

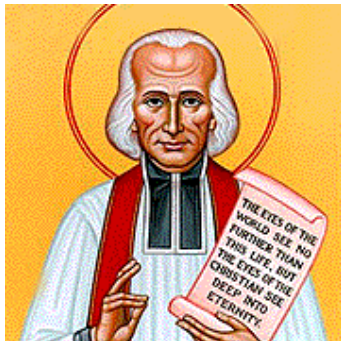
AUGUST 2009 FEAST DAYS

Saturday, August 1 — Saint Alphonsus Liguori



St. Alphonsus (1696-1787), founder of the Redemptorists, was a bishop, spiritual writer and theologian, and is the patron of confessors and moral theologians. He was a great influence on Mariology during the Age of Enlightenment. His Mariology was pastoral in nature, contrasting with the cold rationalism of the enlightenment. Near the end of his life, he suffered much physical pain and betrayal.

Tuesday, August 4 — Saint John Mary Vianney



Universally known as the Curé of Ars, this simple parish priest heard confessions 12 to 16 hours a day and was renowned as a confessor. Between 1830 and 1845 visitors and pilgrims numbered in the hundreds every day. Marianist history indicates that St. John Vianney had a special regard for the Society of Mary.

Wednesday, August 5 — Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major



Following the declaration of Mary as “God-bearer” by the Council of Ephesus in 431, Pope Sixtus III erected in Rome the oldest basilica in the West dedicated to the Mother of God. It is called *Great Saint Mary’s* because it is older and larger than other Roman churches also dedicated to Our Lady.

Thursday, August 6 — Transfiguration of the Lord



The story of the Transfiguration is full of symbolic meaning: a divine manifestation on a mountaintop, the appearance of figures representing the law and prophets, God’s repeating the words from heaven at Jesus’ baptism, and an allusion to Christ’s death and resurrection.

August 6 and August 9 are the anniversaries of the atomic explosions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. As these events are recalled, let us continue to pray for world peace.

Saturday, August 8 — Saint Dominic



Born in Spain around 1172, Dominic de Guzman fought against the Albigensian heresy. He worked tirelessly to defend the truth of the Incarnation, the redemption of humankind through the Body and Blood of Christ, by using his extensive knowledge and great skill as a preacher. He founded the Order of Preachers, whose ideal is *contemplata aliis tradere*, “to hand on to others the fruits of contemplation.”

Monday, August 10 — Saint Lawrence



Lawrence suffered martyrdom in the year 258, three days after Pope Sixtus II and three other deacons were killed. He is said to have been burned alive on a gridiron. He cared for the temporal welfare of the Roman church. Lawrence is one of the most venerated Roman martyrs of the early Church and is a patron of Rome. His name is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I.

Thursday, August 13 — Blessed Jakob Gapp



Born in 1897, Jakob Gapp professed first vows in the Society of Mary in 1921. Faithful to the teachings of the Church, he proclaimed the incompatibility of the principles of National Socialism with Christianity, and beginning in 1938 was persecuted. He was arrested in 1942 and brought to Berlin. During the interrogation, he remained unshaken in his defense of the Church and the faith. He was beheaded on Aug. 13, 1943. His remains were never released for burial because the Nazis feared that he might be honored as a martyr. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on Nov. 24, 1996.

Friday, August 14 — Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe



Maximilian was born in Poland in 1894 and joined the Franciscans. During his priestly life, he worked for the spread of the Gospel in his native Poland as well as in Japan, and had a great devotion to Our Lady. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, he helped thousands of refugees, including Polish Jews. Maximilian was arrested by the Gestapo in 1941 and imprisoned at Auschwitz. He offered to replace a young father who had been sentenced to die. His offer was accepted and he was martyred on Aug. 14, 1941. Maximilian was canonized in October 1982.

Saturday, August 15 — Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



This solemnity recognizes Mary's passage into heaven, united body and soul. The tradition of Mary's assumption dates back to at least the fifth century, but the doctrine was only dogmatically and infallibly defined in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. It is a holy day of obligation in the United States.

Saturday, August 22 — Queenship of Mary



In 1954 Pope Pius XII instituted this memorial "so that all may clearly recognize and more zealously venerate the kind and maternal rule of the Mother of God." It is celebrated on the octave of the Assumption.

Monday, August 24 — Saint Bartholomew



The synoptic gospels and the Acts of the Apostles consider Bartholomew one of the 12 apostles, associating his name with Philip. John's gospel links the name Nathaniel with Philip and never mentions Bartholomew. Apart from that, we know little about him. Bartholomew is said to have preached the gospel in India and in Armenia where, according to tradition, he was flayed alive.