

REDEMPTORIST SAINTS AND BLESSED A QUICK INTRODUCTION

St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)

Bishop, Doctor of the Church, Founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, patron of those who suffer with arthritis

FEAST: AUGUST 1



Preaching and prayer formed the heart of the missionary activity of Alphonsus. Where he could not reach people with the spoken word, he sought to do so with his writings. His 111 works have gone through many editions. He founded the Redemptorists to proclaim the Good News among the most abandoned. Alphonsus was canonized in 1839, declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871, and on declared patron of confessors and moral theologians in 1950. He is known as “the Doctor of Prayer” and “Most Zealous Doctor.”

St. Gerard Majella (1720-1755)

Patron of mothers, those enduring difficult pregnancies, those experiencing difficulty conceiving a child

FEAST: OCTOBER 16



Born into a poor family in Muro Lucano, Italy, Gerard became an apprentice tailor. He achieved a good education when he was employed as a servant in the house of a bishop. He entered the Redemptorists in 1749, after a mission preached in his town. Gerard became known for his simplicity of life, his joy and his holiness, his obedience to the Redemptorist Rule, his attentiveness to the poor and his spiritual direction, his miracles and his ability to read the hearts of people.

St. Clement Hofbauer (1751 - 1820)

Priest, patron of Warsaw and Vienna

FEAST: MARCH 15

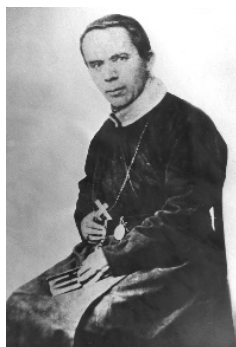


Born in Tasswitz, Moravia (now the Czech Republic), Clement was an apprentice baker, then a servant at an abbey. He was thus able to follow the call to priesthood, and studied in Vienna. Having heard of the Redemptorists, he and a friend travelled by foot to Italy to join. He brought the Good News and the Redemptorists first to Warsaw (1787-1808), and then to Vienna (1808-1820), always a tireless missionary, dedicated to proclaiming the Good News anew.

St. John Neumann (811-1860)

Bishop, patron of immigrants

FEAST: JANUARY 5



Born in Prachatitz in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He studied in Budweis, and developed a desire to be a missionary. He travelled to America, was ordained, and devoted himself to service of immigrants. He entered the Redemptorists in 1842. To better serve the immigrants flooding in, he learned to speak a number of languages. He became Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. He died serving his people. He was canonized in 1977.

REDEMPTORIST SAINTS AND BLESSED AT A GLANCE

Blessed Peter Donders
(1809-1887)
Priest

FEAST: JANUARY 14



Born in Tilburg, Holland to a poor family, Peter made a living by weaving before entering the seminary at 22. He was ordained in 1841, and immediately began a missionary life in Paramaribo, Surinam. In 1856 he began to serve in the leprosarium in Batavia, where he would spend the most of rest of his life. He entered the Redemptorists in 1866. He died among the lepers in 1887, and was beatified in 1982.

Blessed Gaspar Stanggassinger
(1871-1899)
Priest, Patron of
Redemptorist Youth
Ministry

FEAST: SEPTEMBER 26



Born in Berchtesgaden, Germany, he entered the seminary at 19, and after a visit by some Redemptorists decided to enter the congregation, was ordained in 1895, and was appointed as director of students. He was known for his kindness, joy, and encouraging presence. Shortly after he was named Director of the new seminary at Gars, he died of peritonitis, at the age of 28.

Blessed Gennaro Sarnelli
(1702-1744)
Priest

FEAST: JUNE 30



Son of the Baron of Ciorani, Gennaro had a solid education, and served as lawyer in the courts of Naples. He was a friend and compatriot of Alphonsus Liguori. He was a powerful missionary preacher, and dedicated himself especially to the catechesis of young people, with a particular concern for young women at risk of becoming prostitutes. He wrote more than 30 books. Sarnelli died at the age of 42.

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
(1819-1867)
Priest

FEAST: OCTOBER 5



Born in Füssen, Bavaria, he was a seminarian when he heard of the Redemptorists and their missionary work in America, where he the CSsR in 1843. Through most of his life, he was involved in pastoral ministry, in the formation of Redemptorist students, and was a highly effective preacher of missions. He was known as "the cheerful ascetic." His last assignment was New Orleans, where he died, caring for victims of Yellow Fever. He was beatified in 2000.

Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions
(The Redemptorist
Martyrs of Ukraine)

Bishop Nicholas
Charnetsky
(1884-1959)



All of these Redemptorists were fearless and effective preachers of the Word of God, and known for their devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. All faced martyrdom under the Soviet regime.

Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky was held captive in about thirty Soviet labor camps and prisons from 1945 to 1956. His pro-longed imprisonment shattered his health, and he died in 1959.

REDEMPTORIST SAINTS AND BLESSED AT A GLANCE

Bishop Vasyl
Velychkovsky
(1903-1972)

Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky was arrested in 1945 and was condemned to death, but the death sentence was commuted to ten years' imprisonment. Arrested once more in 1969, he spent three years in prison. In the spring of 1972, near death, he was exiled from Ukraine. He died in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1973 as a result of a slow-acting poison that had been administered prior to his release.

Fr. Zenon Kovalyk
(1903-1941)

Fr. Zenon Kovalyk was arrested by the Soviets in 1940 and continued his pastoral ministry while imprisoned. When the Soviet prisons were opened on the arrival of the invading German army in 1941, Blessed Zenon's body was found crucified to a wall of the Zamartynivska prison.

Fr. Ivan Ziatyk
(1899-1952)

Father Ivan Ziatyk was entrusted with the administration of the Church in Ukraine in 1948 when, during the German occupation of Ukraine, all the Ukrainian Catholic bishops were arrested. He, too, was arrested on January 5, 1950. He was treated brutally in a Soviet prison in Siberia, and on Good Friday, 1952, he was beaten so cruelly that he died a few days later.

FEAST: JUNE 27/28

BLESSED METHODIUS DOMINIC TRČKA

1886 – 1959
Priest, Martyr



Born in Frydlant, Moravia (now the Czech Republic), Dominic Trčka joined the Redemptorists in 1902. He worked in Galizia, and then in East Slovakia, where he carried on intense missionary activity. He was nominated first Vice-Provincial Superior of Michalovce in 1946. In 1950, he was arrested, tortured, and condemned to twelve years' imprisonment. In 1958 he was transferred to the prison of Leopoldov, where he contracted tuberculosis and died on March 23, 1959. He was beatified in 2001.

FEAST: AUGUST 25

The Redemptorist Martyrs of Cuenca (1936-1938)

Father Javier
Gorosterratzu
(1877-1936)



Javier Gorosterratzu was born in 1877 in Navarra. He was a teacher and was renowned as a popular missionary and an expert confessor and spiritual director. He was the author of two historical works and a manual of philosophy. On August 10, 1936, he was arrested by the militia of the Popular Front and shot in the cemetery of Cuenca. Before he died, he forgave his killers.

REDEMPTORIST SAINTS AND BLESSED AT A GLANCE

Father Ciriaco Olarte
Pérez de Mendiguren
(1893-1936)

Father Miguel Goñi Áriz
(1902-1936)

Father Julián Pozo Ruiz
de Samaniego
(1903-1936)

Father Pedro Romero
Espejo
(1871-1938)

Brother Victoriano Calvo
Lozano (1896-1936)

FEAST: NOVEMBER 6



**Blessed Maria Celeste
Crostarosa, OSsR**

(1696-1755)

Religious,

Founder

of the Order of the Most

Holy Redeemer

(Redemptoristines)

FEAST: SEPTEMBER 14

Ciriaco Olarte was born in Álava. He joined the Redemptorists in 1904. He was ordained in 1917 and three years afterward went to Mexico as a missionary. He returned to Spain in 1926 and ministered in Madrid until May 1935, when he moved to Cuenca. On July 31, 1936, he was arrested, taken to the place called “Las Angustias” (Sorrows), severely wounded, and left to die.

Miguel Goñi was born in Navarra and joined the Redemptorists in 1918 and was ordained a priest in 1925, despite poor health and extreme shyness. He became a popular and tireless mission preacher. In 1932 he was transferred to Cuenca and ministered especially in the parish of St. Phillip Neri. He was arrested by the militia, shot, and left to bleed to death on August 31, 1936.

Julián Pozo was born in Álava and entered the Redemptorist seminary in 1913. There he was known for his deep spirituality. He was ordained in 1925, despite having suffered from tuberculosis since 1921. He was widely known for his serene disposition and great gifts as a confessor and spiritual director. He transferred to Cuenca in 1928. On August 9, 1936, he was arrested while praying the rosary. He was shot and killed along the road from Cuenca to Tragacete.

Pedro Romero was born in Burgos in 1871. He entered the Redemptorist school at El Espino and was ordained in 1896. Because of his shyness, he was not drawn to missionary activity but instead devoted himself to meditation, prayer, mortification, and the ministry of reconciliation. When the Spanish Civil War broke out, he lived with a local family and went begging in the streets in order to continue his apostolate. In May 1938 he was arrested and imprisoned, dying of dysentery in prison on May 29.

Victoriano Calvo was born in Guadalajara in 1896 and joined the Redemptorist community in 1919. He made his profession in 1920 and the following year was assigned to Cuenca, where he served as a clerk and porter. He also provided spiritual direction for young women and was known for his asceticism. On August 10, 1936, he was arrested and shot in the Cuenca cemetery along with Father Gorosterratzu.



Blessed Maria Celeste Crostarosa was born in Naples, Italy, in 1696. At the age of twenty she entered a Carmelite monastery. When it was suppressed, she went to Scala in the hills above Naples, and entered another monastery.

Under the direction of Bishop Thomas Falcoia, and with the cooperation of Saint Alphonsus, Maria Celeste reformed the monastery according to a revelation she had received from the Lord. She founded the Order of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptoristines) on May 13, 1731. In 1733, Maria Celeste was forced to leave Scala, and eventually she was called to Foggia, where she founded the Monastery of the Most Holy Saviour. Maria Celeste died at Foggia on September 14, 1755. At the moment of her death, her great friend, Gerard Majella, had a vision of her soul ascending to heaven like a dove. She was beatified in 2016.

**Venerable Alfred
Pampalon**
(1867-1895)
Priest



FEAST: SEPTEMBER 30

Born in Quebec, Alfred entered the Redemptorists and studied for the priesthood and was ordained in Belgium in 1892. But he contracted tuberculosis in 1895, and returned home to Ste-Anne-de-Beaupre, and lived with the Redemptorists there. He was renowned as a confessor and spiritual director, especially among the poor. He died on September 30, 1895, at the age of twenty-eight. He was named "Venerable" in 1991. His tomb is a place of pilgrimage and prayer for many people who struggle with addiction to alcohol.

**Redemptorists
recognized as
"Venerable"**

- Fr. Vitus-Michael Di Netta (1788-1849)
- Fr. Paolo Cafaro (1707-1753)
- Bro. Dominic Blasucci (1732-1752)
- Fr. Joseph-Armand Passerat (1772-1858)
- Fr. Antonio Maria Losito (1838-1917)
- Fr. Wilhelm Janauschek (1859-1926)
- Fr. Pelágio Sauter (1878-1961)
- Fr. Bernard Łubieński (1846-1933)

Prayer of Saint Alphonsus to the Holy Spirit

Leader: You made Mary full of grace and inflamed the hearts of the apostles with a holy zeal.

All: In flame our hearts with your love.

Leader: You are the spirit of goodness.

All: Give us the courage to confront evil.

Leader: You are fire.

All: Set us ablaze with your love.

Leader: You are light.

All: Enlighten our minds, that we may see what is truly important.

Leader: You are the dove.

All: Give us gentleness.

Leader: You are a soothing breeze.

All: Bring calm to the storms that rage within us.

Leader: You are the tongue.

All: May our lips ever sing God's praises.

Leader: You are the cloud.

All: Shelter us under the shadow of your protection.

Leader: O Holy Spirit, melt the frozen, warm the chilled, and enkindle in us an earnest desire to please you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

