

DIARIUM SANCTORUM

The Journal of God's Holy Ones

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JULY



The choice of heroes, models and leaders can have a lasting effect on our development, and the Church has always honored the example of holiness set by the saints. In these brief sketches, we commemorate our sisters and brothers in Christ who have shaped the life of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Letters following each entry refer to the bibliography. – *Mike Brennan*

July 1

✦ *We Remember:* **Blessed Junipero Serro; St. Oliver Plunkett.**

Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1988, **Jose Miguel Serra** was born in Spain in 1713; joined the Franciscans in 1730, taking the name *Junipero*, and in 1749 sailed for Mexico. Twenty years later, after preaching extensively throughout Mexico, he accompanied Spanish forces to California, founding his first mission in **San Diego**. In subsequent years, he established nine missions, and died in 1784 at Carmel, California. In his homily at the beatification ceremony, Pope John Paul II said that Junipero Serra was "a shining example of Christian virtue and the missionary spirit. His great good was to bring the gospel to the native peoples of America, so that they, too, might be consecrated to the truth." (S)

✦ Canonized in 1975, **ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT**, Archbishop of Armagh and Martyr, was the last Catholic to die for his faith at Tyrburn and the first of the Irish martyrs to be beatified, as well as the first Irish saint to be canonized since **St. Lawrence O'Toole** in 1226. Born of a noble family in County Meath, Ireland, on **Nov. 1, 1629**, Oliver was ordained in 1654, spent 15 years in Rome as a theology professor, and in 1669 was named **Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland**, consecrated at Ghent. He returned to Ireland in 1670; in 1673, persecution of Catholics in Ireland forced him into hiding, and five years later all Catholic priests and bishops were ordered expelled from Ireland. Imprisoned **Dec. 6, 1679**, on false charges of treason, he was kept in solitary confinement for nine months, given a travesty of a trial, then hanged, drawn and quartered on **July 1, 1681 (L)**. ● In 1899, the **INTERNATIONAL GIDEONS**, an organization that place Bibles in hotels, hospitals, etc., was founded in Boscobel, Wisconsin. ● In 1962, the **Encyclical PAENITENTIAM AGERE** by **Pope John XXIII** was issued. In it he emphasized the necessity of interior and exterior penance. (1962)

July 2

✦ *We Remember:* **ST. OTTO OF BAMBERG (c. 1062-1139)**. Otto came from a noble family and was ordained at an early age. He entered the service of Emperor Henry IV in 1090, and became his chancellor about 1101. Henry came into conflict with the papacy and established an anti-pope. But when Henry appointed Otto bishop of Bamberg in 1103, Otto refused to accept consecration until the rightful pope, **Paschal II**, approved and consecrated him in Rome in 1103.

Otto labored to patch things up between the Pope and the emperor's successor, Henry V. In 1124, Otto was invited by King Boleslaus III of Poland to launch a missionary effort in eastern Pomerania. Thousands became Christians, and Otto is honored as their apostle. He died at Bamberg **June 30, 1139**, and was canonized in 1189. *Happy feast day to Otto Schneider, son of our secretary Susan and her husband John.* (P,B) ● In 1489, the birth of **THOMAS CRANMER**, English clergyman, reformer and martyr, and one of the principal authors of *The English Book of Common Prayer*. A royal chaplain of King Henry VIII, Cranmer was made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533, making allegiance to the pope 'for form's sake.' He later annulled Henry's marriages to Catherine of Aragon and to Anne Boleyn (1536), and divorced him from Anne of Cleves (1540). On

Henry's death, Cranmer rushed Protestant changes through. When he agreed to a plan to divert the succession from Mary to Lady Jane Grey, he was arraigned for treason, later accused of heresy, sentenced to death and burned at the stake Mar. 21, 1556. (CB) ● In 1865, **GENERAL WILLIAM BOOTH** presided over the first meeting of the **Salvation Army** in London. ● In 1872, the birth of **GEORGE CARDINAL MUNDELEIN** in New York City. He was the third Archbishop of Chicago, offered the funeral Mass for **St. Frances Cabrini**, and hosted the **28th International Eucharistic Congress**, among many notable achievements. (W) ● In 1968, the death of **CARDINAL FRANCIS J. BRENNAN** in Philadelphia. Ordained a priest in Rome in 1920, Francis became the first American to be appointed to the Roman Rota (1940), the Vatican court of law. He served on the body for 27 years, the last eight as Dean. In 1967 he was consecrated bishop and named a cardinal by **Pope Paul VI**. The Pope then appointed him to head the Congregation of the Sacraments, the first American to do so. (W)

July 3

✦ *We Remember:* **ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE's** feast was formerly celebrated Dec. 21, but was transferred to July 3 in order to coincide with the translation of his relics to Edessa. The **Syro-Malabar Rite** in India, where the people call themselves St. Thomas Christians, and the **Syro-Malankara Rite** also celebrate his feast on this day. **Pope Paul VI** proclaimed St. Thomas the patron of India in 1972.

This Apostle is simply named Thomas in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (**Mt 10:3; Mk 3:18; Lk 6:15; Ac 1:13**), but St. John's Gospel (**11:15; 20:24**) adds the Greek name *Didymus* (twin) because that is the meaning of "Thomas." He is also known as **doubting Thomas**, because when Jesus appeared to the apostles to prove that he had truly risen, Thomas was not with them and so refused to believe that it was he whom they had seen. Later, Christ appeared again when Thomas was with the group, and he made his famous confession of faith: "**My Lord and my God!**"

The Antiochene tradition of his missionary journey to Persia, and especially his stay in India, is based on apocryphal literature that may well have a historical basis. Legend has it that he was martyred at Calamina in India, but no one has succeeded in identifying the place. Others maintain that he was martyred at Mylapore or present-day Madras. His relics were ultimately transferred to Abruzzi, Italy, where they are venerated. (S) ● In 1897, the death of **FR. AUGUSTINE F. HEWITT, CSP**, a co-founder of the **Paulist Fathers** and founder of the Paulist Press. A convert to Catholicism, he opened the first religious order house of studies at the Catholic University of America. (W) ● In 1988, **SISTER ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE** (Society of the Sacred Heart) became the fourth American elevated to sainthood. Sr. Rose braved the American frontier and founded the first free school west of the Mississippi. (W)

July 4

✦ *We Remember:* Today is with the **Fourth of July - Independence Day** in the United States. The abolitionist **FREDERICK DOUGLAS (1817-1895)** was once asked to give a speech for the occasion. He responded, "**The blessings for which you on**

this day rejoice are not held in common." Douglas, born a slave in Maryland, was wrenched from his family at the age of ten and sent to work in Baltimore. He learned some basic reading skills until the slave owner put a stop to the lessons. Douglas studied a Bible and hymnal for hours every night and developed his ability. After years of brutal treatment, he escaped to New York at the age of 21. A captivating speaker, he eventually bought his freedom with money raised on a speaking tour of England. He worked hard to abolish slavery, starting a newspaper to guide slaves to freedom, and wrote a famous autobiography. As we celebrate our liberty and the blessings of America, let us remember that oppressed people around the world need our prayers, encouragement and effort to ensure freedom and justice for all. † **We Remember: St. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL**, Princess of Aragon and grandniece of **St. Elizabeth of Hungary**, this Elizabeth (1271-1336) was married at age twelve to King Denis of Portugal, and became known for her piety, charity and concern for the poor. She founded convents, hospitals, foundling homes and shelters for wayward girls. Her life was frequently upset by politics and family quarrels, but kept in balance by deep spirituality and prayer. As a widow she renounced the world and lived in poverty and obscurity in the habit of a Franciscan. Known as **Isabella** in Portugal, she died this day and was canonized in 1626. (P,L) ● **July 4, 1779**, marked the first public religious commemoration of the **U.S. Declaration of Independence** at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Philadelphia. The service was attended by members of the Continental Congress. (W)

July 5

† **We Remember: St. ANTHONY ZACCARIA** Born in Cremona in north Italy in 1502, today's saint practiced as a medical doctor before priestly ordination in 1528. Even before the **Council of Trent** he also had a dream of priests who would be neither monks nor mendicants, but living under a rule of life with vows. He founded such a Congregation at Milan. Because they lived first at the Church of St. Barnabas, these religious priests were referred to as the **Barnabites**. Anthony died prematurely in 1539. The Order did much to inspire clergy and evangelize the people. (V) ● **In 1294**, the accession of **POPE ST. CELESTINE V**, a Benedictine monk noted for his piety. He couldn't cope with the pressures and resigned five months later after issuing a letter stating that a pope can resign. (W)

July 6

† **We Remember:** : St. Maria Goretti: This young girl was scarcely twelve years old when she died in defense of her chastity at Nettuno, Italy, on **July 6, 1902**. She was canonized by **Pope Pius XII** in 1950, and it is the first time in history that the mother of a saint was present at the canonization.

Maria Teresa Goretti was born of a poor family and was uneducated, but she manifested a maternal spirit in caring for her four little brothers and the neighbors' children while the adults were working in the fields. Her father died when she was ten years old. She was stabbed to death by Alexander Serenelli, son of her father's partner, who lived in the same house with the Gorettis, while resisting his attempt to seduce her. Maria died in the hospital at Nettuno after forgiving her assassin. In 1910, during his eighth year in prison, Alexander was converted after a dream in which the young martyr presented him with a bouquet of flowers. He was released from prison in 1928 and, after asking pardon of Maria's mother, he received Communion with her at the Christmas Mass. Alexander was also present for the canonization of Maria, and spent his last years as a third-order Franciscan and died in 1970. (P,L) ● **In 1415, JOHN HUS (ca. 1369-1415)**, Czech priest, theologian, preacher, and rector of the University of Prague (1409), was burned as a heretic. "Influenced by John Wycliffe's ideas about Church reform, Hus led the reform movement that ultimately expelled German influence from the University of Prague. Hus (and his followers) rejected transubstantiation, demanded Communion in both kinds, and claimed that reprobate priests (including popes) forfeited their authority within the Church. Excommunicated in 1410, Hus was summoned to the **COUNCIL OF CONSTANCE (1414)** where, *despite an imperial guarantee of safe conduct*, he was arrested and burned at the stake. His

execution helped ignite a revolution against the medieval Church in Bohemia."(E)

"The courage and serenity with which Hus met his fate, insisting on his innocence while forgiving his enemies, left many witnesses wondering whether the condemned heretic was not in fact a saint. Like the early Luther, to whom he is often compared, Hus combined a deep loyalty to the church with an outspoken discernment of its various pathologies. He represented a bridge between a rigidly institutional model of the church and a freer, spiritual model. In burning that bridge, the council fathers resolved one crisis only to prepare the way for the far greater upheavals of the following century. (AS)" ● **In 1535, St. THOMAS MORE** was beheaded at the Tower of London. St. Thomas - from 1529 to 1532 England's lord chancellor - went to the gallows at age 57 for refusing to take the oath provided in the **Act of Succession** repudiating the pope and recognizing the divorced Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn and the rights of succession of their offspring. His last words are immortal, and the inspiration since for all who have been forced to choose between conscience and convenience, principle and accommodation: **"I die the king's good servant, but God's first."** Patron saint of lawyers, he was the subject of the play and motion picture **A Man For All Seasons**. (W,L) ● **In 1978**, the first Roman Catholic Mass to be said in the British Parliament Chapel in more than 400 years was celebrated to mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Thomas More.

July 7

† **We Remember: St. PALLADIUS:** We all know that St. Patrick was the great missionary to the Irish people, but today we remember **St. Palladius** - the man he succeeded. A deacon at Rome, he was responsible for sending **St. Germanus of Auxerre** to Britain in 429 to combat *Pelagianism* and in 431 was consecrated by **Pope Celestine I** and sent as a missionary to Ireland - the **first bishop of the Irish**. He worked in Leinster, encountered much opposition, but made some converts and built three churches. Acknowledging his lack of success in Ireland, he went to Scotland to preach to the Picts, and died soon after he arrived at Fordun, near Aberdeen, in 432; **St. Patrick** arrived later that year. (B)

● **In 1946, St. FRANCES X. CABRINI** was canonized by Pope Pius XII. Born in Italy, she became a U.S. citizen and opened many schools, hospitals and orphanages here. She is the first American saint and is the patron of immigrants. (W)

July 8

† **We Remember: St. WITHBURGA** was the youngest daughter of the King of the East Angles in Britain, who led an austere life in solitude for several years until laying the foundation of a church and nunnery, but dying **March 17, 743**, before seeing her project completed.

† **St. ISABELLA (ELIZABETH) OF PORTUGAL (1271-1336)** established hospitals, orphanages and homes for wayward women.. She joined the Order of St. Clare later in life. At her death, she said to Queen Beatrice, who looked after her, "Draw up a chair for the radiant lady in white who is coming." It was the Blessed Virgin who entered; the dying woman murmured: "Maria, Mater gratiae;" then gently gave up her soul.

July 9

† **We Remember: St. NICHOLAS PIECK AND COMPANIONS, THE MARTYRS OF GORKUM**, were a group of 19 martyrs put to death by the Calvinists at Gorkum, near Dordrecht in Holland, in 1572. Nicholas Pieck, a native of Holland, was the Franciscan guardian of the friary at Gorkum. He had made the conversion of Calvinists his life's work. The martyrs included ten Franciscans, two Premonstratensians, a Dominican, a canon regular, four secular priests and a layman. A Danish Franciscan, **Willehad**, was 90 years old when he was hanged. He had been sent into exile when Lutheranism was introduced into his country, and joined the Franciscan friary at Gorkum. The Martyrs of Gorkum were canonized in 1867. (B) ● **In 1897**, the death of **Fr. AUGUSTUS TOLTON** (1854-1897) Born into slavery Apr. 1, 1854, in Brush Creek, Mo., Fr. Tolton was the **first African-American**

priest to identify with, and to be acclaimed by, black Catholics. He worked in Chicago for seven years, suffering ill health and doubts about his apostolate, dying at the age of 43. His courageous example in the face of racial prejudice has inspired African-American Catholics in the U.S. ever since. For more about Fr. Tolton refer to the July 9 entry in Robert Ellsberg's *All Saints* or see *The History of Black Catholics* in the United States by Cyprian Davis (New York:Crossroad, 1990).

July 10

✦ *We Remember:* **ST. THEODOSIUS (DIED 1074)** AND **ST. ANTONY PECHERSKY (983-1073)** are considered the founders of Russian monasticism. Antony was born in 983 in the Ukraine and in early life made an experiment at living as a solitary after the pattern of the Egyptian anchorites, but soon realized that one must be trained for that life as any other, and went on pilgrimage to the famous monastery of Esphigmenou at Mount Athos, where he became a hermit attached to the monastery. After several years, he returned to Russia and built a hermitage at Kiev, and his wisdom and holiness attracted many followers. Later, taking up his abode in a cave in a wooded cliff beside the river Dnieper at Kiev, people came to consult him and ask for his blessing. Some of these stayed on and dug caves for themselves. Unlike the other abbots of that time, St. Antony accepted anybody who showed the right dispositions, rich or poor, free men or serfs. From these beginnings grew the **Caves of Kiev**, the first Russian monastery established by Russian monks for Russians. He died at 90 in 1073.

St. Theodosius joined the monks at the Caves of Kiev in 1032 and eventually became abbot; he was the first real organizer of the monastery, who gave direction to the first generations of Russian monks. Emphasis was put not on personal sanctification solely by means of prayer and mortification, but on the necessity of corporal works of mercy and on the need of identifying oneself with all the suffering children of Christ. His monks played a part in the evangelization of Kiev; moreover, to Theodosius may be traced the beginnings of the institution of **staretz**, "**spiritual directors**", so characteristic of Russian religious life. Theodosius modified Antony's concept of monasticism, based on the drastic austerities of the Egyptian hermits, with the more moderate approach of the Palestinian monks, emphasizing a **harmony between the active and contemplative life**, just as he sought to harmonize the needs of men as they are with the call to bring about the kingdom of God on earth. In all these things he was following the Palestinian tradition and the spirit of St. Basil, father of Eastern monks. He died a week after Easter, 1074, and in 1108 he was canonized by the bishops of Kiev province - the second Russian canonization and the first of the "very-like ones," that is, Christlike monks. During his four decades as abbot, Theodosius developed the Caves of Kiev into a great monastery, and his directions to the monks of the Caves of Kiev endured for generations.

● **June 10, 1509, JOHN CALVIN**, French theologian and one of the most important figures of the **Protestant Reformation**, was born at Noyon, Picardy, in France. Calvin's key tenet was absolute predestination of some persons to heaven and others to hell. He rejected Catholic doctrine in 1533 after becoming convinced of a personal mission to reform the church. As a preacher and organizer, he worked to found the Reformation at Geneva, though he was driven out of the city for three years, and settled at Strasbourg.

In 1536 he published *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, a systematic exposition of his doctrine which became the classic textbook of **Reformed** - as distinguished from Lutheran - theology. To Luther's principal theses - regarding Scripture as the sole rule of faith, the radical corruption of human nature, and justification by faith alone - he added absolute predestination, certitude of salvation for the elect, and the incapability of the elect to lose grace. His Eucharistic theory, which failed to mediate the Zwingli-Luther controversy, was at odds with Catholic doctrine. In 1541, Calvin returned to Geneva and devoted the next 14 years to the establishment of a theocratic regime on the Old Testament model. From 1555 until his death in 1564, Calvin was virtual dictator of Geneva, the capital of the non-Lutheran Reformation in Europe. Simple and austere in lifestyle, Calvin was a reticent man and little is known of his personal life. His great intellectual ability and

charismatic leadership account for his enormous impact upon the course of Western church history. (A,F)

July 11

✦ *We Remember:* **ST. BENEDICT of Nursia, Abbot, Patriarch of Western Monks**; proclaimed patron of Europe by Pope Paul VI in 1966 (Pope John Paul II added the names of St. Cyril and St. Methodius in 1980), St. Benedict is honored as the **Father of Western Monasticism**. Benedict was born in Nursia, Italy, in 480. At the age of 20, after completing his studies in Rome, he left the world for the monastic life. After experimenting with various types of monasticism, he spent three years at Subiac, living a hermit's life. He attracted followers, and soon had a colony of monks under his direction. The jealousy of a local priest caused Benedict to move south to **Monte Cassino**, where he founded a monastery of the cenobitic life, a "**school for the service of the Lord**." He composed the now famous **Rule of St. Benedict**, which ultimately became the standard legislation for all monastic life in the Western Church.

ACCORDING TO **ST. GREGORY THE GREAT**, BENEDICT'S motto was "**Ora et Labora**" (**Pray and Work**), and his insignia was a plow and a cross. St. Benedict placed great emphasis on personal love for Christ, humility, and prudence. "One of Benedict's greatest accomplishments was to break down in his monasteries the ancient prejudice against manual work as something in itself degrading and servile," says Fr. Joseph Vann, O.F.M. "The Romans had for centuries made slaves of conquered peoples, who performed their menial tasks. Now times were changing. Benedict introduced the novel idea that labor was not only dignified and honorable but conducive to sanctity; it was therefore made compulsory for all who joined the order, nobles and plebeians alike. *He who works prays*, became the maxim which expressed the Benedictine attitude."

"When evil thoughts come into one's heart, it is best to dash them at once on the rock of Christ and to manifest them to one's spiritual father," says St. Benedict.

Brief and Humble Prayers

✦ "When we make application to men in high positions we do not presume to do so without reverence and humility. How much more, then, are we bound to entreat God, the Lord of all, with all humility and devout purity of heart? We must recognize that we are heard not for our much speaking, but for our purity of heart and tears of contrition. Therefore our prayer must be brief and pure - unless it chance to be prolonged with the inspiration of God's grace." - St. Benedict

● **In 1194**, the birth of **ST. CLARE OF ASSISI**. She founded the Poor Clares and received her habit from St. Francis himself, the first woman to follow his Rule. (W)

July 12

✦ *We Remember:* **ST. JOHN GAULBERT** (died 1073): Born to a noble Florentine family, today's saint had a life-changing experience when, bent on revenge for the murder of his brother Hugh, he met the murderer, drew his sword to kill him, and then forgave him.

John became a Benedictine monk and withdrew to a hermitage at Camaldoli, where he decided to found a monastery of his own, which he did at Vallombrosa. Following the rule of St. Benedict, John and his followers, who came to be called **Vallumbrosans**, stressed **charity and poverty**, and admitted lay brothers - an innovation for religious congregations at that time.

John became known for his **aid to the poor, his fierce opposition to simony, his miracles, gift of prophecy, and spiritual wisdom**, which attracted great crowds seeking advice. His foundation soon grew into a powerful congregation and spread throughout Tuscany and Lombardy. St. John died at Passignano (near Florence), one of his own foundations, and was canonized in 1193. (P,B) ● **In 1790**, the Revolutionary government in France passed a law giving it control of the Church and requiring all clergy to take an oath of service to the state. Many fled or were martyred for refusing. (W)

July 13

✚ *We Remember:* **HENRY THE GOOD** (973-1024) was born in Bavaria and educated by **St. Wolfgang of Regensburg**. From being duke of Bavaria, he ascended to the imperial throne in **1002**, and was crowned as Holy Roman Emperor by the pope in **1014**. With his wife, **St. Cunegundis**, he was raised up to protect the church during a troubled time. Though very much a political and temporal ruler, Henry always showed great concern for religion and cooperated with the great Benedictine abbeys of that time to restore ecclesiastical and social discipline. He was a monarch of great ability and outstanding piety and asceticism. Died this day in **1024** at his palace near Gottingen, Germany, and was canonized in **1146** by Pope Eugene III. (P,B)

July 14

✚ *We Remember:* **BL. KATERI TEKAWITHA (1656-1680)**, the first North American Indian proposed by the Catholic church for canonization, was born in what is now the State of New York to an Iroquois father and a Christian Algonquin mother (who had been captured by the Iroquois). Orphaned at the age of four - her parents and brother died during an epidemic of smallpox, which left her with seriously impaired eyesight and a disfigured face - she was deeply impressed as a child by three Jesuit missionaries who instructed her, and she was baptized in **1676**. Persecuted by her kinsfolk, she fled 400 miles to the Quebec French Mission. Taking a vow of virginity, the rest of her short life was spent in **hard work, prayer and sacrifice**. Her heroic suffering and sanctity won her the title **Lily of the Mohawks**. She died on **Apr. 17, 1680**, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980. (F,B,P) ✚ **ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS (1550-1614)** dedicated himself to the care of the sick and started an apostolate which became a community now known as the Camillians. Canonized in **1746**, he was proclaimed **patron of the sick and of hospitals** in **1886** and of hospital staffs in **1930**. (S) ● **EDWARD WHITE BENSON**, British theologian, Archbishop of Canterbury (**1882-1896**), was born this day in **1829**. Today is also the feast day of two men who preceded him as Archbishop of Canterbury: **St. Deusdedit (died 664)** and **Bl. Boniface of Savoy (died 1270)**. ● In **1961**, **Pope John XXIII** issued the papal encyclical *Mater et Magistra*, calling for aid to underdeveloped nations.

July 15

✚ *We Remember:* **ST. BONAVENTURE (1221-1274)**, surnamed **Seraphic Doctor**, is often cited, with **Duns Scotus** and **St. Thomas Aquinas**, as one of the three most celebrated philosophers and theologians of the Middle Ages. Giovanni di Fidanza, an Italian by birth, was educated in theology at the **University of Paris**, where later he was head of the Franciscan school, having become a Franciscan about **1240**. In 1257 he was elected minister general of the Franciscans, due to his personal holiness and his defense of the order. Bonaventure wrote several spiritual books and an officially approved **Life of St. Francis**. Legend has it that when Bonaventure was created a cardinal in **1273**, the papal delegation with the decree of his appointment arrived while he was washing up in the kitchen (illustrated above). Not wanting to interrupt his work, he told the commission to hang the cardinal's hat on a tree for the time being! He was a leading figure at the **Second Council of Lyons**, though he died before it concluded. Bonaventure made a real impact upon the theology of his day and his spiritual books had a lasting influence. Declared a saint in **1483**, he was made a **Doctor of the Church** in 1589. (F,P) ● **ST. SWITHIN'S DAY is observed**. Swithin was Bishop of Winchester (England) from **852-862** and died July 2, 862. Little is known of his life, but his relics were transferred into Winchester Cathedral on this day in **971**, a day on which there was a heavy rainfall. According to an old English superstition, it will rain for 40 days thereafter when rain falls on this day. ● **HENRY EDWARD MANNING** was born today in **1808**. British archdeacon in the Church of England, he converted to Catholicism, became a cardinal in **1875**. He died Jan. 14, 1892. ● In **1971**, **Cor Unum**, the Vatican umbrella organization which assists and

correlates the work of Catholic relief agencies around the world, was founded by Pope Paul VI. (W)

July 16

✚ *We Remember:* **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL** is a Marian title which derives from a community of **12th century hermits** who lived on Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land and expressed their special devotion to Mary by wearing brown scapulars. (E) "St. Simon Stock is said to have received a vision of the Virgin there on July 16, 1251. Bernardo O'Higgins, the liberator of Chile, was particularly devoted to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and placed his army under her protection in January 1817, subsequently winning victory over the Spaniards; a sanctuary was then built in her honor. In 1926 she was crowned Queen of Chile. She is also patron saint of Bolivia (since 1914) and the Spanish navy." (OCY) ● In **1048**, the resignation of **POPE BENEDICT IX** - the "Boy Pope" - who was a layman when elected through bribery during one of the papacy's darkest periods. He was the only pope to have held office during three different periods. (W) ● In **1769**, **FR. JUNIPERO SERRA, O.F.M.**, established the first California mission, **San Diego del Alcalá**, in San Diego, the first of 21 missions to the Indians. It is now a basilica and U.S. Historic Landmark. (W)

July 17

✚ *We Remember:* **MARTYRS OF SCILLIUM (c. 180)** "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church," wrote Tertullian 1800 years ago. A native of Carthage in Africa, Tertullian lived in a time of widespread persecution of Christians. Today we observe the feast of twelve of Tertullian's contemporaries - seven men and five women - who suffered martyrdom at a place called Scillium in proconsular Africa under the Roman emperor, Septimius Severus, in the year **180**. **St. Augustine** preached three sermons in their honor at their tomb. (B) ✚ **ST. JADWIGA**, queen of Poland, died on this day in 1399; she was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1997. ✚ The **CARMELITE MARTYRS OF COMPIEGNE**, 16 nuns executed in Paris this day in 1794 under the Terror of the French Revolution. ✚ Three Church councils concluded on this day: **Ephesus, 431; Lyons I, 1245, and Lyons II, 1274**.

July 18

✚ *We Remember:* **ST. BRUNO, BISHOP OF SEGNI (1049-1123)**, was the greatest scriptural commentator of his age. Born at Solero, Piedmont, he became a canon at Siena in **1079**. He defended Church teaching regarding the Blessed Sacrament against Berengarius at a council in Rome, and in **1080** was appointed bishop of Segni. An outstanding scripture scholar, he worked with **St. Gregory** to reform the Church; in **1095** he resigned his see to become a monk at **Monte Cassino**, and was elected abbot in **1107**. He was ordered to resign the abbacy and return to his see by **Pope Paschal II** when he rebuked the Pontiff for concessions in ecclesiastical matters he had made to Emperor-elect Henry V; Bruno at once obeyed. Canonized in **1183**. ● In **64**, a great fire began in Rome and destroyed half the city. Emperor Nero blamed the Christians and began the first persecution of the Church. ● In **1536**, the authority of the Bishop of Rome (the pope) was declared void in England. ● In **1870**, the dogma of papal infallibility was declared at the first Vatican Council. (W)

July 19

✚ *We Remember:* **ST. MACRINA the Younger (c. 330-379)** was the sister of **St. Basil**, **St. Gregory of Nyssa**, and **St. Peter of Sebastea**. Well-educated, especially in Scripture, she was engaged to be married at the age of twelve, but when her fiance died, she decided to dedicate her life to God. On the death of her father, she and her mother retired to the family estate in Pontus and lived a life of prayer and contemplation in a community they formed there. Macrina became head of the group when her mother died and lived in Pontus until her death there. Her grandmother, **St. Macrina the Elder (c. 270-340)**, profoundly influenced her grandchildren with her religious fervor. (L,P)

• In 1996, the death of **FR. LAWRENCE MARTIN JENCO**, who endured 18 months of captivity in the hands of radical Shiite Muslims in Lebanon. He had been serving as head of **Catholic Relief Services** in Beirut when he was snatched from a city street in January, 1985, by members of Islamic Jihad. In 1995, Fr. Jenco wrote a book on his ordeal entitled **Bound to Forgive - The Pilgrimage of Reconciliation of a Beirut Hostage**. He wrote that he held no animosity toward the Shiites who held him for some 594 days, but rather, hoped someday to return to Lebanon and visit them. Fr. Jenco, a member of the Servite Order, died of cancer at St. Domitilla Church in Hillside, age 61.

July 20

✦ **We Remember: ST. MARGARET of Antioch**, also known as **Marina**, was said to have been martyred under the Roman emperor Diocletian, who ruled from **284-305**. Though nothing certain is known of her today, the legends which surrounded her life made her one of the most popular of the maiden-martyr saints of the Middle Ages, and veneration of Margaret is very ancient. One of the **Fourteen Holy Helpers**, hers was one of the "voices" that spoke to St. Joan of Arc. The story passed down to us about St. Margaret says she was the daughter of pagan priest at Antioch. She was forced to leave home after her conversion to Christianity, whereupon she became a shepherdess. A local official, named Olybrius, was infatuated by Margaret's beauty and grace, but she spurned his advances. He had her tortured and imprisoned, and while in prison she had an encounter with the devil in the form of a dragon, who swallowed her; but the cross she carried in her hand irritated its innards and forced it to disgorge her. Then she underwent terrible trials until finally she was beheaded. Though we can easily dismiss the legend of a fierce dragon swallowing Margaret before she was beheaded, the powerful symbolism of being so completely overwhelmed by the evil one and yet persevering in Christ must have been very real for all the early martyrs...as it remains in our own day.

✦ In **514**, the accession of **POPE ST. HORMISDAS** to the papacy, a deacon and widower. A document he wrote noting the union of East and West and signed by hundreds of bishops is still held as proof of the primacy of Rome. (W) ● In **1903**, the death of **POPE LEO XIII**, "the first pope whose death was mourned not only in churches and convents but factories and union halls." (AS)

July 21

✦ **We Remember: ST. LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI (1559-1619)**: The feast of this Capuchin saint, who died at Lisbon on **July 22, 1619**, while on his way to the court of King Philip III to plead the cause of the oppressed people in Naples, has been transferred to this date because July 22 is the feast of St. Mary Magdalene. He was canonized in **1881** and proclaimed "Apostolic Doctor" by Pope John XXIII in **1959**.

St. Lawrence was born in Brindisi, Italy, under the name Giulio Cesare Russo and entered the Franciscan Conventuals but transferred to the Capuchins in Verona. He studied at Padua and was conversant in French, German, Greek, Syriac and Hebrew. His ministry was preaching, but because of his administrative qualities he was successively provincial of Tuscany, Venice, Switzerland and Genoa. In **1601** he was sent by the emperor Rudolph II to solicit the aid of the German princes against the Turks, who were threatening to overrun Hungary. He not only obtained their support, but he rode at the head of the troops as chaplain, armed only with a crucifix, and led them to victory at Szekesfehervar. From **1602** until **1605** he served as superior general of the Capuchins. He established the Capuchins in Austria, Moravia and Tyrol. He died on his sixtieth birthday in Lisbon and was buried in the cemetery of the Poor Clares of Villafranca. (S)

July 22

✦ **We Remember: ST. MARY MAGDALENE**: The feast of St. Mary Magdalene (from Magdala, near the Lake of Galilee) has been celebrated on this date since the **tenth century**, at Constantinople in the monastery of St. Lazarus. It was believed that her relics were transferred to that monastery in **899** from Ephesus. In the eleventh century the feast spread throughout the Church in the West and in the twelfth century the Lateran Missal identified Mary Magdalene as Mary

of Bethany, whose feast was celebrated by the Greeks on March 18. The identity of Mary Magdalene is disputed. Although many of the Western theologians maintained that Mary of Magdala and Mary of Bethany were one and the same person, others such as St. Jerome, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas leave the question unresolved. The Greeks, however, distinguish between the two Marys and have separate feasts in their honor.

The liturgical texts assert that Christ "first entrusted to Mary Magdalene the joyful news of the resurrection". Mary received this testimony from the risen Lord and was told to carry the news to the apostles. **"I have seen the Lord,"** she told them. She is therefore a model for all who are called to give witness to the Risen Christ. Mary, who had been liberated from seven devils, became such a faithful follower of Christ that her name is placed first in the list of women who accompanied Jesus (**Lk 8:2; Mk 15:47; Mt. 27:56**). And even on Calvary, the faithful Mary Magdalene took her stand beneath the cross. According to the Easter tradition, after Pentecost Mary Magdalene accompanied the Blessed Virgin and John to Ephesus, where she died and was buried. (S) ● In **1990**, the late **ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH DIMITRIOS I** celebrated the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at Grant Park (Chicago) with a crowd of 12,000 faithful in attendance. His visit to the U.S. that summer was the first time that an Ecumenical Patriarch visited America.

July 23

✦ **We Remember: ST. BRIDGET (BIRGITTA) OF SWEDEN (1303-1373)**: "This Swedish saint died in Rome on **July 23, 1373**, and was canonized in **1391**. She lived at court for many years but she was also the foundress of a double monastery in which men and women religious lived in separate buildings but used the same church. Bridget was born at Uppsala and at the age of 14 she married Ulf Gudmarsson, who was 18 years old. They had eight children, one of whom, **Karin**, is also honored as a saint. In **1335** or thereabouts, Bridget was summoned to the court by the young king of Sweden, Magnus II, to serve as lady-in-waiting to the young queen, Blanche of Namur. She tried unsuccessfully to curb the excesses of the king and queen. By this time, she was beginning to receive private revelations, and after the death of her youngest son, Gudmar, Bridget and Ulf made a pilgrimage to **Santiago de Compostela**. On their return to Sweden, they decided to spend the rest of their lives in monasteries, but Ulf died in a Cistercian monastery in **1344**. Bridget then donned the garb of a penitent and began to live the life of an ascetic. The visions and revelations became so insistent that Bridget became alarmed, fearing that she was being deceived by the devil. She was reassured after consulting a learned Cistercian monk, who made copies of the revelations in Latin. At this time Bridget, with financial help from King Magnus, founded her double monastery and called the new institute the **Order of the Most Holy Savior**. In **1350** Bridget traveled to Rome for the Holy Year and remained there for the last 24 years of her life, except for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She worked energetically to bring the pope back to Rome from Avignon and she openly denounced the wickedness of the nobility at Naples and at Cyprus. She died in Rome at the age of **70** and her body was taken to the monastery in Vadstena, Sweden, for burial." (Saints of the Roman Calendar)

July 24

✦ **We Remember: ST. CHRISTINA THE ASTONISHING (1150-1224)**: "Born at Brusthem, near Liege, Belgium, she was orphaned at three, had an epileptic fit when she was about 21, and seemed to have died when suddenly she soared to the roof of the church where Mass was being said for her. When the priest ordered her to come down, she did so, and said she had been to hell, purgatory, and heaven and then was allowed to return to earth to pray for the suffering souls in purgatory. This is just one of the incredible events that supposedly took place during her lifetime. She could not tolerate the odor of human beings and resorted to such extraordinary means to escape human contact as climbing trees, soaring to the rafters of churches, and hiding in ovens. She lived a life of poverty and was thought to be

insane by many but venerated by others. She spent the last years of her life in St. Catherine convent at Saint-Trond, where she died on July 24." (Dictionary of Saints)

July 25

✠ **We Remember: ST. JAMES, APOSTLE:** Son of Zebedee and Salome (Mk 15:40; Mt 27:59) and brother of John the Evangelist-Apostle, St. James was born at Bethsaida in Galilee. "He was one of three privileged apostles, together with Peter and John," who was present at the special miracles worked by Jesus. "He witnessed the healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Mt 1:29-31), the resurrection of the daughter of Jairus (Mk 5:37-43), the transfiguration of Jesus (Mk 9:2-8), and the agony in the Garden (Mt 26:37)." The first apostle to die, James was martyred by Herod Agrippa I in 43 or 44 (Acts 12:2). Known as James the Greater because of his status, he has been specially honored since the ninth century at Compostela in Spain, though the tradition that he evangelized Spain is unproven, nor do all scholars agree that his relics repose there. Yet Compostela is one of the world's most famous pilgrimage places, and the name of St. James was carried to Latin America, where many cities are named Santiago. (S,V) ✠ **ST. CHRISTOPHER (d. 251?):** "One day, a child he was carrying on his shoulders became progressively heavier, and Christopher barely made it to the other bank; once there the child revealed himself as Christ, carrying the weight of the world. Hence the name, which means Christ-bearer." (OCY)

July 26

✠ **We Remember: ST. JOACHIM AND ANN:** An ancient tradition, going back to the 2nd Century, identifies the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Joachim and Ann. In the 6th century at Constantinople, a basilica was dedicated to St. Ann. The grandparents of Jesus were honored in Jerusalem: a church of St. Ann has existed there since Crusader times. Many have visited **Ste. Ann de Beaupre in Canada**, where the **Patroness of Christian Mothers** is specially revered.

July 27

✠ **We Remember: St. Theobold of Marly** was a French Cistercian Abbot. "He lived in the midst of his brethren as the servant of every one, and surpassed all others in his love of poverty, silence and prayer. He was known to and much venerated by St. Louis. Theobold died on Dec. 8, 1247." (L)

July 28

✠ **We Remember: ST. VICTOR I**, who served the Church as pope from **189-198**, was an African who enforced the Roman date for the celebration of Easter. There was some opposition to this and Victor intended to excommunicate the holdouts, but **St. Irenaeus** "dissuaded him from such an extreme measure, where no doctrinal issue was at stake."^T Victor was the first pope to have dealings with the imperial household. ✠ **ST. INNOCENT I**, whose pontificate lasted from **401-417**, had the misfortune of witnessing the capture of Rome by Alaric in **410**. "No previous pope had made the claim so strongly that the Apostolic See possesses supreme teaching authority," says Catholic Encyclopedia. St. Augustine's line, "**Rome has spoken, the affair has been concluded**," concerned Pope Innocent's condemnation of the Pelagian heresy. (E, L2, T) ✠ **In 1981, Fr. STANLEY FRANCIS ROTHER**, priest and missionary, suffered martyrdom in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. Stanley's story was told with much love by the late **Fr. Henri J.M. Nouwen** in **Love in a Fearful Land - A Guatemalan Story** (Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN, 1985).

July 29

✠ **We Remember: ST. MARTHA**, sister of Mary and Lazarus, received the Lord with hospitality into their home in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem (the subject of last Sunday's Gospel). While Martha was "burdened with much serving," her sister Mary "sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak." Martha asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." Jesus replied, "**Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.**" [Luke

10:39-42] A footnote in the **Catholic Study Bible** points out that "it is remarkable for 1st-century Palestinian Judaism that a woman would assume the posture of a disciple at the master's feet and it reveals a characteristic attitude of Jesus toward women in this gospel." Martha diligently waited on the Lord and with her prayers beseeched the return of her brother from the dead. (V,S)

July 30

✠ **We Remember: ST. PETER CHRYSOLOGUS (406- c. 460)**, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, was called **Chrysologus ("golden-tongued")** because of his eloquence. Elected bishop of Ravenna (Italy) when the Kingdom was at its strongest, Peter was an effective, dedicated pastoral leader. Some **180 of his sermons still exist**. They show him to have been a direct, warm, convincing speaker. Peter officiated at the funeral of St. Germanus of Auxerre, who died at Ravenna in 448 (and is remembered this Friday, Aug. 3). (L,P)

July 31

✠ **We Remember:** Born in **1491** in the Basque section of Spain, **IGNATIUS LOPEZ OF LOYOLA** was the youngest of eleven children, born to a life of nobility. Trained for a military career, he was seriously wounded in battle **May 20, 1521**. While recovering, confined to bed and bored, he asked for a book of romances. None could be found, but books on **The Life of Christ** and **Lives of the Saints** were available, which he read to pass the time. Soon Ignatius was transfixed. Weeping for his sins, and resolving to imitate the saints, Ignatius turned his mind to the service of the Church. It was the same year that **Martin Luther** took up residence in the castle at Wartburg during his crisis. A vision of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** led Ignatius on pilgrimage to the Benedictine Abbey at Montserrat to venerate the famous Madonna. Settling nearby as a guest of the Dominicans, he wrote his epoch-making classic, **The Book of Spiritual Exercises**, in **1522**. He journeyed to Jerusalem the following year and stayed with the Franciscans, but was ordered to leave: they were afraid that his zeal to convert Muslims would cause him to be kidnapped and held for ransom. Ignatius returned to Spain to study Latin. He lodged at a hospice, **begged for a living** and wore a course gray habit; he taught children religion, held devotions at the hospice and converted many wayward people. Then he went to the University of Alcala for further studies in logic, physics and divinity. But he ran afoul of the **Spanish Inquisition** when someone denounced him to the bishop's vicar general, and he was imprisoned for 42 days on suspicion of being an **illuminist** - "one aspiring to or claiming high spiritual enlightenment." Though found innocent, he and his companions were forbidden to wear any singular dress or to give any instructions on religious matters for three years. So he migrated with three followers to Salamanca, where he was again imprisoned for three weeks on suspicion of introducing dangerous doctrines. After that he left Spain. Making his way to Paris, Ignatius received the Master of Arts degree at 43. On the **Feast of the Assumption, 1534**, Ignatius gathered six companions at Montmartre and vowed to live poverty and chastity and to go to Palestine to preach the gospel. That failing, they would offer themselves to the pope and go wherever he sent them - which is the way it turned out. **Pope Paul III** approved the **Society of Jesus**, more commonly known as the **JESUITS**, on **Sept. 27, 1540**. Ignatius led them for 15 years until his death in the early morning of **July 31, 1556**. He was canonized in **1622** and named patron of spiritual exercises and retreats. (B,L,S,V)

Sources include: (AS) **All Saints**, Robert Ellsberg, Crossroad, 1997. (B) **Book of Saints**, Benedictine Monks, Morehouse, 1993. (L) **Butler's Lives of the Saints I-IV**, Christian Classics, 1995. (OCY) **Oxford Companion to the Year**, Blackburn, 1999. (ODS) **Oxford Dictionary of Saints**, David Farmer, 1997. (P) **Pocket Dictionary of Saints**, John Delaney, Image, 1983. (S) **Saints of the Roman Calendar**, Enzo Lodi, Alba, 1992. (P) **The Popes**, Eric John, Roman Catholic Books, 1994. (V) **Vatican II Weekday Missal**, Daughters of St. Paul, 1975. (W) **We Celebrate, We Commemorate**, Patrick Walsh.

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