial setbacks, rejection, the death of loved ones, and other great difficulties, Elizabeth found peace and serenity in the truth of Christ. How can I find Christ in the midst of difficulties?

Prayer

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray that I too may live amid my life's ups and downs with fidelity and hope. Amen.



JANUARY 5

Saint John Neumann

March 28, 1811–January 5, 1860

Feast: January 5

Patron: Sick children, immigrants, Catholic schools



Born in Bohemia, young John Neumann was eager to become a missionary to immigrants in North America. After completing his seminary studies, he overcame a number of obstacles to arrive in New York in 1836. Bishop Jean Dubois welcomed him, ordained him, and immediately sent him to minister in the Buffalo area. Sometimes caring for several parishes at a time, John traveled on horseback both near and far to visit people in need. John loved being a diocesan priest, but soon he felt called to make religious vows as a Redemptorist priest. He made his religious profession in Baltimore in 1842.

Ten years later, having served in various positions—including temporary leadership of the United States province—a reluctant John was named bishop of Philadelphia. It was an enormous diocese. Characteristically fired with determination, John set to work. As bishop, he made it a point to focus on the people and their needs—delegating administration to others whenever he could. John learned several languages well enough to give spiritual help to various immigrant groups. Under his leadership, the Philadelphia parochial school system was established. He also wrote a catechism, fostered Eucharistic devotion, and his three-to-four-day parish visits were true spiritual renewals. John worked hard but never complained, for he loved serving the people. On a winter afternoon in 1860, John collapsed in the street and expired. Grief-stricken Philadelphians knew they had lost a saint.

Reflection

John Neumann's brief life pulsed with passion for the spiritual well-being of God's people. He tirelessly dedicated every moment of his life to serving God and his people. Do I live in a way that is passionately dedicated to God's will for me?

Prayer

Saint John Neumann, your deep awareness that Jesus was the center and hope of your life urged you on. Help me to center my life around Jesus. Amen.



JANUARY 6

Saint André Bessette

August 9, 1845–January 6, 1937

Feast: January 6 (U. S.), January 7 (Canada)

Patron: Sick, devotion to Saint Joseph

To the world, Alfred Bessette was a failure. Born into a poor Canadian family and orphaned by the time he was twelve, he was plagued by sickness from birth. To make matters worse, the illiterate young man found it difficult to keep a job. Farmhand, cobbler, blacksmith, baker, factory worker; he tried them all without success. But Alfred had two secret strengths: his profound faith and his deep devotion to Saint Joseph. At the age of twenty-five, through the help of an encouraging priest, he finally found his vocation as a Brother of Holy Cross, taking the name Brother André.

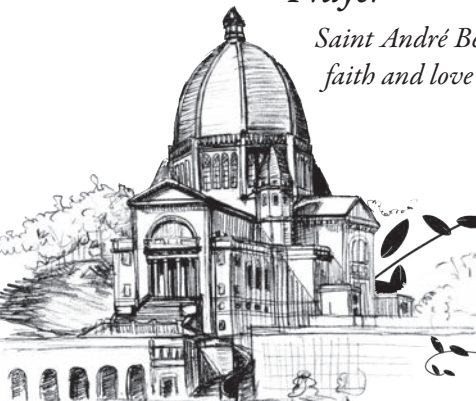
For the next forty years, the humble and uneducated Brother André served as doorkeeper of Notre-Dame College in Montreal. Word spread of the prayerful doorkeeper's deep holiness as physical and spiritual healings began to take place in answer to his prayers. Crowds flocked to see André and miracles multiplied. As many as 435 cures were documented in just one year. Brother André always gave the credit to Saint Joseph, encouraging his visitors to seek the saint's intercession with God. André convinced his superiors to build a tiny chapel in honor of Saint Joseph. Over time, it was enlarged and improved, finally becoming today's Oratory of Saint Joseph, the largest shrine dedicated to the saint in the world. Brother André Bessette died at age ninety-one. No less than one million people attended the funeral of this quiet man who walked a simple path to God.

Reflection

Brother André's life is proof that holiness doesn't require special talents or great learning. He knew that God simply desires a loving and trusting heart. Do I believe that great things can happen when I trust in God?

Prayer

Saint André Bessette, pray that the Lord will give me faith and love as strong as yours. Amen.





JANUARY 7

Saint Raymond of Peñafort



1175–January 6, 1275
Feast: January 7 (U. S.), January 8 (Canada)
Patron: Lawyers, especially canon lawyers

Born to a noble family in Spain near Barcelona, Raymond felt called to become a diocesan priest. He studied both civil and canon law, and then taught for fifteen years in Bologna. While in Italy, Raymond was inspired by the preaching of Blessed Reginald of Orleans, a member of the Dominicans, a new religious order. Raymond eventually received the Dominican habit in 1222. At the request of Pope Gregory IX, Raymond produced a collection of Church laws that became the standard until 1917. He also helped Saint Peter Nolasco establish the Mercedarians, a religious order of men with the mission of freeing Christians captured by Muslims.

Raymond was also a renowned preacher who attracted many vocations to the Dominicans and converted many others. Evangelization was an important goal for him so he established schools of Arabic language so Dominicans would be able to preach to the people of Spain and Northern Africa in their native tongues. In 1238 Raymond was elected the third Master General of the Dominicans. He gave of himself totally by visiting all the houses of the order, traveling on foot. After a life spent in total dedication to God, he died peacefully in Barcelona.

Reflection

Raymond's work in codifying her laws was a great contribution to the Church. Canon law is meant to assure that the Church's life is lived in an ordered way for the greatest good of all the members, especially the poor. It involves rights as well as responsibilities. Canon law is not an end in itself but can help us to be better disciples.

Prayer

Saint Raymond of Peñafort, pray for us that we will know how to blend justice with mercy, and love with truth. Through your prayers, may we come to know Jesus Christ more deeply and follow him with greater fidelity. Amen.



JANUARY 8

Blessed Eurosia Fabris Barban

September 27, 1866–January 8, 1932

Feast: January 8

Patron: Large families, vocational discernment

Called Rosina by her family, Eurosia Fabris grew up near Vicenza, Italy. After only two years of primary education, she left school to help her parents on their farm and at home. Nevertheless, she learned to read and write. A religious girl, she studied the catechism and read her Bible and works by the saints. Believing she was not called to marriage, Rosina turned down several marriage proposals. However, she reconsidered her vocation when a neighbor died in 1885 and Rosina stepped in to care for the deceased woman's two small children. After prayer and discernment, she decided to marry the children's father, Carlo Barban.

Rosina and Carlo had nine more children together. The Barbans were not wealthy, but they created a warm and welcoming Christian home. Rosina, now called "Mamma Rosa," lived simply, developed a deep prayer life, and cared for the poor, sick, and orphaned, as well as her own family. Mamma Rosa became a Third Order Franciscan. She took great joy in seeing three of her sons enter the priesthood. Widowed in 1930, Mamma Rosa died of natural causes just two years later. Many of her family members attended her beatification in 2005.

Reflection

Eurosia showed great openness to vocation: first to her own, and later to that of her children. Eurosia is a good example to all Christian parents of someone who lived her vocation well and encouraged her children to do the same. How can I support vocations in my family, parish, and diocese?

Prayer

Blessed Eurosia Fabris, pray that I remain open to God's call for me and for my loved ones. God's plans may not match my own, but God always wills the best for everyone. Amen.





JANUARY 9

Saint Alix LeClerc

February 2, 1576–January 9, 1622

Feast: October 22

Patron: Education of young women

Alix was born to a wealthy family in the Lorraine region of what is now France. She lived a carefree life indulging in parties and entertainment and had little interest in her faith until she reached her late teens. However, during a serious illness, Alix read about the faith and began to contemplate the futility of this lifestyle. She slowly began to focus her attention completely on God. One day, Alix had a vision of the Blessed Mother holding a child. Mary said to Alix, “Take this child and make him grow.” Alix’s vision was a sign of her vocation to educate children.

On Christmas night in 1597, with the support of her spiritual director, Saint Peter Fourier, Alix founded the Congregation of Notre Dame: Canonesses of Saint Augustine. The next year, she opened the first of what would be many schools dedicated to the free education of girls. For so long, Alix had dreamed of educating young girls, and her schools attracted many students. However, the new congregation also met great opposition because at that time it was unusual for women religious to be outside of a cloistered convent. But Alix put her trust firmly in the Lord and endured misunderstanding and persecution with patience, knowing that her work was in the hands of God.

Reflection

Alix lived a life wholly dedicated to the work the Lord entrusted to her through the words of the Blessed Mother. She trusted in God’s plan even when she was met with opposition. Do I trust that God is with me even in times of hardship?

Prayer

*Saint Alix LeClerc, please help me to grow in patience and serenity in the face of misunderstanding and difficulty. Please ask God to give me the grace to be more focused on others rather than on myself.
Amen.*



JANUARY 10

Saint Léonie Aviat

September 16, 1844–January 10, 1914

Feast: January 10

Patron: Educators

Léonie was born in Sézanne, France. As a young girl, she attended a school in the city of Troyes. It was run by Visitation nuns, the order founded by Saints Francis de Sales and Jane Frances de Chantal. Léonie spent these years in the ambience of the Salesian charism under the spiritual guidance of Venerable Marie de Sales Chappuis, the convent superior, and Blessed Father Louis Brisson, the convent chaplain. In addition to his work at the school, Father Brisson began centers for the education of the young, underpaid girls working in nearby factories. He desired to establish a religious order to run the centers. Upon graduation from the convent school, Léonie wanted to join Father Brisson and, after some time, she received confirmation of her vocation in prayer.

The young foundress received the habit of the new congregation on October 30, 1868 and was given the name Sister Françoise de Sales. The new order was called the Oblate Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales. Three years later, she professed vows and shortly after was named the first superior general of the congregation. In 1903, Mother Françoise de Sales moved the motherhouse of the congregation to Perugia, Italy, due to religious persecution in France. She died in Perugia full of peace, trusting in God to the end.

Reflection

Léonie strove to be completely at the service of God. She worked untiringly to promote God's work in the Church with a humility that came from being centered in Christ. Is my life centered on Christ?

Prayer

Saint Léonie Aviat, help me to put aside all in my life that keeps me from being focused on God. Pray for me that I may become a humble, trusting, and faithful servant of the Lord. Amen.



JANUARY 11

Saint Aelred of Rievaulx

c. 1110–January 12, 1167

Feast: January 12

Patron: Friendship

Aelred was born in Hexham, England. As a young adult, he was a member of the royal household of King David of Scotland. He earned not only the respect but also the friendship of the king, who promoted him to royal steward and wanted him to become a bishop. Aelred valued David's friendship and trust, but he also treasured the call from God that he was discerning in his life, and it was not to be a bishop.

Around 1134, Aelred entered the Cistercian monastery at Rievaulx. He was much beloved by the monks and soon served as director of novices as well as abbot of the new monastery at Ravesby in Lincolnshire. Then he was elected abbot of Rievaulx, a position that gave him responsibility for hundreds of monks and for the abbots of all the Cistercian monasteries in England. Aelred fulfilled this responsibility admirably, traveling extensively to visit the monasteries. During his travels, Aelred saw his friend King David one last time before the king died.

Aelred was an excellent preacher and a prolific writer. His writings include both historical and spiritual works, one of the most famous being *Spiritual Friendship*. Aelred patiently suffered various illnesses toward the end of his life, a testament to the gentle and humble way he lived.

Reflection

Aelred was a humble and open person, who used his position of responsibility not to gain power but to relate to people. He valued human friendship but placed the greatest value on his relationship with God. How do I make my relationship with God a priority in my life?

Prayer

Saint Aelred of Rievaulx, through your intercession, may my friends and I grow closer to Christ through a holy friendship. Amen.





JANUARY 12

Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

April 17, 1620–January 12, 1700

Feast: January 12 (Canada)

Patron: Against poverty, loss of parents

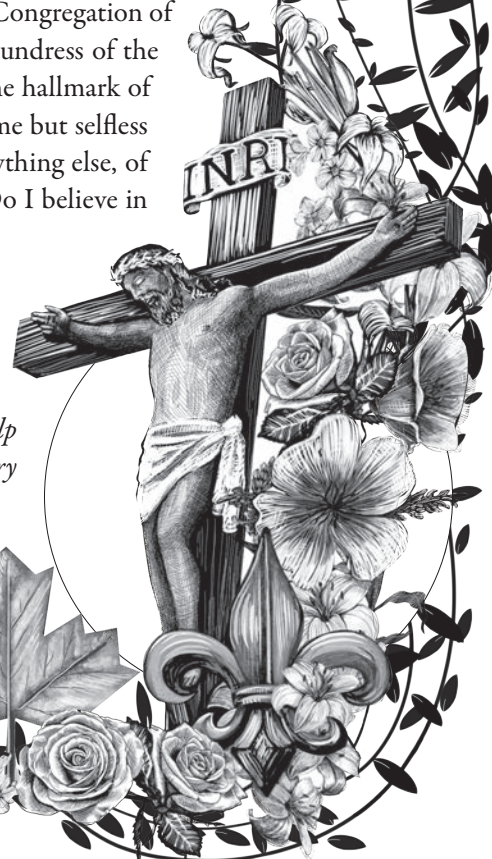
Marguerite was born in Troyes, France, where she later taught poor children as an extern sister of the Congregation of Troyes for some years. In 1653, the governor of the Ville-Marie settlement in Canada, now known as Montreal, invited her to come and teach. Marguerite accepted, and in 1658 opened her first school in a stable. Convinced that the family would build this new country, she dedicated herself to the education of women, the cornerstone of the family. She and the young women who joined her—including two Iroquois women and the first New England woman to become a sister—opened numerous day schools and boarding schools. This group of women became known as the Congregation of Notre Dame, which received pontifical approval in 1698, when Marguerite was seventy-eight years old. There were forty members at the time of her death; there are more than 2,000 today.

Reflection

Marguerite has many claims to fame: foundress of the Congregation of Notre Dame, “Mother of the Colony” of Montreal, co-foundress of the Church in Canada, and Canada’s first woman saint. Yet the hallmark of her “traveling life,” as she called it, was not publicity or fame but selfless love and dedicated service. Her life speaks, more than anything else, of her conviction of having been loved and called by God. Do I believe in what I am doing and, more importantly, in the One who has called me to do it?

Prayer

Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, pray for me so that I may believe with all my heart in what God has called me to do. Help me to have conviction like yours to offer my ordinary circumstances to God. Amen.





JANUARY 13

Saint Hilary of Poitiers



c. 310–c. 368

Feast: January 13

Patron: Children with disabilities, lawyers, and the sick

Hilary was born to a wealthy family in Poitiers, Gaul. He was married and had a daughter, Abra, when he converted from paganism to Christianity after reading the Scriptures. Around 345, he was baptized with his wife and daughter at the Easter Vigil. Hilary was so highly respected by the people that he was asked only a few years later to become bishop of Poitiers. He was ordained and immediately became involved in the heated Arian controversy, which denied that Jesus was both human and divine.

Unfortunately, while Hilary was bishop, Emperor Constantius, the son of Constantine, continually meddled in the Church's affairs and promoted Arianism. Despite the likely consequences, Hilary refused to align with the Arian bishops. Unsurprisingly, he was exiled to Phrygia in 356. While in exile, he took advantage of his extra time to write twelve books entitled *On the Trinity, Against the Arians*. Hilary returned to Gaul in 360 or 361 and continued to preach against Arian views, helping many to understand the error of Arianism. Sulpicius Severus, a writer of sacred history, remarked of Hilary that the entire French nation had been delivered from heresy through his intervention. Pope Pius IX formally recognized him as a Doctor of the Church in 1851.

Reflection

Hilary showed prudence and moderation in his efforts to overcome the Arian heresy. Instead of complaining, Hilary accepted his exile and made the best of it. And while knowing the dangers, he continued to defend the truth and accept the consequences with patience. Do I defend the truth of the Gospel with both tenacity and prudence?

Prayer

Saint Hilary of Poitiers, help me to be wise in my defense of the faith, charitable to those who disagree with me, and merciful with all. Amen.

JANUARY 14

Blessed Peter Donders

October 27, 1809–January 14, 1887

Feast: January 14

Patron: Those rejected by religious orders, factory workers

Peter Donders was born in Tillburg, Holland. Because of his family's poverty, he received little schooling. From a young age, Peter had to do farm work and work in a factory to help support his family. Peter wanted to become a priest and, finally, with the support of some local priests, he entered the diocesan seminary at the age of twenty-two. On June 5, 1841 he was ordained a priest. Soon after his ordination, he traveled to the Dutch mission in Suriname, South America, arriving in Paramaribo. He ministered to the poor and plantation slaves. He worked to improve their appalling conditions and baptized over 1,200 people before volunteering to serve the leper colony at Batavia. There, he personally nursed the lepers and worked with the civil government to better the conditions of the leper colony.

In 1866, the Redemptorists arrived to take over the mission in Suriname. Peter had always wanted to become a religious priest, but he had been refused admission to the Redemptorists as a young man. God's providence provided another chance. He asked to be admitted to the congregation and took vows just one year later. He then spent several years ministering to the Indian people of Suriname, learning the native language and catechizing them. When his health failed, he was eventually transferred back to the leper colony where he spent the rest of his life nursing the sick.

Reflection

Peter risked his life for his faith, serving lepers and making long, dangerous missionary journeys. Peter's life demonstrates a zeal and selfless dedication to proclaiming Jesus Christ despite challenges. What am I willing to risk to witness to the Gospel?

Prayer

Blessed Peter Donders, help me to keep my eyes on the Lord despite setbacks and challenges. May my life always proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those I encounter. Amen.





JANUARY 15

Saint Arnold Janssen

November 5, 1837–January 15, 1909

Feast: January 15

Patron: Society of the Divine Word, missionaries

Arnold Janssen was born in Goch, Germany, the second of ten children. He entered the seminary and studied science and mathematics. He was ordained in 1861 and then was a teacher for twelve years. While teaching, Arnold became more aware of the universal mission of the Church and the needs of the faithful around the world. He felt called by God to do something new.

In the 1870s, legislation was passed that severely restricted the Church in Germany. In the midst of a chaotic and difficult time for the Church, Arnold saw possibility. He proposed beginning a seminary to prepare priests for the missions. Many thought Arnold was imprudent, but he said in response, “The Lord challenges our faith to do something new, precisely when so many things are collapsing in the Church.”

Trusting in the providence of God and with the support of several bishops, Arnold moved across the border to Steyl, Holland. In 1875, he founded the Divine Word Missionaries in an old, rundown inn. Four years later, the first two missionary priests left for China. Arnold added religious brothers to his society and co-founded two orders of religious women, the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit and the cloistered Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration. Today, thousands of men and women in these societies continue the work Arnold began.

Reflection

God opened Arnold’s heart to the spiritual needs of the world, preparing him for a mission that would bring light in the midst of a dark period in the Church. Do I have the courage to hope in something new when everyone else only sees problems?

Prayer

Saint Arnold Janssen, you are a reminder that God is always at work in the Church and in the world. Help me to have faith in this reality, especially in difficulties. Amen.