

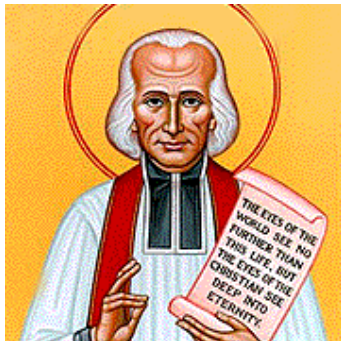
AUGUST 2008 FEAST DAYS

Friday, August 1 — St. 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.

Monday, August 4 — St. 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.

Tuesday, 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.

Wednesday, 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.

Friday, August 8 — St. 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.

Saturday, August 9 — St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)



Edith Stein was born in Breslau, Germany (present-day Poland) in 1891, the youngest child in a large Jewish family. She studied philosophy and received her doctorate at age 25. She was baptized in 1922, taught at Catholic institutions, and eventually joined the Carmelites in Cologne. During the spread of Nazism, she escaped to the Netherlands. In 1942, during the German occupation of Holland, she was arrested, transported to Poland, and killed at Auschwitz. She is a co-patroness of Europe with Sts. Benedict, Cyril and Methodius, Bridget of Sweden and Catherine of Siena.

Wednesday, 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 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.

Friday, 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.

Saturday, August 23 — St. Rose of Lima



Rose lived from 1586 to 1617 and in 1671 became the first canonized saint of the New World. Born in Lima, Peru, she was drawn at an early age to a life of prayer and penance. She endured interior periods of darkness and desolation as well as mystical experience. She joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and lived in a little hut in her parents’ garden, working to help support them. Her death at age 31 ended a life noted for its constancy and devotion.