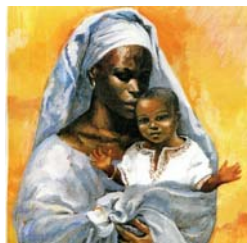


JANUARY 2010 FEAST DAYS

Friday, January 1 — Mary, Mother of God



Of all the Marian feasts of the church, this one has a primary place. It celebrates Mary's role in the incarnation and in redemption. In this role, her special relationship with her son is emphasized and she is acknowledged as a model of the church.

Sunday, January 3 — Epiphany of the Lord



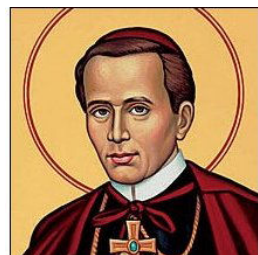
Together with Easter and Pentecost, this feast was originally one of the three principal feasts of the church. It celebrates the manifestation of God to non-Jewish nations. We no longer need to travel far, like the Magi, to find Jesus. He is present among us as we worship together.

Monday, January 4 — Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



Elizabeth Bayley Seton was the first native born American to be canonized. She grew up in affluent New York society and was widowed at a young age. Elizabeth converted to Catholicism in 1805. With two other women she established the first free Catholic school in America. Elizabeth pronounced religious vows in 1809 and founded a religious congregation based on the Rule of St. Vincent de Paul. Today six groups of sisters trace their origins to Mother Seton's initial foundation. She died in 1821 at 46 and was canonized in 1975.

Tuesday, January 5 — Saint John Neumann



When St. John Neumann (1811-1860), the first Redemptorist to make profession in the United States, heard he was being considered as the bishop of Philadelphia, he went to great lengths — unsuccessfully — to avoid his appointment. He was the first American bishop canonized, and a great promoter of schools.

Wednesday, January 6 — Blessed André Bessette



Known to millions as Brother André, he was born in 1845. Orphaned by 12, he was unschooled, small and sickly. In 1870 he joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross, and for 40 years served as the porter at their school in Montreal. He prayed with the sick through the intercession of St. Joseph. Many people came to the school to seek out the “Miracle Man of Montreal.” In 1904, assisted by lay friends, he built a wooden chapel to house a statue of St. Joseph. The chapel grew into a basilica and today welcomes more than two million visitors each year. Brother André lived to be 91 and was declared blessed in 1982.

Sunday, January 10 — Baptism of the Lord



As Jesus is reborn through the waters of baptism, with the spirit of God upon him, John’s announcement of God’s promised one is fulfilled. This feast marks the close of the Christmas season. Ordinary time begins.

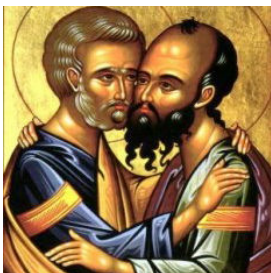
Sunday, January 10— Anniversary of the Death of Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, 1828



“Adèle did not set out to be a model for anyone. She sought only to do the will of her loving God. And, like the Mother of Jesus 1,800 years earlier, in so doing she allowed God to do great things in her. Her life, her work, and especially her ideas and her ideals can continue to inspire us today.”

from Adèle, Aristocrat for the Poor by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

January 18 - 25 — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Meeting of St. Peter and St. Paul

The theme for the annual celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010 is “You Are Witnesses of These Things.” (Luke 24:48) This is also the theme which Scottish Christians have chosen to celebrate the centenary of the Edinburgh Mission Conference of 1910, which helped Protestant missionaries forge a common spirit and coordinate their work.

Friday, January 22 — Anniversary of the Death of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, 1850



“We feel called to give new vitality to the witness of Blessed William Joseph’s life and teachings. We recall his special sensitivity to the world in which he lived and his missionary passion toward the world he loved. It is our task now to incarnate in our lives that legacy which, with his beatification, is a gift for the whole Church.” from *Sent by the Spirit*, #2

Monday, January 25 — The Conversion of Paul



Paul’s entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. After this encounter all his energy was harnessed to one goal – being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one

Thursday, January 28 — Saint Thomas Aquinas



At 19, Thomas joined the newly formed Dominicans and studied in Italy and France. With his teacher, Albert the Great, he developed the theological “Scholastic method,” which dominated Catholic teaching for centuries. A man of towering intellect, Thomas was also a very humble mystic. He was canonized in 1323 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1567.