

JUNE 2009 FEAST DAYS

Wednesday, June 3 — Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs



The 22 Martyrs of Uganda died on June 3, 1886, and were canonized in 1964. Charles Lwanga and his companions had become Christians through the Catholic missions of the Missionaries of Africa. About 100 persons died during the persecution of the cruel and immoral King Mwanga, who was determined to stamp out Christianity in his country.

Friday, June 5 — Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr



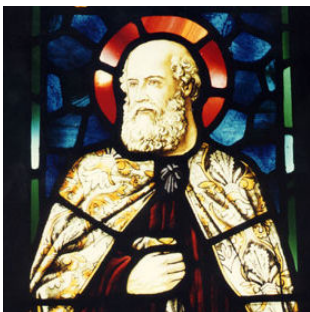
Pope Gregory II sent the English Benedictine monk, Boniface, to Germany as a missionary. His work there as bishop, organizer and reformer earned him the title of "Apostle of Germany." On June 5 in the year 754, he and 30 companions were killed by non-Christians as he was preparing to confirm more converts.

Sunday, June 7 — Most Holy Trinity



Like the Trinity, may we be united in peace and love through the Spirit, through whom we offer God praise and glory.

Thursday, June 11 — Saint Barnabas, Apostle



Barnabas, a Jew from Cyprus, came to Jerusalem where he joined the early Christian community. The apostles changed his name from Joseph to Barnabas, which means "man of encouragement." According to the Acts of the Apostles, he was a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit. For many years, he was Paul's partner in evangelizing the Gentiles. Tradition has it that he was stoned to death in his native Cyprus about the year 61.

Saturday, June 13 — Saint Anthony of Padua, Doctor of the Church



Although Anthony (1195-1231) came from Portugal, the city of Padua in Italy claims him as its own. He was famous for his preaching, theological abilities and power as an intercessor, both in his lifetime and since his death. He died at the age of 36. He was so beloved and revered that he was canonized within the year. He is best known for his help in finding lost objects.

Sunday, June 14 — Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



Just as God fed the Israelites with manna from heaven, we feed on the best of wheat, the bread of angels, food for the pilgrim journey.

Friday, June 19 — Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



“The Lord loved you.” “Love is of God ... God is love.” Scripture’s words of love come on a day celebrating the human and divine love of Jesus. On this day, the Eucharist is celebrated for our fellow brothers and all those closely associated with the Society. During the week that follows a special remembrance is made at a Eucharist for the deceased members of the groups mentioned above.

Saturday, June 20 — Immaculate Heart of Mary



The devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is closely linked to the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Popular devotion began in the 17th century, but the feast was instituted in the church in 1944.

Sunday, June 21 — Father's Day



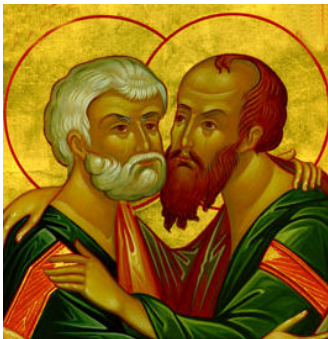
On this 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us pray for our fathers, both living and deceased.

Wednesday, June 24 — Nativity of John the Baptist



The birth of John the Baptist was one of the earliest feasts to be named to a particular day on the church calendar. The date of June 24 was chosen because it is six months before the birth of Christ. With its proximity to the summer solstice, it signifies the waning of light, while the birth of Jesus near the winter solstice marks the coming of the light.

Monday, June 29 — Peter & Paul, Apostles



The two apostles, both martyred in Rome according to tradition, have been honored from the earliest days. Peter became the “Prince of the Apostles” and Paul the “Apostle to the Gentiles.” On this date we also remember the anniversary of the approval of the *Rule of Life* of the Society of Mary on June 29, 1983.

The Eucharist is offered for the intention of the Holy Father. A special remembrance of deceased popes occurs during a Eucharist the following week.