

APRIL 2009 FEAST DAYS

Wednesday, April 8 — 248th Birthday of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade



Blessed William Joseph Chaminade was born in Périgueux, France, on April 8, 1761. He was the fourteenth of fifteen children of Blaise Chaminade and Catherine Béthon.

Wednesday, April 15 — Blessed Damien of Molokai (*superceded this year by Wednesday in the Octave of Easter*)



Damien de Veuster, a young Belgian priest, had served nine years as a missionary in the Hawaiian Islands when he felt called to request a perilous assignment. He asked his superiors to serve on the island of Molokai, the notorious leper colony. From the beginning of his work, he sought to instill a sense of dignity and self-worth in his parishioners. He died of leprosy on April 15, 1889, at the age of 49. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995 and will be canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 11, 2009.

Thursday, April 23 — Saint George



Legend portrays George as a knight and a dragon slayer. He is the patron of England and Constantinople and is highly venerated in the Greek church. Tradition holds that George was decapitated in Palestine sometime before the reign of Constantine (337).

Saturday, April 25 — Saint Mark



Mark is a cousin of Barnabas and is associated with Paul and Peter. The gospel ascribed to him is the oldest (written probably prior to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.) and the shortest. Tradition holds Mark as the first bishop of Alexandria. He is portrayed as a winged lion in art.

Tuesday, April 28 — Saint Peter Chanel



St. Peter was a French Marist missionary on the Pacific Islands of Wallis and Futuna. Born in 1803 in Clet, France, he joined the newly formed Society of Mary (Marists) in 1831. He was martyred in 1841 on the island of Futuna.

Tuesday, April 28 — Saint Louis Mary de Montfort



St. Louis was the founder of the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom and the Brothers of St. Gabriel. His preaching led to a spiritual renewal in his native Brittany, where he established numerous confraternities for the recitation of the rosary. He died in 1716 at the age of 43. His treatise, "True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin," is a classic work on Mary.

Wednesday, April 29 — Saint Catherine of Siena



Born in 1347, this extraordinary woman was a Dominican tertiary, a mystic and an author. She was a peacemaker within the church and a renewer of religious life. She was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970 and is a patroness of Italy.* She died in 1380.

**With St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), she is co-patroness of Europe.*