



# MISSIONS TODAY

VOL 81, NO. 1

Winter 2023



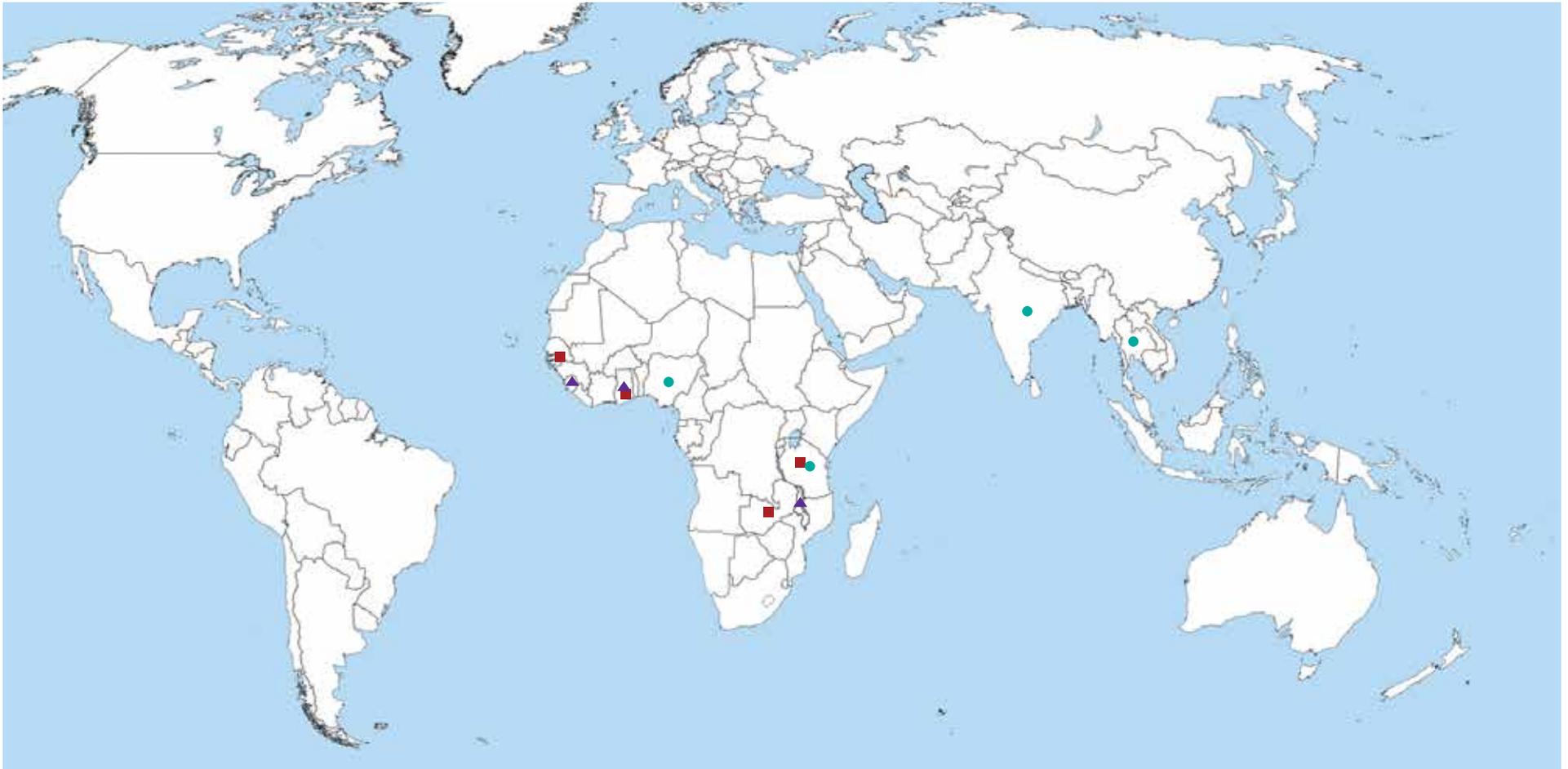
Continue a Legacy  
of *Love*  
and *Hope...*

**Fruits of the Missions 2023**

*The Society for the Propagation of the Faith*

# Pontifical Mission Societies – English Canada

In 2022, your prayers and financial assistance allowed us to support projects in the following countries:



**■ Society for the Propagation of the Faith**

GHANA  
GAMBIA  
TANZANIA  
ZAMBIA

**▲ The Society of Saint Peter the Apostle**

GHANA  
SIERRA LEONE  
MALAWI

**● Holy Childhood Association**

NIGERIA  
TANZANIA  
INDIA  
THAILAND

# THE FRUITS OF THE MISSIONS

2022 was a year filled with milestones for the Pontifical Mission Societies. It was the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and it was the one hundredth anniversary of Pope Leo XIII establishing the Pontifical Mission Societies, among other celebrations. But perhaps the most auspicious event in 2022 for the Pontifical Mission Societies was the beatification of Pauline Jaricot. The beatification of the foundress of one of the missionary societies is significant because it highlights that holiness has played a key role in the work of the missions. At its core, the church is missionary. Christ established the Church, his Body, as an instrument to spread the Good News. Throughout the history of the missions, holiness has been a main ingredient for the success of the missions. As the life of Pauline Jaricot demonstrates, it was the holiness of people working in areas where the church had been entrenched for centuries that allowed the work of the missions to flourish. In time, the missions have also produced holy women and men who have consecrated their lives to Christ and to spreading the Gospel, many times having to sacrifice their own lives for the faith.

In honour of the beatification of Pauline Jaricot, this calendar for 2023 is dedicated to those many women and men who, in their missionary endeavours, demonstrated a holiness that was acknowledged not only by the contemporaries who knew them, but have been recognized officially by the church to have lived holy lives. In the Pontificate of Pope Francis, a number of people have been declared either beatified or canonized who were associated with the missions. These holy women and men who have diligently worked for or in the missions, however, have not always been promoted as they should and most of us may have not heard of them. In this calendar, therefore, we would like to present to you a number of beatified or canonized Catholics who are the products of the missionary work of the church. Or as the theme of this calendar states, they are the "Fruits of the Missions." Over the course of 2023, we hope you enjoy getting to know the lives of these missionaries that may be new to you. We hope, more importantly, that you are inspired by these holy missionaries to see how you might support the work of the missions and thus grow a little more in holiness yourself.

Any good work is never the result of only one person. It was a team of dedicated and faith-filled people that put together this 2023 calendar. I would like to thank Fr. Alex Osei for his support of this calendar and for all the work he does, often unknown by anyone, for the Canadian arm of the Pontifical Mission Societies. I would like to thank my two co-authors, Maria Fornasier and Lori Lisi, for making the lives of these holy women and men come alive and for inspiring us by their words. I would like to thank Gina Pullano, my wife, for finding the pictures used in this calendar. I would like to thank Chris Marcucci, our graphic artist, who always does an amazing job with all our publications. I would like to thank the office staff of the Pontifical Mission Societies of Canada, pictured here, for all their hard work and for all their support. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for supporting the missions and I would like to wish you all a very blessed New Year.



***Happy New Year from the Staff of the Pontifical Mission Societies of Canada.***

# Blessed Pauline Jaricot (January 9)

"I have loved Jesus Christ more than anything else in the world and, for His love, I have loved more than myself all those who are burdened or suffering".

~Pauline Jaricot (1799-1862)

**Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot**, often referred to as the Mother of the Missions, was born in Lyon, France. She was the founder of the Pontifical Society of the Propagation of Faith and the Association of the Living Rosary. Pauline was the daughter of wealthy silk merchants, but gave up her financial privilege in her teenage years. At the age of 17, after hearing a homily on the topic of vanity, she pivoted her attention from concerning herself 'with herself' to concerning herself with the needs of others. She consecrated herself to the Lord, gave up all her wealth and devoted herself to spreading the Gospel. As a laywoman of strong faith, after much suffering, both mentally and physically, she turned to prayer, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the answering of the call to assist the Paris Foreign Mission Society. All three commitments gave way to her work on the spreading and promoting of the faith.

In 1819, at the age of twenty, Pauline went on to create a 'movement' wherein she commissioned a group of 10 people to pray for and make a donation of one penny a week to the missions, highlighting the need for both prayer and sacrifice. In so doing, each participant became an active member of the missionary network of the Church. This broadened her work to becoming the largest aid agency in the history of the Catholic Church, promoting **prayer, reflection and charity** for the world's missions, with the goal of propagating the faith. Today, this movement is called the **Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith (POPF)** and has offices in over 1150 dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Oceanic Region, the Pacific Islands and the remote areas of Latin America. On October 22, 1972, Pope Paul VI presented Pauline Marie Jaricot as an "authentic daughter of the Church...". Today, we are called to continue to participate in this global missionary work, especially on World Mission Sunday, which takes place every year on the 3rd Sunday in October.

Pauline's endless work on evangelization saw the creation of the movement of the **Living Rosary**. In 1826, in response to a society whose faith was on the decline, Pauline created the Living Rosary movement, a prayer chain which still exists today. Groups of 15 people commit to praying a decade every day for the intentions of the Pope, the evangelization of peoples, the conversion of sinners and the preservation of the faith of the Church. Among her countless contributions to evangelization, she recognized the importance of the apostolate of the laity, and established a community in 1834 of young pious girls, which she called the **Daughters of Mary**. Together with the Daughters of Mary, Pauline Marie Jaricot founded the House of Lorette, a place of mission, prayer and evangelization. Today, the house is a place of discovery of the missionary activity of the Church and the theatre of festivals and cultural events.

When Pauline became very ill she entrusted herself to the intercession of St. Philomena and was blessed by the miracle of being restored to complete health. She went on and continued her mission of evangelization and in 1834, with the aim to better the working conditions of factory workers, she set up a model factory she named Notre Dame des Anges. Sadly, she was defrauded and the factory went into bankruptcy. Notwithstanding all of this, and dying destitute, on January 9th, 1862, Pauline Marie Jaricot leaves behind a thriving missionary and numerous allied establishments. In 2012, a miracle was attributed to Pauline Marie Jaricot for the healing of Maryline Tran. A prayer novena was organized asking for Pauline Marie Jaricot's intercession, and the 3 year old girl who had gone into a coma after choking on a sausage, made a complete recovery. **Pauline Marie Jaricot was beatified on May 22, 2022** by Pope Francis for this miracle. Pauline Marie Jaricot, whose life was always anchored in prayer, sums up her work in the invitation she addresses to us today: **"Unite yourself to this mission: pray and encourage people to pray"**.



# JANUARY 2023

*For Educators* - We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	<b>2</b> St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (USA)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> St. Andre Bessette
<b>8</b> Epiphany of the Lord	<b>9</b> Baptism of the Lord <b>Pauline Jaricot</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> St. Marguerite Bourgeoys	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> St. Anthony, Abbot	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> St. Agnes
<b>22</b> Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Beginning of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	<b>23</b> St. Marianne Cope and St. Vincent	<b>24</b> St. Frances De Sales	<b>25</b> Conversion of St. Paul	<b>26</b> St. Timothy and St. Titus	<b>27</b> St. Angela Merici	<b>28</b> St. Thomas Aquinas
<b>29</b> Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> St. John Bosco	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

DECEMBER 2022						
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FEBRUARY 2023						
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# St. Kuriakose Elias (February 18)

*“Days on which you have not rendered any good to others will not be reckoned in the book of your life.”*

*-the conviction that guided the life of St. Kuriakose Elias (1805-1871)*

Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara was born in Kerala, India, on February 10, 1805 to Christian parents who belonged to an ancient community known as Saint Thomas Christians. He attended school in his local village and was educated in language and science. He became an educator, a prolific writer, and a social reformer; and, most notably India's first male saint, being canonized by Pope Francis on November 23, 2014. He was known as a man of prayer with devotion to the Eucharist and the Virgin Mary. He believed that the love of God should translate to service to the poor, the illiterate and the downtrodden and that “... with God nothing will be impossible.” ~Luke 1:37. Before immersing himself in religious life and becoming a Carmelite priest, Kuriakose Elias had already become a missionary of the faith through his work as an educator and social reformer. Working locally to initiate reforms and build community schools in Mannanam and Arpookara, and understanding that children could not learn if they were hungry, Kuriakose Elias established a midday meal to feed them.

He further went on to set up, and locally found, the St. Joseph's printing press in Kerala, where he printed a religious newspaper called the Nasrani Deepika, which became the oldest published newspaper in India, published in Malayalam, spoken by 37 million in the region. His formal religious life began in 1818, when he entered the seminary and studied under parish priest Thomas Palakal. After completing his studies he became a priest in 1829 and later, co-founder and first prior-general of the Congregation of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, whose main work is education aiming at intellectual, social, economic and moral values, and later he would become co-founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Mother of Carmel in 1866.

In 1855, in the Carmelite tradition, Kuriakose Elias took his vows on December 8th and took on the name Kuriakose Elias of the Holy Family. During his tenure, between 1856 and 1871, he presided over a series of monasteries in the region and went on to establish seven other monasteries. Kuriakose Elias passed away on January 3, 1871, at age 66 from natural causes. After his passing, many miracles were attributed to his intercession. He was declared venerable by Pope John Paul II in 1984, and beatified on February 8th, 1986, during the pope's visit to India. The miracle that was approved by the Vatican and led to his beatification was the healing of the eyes of a nine year old girl, named Maria, who received a sudden complete cure within a week of prayers made to Kuriakose Elias, for his intercession. His feast day is January 3 in the Syro-Malabar Church, and February 18 in the Latin rite of the Roman Catholic Church. He remains well-known and popular in India.

*Joyfully submit yourselves to the will of God.  
God is all powerful and His blessings are countless.*

*-St. Kurialose Elias Chavara*



# FEBRUARY 2023

## *For Parishes*

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2 The Presentation of the Lord	3 St. Blaise	4
5 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6 St. Paul Miki and Companions	7	8 St. Josephine Bakhita	9	10 St. Scholastica	11 Our Lady of Lourdes
12 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	13	14 Sts. Cyril and Methodius	15	16	17	18 Kuriakose Elias Chavara
19 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23 St. Polycarp	24	25
26 First Sunday of Lent	27	28	1	2	3	4

JANUARY 2023						
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MARCH 2023						
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# ST. OSCAR ROMERO

## (March 24)

***"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."***

~ Saint Oscar Romero (1917-1980)

**Saint Oscar Romero**, who became known as *'the voice of those without a voice'*, was born in Ciudad Barrios in El Salvador in 1917. Oscar Romero always wanted to be a priest, albeit his father's desire for him to become a carpenter. At the age of 14, he left home and entered the seminary. He completed his studies at the Gregorian University in Rome, receiving a Licentiate in Theology cum laude in 1941. He was ordained a priest in Rome in 1942 and remained in Italy to obtain a doctoral degree in Theology, specializing in ascetical theology and Christian perfection

Upon returning to El Salvador from Italy, he went to serve as a parish priest in Anamoros, and then to San Miguel where he served for over 20 years. He became well-known as a parish priest and the editor of the diocesan newspaper. Father Oscar Romero worked tirelessly to grow the faith and serve both God and man.

From promoting apostolic groups, to starting an alcoholic anonymous group, aiding in the construction of San Miguel's cathedral, and supporting the devotion to our Lady of Peace, he continued his missionary work, but became physically, emotionally and spiritually exhausted. In 1967, he went to work for the bishops of El Salvador, becoming the secretary of the conference of Bishops and director of the archdiocesan newspaper. Soon after, he became the Bishop of Santiagode Maria.

In 1975, soldiers, professing to look for hidden weapons, raided a village in his diocese and killed many innocent people. Horrified at this massacre, Bishop Romero spoke at the funerals of the villagers about people's human rights, condemning the military for the things they did and writing to the country's president in this regard. Oscar Romero became Archbishop of San Salvador in February of 1977 and, in that year, the government began to turn on the Church, arresting priests and sending them to other countries, and killing people who protested against the leadership. In March his friend, Rutilio Grande, a Jesuit priest who had been creating self-reliance groups among the poor, was assassinated. Archbishop Romero excommunicated the murderers, announcing they would not receive Sacraments in the Church. The government closed Catholic schools, and more priests were tortured and killed, as were teachers of religion. Possessing a Bible and/or a hymnbook became illegal.

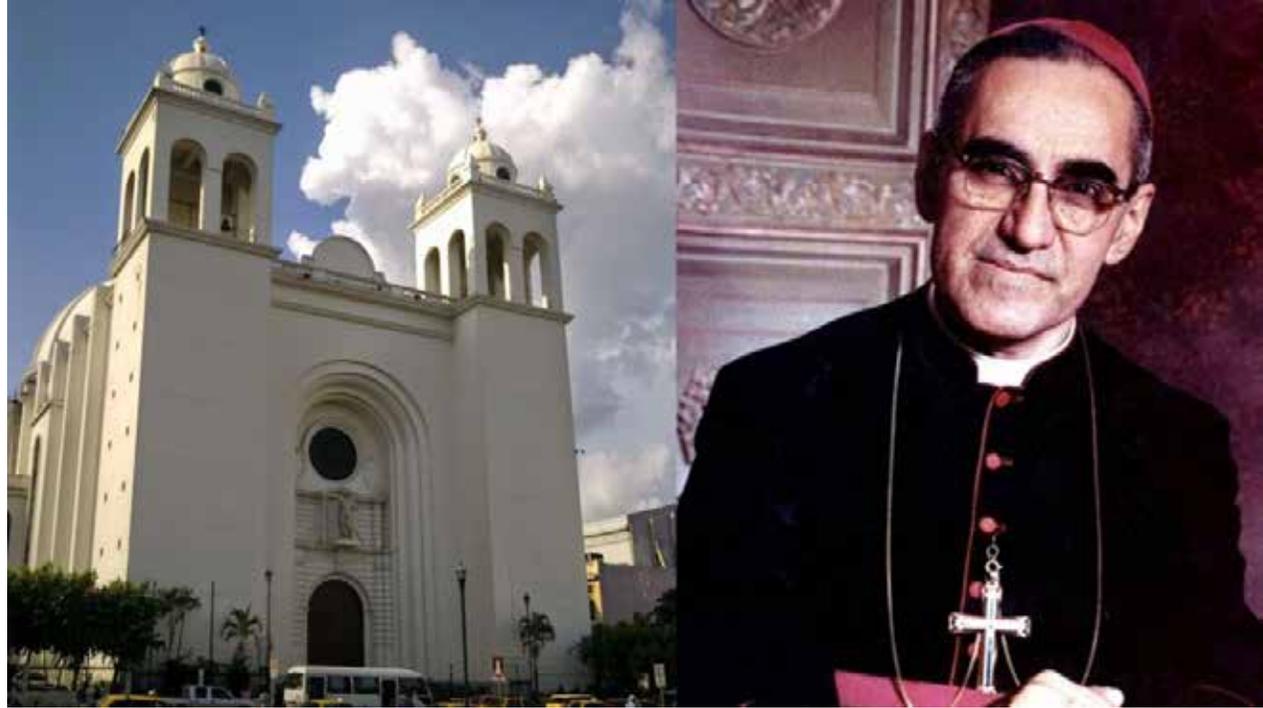
When a military junta seized power in 1979, Archbishop Romero began broadcasting weekly sermons over the radio. He became more outspoken and openly criticized the regime and those supporting it, reviling human rights violations, and defending the preferential option for the poor, denouncing cases of abduction, torture and mass murder. "Protest for change must always take place within Gospel teaching," Archbishop Romero told the people of his country, asking them not to be violent. Although his actions were validated by other countries, his own country turned on him and he became the target of the Salvadoran government's anger.

On March 24th, 1980, having just asked Salvadoran soldiers to obey God and not the government, Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass in a chapel at Divine Providence hospital. During his funeral, a bomb exploded, and more people were killed. In 1997, Pope John Paul II bestowed upon Oscar Romero the title of "Servant of God", when his cause for canonization was opened. Archbishop Romero was a fearless defender of the poor and suffering, and he ultimately gave his life for them. It wasn't until 2010 that the government of El Salvador formally apologized for the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero.

In 2015, Pope Francis declared Archbishop a martyr and the Church formally beatified him on May 23rd, 2015. Oscar Romero was canonized on October 14, 2018, where in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis proclaimed Oscar Romero a saint. His feast day is March 24.

***"Those who surrender to the service of the poor through love of Christ, will live like the grain of wheat that dies. It only apparently dies. If it were not to die, it would remain a solitary grain. The harvest comes because of the grain that dies..."***

~Saint Oscar Romero



# MARCH 2023

## *For Victims of Abuse*

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	1	2 Ash Wednesday	3 St. Katherine Drexel (USA)	4
5 Second Sunday of Lent	6	7 Sts. Perpetua and Felicity	8 St. John of God	9 St. Frances of Rome	10	11
12 Third Sunday of Lent	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick	18
19 Fourth Sunday of Lent	20 St. Joseph	21	22	23	24 St. Oscar Romero	25 The Annunciation of the Lord
26 Fifth Sunday of Lent	27	28	29	30	31	1

FEBRUARY 2023						
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# The Resurrection

(April 14)

***“Whatever happens, do not EVER separate yourself from God. I am not afraid of death. and I will find bliss in heaven.”***

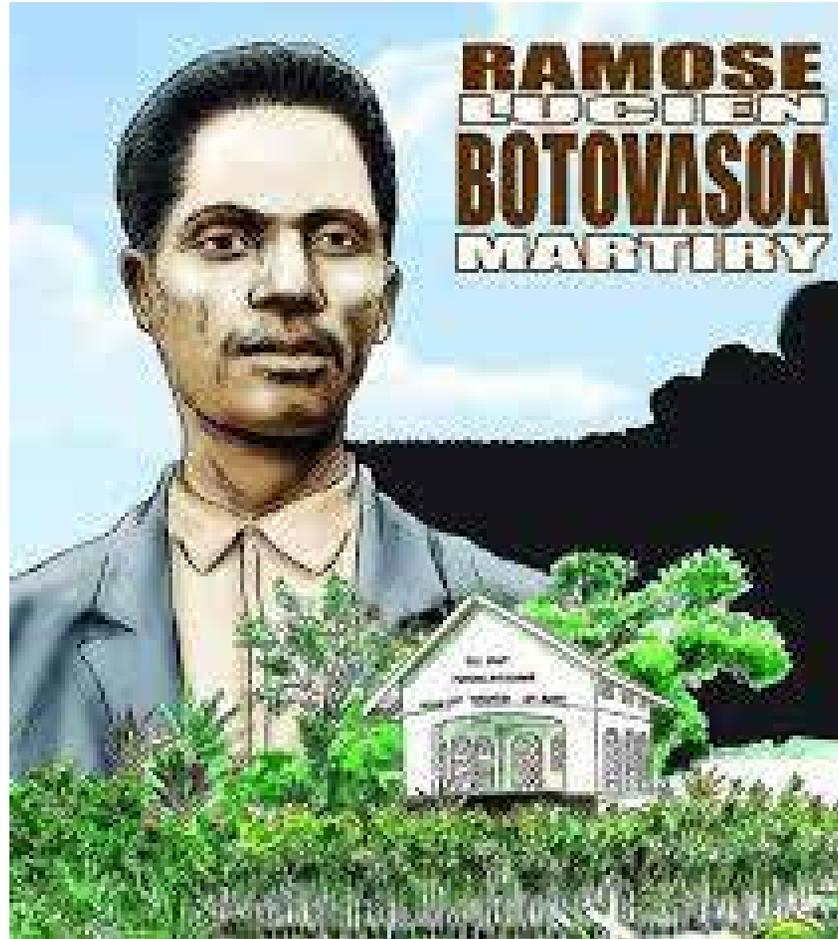
~Lucien Botovasoa (1908-1947)

**Blessed Lucien Botovasoa**, the son of poor farmers and the eldest brother of nine siblings, was born in 1908 on the island of Madagascar. Lucien, who adopted the motto of the Society of Jesus: ***Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (For the Greater Glory of God)*** was executed in 1947 for his devotion to the Catholic faith. He is remembered for being a great teacher, a great father, a faithful disciple of Jesus and a steadfast missionary.

Lucien Botovasoa started school in 1918 and became a teacher upon completing his schooling at the Jesuit College of St. Joseph. He shared his passion for reading about the saints with his students, by staying after class and discussing the faith and the lives of the saints. This was the first evidence of his burning desire to grow the Catholic faith, hence becoming a missionary in his own town and confirming that local evangelization is where propagation of faith begins.

In 1930, Lucien Botovasoa married Suzanna Soazana. Further evidence of his missionary work was his service to God through his vocation as a married man and a father of five. His work with evangelization continued in his service to the students in his school, the members of his parish and all those who needed help.

In August 1935, he became a member of the Crusaders of the Heart of Jesus and was on fire with the love for the Lord. This provided further opportunities for Lucien to serve God and humanity. Lucien Botovasoa had many talents that aided his evangelical work. He spoke many languages (Malagasy, French, German, and Chinese). He was also a great musician and a highly regarded singer, which helped in directing the parish choir. He was an athlete and had a joyful disposition. This served him well, as he lived his faith authentically.



In 1940 he joined the Secular Franciscans and went on to spread devotion to St. Francis of Assisi. Living a life of Franciscan spirituality, he was pious and on fire with the desire to evangelize. He was proud to be part of the Secular Franciscans and, like the Third Order Lay Seculars, wore khaki-coloured clothes instead of black slacks that were traditionally worn by teachers and religious. He was incredibly devoted to his family, his students, and his Catholic faith.

The political unrest of 1946, which became known as the Malagasy Uprising, targeted the Catholics because they were viewed as French loyalists, to whom the natives of Madagascar were revolting. The authorities were rounding up nuns and priests and executing them. They burned down the church on Palm Sunday and soon after they came for Lucien Botovasoa, who refused to hide from them. On April 14, 1947, Lucien was taken, and before being executed he asked to speak with the chief, and although this was granted to him, he was led away and then beheaded, as he prayed for and forgave his executioners. He prayed for them, saying, “O God, forgive my brothers who are here, because they now have a very difficult duty to fulfill regarding me.” The chief who had spoken with Lucien and had judged him and passed sentence on him later

converted to Christianity.

Pope Francis declared that Lucien had died ‘in odium fidei’, someone who is executed for his faith. Soon after, he was beatified by Cardinal Maurice Piat on April 15, 2018, in Vohipeno, Madagascar. Blessed Lucien Botovasoa is counted among the patrons of married couples, fathers, and teachers.

# APRIL 2023

*For a culture of peace and non violence*

We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	3	4	5	6 Holy Thursday/Beginning of the Triduum	7 Good Friday/Passion of the Lord	8 Holy Saturday
9 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	10	11	12	13 St. Martin I	14 Lucien Botovasoa	15
16 Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday	17 St. Kateri Tekakwitha	18	19	20	21 St. Anselm	22
23 Third Sunday of Easter	24	25	26 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	27	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday of Easter	St. Fidelis	St. Mark				St. Catherine of Siena

MARCH 2023						
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# Mamerto Esquiú (May 11)

Blessed Mamerto Esquiú, who was beatified on September 4, 2021 in Catamarca, Argentina, was a humble Franciscan and accomplished preacher who devoted many years to missionary work, particularly in Bolivia. He worked among the poor, teaching and sharing his faith through his example and his powerful sermons. He gained national renown because of his passion and skill as a speaker. Esquiú was born on May 11, 1826 in San José de Piedra Blanca, Argentina. His mother was a devout woman, who played a fundamental role in inspiring her son to become a priest. When he was very young, he joined the Order of Friars Minor, a Franciscan order, in Catamarca, a northwestern province of Argentina. In 1848, he was ordained to the priesthood. Much of his adult life was spent being closely involved with Catholic educational institutions, mostly in Argentina and Bolivia. He taught at a Franciscan convent school in Catamarca and later, in Bolivia, he was assigned to teach at a seminary in Sucre, the capital city.

Besides the critically important missionary work to which Esquiú steadfastly dedicated himself, he is most well known and remembered for his important role in promoting Argentine unity and peace in the years after the Argentine Civil Wars, which ended in 1853. Esquiú was considered a patriot for his stirring speeches and homilies supporting Argentine unity and acceptance of the 1853 Constitution. Most importantly, he preached the famous Sermon of the Constitution, which was enacted in 1853 in order to formalize the division of powers and legal basis for government. Through his eloquence, he encouraged his fellow Argentinians to understand the value of national unity represented by the Constitution and to collaborate to maintain peace through compassionate communication. In the spirit of service to his people and his country, and to evangelization, between 1855 - 1862, he played an active role as a deputy and member of the governing council of Catamarca. After a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and brief periods in Peru and Ecuador, Esquiú was appointed as Bishop of Córdoba, Argentina, in 1880. He died on January 10, 1883 and is buried in Córdoba Cathedral.



# MAY 2023

## *For church movements and groups*

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1 St. Joseph the Worker	2 St. Athanasius	3 St. Philip and St. James	4 Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis	5	6 St. Francois De Laval
7 Fifth Sunday of Easter	8	9	10 St. Damien de Veuster	11 <b>Mamerto Esquiú</b>	12	13 Our Lady of Fatima
14 Sixth Sunday of Easter	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Ascension of the Lord	22 St. Rita of Cascia	23	24 Blessed Louis-Zephirin Moreau	25 St. Bede the Venerable	26 St. Philip Neri	27 St. Augustine of Canterbury
28 Pentecost	29	30	31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	1	2	3

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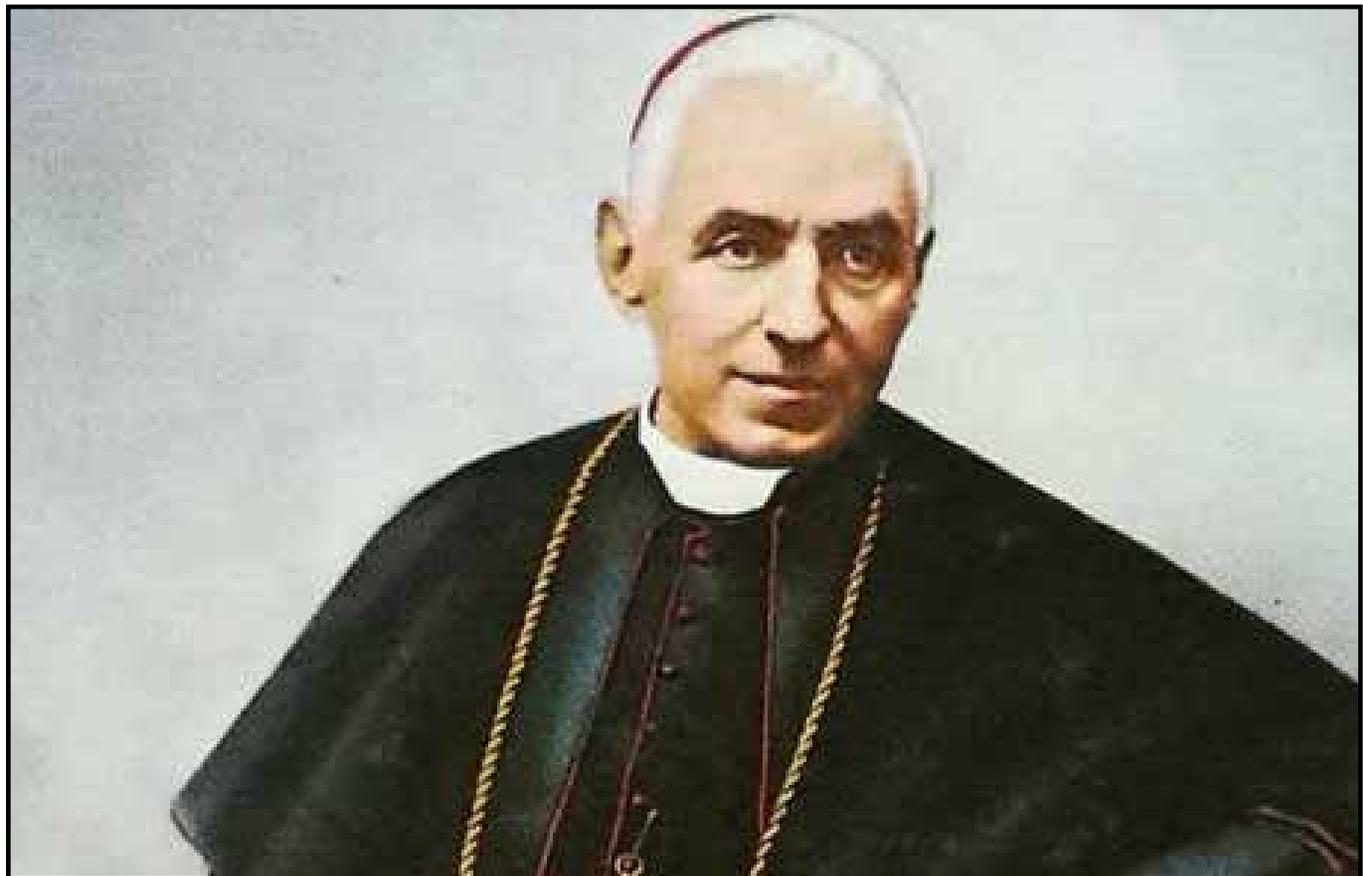


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# Giovanni Battista Scalabrini *(June 1)*

St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, founder of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo (Scalabrinians), was canonized by Pope Francis on October 9, 2022. Scalabrini dedicated his priesthood to providing practical and spiritual assistance to working-class Italians in his diocese as well as those who emigrated to the Americas. Speaking to members of the Scalabrinians in October 2018, Pope Francis called on them to walk with migrants, following the example of their founder, by paying attention to the “dignity of the human person, especially where it is most wounded and threatened.” Scalabrini was born on July 8, 1839 in Fino Mornasco near Como in northern Italy. He was ordained as a priest in May 1863 and immediately distinguished himself for his consideration for the working class as well as for his progressive thinking on political, social, and economic matters. Pope Pius IX named him bishop of Piacenza in 1875. As bishop, Scalabrini frequently visited all the 365 parishes in his diocese and initiated the first National Catechetical Congress at Piacenza. Pius IX referred to him as the “Apostle of the Catechism.” Scalabrini’s extensive charitable work included founding an institute for women who were hearing and speech impaired, organizing rural banks, cooperatives and Catholic Action groups and caring for the sick and imprisoned.

Besides founding the Mission Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, he also established the Lay Society of St. Raphael in 1889 whose goal, together with the Scalabrinians, was to support his firm conviction that working-class Italian immigrants needed economic, social and spiritual assistance to thrive in their new environment. Besides priests and nuns, committees of dedicated people gave practical, supportive advice and help to poor Italians newly arrived in the Americas; churches, schools, and missionary homes were established initially in the United States and Brazil, and now exist throughout the world. Scalabrini believed that it was necessary not to abruptly sever cultural ties with one’s home country, maintaining language as a bond of unity between fellow immigrants. He fought what the Holy Father today calls “the culture of indifference and discard.” He expressed his deep devotion to Mary through homilies and Marian pilgrimages and encouraged frequent Communion and Perpetual Adoration. St. Giovanni Scalabrini died on June 1, 1905 and is buried in the Piacenza Cathedral.



# JUNE 2023

## *For the abolition of torture*

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 <b>Giovanni Battista Scalabrini</b>	2 St. Marcellinus	3 St. Charles Lwanga and Companions
4 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity	5	6	7	8	9 St. Ephrem	10
11 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	12	13 St. Anthony of Padua	14	15	16 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	17 The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
18 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time	19 St. Romuald	20	21 St. Aloysius Gonzaga	22 St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More	23	24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
25 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	26	27	28 St. Irenaeus	29 St. Peter and St. Paul	30	1

MAY 2023						
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JULY 2023						
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# Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa *(July 6)*

Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa, who devoted her life to missionary work and religious education in Bolivia and founded the Crusader Missionaries of the Church religious order, was canonized in St. Peter's Square on October 14, 2018. She was born on January 10, 1889 in Madrid, Spain, a middle child in a family of ten children. When she was nine years old, she heard the voice of Jesus call to her: "You, Nazaria, follow me." "I will follow Jesus," she responded, "as close as a human creature can." Although her parents disapproved of her religious passion, March Mesa received her religious education and the sacraments with her grandmother's permission and supervision. As a child, she wanted to be a Jesuit missionary; the Ignatian perspective was later reflected in her own religious order. She and her friends prayed and offered sacrifices for the missions.

March Mesa, whose religious name was Sister Nazaria Ignacia of St. Teresa of Jesus, ministered in Oruro, Bolivia for most of her life. She went there to spread the Word of God in the mines, on the farms of the local indigenous people, the prisons and the market places. She supported the workers' cause and promoted the advancement of women. Moved by the desperate conditions of the poverty-stricken people, she helped them claim their work rights and founded the first women's trade union. After her family emigrated to Mexico, she joined the Little Sisters of the Abandoned Elderly in 1908. In 1926, she founded her religious order with support from Filippo Cortesi, who was interested in helping her establish a religious congregation dedicated to re-Christianizing the world. The mission of the Congregation was to catechise children and adults, support the work of priests, conduct missions and to print and distribute short religious tracts. Her order was the first Bolivian religious community for women. In 1931 she created the dining room "Olla del pobre" (The poor person's pot) in four Bolivian cities, which still remain open to this day, supplying food to some 200 people daily. She died on July 6, 1943 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but her remains were relocated to Oruro, Bolivia in 1972.



# JULY 2023

*For a Eucharistic life* - We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	16	27	28	29	30	1 (Canada Day)
2 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	3 St. Thomas, Apostle	4	5 St. Elizabeth of Portugal	6 Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa	7	8
9 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10	11 St. Benedict	12	13 St. Henry	14	15 St. Bonaventure
16 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	17	18	19	20	21 St. Lawrence of Brindisi	22 St. Mary Magdalene
23 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	31 St. Ignatius of Loyola	St. James	St. Joachim and St. Anne			St. Martha, St. Mary, St. Laza

JUNE 2023						
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AUGUST 2023						
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# Euphrasia Eluvathingal *(August 30)*

St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal, an Indian Carmelite nun who is known as the 'Praying Mother' because of her commitment to prayer and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was canonized by Pope Francis at the Vatican on November 23, 2014. She was born on October 17, 1877 in the village of Kattoor in the Diocese of Trichur in Kerala, a southwestern state of India. Her family belonged to the Syro-Malabar Catholic Nasrani Church, otherwise known as Eastern Catholic. She was named Rosa and she was the eldest child in a family of five children. She was greatly influenced by her mother's deep piety and devotion to Mary. Her mother taught Rosa to pray the rosary and later in life St. Euphrasia was always seen with her rosary entwined in her fingers. At nine, she received an apparition of Mary, which strengthened her resolve to devote her life to God. She wanted to become a nun, but she had to overcome her father's opposition, which she did by her consistent praying of the rosary, fasting and abstinence. When she was 11, Rosa joined the convent of the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel at Koonammavu, the first indigenous congregation of Syro-Malabars. Because of her poor health, it was likely that she would be removed from the order, but an apparition of the Holy Family gave her miraculous healing. At 20, she became a postulant and took the name St. Euphrasia of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and at 21, she became a nun. She was the novice mistress and then the mother superior of St. Mary's convent in Ullur from 1913 to 1916.

St. Euphrasia began and ended her days by praying to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to whom she entrusted her worries and obligations. Before going to bed, she would talk to the Lord for a long time. Although St. Euphrasia never left the Carmelite convent, she was called a "mystic missionary" because of the way she cared for everyone who came into contact with her; through her example, devotion, consoling prayers and kind words, she helped many poor people who came to her for healing, prayer support and help with their problems. She died on August, 29, 1952 at the Ullur convent, but her reputation as the "Praying Mother" and the power of her prayer continues to sustain and benefit many people.



# AUGUST 2023

## *For World Youth Day*

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 St. Alphonsus Liguori	2	3	4 St. John Vianney	5 The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
6 The Transfiguration of the Lord	7	8 St. Dominic	9 St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	10 St. Lawrence	11 St. Claire	12 St. Jane Frances de Chantal
13 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	14 St Maximilian Kolbe	15 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	16 St. Stephen of Hungry	17	18	19
20 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	21 St. Pius X	22 Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	23 St. Rose of Lima	24 St. Bartholomew	25 St. Louis	26
27 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	28 St. Augustine of Hippo	29 Passion of St. John the Baptist	30 Euphrasia Eluvathinga	31	1	2

JULY 2023						
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SEPTEMBER 2023						
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## **Antonia Luzmila Rivas Lopez** **SEPTEMBER 26**

Born in Peru on June 13, 1920, Antonia Luzmila Rivas Lopez grew up in an atmosphere of faith. At thirteen years old, she would enter a school for girls of poor families in Lima Peru, run by the sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd. While studying at the school, Antonia discerned a call to become a sister of the Good Shepherd and after graduation she entered the order. During her formation period, which ended with her perpetual profession at age 29 in 1949, she became affectionately known as Aguchita.

After her profession, Aguchita held various positions in her order. In the 1960's, she worked at the school in Lima, as the director of laundry, modeling for the students in her care, the virtue of humility. She also organized food banks and classes for needy mothers, teaching them how to earn a living. In the 1970's, Aguchita would work as a nurse, assisting abused women, and teaching them to prayer as a path to healing. In 1976, she created an organization known as "Queen of Peace," for adolescents in extreme poverty and social risk. From 1986-1988, Aguchita left Lima to work with the novices of her order in Barrios Altos, Peru.

Meanwhile, in 1980, the congregation of the Good Shepherd established a presence in a remote area of Peru, known as La Florida, where they ministered to indigenous women. The Communist Party would begin terrorist activities in this area, but even though they knew that their lives were at risk, the order decided to remain with the indigenous people of this area. In 1988, Aguchita was sent to La Florida to strengthen the sisters and work with indigenous women. Upon hearing of this new mission, Aguchita said, "(I am) enthusiastic about the idea of finally being a missionary, feeling a deep desire come true."

Knowing the risk that she was taking, Aguchita ministered in a dangerous climate. In September of 1990, the government forces came to La Florida and ordered everyone to gather in the village square. When Aguchita arrived at the square with her students, she was selected to be one of six to be executed, to be an example for the rest of the villagers. They also ransacked the rest of the village, including the buildings of the sisters. Aguchita gave her life for the sake of her faith and the indigenous people she loved. Aguchita died a martyr and beatified on May 7, 2022 where it was said of her,

She always dreamed of being a missionary in the jungle and God granted it to her. He allowed her to enjoy our beautiful Amazonia and to work with its welcoming inhabitants, both settlers and local people. As a bonus, God allowed her to water this fertile land with her life-giving, dedicated and intercessory blood. Finally, Aguchita's martyrdom is a mature fruit of the Peruvian church: it germinated and grew in the highlands, flourished and matured on the coast and was sown to multiply in the jungle.

# SEPTEMBER 2023

*For the abolition of the death penalty.*

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	2
3 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	4	5	6	7	8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9 St. Peter Claver
10 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	11	12	13 St. John Chrysostom	14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	15 Our Lady of Sorrows	16
17 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18	19	20 St. Andrew Kim and Companions	21 St. Matthew	22	23 St. Pio of Pietrelcina
24 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	25	26 Antonia Luzmila Rivas López	27 St. Vincent de Paul	28 St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions	29 St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, Archangels	30 St. Jerome

AUGUST 2023						
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OCTOBER 2023						
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# St. Laura Montoya Upegui – (October 21)



Due to the death of her father in war at a very young age, Laura grew up in poverty in Antioquia, Columbia. Her mother eventually sent her to live with a cold and detached grandmother. To overcome her loneliness and isolation, Laura turned to prayer and the reading of scripture for consolation. At age 16, Laura's mother encouraged her to become a teacher to help support the family. Even though she had no formal education, she excelled in the teacher training program and became an even better teacher. She taught in various schools in her hometown of Antioquia and infused her teaching with the proclamation of the Gospel.

While Laura dreamed of becoming a contemplative nun, her teaching career convinced her of the need to spread the Gospel, especially among the poor. In particular, she felt called to ministry with the indigenous people of Columbia. She saw a dignity in the indigenous population that many Christians of her time did not. Laura was highly criticized for this desire to work with indigenous people, but she cared little for public opinion.

In May of 1914, she left Medellin with four other young women to work with indigenous groups. With her Bishop's permission, this small group of women became a new religious order, called the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate and St. Catherine of Siena. As the founder, Laura created a rule that tried to balance the contemplative and the active life of her sisters. She also included in the rule advise on how to minister to indigenous people. She called her method a "pedagogy of love." It was only through caring for indigenous people that they would see the truth of the Gospel. This pedagogy of love also included having respect for the culture of these people.

Laura lived the last nine years of her life in pain, suffering from a variety of illnesses. But her order would continue to blossom and bear fruit. Today, her Missionary Sisters serve in 21 countries in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. At her canonization, Pope Francis especially praised St. Laura for instilling hope in the indigenous people of her country and for teaching them in a way that esteemed their culture. St. Laura was the first Columbian to be canonized a saint and she is the patron saint of orphans and of those who suffer racial discrimination.

# OCTOBER 2023

## *For the Synod*

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	2  St. Therese of the Child Jesus	3	4  St. Francis of Assisi	5	6  St. Bruno	7  Our Lady of the Rosary
8  27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9  St. Denis and Companions	10	11  St. John XXIII	12	13	14
15  28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	16  St. Marguerite D'Youville	17  St. Ignatius of Antioch	18  St. Luke	19	20	21  Laura Montoya
22  29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	23  St. John of Capistrano	24	25	26	27	28  St. Simon and St. Jude.
29  30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	30	31	1	2	3	4

SEPTEMBER 2023						
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NOVEMBER 2023						
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## **St. Artemides Zatti** *(November 13)*

Born in Italy on October 12, 1880 to a poor farming family, Artemides Zatti was put to work at a young age as a hired-hand to support his family. In 1897, the Zatti family was forced to immigrate to Argentina in the hope of finding greener pastures. They settled in Bahia Blanca, Argentina, where Artemides became involved in a Salesian parish. In time, Artemides would discern a call to the Salesian order and entered their aspirant program. Part of his training involved taking care of a priest with tuberculosis which Artemides eventually contracted himself.

As part of his treatment, Artemides was sent to a mission hospital in Viedma, Argentina. There, Artemides would pray to Mother Mary for the grace of recovery and promised to dedicate his life to the sick if he was healed. After his recovery, Artemides was given the responsibility for overseeing the pharmacy at the mission hospital. When the director passed away, Artemides was given responsibility for the entire hospital. He was not only a good leader but a kind and compassionate presence in the hospital.

His day would begin at 4:30 with meditation and mass. After his prayers, he would visit the sick at the hospital, which would be followed by visiting the sick in the city. After lunch, he would spend some time socializing with the patients. More visits to the sick would follow in the afternoon. After dinner, until 8:00, he would work in the pharmacy. Artemides would end his day studying medicine and some spiritual reading. Of course, he was always on call even during the night.

In 1913, Artemides received his nursing diploma and soon learnt, much to his disappointment, that the hospital needed to be demolished. Without being discouraged, Artemides began the construction of a new hospital. In 1951, Artemides was found to be in the advance stages of cancer and died on March 15, 1951. His body was laid to rest in the chapel in Viedma, where he had dedicated so much of his life to the sick. Pope John Paul II declared him beatified in April of 2002 and Pope Francis canonized him on October 9, 2022.

# NOVEMBER 2023

## *For the Pope*

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			All Saints Day	All Souls Day	St. Martin de Porres	St. Charles Borromeo
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time				The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	St. Leo the Great	St. Martin of Tours
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Artemides Zatti		St. Albert the Great	St. Margaret of Scotland	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St. Cecilia		St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Christ the King				St. Andrew		

OCTOBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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# MARIA EMILIA RIQUELME Y ZAYAS

December 10

Maria Emilia was born in Grenada, Spain to a military family in 1847. Her mother was a very religious woman, a trait she passed on to Maria Emilia. Her mother died when Maria Emilia was still very young. But she continued her interest in the faith by teaching catechism and helping the poor. When her father died in 1885, she tried to enter several religious orders. Due to her poor health, however, she kept being turned down.

Her Bishop did give her permission to keep the blessed Sacrament at home, where she built a chapel. Still feeling a vocation to religious life, Maria Emilia simply decided to begin her own religious order. In her chapel, she wrote the first constitution for a new order, and, in March of 1896, her Archbishop gave official approval to the new order by investing habits on seven novices and perpetual profession to Maria Emilia as the first superior of the order, to be called Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament and Mary Immaculate.

Maria would turn her home into a school for girls and soon opened a second community in Barcelona. The new order suffered much internal unrest and many external lies. But Maria Emilia held fast and, in 1912, Pope Pius X gave official approval to the new order, receiving further approval by Pope Pius XI in 1938. The order continued to grow where now they have communities, not only in Spain, but in Portugal, Brazil, Columbia, Bolivia, Asia, and the United States. Maria Emilia was beatified in 2019 in Grenada, Spain.



# DECEMBER 2023

## *For persons with disabilities*

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent	4 St. John Damascene	5	6 St. Nicholas	7 St. Ambrose	8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9
10 María Emilia Riquelme y Zayas 2nd Sunday of Advent	11 St. Damasus I	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 St. Lucy	14 St. John of the Cross	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent	18	19	20 St. Peter Canisius	21 St. Peter Canisius	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	St. Stephen	St. John	The Holy Innocents	St. Thomas a Becket	

NOVEMBER 2023						
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JANUARY 2024						
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