

Praying with Missionary Saints

SAINT

TERESA
OF CALCUTTA

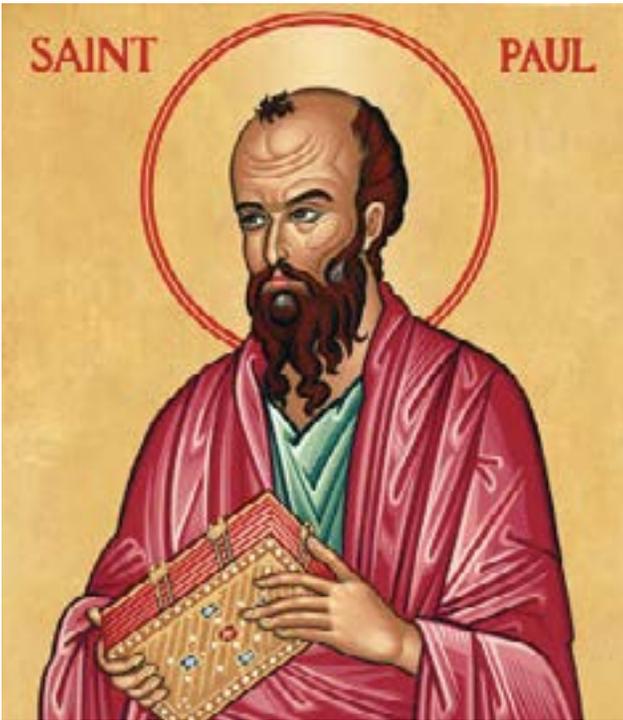


MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION
A Mission of Healing, A Partnership of Hope

St. Paul

Feast Day: June 29

Patron of the Missions and Theologians



Paul, born Saul of Tarsus in the year 5 AD, is among the most famous and influential of the apostles. As a Pharisee, Paul presided at the persecutions of Christians. His dramatic conversion led him to becoming one of the most passionate leaders in the first generation of the Church.

His conversion story, well known to most, began on the journey to Damascus, where he intends to preach against Christians. He encounters a blinding light and vision that said "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Lord,
Help us to become apostles like St. Paul, spreading Your love and serving the Church with a pure heart and a selfless desire to welcome all into our community of faith. We ask for strength, courage, and a deeper conviction that our words and actions will reflect Your great love and sacrifice.

With St. Paul, we praise
You God our Father,
may we never rest till we rest with You.

Amen.

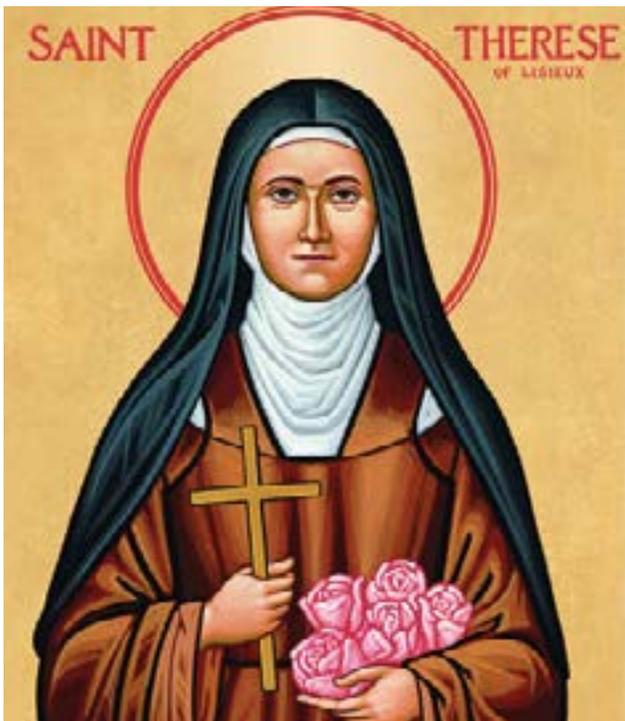
St. Paul, pray for us.

Getting up from the ground, he opens his eyes and discovers he is blind. Led by the hand into the city, he neither eats nor drinks for three days. Saul's sight is restored and he is baptized. Over the next two decades he proclaimed Christ to Gentiles and Jews. For this he suffered beatings, tortures, imprisonment, hunger, cold, and was beheaded in 67 for his selfless efforts.

Of the 27 books in the New Testament, 13 are attributed to Paul. They provide timeless advice for how Christians should live.

St. Therese of Lisieux

Feast Day: October 1
Patron of the Missions



Lord,
Help us to live the 'little way' of love and sacrifice that St. Therese found as her way to grow closer to You. Help us put all our trust in You, that we may have the childlike faith of St. Therese to see Your face in all the people and all the experiences of our lives. Her heart held the work of all missionaries from the confines of her Carmelite Convent. May Mission Doctors, serving Your children today, be blessed and may those of us who pray from home recognize the great value of these prayers and sacrifices.

Amen.

St. Therese, Pray for us.

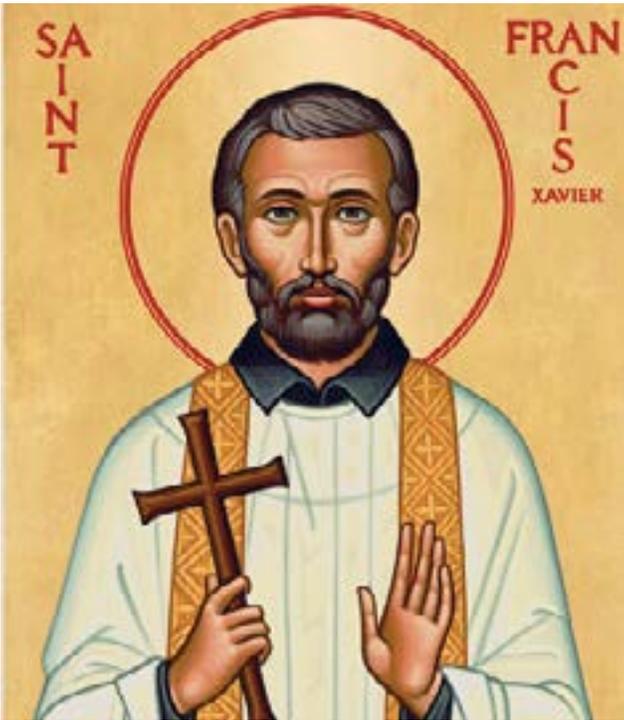
St. Therese of Lisieux, often called the 'Little Flower,' was born in 1873. She has been admired and serves as an inspiration to many, although she lived only 24 years and spent less than ten of those as a cloistered Carmelite Nun. She never performed great works, never spoke before crowds, and the only book of hers, which was published after her death in 1897, was a collection of letters and her journal called *'Story of a Soul.'*

It is surprising to some to know that Therese of Lisieux is one of the patron saints of the missions. She never left the convent, yet she had a special love for missionaries and those whom they served. This reminds those of us, who may feel our efforts too small, that it is the little things that we do that serve God that matters, when we serve with love. Her 'little way', making small and large sacrifices, and all done with love, serve as the example of how we to can make our way to God. She was canonized a saint in 1925 by Pope Pius.

St. Francis Xavier

Feast Day: December 3

Patron of the African and Chinese Missions



Lord,
St. Francis Xavier went far beyond the comforts of his home to share Your great love and invited others to join him in this mission.

He recognized that each opportunity brought new ways to be a witness to the Gospel.

Please give me the grace to feel Your presence, and allow me to see You in all the people and things which surround my life; that I may grow in faith, and hope, and love, and serve selflessly as your servant St. Francis.

Amen.

St. Francis Xavier, Pray for us.

Born into a noble family, Francis Xavier grew up in a kingdom that lay between France and Spain. He studied at the University of Paris, where he was influenced by Ignatius of Loyola. In 1534, he and several friends made vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. He was ordained in 1537. His order was approved by Pope Paul III in 1540 and became The Society of Jesus, known as the Jesuits. He spent several years traveling in India and Japan, where he preached the gospel, visited the sick, and comforted the poor.

In Japan, he found that his poverty was a barrier to communication. He had to change his strategy: he dressed in fine clothing and presented gifts from India. This had the desired effect of improving his reputation. In Japan, Christianity became the subject of great persecution, which forced many to go underground with their beliefs. In 1552, he was waiting for a boat to arrive, became ill with a fever, and died on December 3. St. Francis was canonized by Pope Gregory XV on March 12, 1622.

St. Mother Teresa

Feast Day: September 5

Patron of World Youth Day



Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in 1910 in Skopje, now the capital of the Republic of Macedonia. She was deeply involved with her church as a child. She left home at age 18 to move to the Loreto Convent in Dublin, Ireland. There she was given the name Teresa. In 1931 she permanently moved to Calcutta, India to teach at a Catholic school for girls. After twenty years of service to the school, she was traveling from Calcutta to Darjeeling by train when she experienced “a call within a call.”

Lord,
You awoke in St. Teresa a fire of love for You and Your Sacrifice on the Cross. This fire grew to become a living flame that reflected Your love beyond herself, beyond the community she founded. This love extended to the faithful, to the sick and the dying where she saw Your face, and to all who heard of her great love for You. May we too learn to be a reflection of this light, never turning away, radiating Your love to others, especially those most in need who we may meet each day. Amen.

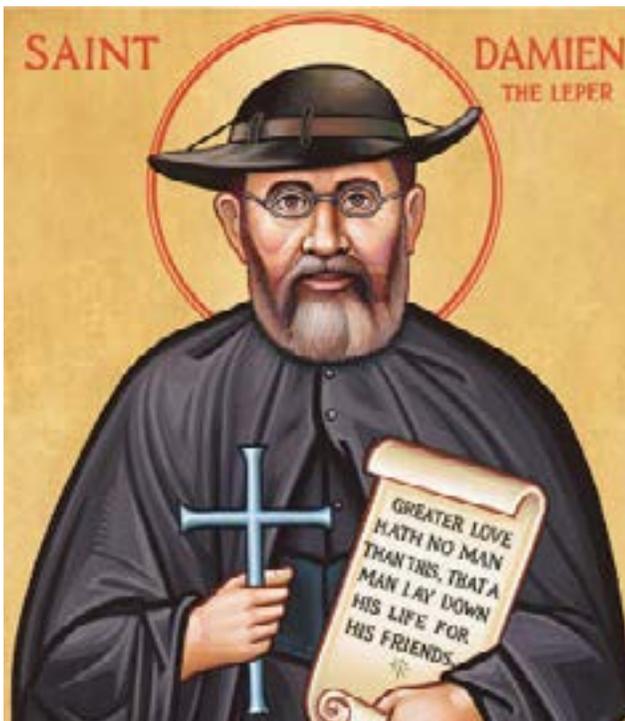
Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Pray for us.

This call transformed her life. She felt the profound need to devote herself to the needs of the sick and the poor. In 1950, she established her own religious order, the Missionaries of Charity. The sisters and brothers of the Missionaries of Charity take a vow to give “wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor.”

In 1979 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian work. She died in 1997 after a lifetime of service. She was canonized on September 4, 2016 by Pope Francis.

St. Damien of Molokai

Feast Day: May 10
Patron of people with leprosy



Lord,
St. Damien served You as a generous and humble missionary, caring for those who the world had discarded. Recognizing the dignity of each person, his life was devoted to ensuring that their lives could be lived to the fullest. His love of the Gospel was greater than that of his own life. Teach us to give our lives with joy and help us to love even to our last days. Grow in us compassion for the poor and forgotten so that we might follow the example of St. Damian, as we live our lives for others.
Amen.

St. Damien, Pray for us.

Saint Damien was born in Belgium in 1840. His family owned a farm and it was expected that when he was old enough, he would take over. However, he followed in the footsteps of three of his siblings and entered a religious order. He became a brother of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

In 1864 he took his ill brother's place on an assignment to Hawaii, where he was ordained as a priest and began working at a new colony for people. There, he provided spiritual guidance and medical care to those

in need. He brought order and routine to the colony, helping people build houses and organizing a Church.

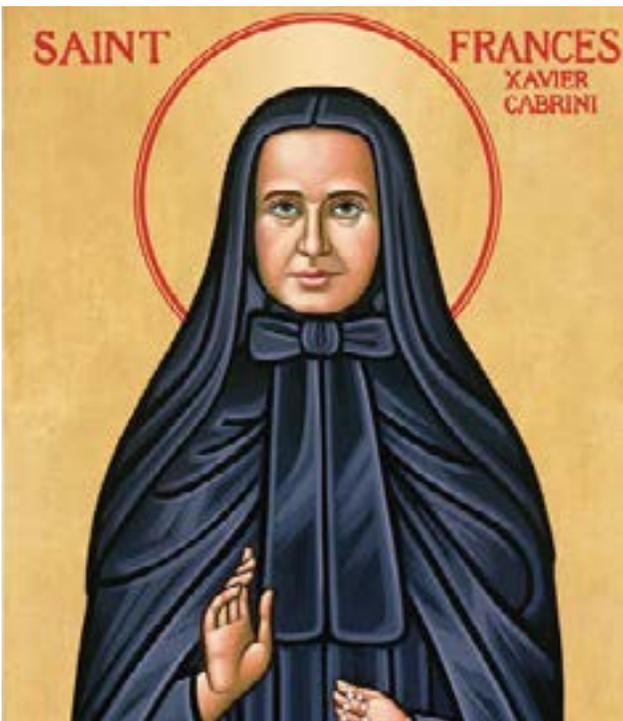
Damian's great sacrifice for people who society rejected was a reflection of his great faith and humility.

After contracting leprosy, Damian died in 1889. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995 and was canonized in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI. The anniversary of his death, April 15, is a statewide holiday in Hawaii.

St. Frances Cabrini

Feast Day: November 13

Patron of Immigrants and Hospital Administrators



Lord,
You gave St. Frances the grace to
serve as a missionary to care for
the poor and abandoned.

As she worked tirelessly to create
and support institutions of education and
healthcare she did so in your name.
Give me Lord the grace to work every day to
do Your will, to seek opportunities
to care for others, to share your love
and to support others who are
working in your name around the world.

Amen.

St. Frances Cabrini, Pray for us.

Saint Frances was born in Italy in 1850. She was asked to teach at a girls school in Italy, the House of Providence Orphanage. She taught there for six years and recruited a community of women into religious life. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for the poor children in both schools and hospitals in Italy. This order established seven homes, a free school, and a nursery. After some time, she immigrated to be a missionary to New York.

Frances founded 67 institutions, including orphanages, schools, and hospitals. She

dedicated 35 years to caring for the poor, uneducated, sick, abandoned. Her institutions were spread out in places all over the United States, including New York, Colorado, and Illinois. She later became a naturalized US citizen. She was always able to find people to donate their money, time, and support for her institutions.

She died in 1917, and was canonized in 1946 by Pope Pius XII. A Missionary to the United States, St. Frances Cabrini was the first US citizen to be canonized.

St. Mother Theodore Guerin

Feast Day: October 3
Patron of the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Lafayette in Indiana



Lord,
Mother Guerin who felt called to serve You,
even as a child, put aside her own needs and
reservations to venture to the wilderness.

Give us the courage to take the risks
necessary to share your love and
selflessly serve our sisters and brothers.

Grant that through a life of prayer
and service with others, we too may aid in
promoting Your great Providence.

Amen.

*Saint Mother Theodore Guerin,
pray for us.*

Born in 1798 in a small village in France, St. Mother Theodore Guerin was only a child when she told a priest that she was going to be a nun when she grew up. When she was 25, she entered the Sisters of Providence of Ruillé-sur-Loir, a community of religious women who provided opportunities for education to children and cared for the poor, sick, and dying. In 1840, she was asked to lead a small missionary band of Sisters of Providence to the United States. The intention was to establish a motherhouse,

to open schools and to share the love of God. Initially hesitant because of her age and illness, she eventually decided after many hours of prayer that if she didn't venture to the wilderness, no one would.

In Indiana, she dealt with many struggles but remained a faithful woman of God. She opened many schools and drew people to God. Her life is a model of holiness, virtue, love and faith. She died in 1856 and was canonized in 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Blessed Stan Rother

Feast Day: July 28



Lord,

Your missionary priest and brave shepherd, Stanley Rother, cared for the people You gave to his care, putting aside his own needs and safety to serve as a witness of Your great love. As our Church proclaims him as a martyr and saint, may we look to the example of his life and strive to also walk each day, worthy of our vocation as Your followers.

Give us the grace to stand against injustice, to walk with those who are poor in this world, and to have faith that you are always by our side.

Amen.

Blessed Stanley Rother, Pray for us.

Stan Rother was born in 1935 in Oklahoma. He grew up on a farm, but knew from a young age that he wanted to join the priesthood. He struggled with the academics of seminary and was advised to leave, but remained strong to his convictions and graduated and was ordained as a priest in 1963.

After serving in various parishes in Oklahoma, he was assigned to a rural parish in Guatemala. There, he learned both Spanish and Tzutujil, a Mayan dialect used in the village. He founded a hospital,

maintained buildings and grounds in the village, and became well known for his preaching and hands-on work. His doors were open to all people. In 1980, violence escalated in Guatemala and Rother's name was added to a death list. His friends begged him to return home, but he said that the pastor could not abandon the flock in the face of danger. He was murdered in 1981 by an extremist death squad. Pope Francis confirmed he was killed "in hatred of the faith". He is the first US-born priest and martyr to be beatified by the Catholic Church.

More Information

Click on the links below for additional information about the lives of these Missionary Saints.

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

<http://catholicsaints.info/saint-therese-of-lisieux/>

<http://www.sttherese.com>

<http://www.littleflower.org/therese/>

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

<http://catholicsaints.info/saint-francis-xavier/>

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-francis-xavier/>

<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-voices/16th-and-17th-century-ignatian-voices/st-francis-xavier-sj>

ST. MOTHER TERESA

<http://catholicsaints.info/saint-teresa-of-calcutta>

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=5611

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-teresa-of-calcutta/>

ST. PAUL

<http://catholicsaints.info/saint-paul-the-apostle/>

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=91

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-47/apostle-paul-and-his-times-did-you-know.html>

ST. DAMIAN OF MOLOKAI

<http://catholicsaints.info/saint-damian/>

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=2817

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-damien-de-veuster-of-moloka-i/>

ST. FRANCES CABRINI

<http://catholicsaints.info/saint-frances-xavier-cabrini/>

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=278

<https://www.motherscabrini.org/who-we-are/mother-cabrini/>

ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN

<https://spsmw.org/saint-mother-theodore/>

<http://catholicsaints.info/saint-theodore-guerin/>

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-theodora-gu-eacute-rin/>

BLESSED STAN ROTHER

<http://catholicsaints.info/blessed-stanley-francis-rother/>

<http://rotherguild.org>

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2017/06/28/father-stanley-rother-knew-shepherd-cannot-run-his-flock>

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MISSION
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ASSOCIATION

A Mission of Healing, A Partnership of Hope

Following Christ's call to heal the sick, Mission Doctors Association provides lifesaving medical care for the poor and training for local healthcare professionals around the world.

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