

Blessed Chiara Luce Badano

In 1971, after praying and hoping for a baby for more than 10 years, Ruggero and Teresa Badano of Sassello, Italy, welcomed a little girl whom they named Chiara.

Even at the age of four, Chiara seemed aware of the needs of others. She would sort through her toys to give some to poor children, and she would never give away just the old or broken ones. She invited less-fortunate people into the family's home for holidays and visited the elderly at a retirement center. When other children were sick and confined to bed, Chiara visited them. She loved the stories of the Gospel and loved to attend Mass.

Chiara was very popular. She had a lot of friends, she played sports, and she loved to sing and dance. But when asked, she said she did not try to bring Jesus to her friends with words. She tried to bring Jesus to them with her example and how she lived her life.

When she was 17, Chiara learned she had a very serious form of bone cancer. Treatments were painful and unsuccessful. She became paralyzed. One day someone asked her if she hoped to walk again, and her answer was no. When she suffered, she felt closer to Jesus. She even refused to take pain medication that would make her too sleepy to continue to live her life.

Despite her illness and being confined to bed, Chiara wrote letters and sent messages to others. She inspired everyone who she encountered with her faith and love for others. She gave all her savings to a friend who was becoming a missionary in Africa. When her life was nearly at an end, she said, "I have nothing left, but I still have my heart, and with that I can always love."

Chiara died in 1990. Within nine years, the bishop of her diocese began the work on her cause for canonization. Pope Benedict XVI declared her "Blessed" in 2010. "Only Love with a capital L gives true happiness," and that's what Chiara showed her family and her friends, the pope said.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Anjeze Gonxhe)

On August 26, 1910, Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia. As a young girl she was very involved in parish activities, and her mother told her many stories of missionaries, who inspired her greatly. At age 18, Agnes joined the missionary order of the Sisters of Loreto in Dublin, Ireland. There she was given the name Sister Mary Teresa.

As a young Sister she traveled to Calcutta, India, to teach at a school for girls. She continued to teach at various schools in India for 20 years. During that time, she was deeply moved by the number of sick and dying people on the streets.

On September 10, 1946, while traveling by train to Darjeeling, Sister Mary Teresa experienced a “call within a call.” She felt called to be God’s love in action: to serve the sick and dying, the hungry and homeless. She received permission to leave the Loreto convent. Then she sought medical training and became determined to serve the poorest of the poor.

Eventually, she was joined by other women. Some of these women were her former students, and they helped her serve the poor. In 1950 she established an order of religious women called the Missionaries of Charity.

Over time the Missionaries of Charity have built centers throughout the world. In 1979 Mother Teresa, as she was known by then, received the Nobel Peace Prize. She captivated the world as few other people have. Her simple message was: “We are put on earth to do something beautiful for God.”

Pope John Paul II chose October 19, 2003, as the date for the beatification of Mother Teresa. The ceremony was a celebration for the entire world. Mother Teresa’s life of holiness is respected on a global scale. Her example of humble and loving service is admired by millions of people.

Mother Teresa’s spiritual vitality can be described with these words. “Don’t search for God in faraway lands. He is not there. He is close to you. He is with you. Just keep that lamp burning, and you will always see him.”

Saint Therese of Lisieux

In 1873, Thérèse was born in the small French town of Alençon and was raised in a loving family with her four sisters. Like any child, Thérèse enjoyed playing with her cousins and siblings. When Thérèse was four her mother died, and her father moved the family to Lisieux, a town about 50 miles away, so that he and his daughters could live with his brother. Thérèse's older sister, Pauline, became like a second mother to her.

At the age of 15, Thérèse became a Carmelite nun, following in the footsteps of her three older sisters, including Pauline. As a young nun, she saw a vision of the baby Jesus. She believed this was a sign from God. To her, it was a reminder that even though she was a small woman, she was great and strong through her love of God.

Thérèse knew that she would never be able to perform great deeds, but she proved her love for God by doing little things that received no recognition. She smiled at people she did not like. She ate whatever was on her plate without complaining. She took the blame when she was not the one at fault. She called this "the little way." This "little way" has become a model for ordinary people who are seeking to live holy lives.

Thérèse was also a very good writer. She wrote an autobiography that tells the story of her life and her love for God. People today still read this book, which is called *The Story of a Soul*.

She became ill in 1896 but did not tell anyone, suffering in silence. She died in 1897 when she was only 24, and when her older sister put her writings together and sent them to other convents, her "little way" became famous.

Today we honor St. Thérèse of Lisieux as the patron saint of the missions. She never traveled, but she loved praying for the missions. People also call her "the Little Flower," because she loved flowers and sometimes called herself a "little flower of Jesus." She was canonized in 1925, and in 1997 Pope John Paul II proclaimed her a Doctor of the Church.

Saint John Paul II

Many people who knew young Karol Józef Wojtyła in Poland thought he might someday be an actor or a writer. Instead, he became pope. He was born in the town of Wadowice in Poland in 1920. He was the youngest of three children, and his mother died when he was only nine. When he graduated from high school and went to college, he studied drama. But as World War II approached, the university was closed, and Karol went to work in a quarry and then in a factory to earn money and avoid being sent to Germany to serve in the army.

When he was 22, he realized God was calling him to something different. He knew he wanted to be a priest. But at the time, studying for the priesthood in Poland could only be done secretly, so that is what Karol did. When World War II ended, he was finally able to openly pursue his dream. In 1946, he was ordained a priest.

John Paul II was pope for a very long time, nearly 27 years. He traveled the world many times over, going places that popes had not been to before. He danced in Africa. He giggled with children. He cried with dying people. He was a very human and approachable pope. He loved young people so much that he started World Youth Day so he could meet youth from all over the world every few years. The pope was known as a true outdoorsman who loved to ski and hike.

He helped bring about the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe through his preaching and his meetings with heads of state. In 1981, a man named Mehmet Ali Agca shot the pope in St. Peter's Square. The pope was seriously injured, but quickly asked people to pray for the man who had shot him. He later met personally with Agca to extend his forgiveness. In 2000 during the canonization mass for Maria Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. The responsorial psalms for this Mass all have a focus on the theme of mercy.

Pope John Paul II was also a teacher, writing many important documents that educated people about the faith. He wrote five spiritual books of his own, too. After suffering for many years with an illness that weakened him greatly, he died in 2005. More than three million people traveled to Rome to pay their respects to him.

Venerable Fulton John Sheen

Despite his humble beginnings, Fulton J. Sheen would accomplish great things for Christ. Fulton was born in 1895 in El Paso, Illinois. His family moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he served as an altar boy at St. Mary's Cathedral. Fulton was a very intelligent and gifted student. As a young man, Fulton went to several universities around the world. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1923.

Fulton was a gifted teacher and preacher. He served as a priest at St. Patrick's Church in London and St. Patrick's Church in Peoria. He taught theology and philosophy. He wrote many books, and he began a weekly radio broadcast. Fulton addressed many important issues of his day. He encouraged his fellow Catholics to become bolder in their faith. He wanted Catholics to integrate their faith and their daily lives together for all to see.

In 1951, Fulton was consecrated a bishop and served the Archdiocese of New York. In this same year, Fulton created a weekly television program called Life is Worth Living. His program became very popular. Millions of people watched him every week. Fulton would go on to serve as the director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, New York. He also started another television show called The Fulton Sheen Program. In 1969, Fulton was appointed Archbishop of Newport in the country of Wales.

Fulton Sheen died in 1979 and was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. In 2019, his remains were transferred to Peoria.

Shortly before his death, Pope John Paul II visited Fulton and embraced him. He said to Fulton: "You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are a loyal son of the Church." Fulton Sheen was a much beloved Catholic with a heart for showing people the way to truth.

Saint Jose Luis Sanchez Del Rio

St. José Luis Sánchez del Río was born on March 28, 1913 in Sahuayo, Michoacán, Mexico as the third of four children in his family. José loved his faith and grew up with a strong devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

José was 12-years-old when the Cristero War began in Mexico. During this time, the Mexican government wanted to extinguish the influence of the Catholic Church throughout the country. They started executing priests, seizing the Catholic Church's property, and closing religious schools and convents, in accordance with anti-clerical laws that were written into the Mexican Constitution.

People from many of the central and western states in Mexico rebelled against the government in defense of the Catholic Church. José's brothers joined the rebel forces, but his mother would not allow him to participate. Prudencio Mendoza, the rebel general, also refused José's enlistment because he was too young to join the rebellion.

But José desperately wanted to be a Cristero. He wanted the chance to stand up for his faith. He begged his mother to let him join, and the general finally allowed José to become the flagbearer of the troop. José was ultimately captured by the government troops and imprisoned in the sacristy of the local church. During his captivity, José was ordered to renounce his faith in Christ. Even under the threat of death, José refused.

During his time in captivity, José prayed the rosary daily and wrote a letter to his mother. He told her he was ready to fulfill the will of God.

On February 10, 1928, after realizing they would not break José's faith, the government troops cut the bottom of his feet and forced him to walk around the town toward the cemetery. During his walk, José recited the rosary, prayed for his enemies, and sang songs to Our Lady of Guadalupe, despite being cut with a machete several times.

He cried out in pain, but José did not give in. They told him if he shouted, "Death to Christ the King," they would spare his life. Instead, José would shout, "I will never give in. Viva Cristo Rey y Santa Maria de Guadalupe!"

At the age of 14, St. José Luis Sánchez del Río died as a martyr on February 10, 1928.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Raymund Kolbe was born in Poland in 1894. His family was very poor, but they were rich in spirit. In 1914, his father was captured and killed by the Russians for fighting for Polish independence.

Young Raymund had a great faith and strong devotion to the Blessed Mother. He went to school to be a Franciscan priest and was ordained in 1918, taking the name Maximilian Maria. After studying in Rome, Maximilian returned to Poland in 1919. He used modern printing presses to spread the Good News through monthly, and eventually daily, religious publications. He also spent six years as a missionary in Japan.

During World War II, Father Kolbe hid as many as 2,000 Jewish people and Poles, who were also persecuted, in his Polish monastery. In 1941, Maximilian was arrested by the Nazis, who soon sent him to Auschwitz concentration camp. This was a terrible place where the Nazis killed many people.

In July of that year, several prisoners escaped, and as punishment, the camp commander picked 10 men to be starved to death. Franciszek Gajowniczek, a husband and father, was one of these sentenced to death. Father Maximilian Kolbe offered his life in the man's place. Each day, he celebrated Mass for the other starving prisoners and prayed and sang with them. When he outlived many of the other men, he was killed by lethal injection.

On October 10, 1982, Pope John Paul II canonized Maximilian Kolbe as a "martyr of charity." Present at the ceremony was Franciszek Gajowniczek, the Auschwitz prisoner whose place Maximilian had taken in giving his own life. Gajowniczek lived for 54 years after St. Maximilian Kolbe had taken his place in death.

Saint Faustina Kowalska

Helenka Kowalska was born in 1905 in a small Polish town, one of 10 children born into a poor family. She left school after third grade and never learned to write or read very well. She dreamed of becoming a nun and was very disappointed when her parents would not give their permission. They needed the money she earned as a housekeeper for other families. She was obedient to her parents, but her desire to enter religious life never left her.

When she was 19, the young woman said she had a vision in which God told her to go to a large city in Poland to enter the convent. It is said that she took the next train to Warsaw.

Helenka tried to join several religious orders, but they turned her down because of her lack of education. Finally the mother superior of the Servants of Our Lady of Mercy decided to give her a chance. Helenka was given the name Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sister Faustina worked in menial jobs that did not require education, as a cook, a gardener, and a housekeeper. But she was blessed by visions of Jesus, who gave her a special mission. Jesus wanted her to spread devotion about the Mercy of God and to help people remember that God our Father is merciful and loving to all people, even those who have turned away from him in sin.

In another vision, Jesus asked Sister Faustina to have a portrait painted of our Lord as the King of Divine Mercy. Jesus also asked Faustina to be an example of mercy for others and to imitate Christ by making sacrifices for others. Faustina did everything Jesus asked. When the other nuns made fun of Faustina and said her visions were fake, Faustina forgave them.

Her spiritual adviser told Faustina to keep a diary about her experiences and her visions. Because Faustina had such a poor education, the diary was difficult to read, but after her death in 1938, the spelling was corrected and her work was sent to the Vatican. It took many years and arguments, but finally, in 2000, Sister Faustina was declared a saint. Divine Mercy Sunday is now celebrated the first Sunday after Easter every year.

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

Sometimes saints lead very normal lives. They love sports and have hobbies. They get married and have children. Some, like Gianna Molla, are even modern-day working mothers.

Born in Milan, Italy, in 1922, Gianna was always very religious. She attended college and medical school, married in 1955, and gave birth to three children while working as a pediatrician. Their family was very happy, and Gianna and her husband, Pietro, taught their children that their Catholic faith was the most important thing in their lives.

But when Gianna was expecting her fourth child, doctors discovered a cancerous tumor that needed to be removed from her body. By doing the surgery, though, her unborn baby would die. She insisted the baby be allowed to live.

Gianna died at age 39, just seven days after her baby girl, Giannina, was born in 1962. More than physical pain, she suffered the most at the thought of leaving her children.

Giannina followed in her amazing mother's footsteps and became a doctor.

Gianna Molla is the first woman physician to have been declared a saint, which was done by Pope John Paul II in 2004. She was the last saint canonized by the pope before his death.

Saint Padre Pio

St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione, on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy. His parents were peasant farmers. As a child, he was very religious and by the age of five he reportedly made the decision to dedicate his life to God. From his tender age, Francisco had a peculiar ability. He could see guardian angels, spoke with Jesus and the Virgin Mary. This was not something taught to him, but occurred so naturally that he assumed other people could see them too.

In 1897, after three years of schooling, Francisco expressed to his parents that he wanted to become a friar. His parents traveled to a nearby community of monks and asked if Francesco could join them. He was evaluated, despite his young age, and was told that he needed more education before he could join. At the age of 15, Francisco was finally ready and he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin friars at Morcone. He took the name of "Pio" in honor of Pope Pius I, whose relic he often saw at his local chapel.

On September 20, Padre Pio was hearing confessions when he felt pain in his hands and feet. He noticed the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, appearing on his hands and feet. The experience was painful. Bleeding occurred. The wounds smelled of roses, and although they continued to weep, they never became infected. Doctors who later examined the stigmata were amazed at their perfectly round shape.

Padre Pio became popular with the people he encountered and soon began to attribute supernatural occurrences to him. For example, he was said to levitate, and able to perform miracles.

His popularity became a source of concern for the Church and the Vatican began to restrict his activities to minimize public interaction. Padre Pio himself was uncomfortable with his newfound popularity and the attention he received because of his stigmata. A Church investigation into his stigmata concluded that his condition was not faked.

Padre Pio became internationally famous. He was known for his piety, charity and the quality of his preaching. He famously advised, "Pray, hope and don't worry."

Blessed Chiara Corbella Petrillo

Chiara was born into a faithful Christian family. At the age of 18, she met the love of her life, Enrico, while on pilgrimage in Medjugorje. She and Enrico were engaged just a few months later.

Chiara and Enrico were happily married in 2008 and became pregnant shortly thereafter. After the first ultrasound, they learned that their unborn daughter, Maria, was not developing properly. With no hesitation, Enrico and Chiara chose life and loved their baby through her birth and brief life on earth. They continued to pour out their love for the Lord during Maria's funeral as they sang His praises at Mass.

A few months after Maria passed away, Chiara became pregnant again. This time, the ultrasound of their son, David, showed that he was also affected by a genetic disease that would take his life once born. Once more, the young parents joyfully accepted their cross, and had thirty minutes with their son after he was born.

A third time, Enrico and Chiara became pregnant with their son Francesco. Miraculously, the ultrasound revealed a healthy baby. However, it was Chiara who was then diagnosed with cancer. Despite knowing that continuing the pregnancy could pose a risk to Chiara's life, she and her husband chose to forgo treatment in order to give birth to a healthy son. During her pregnancy she lost the ability to speak and swallow and was not even able to use painkillers. Despite the pain, Chiara was always smiling.

After Francesco's healthy birth, the cancer continued to spread in Chiara's body and in the end, it took her life. She left her son with the words: "Whatever you do, it will only be meaningful if you think about eternal life. If you truly love, you will realize that nothing belongs to you, because everything is a gift."

Chiara passed away on June 13, 2012 at the young age of 28.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Some people have called Pier, or Peter, Frassati a saint for today's young people. He was handsome and athletic. He hiked, climbed mountains, rode horses, and skied with his many friends. He loved to laugh, and he was famous for his practical jokes. He loved life and lived it to the fullest.

Pier was born in Turin, Italy, in 1901. His mother was an artist and his father founded and ran the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*. As he was growing up, Pier developed two habits that became part of his everyday life. He went to Mass daily to receive the Eucharist, and he also prayed the Rosary. He never hesitated to share his faith with others.

Pier had a great concern for the poor, even as a child. One day a needy mother with a young son came to the Frassati home to beg for food. Pier noticed that the child was barefoot. He took off his own shoes and gave them to the boy, and then he and his mother fed the poor family. Pier used the money he got as a graduation gift to rent a room for a woman who had been evicted from her apartment because she had no money. He gave away his allowance to the poor, and sometime he chose to walk home from school because he gave the money for his bus or train fare to someone in need.

He joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society as a young man and spent hours on activities that helped the poor and sick. As a mining engineer, he cared deeply about the rights of the miners. He wanted them to have just working conditions and fair wages.

When he was 24, Pier became very ill with polio. Some people said he got this disease from caring for people in the slums of Turin, but Pier saw Jesus in the people he served. In his last days, he whispered the names of people who still needed assistance to his family and friends who gathered at his bedside. He died on July 4, 1925.

Venerable Francis Van Thuan

His parents were Nguyễn Văn Ấm and Elizabeth Ngô Đình Thị Hiệp, a prominent family in Vietnam. The roots of the Catholic faith ran deep in Francis-Xavier's family, dating to the seventeenth century. He recognized a call to the priesthood after attending a Eucharistic Crusade event. He entered minor seminary as a young teen and later earned his degrees in philosophy and theology at the major seminary at Phu Xuan.

He was ordained in June of 1953 at age 25 and was assigned to a parish where both Vietnamese and French were spoken, and then as a hospital and prison chaplain.

In April of 1975, Bishop Văn Thuận was named Coadjutor Bishop of Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, giving him the right of succession at the next vacancy.

Seven days later, Saigon fell to the Communist North Vietnamese. The Communists saw the appointment of such a popular bishop as Vatican involvement to resist the Communist takeover, and when he arrived in May, they forced him to return to Nha Trang. He was arrested, and without benefit of a trial, taken to North Vietnam the following spring, where he was imprisoned in a "re-education camp".

He spent the next thirteen years of his life as a prisoner, nine of which were solitary confinement. Determined to continue serving his people, he used his very limited resources for good. He asked a delivery boy to bring him calendars, which he tore into small pieces and used to write brief messages of hope to the faithful. The boy copied the messages and spread them among the faithful, messages which greatly helped them to endure under oppression as the Vietnamese faithful had had to do in previous periods of persecution. The lay leaders that he himself had formed at Nha Trang assembled the messages and printed them as *The Road To Hope*.

Some of his guards slipped in some wire and wood for him to make a crucifix, and he offered Mass each day using his hand as an altar, small amounts of smuggled hosts and wine, and reciting the Missal from memory. He successfully taught and evangelized his guards, to the point that they were replaced regularly.

In 1988, the bishop was finally released from prison, but kept under house arrest in Hanoi.

Servant of God Emil Kapaun

Emil Kapaun was born on April 20, 1916 on a farm in Pilsen, Kansas, about 60 miles north of Wichita to Elizabeth (Bessie) and Enos Kapaun.

He was ordained a priest on June 9, 1940, and served at his home parish until entering the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps in 1944. Father Kapaun began his military service as a chaplain to troops in India and Burma in the final years of World War II. A month after North Korea invaded South Korea in June of 1950, Father Kapaun and the First Cavalry Division were ordered to the Korean War to help repel the invasion. Father Kapaun became well-known for risking his life ministering to the soldiers on the front lines.

In November, when 250,000 Chinese troops entered the war from the north, his unit was the first to be overrun. During the Battle of Unsan, Father Kapaun rescued about 30 wounded soldiers and ministered to countless others. He elected to stay behind with the wounded rather than flee to safety with the rest of the unit. He was captured on November 2, 1950, and forced to march over 60 miles to Prisoner of War Camp #5. Along the way to the camp, he saved another soldier from execution and encouraged the wounded soldiers to carry others who could not walk on their own.

During the seven months that Father Kapaun was in captivity, he spent himself totally for the benefit of his fellow prisoners, without regard to race, color or creed. Men of all faiths who were imprisoned with him still testify to this day about the acts of courage and heroism that he displayed while in the camp.

Father Kapaun sought to meet the physical needs of the soldiers by stealing food and medicine from the guards for the men to share, while giving up much of his own meager daily ration of millet or cracked corn. He provided spiritual comfort to the men; he nursed the sick back to health and treated the wounds of the soldiers imprisoned with him.

When he developed pneumonia and a blood clot in his leg that prevented his daily rounds, his captors seized the opportunity to have him relocated to the "hospital," a facility that was essentially a death house. Men who were taken to the hospital were deprived of food and medicine and left to die. While being carried to the death house, Father Kapaun blessed his persecutors and asked their forgiveness. Then, alone, Father Kapaun passed away on May 23, 1951.

Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto of Fatima

Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese shepherd children from Aljustrel, received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria, near Fátima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. Francisco was only 10 years old when our Blessed Mother appeared to him, his sister Jacinta (who was 8), and his cousin Lucia, in their small town of Fatima, Portugal. The visions, which we call “apparitions,” occurred in 1917, between May and October. Mary appeared to the children five times.

At the first appearance, Mary asked the children to return to that spot on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months. She also asked them to learn to read and write and to pray the rosary “to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war.” They were to pray for sinners and for the conversion of Russia, which had recently overthrown Czar Nicholas II and was soon to fall under communism. Up to 90,000 people gathered for Mary’s final apparition on October 13, 1917.

Only Lucia heard Mary’s words, but Francisco told his parents, his parish priest, the mayor of his town, and anyone who questioned him that he truly saw Mary on each of her visits and that he felt her presence. Like his sister and cousin, Francisco reported that Mary told the children to pray the Rosary every day and to pray for sinners.

Less than two years later, Francisco died of influenza in his family home. He was buried in the parish cemetery and then re-buried in the Fátima basilica in 1952. Jacinta died of influenza in Lisbon in 1920, offering her suffering for the conversion of sinners, peace in the world, and the Holy Father. She was re-buried in the Fátima basilica in 1951. Their cousin Lúcia dos Santos, became a Carmelite nun and was still living when Jacinta and Francisco were beatified in 2000; she died five years later.

Pope Francis canonized the younger children on his visit to Fátima to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first apparition—May 13, 2017. The shrine of Our Lady of Fátima is visited by up to 20 million people a year.

Saint André Bessette

Saint André was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War.

At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!"

When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and planted medals of Saint Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying Saint Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92.

Saint Josemaría Escrivá

He was born in Barbastro, Spain on January 9, 1902 into a pious family. When he was young, he one day saw bare footprints left in the snow by a monk. The small sign left a great impression of holiness on the young man that would begin to guide his life and foster a vocation to the priesthood.

He developed a prayer life intensely centered on the Eucharist during his priestly studies in Logroño, and also cultivated deep devotion to Mary. “The Blessed Virgin has always helped me to discover her Son’s desires,” he said, and would often pray for her to ask God to reveal his will to him.

On March 28, 1925, Josemaría was ordained to the priesthood. During his early ministry, he worked among a variety of people, including children, students, artists, and workers, while also teaching law to help support his mother and sister.

Three years later, while on retreat, Josemaría saw the mission God intended for him, that of opening up a new spirituality and vocational path for the laity in the form of Opus Dei (“the work of God”). This prelature would become the central focus of his life, serving many of the unmet spiritual needs of lay people at the time.

The young movement began to grow quickly, attracting in particular university students. In the late 1930’s, the Spanish Civil War brought great hardships for the Church while Josemaría continued his work. His reputation for holiness, and thus his movement, began to grow in this time.

In 1946, Josemaría moved to Rome to obtain papal recognition of his movement from Pope Pius XII, which was granted the following year. Even as successive popes sent their blessings and affection, the work involved in expanding Opus Dei took a toll on Josemaría. Nonetheless, he is said to have never stopped smiling.

In the latter years of his life, Josemaría traveled throughout the world to catechize his organization, often drawing crowds of thousands.

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

As she was growing up, Edith prayed at home with her family and went to religious services. While this could be said about many Catholic saints, Edith's family was a little different. She was from a devout Jewish family. Then when Edith was about 13 years old, she gave up faith in God altogether. Edith grew up in Breslau, Germany, the youngest of seven children. Her father died when Edith was young, so she became very close to her mother. Edith was a very intelligent girl. She was so smart that the teacher sent her home from kindergarten; there was nothing for her to learn there. Edith didn't just study when there was going to be a test in school. She studied because she loved to learn. She always got high marks in everything except math. Edith continued her studies at the university, where she earned a doctorate degree in philosophy.

Then as an inquisitive young woman, she picked up the autobiography of [Saint Teresa of Ávila](#). Edith was so captivated that she couldn't put the book down, and she completed reading it in one night. The next day she bought a Catholic catechism and read it. Edith felt that she had finally found the truth she had been looking for since she was 13.

When Edith was baptized, her mother cried. Edith did not have the heart to tell her mother that she also wanted to be a Carmelite nun. So she waited. She taught school, translated books, and gave lectures—and she prayed. Finally in 1934, she entered the convent and received the name Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. She shared in the domestic work of the nuns, but also continued to write about philosophy. In 1938 the persecution of Jews became so intense in Germany that it became dangerous for the rest of the sisters in the convent. They could be killed simply for giving shelter to a Jewish person. Edith and her sister Rosa, who had also become Catholic, went to Holland.

Four years later Holland was occupied by the Nazis, and one day, without warning, soldiers came to the convent door. They gave Edith and her sister 10 minutes to pack before they put them on a train to Germany. From there they were sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz in Poland. Two days later, on August 9 or 10, Edith and Rosa died in a gas chamber. Edith was canonized in 1998. One of her favorite sayings was "Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Edith found her glory in the cross.

Servant of God Dorothy Day

Dorothy was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1897. The family moved to San Francisco and then Chicago, where they lived in poorer housing after Dorothy's father lost his job. Even though Dorothy was young, she knew what it was like to feel shame over one's living conditions. As a youngster she loved to read inspiring stories of people who did good things in the world.

She dropped out of college to take a job as a newspaper reporter in New York. The newspaper operated under the belief that all property and possessions should be owned by communities, not by individual persons, so that through sharing, there was always enough for everyone. She joined groups of people protesting the United States' involvement in World War I and groups that rallied for women to be able to vote.

Working as a reporter for Catholic magazines, she prayed to the Blessed Mother to help her to use her talents for the working poor. She soon met Peter Maurin who told her to use her journalism skills to start a paper that could educate people about the Catholic Church and how they related to social justice for people. Her kitchen table in her Greenwich Village apartment became her office, and she sold the paper, *The Catholic Worker*, for a penny a copy so that almost anyone could buy and read it.

When word began to travel about Dorothy writing, people who didn't have enough food or a place to live came to her for help. Her apartment was a place people could stay when they had nowhere else to go.

Eventually, Dorothy and her employees began to lease apartments, houses, and even farms where people could stay. These were known then, and are still today, as *Catholic Worker* houses. Not everyone agreed with Dorothy, especially when she wrote again and again that war was wrong and the U.S. should not be involved. During World War II, some of the young men she inspired refused to fight in the military and were either sent to prison or served as medics—without weapons—in the war.

Dorothy and other members of the *Catholic Worker* movement protested against nuclear weapons and were arrested many times for this. She also believed in equal rights for persons of all colors and backgrounds and took part in civil rights demonstrations in the late 1950s.

Venerable Augustine Tolton

Fr. Augustus Tolton is the first known black Catholic priest in the United States.

A seminarian from the Diocese of La Crosse, Wis., was lifting weights one day when he collapsed on the ground. He lost oxygen to his brain for more than 20 minutes and was rushed to the hospital, where doctors feared the young man would never regain consciousness. From miles away, the cardinal and bishops from the Archdiocese of Chicago heard about the seminarian's plight. From the gravesite of Father Augustus Tolton, the first known black Catholic priest in the United States, they lifted the seminarian up in prayer. At that moment, he suddenly woke up from his hospital bed. The first words from his mouth were, "Can I still be a priest?"

Augustus Tolton was born into a slave family in Missouri on April 1, 1854. His master's family was Catholic, so both he and his family were baptized in the faith. When the master died, Tolton's mother, Martha Jane, feared they would be sold, so she took the children and ran away. Though chased by Confederate troops, Martha Jane and her three children eventually made it to safety in Quincy, Ill. However they still faced discrimination. Tolton was dismissed from every school in the area until an Irish Catholic priest named Father Peter McGill took the family under his wing at St. Peter Parish and School.

Soon Tolton's piety and intelligence were recognized, and the men and women religious who taught him believed he had a vocation to the priesthood. Despite this, due to his skin color not a single seminary in the United States would accept him. Eventually, the Franciscan Fathers arranged for Tolton to study at a seminary for missionaries in Rome. When he finished his studies he was sent back to evangelize in his hometown. He served as the pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Quincy, where both whites and blacks were attracted to his preaching. However pressure from inside and outside the church compelled him to move to a mission parish for black Catholics in Chicago. In 1897, at the age of 43, Tolton died of heatstroke after a devastating heatwave hit the city.

Saint Bernadette Soubirus

Imagine seeing our Blessed Mother not just once, but eighteen times! That is the blessing Bernadette Soubirus was given for five months in 1858.

One day, Bernadette, her sister, and a friend were gathering firewood near their home in Lourdes, France. Suddenly a lovely Lady dressed in blue and white appeared to Bernadette above a rose bush in a small cave. The Lady held a rosary and made the Sign of the Cross. Bernadette, who was only 14 years old, fell to her knees and began to pray the rosary.

The Lady spoke to Bernadette lovingly and with respect. This was a surprise to Bernadette. She came from a poor family and had little education. She was not used to being treated so kindly.

During one of her appearances, Bernadette asked the Lady who she was. The woman replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Bernadette did not understand what this meant. It was later explained to her that the words "Immaculate Conception" describe Mary, who was free from sin from the first moment of her life in her mother's womb. It was only then that Bernadette began to understand that it was our Blessed Mother Mary who was appearing to her.

When Bernadette reported her visions of Mary, Church officials were doubtful. Many people did not believe her because she was the only one who ever saw or spoke to Mary. Still, crowds of people came to Lourdes in hopes of seeing Jesus' mother.

One day, Mary asked Bernadette to use her hands to dig in the mud near the cave. When Bernadette obeyed the Lady's request, a spring began to flow from the mud. It grew larger and larger and still flows today. At our Blessed Mother's request, a chapel was built on the site.

Millions of people have made pilgrimages to Lourdes. They bathe in the waters from the spring and pray for healing. Miraculous cures have been declared after thorough investigation by Church officials and medical experts.

St. Bernadette lived with great faith even when people doubted her word. Her example teaches us to pray that Mary will help us to have faith in all of Jesus' teachings.

Saint Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of the Sudan and human trafficking survivors.

She was born in 1869, in a small village in Darfur. While still a young girl around 7 years old, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Her captors asked for her name but in her fear, and as a result of the trauma, she was unable to remember. Mocking her, they named her “Bakhita,” which means “fortunate”.

During her time of captivity she was tortured by her various owners. She suffered brandings and beatings on many occasions. Once her owners cut her 114 times and poured salt in her wounds to make sure that the scars remained.

During these early years of her life, she did not know Christ but she did believe in a Creator and had great awe and wonder for His creation.

Eventually, after exchanging hands five or six times, St. Bakhita found herself serving as a caretaker for a young girl at a school in Venice run by Canossian Sisters. Bakhita was very intrigued by the Catholic faith . She learned many things from the sisters and was eventually baptized by the name “Josephine Margaret”.

Against the will of her owner, who wanted to take her back to Africa, she went before the Italian courts seeking her freedom. The courts declared that Bakhita was a free woman because slavery had been outlawed in both Italy and the Sudan and they allowed her to stay in Italy.

St. Bakhita was attracted to the religious life and entered the Canossian Sisters where she remained for about forty five years. She lived out the rest of her days serving God and her community and teaching others to love Him with great faithfulness. She was known for her smile, gentleness and holiness.

“If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today.”- St. Bakhita

Blessed María Concepción Cabrera Arias de Armida

Her name was María Concepción Cabrera Arias de Armida, but she was known as Conchita.

She was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, on December 8, 1862. She was the seventh of nine children born to well-to-do landowning parents.

As a child, she displayed a powerful love for the Holy Eucharist, a devotion that was above the norm. Her devotion was so pronounced that, at a time when the age to receive First Holy Communion was between 12 and 14, Conchita was allowed to receive her First Communion when she was only 10.

She married Francisco de Armida at age 13, and a year later they began their family of nine children. Sadly, when Conchita was only 39, Francisco died. They had been married 22 years, and their youngest child was only two at the time. Life as a widow was not easy, but this is where the mystical life of Conchita again came to the fore.

Before Francisco passed on Conchita had begun to write. In 1894 she had entered into what is known as a “spiritual marriage” with Jesus, and other special graces. Conchita was chosen to serve God in different ways. But her primary method was always her writing.

She was a model of holiness as a wife, mother, widow, grandmother and founder. Because of the depth of her writings, Conchita is recognized as a great mystic of the 20th century. Amazingly, her children had no recollection of her time spent writing, even though she amassed over 60,000 handwritten pages of religious work. This amount of writing rivals that of St. Thomas Aquinas.

As a lay woman she often tried to show her readers how to love the Church. She wrote the following words, which are so fitting for today’s secular world;

To love the Church is not to criticize her, not to destroy her, not to try to change her essential structures, not to reduce her to humanism, horizontalism and to the simple service of human liberation. To love the Church is to cooperate with the work of Redemption by the Cross and in this way obtain the grace of the Holy Spirit come to renew the face of this poor earth, conducting it to its consummation in the design of the Father’s immense love.

Saint Frances Cabrini

The youngest of thirteen children, Frances Cabrini was born on July 15, 1850 in a small village called S'ant Angelo Lodigiano near the city of Milan, Italy. She grew up enthralled by the stories of missionaries and made up her mind to join a religious order. Because of her frail health, she was not permitted to join the Daughters of the Sacred Heart who had been her teachers and under whose guidance she obtained her teaching certificate.

However, in 1880, with seven young women, Frances founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was as resourceful as she was prayerful, finding people who would donate what she needed in money, time, labor and support. She and her sisters wanted to be missionaries in China; she visited Rome to obtain an audience with Pope Leo XIII. The Pope told Frances to go *“not to the East, but to the West”* to New York rather than to China as she had expected. She was to help the thousands of Italian immigrants already in the United States.

In 1889, New York seemed to be filled with chaos and poverty, and into this new world stepped Mother Frances Cabrini and her sister companions. Cabrini organized catechism and education classes for the Italian immigrants and provided for the needs of the many orphans. She established schools and orphanages despite tremendous odds.

Soon, requests for her to open schools came to Frances Cabrini from all over the world. She traveled to Europe, Central and South America and throughout the United States. She made 23 trans-Atlantic crossings and established 67 institutions: schools, hospitals and orphanages.

Her activity was relentless until her death. On December 22, 1917, in Chicago, she died. In 1946, she was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XII in recognition of her holiness and service to mankind and was named Patroness of Immigrants in 1950.

Today the Missionary Sisters, their lay collaborators and volunteers work as teachers, nurses, social workers, administrators and members of institutional boards of trustees. They can be found on six continents and 17 countries throughout the world – wherever there is a need.

Blessed Marianne Cope

As a leader in her community, Mother Marianne was instrumental in opening two of the first Catholic Hospitals in Central New York: St. Elizabeth in Utica and St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. Recognizing the need for basic health care in a city of immigrants, she and a small group of women defied convention by purchasing a saloon in Syracuse, New York and transforming it into a hospital to serve the needs of a diverse community. Here they welcomed everyone and provided the same quality of care regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or economic means. They pioneered rules of patient's rights and cleanliness practices not seen before in the United States. And this was just the beginning. Throughout upstate New York, Mother Marianne and her growing community educated and provided healthcare to children and adults with dignity and compassion for all.

In 1883, Mother Marianne and a group of six other Sisters of St. Francis bravely journeyed across the United States by train and took a ship to the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii) to care for individuals believed to have leprosy (now known as Hansen's disease). They initially served at the Branch hospital at Kaka'ako on the island of Oahu to provide care for those exiled from their families. The king and queen then asked that the sisters open a home to care for the healthy children of patients and Marianne named it the Kapiolani Home in honor of the queen.

Mother Marianne traveled to Maui in 1884 where she was asked to manage Malulani Hospital, the island's first general hospital, as well as St. Anthony School. In 1888, she and the sisters moved to Kalaupapa to care for those with Hansen's disease who had been exiled to the remote peninsula on the island of Molokai. There she cared for Father Damien in his last months and attended temporarily to the boy's home that he had established there until the Sacred Heart Fathers sent a permanent replacement.

Mother Marianne not only provided healthcare to the girls in her care at Bishop Home in Kalaupapa, she offered healing for mind, body and spirit by creating a community that supported individual creativity, dignity and respect.

Blessed Peter To Rot

Peter To Rot lived on a tropical island in the Coral Sea, in what is now known as Papua New Guinea. He was born in the village of Rakunai, where his father was the tribal chief. Peter's parents, like many other villagers, were catechized and later baptized by Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Peter grew up Catholic and thought of becoming a priest, but his father said it was too soon. So Peter studied to become a catechist who could work the missionaries to spread the faith. Then Peter was assigned to work as a catechist in his own village. As a teacher he was direct and dynamic and genuinely cared about the people. In 1936, Peter married Paula la Varpit, who was also Catholic. They joyfully celebrated the Church's sacraments as well as local traditions. Peter and Paula were the parents of three children.

Then in 1942, the world was at war, and Japan occupied Peter's island. The missionary priests were imprisoned. Peter, a layman, remained free. Peter worked even harder then. He and his catechists baptized babies and converts, visited the sick, assisted with charity, conducted Sunday services, and distributed the Eucharist to priests in prison.

Then the military police cracked down. They banned Christian worship and religious gatherings. They decided the islanders should return to polygamy, and Peter objected to this. Peter was arrested in the spring of 1945 and was confined to a cave. When his wife and mother came to visit, he informed them that a Japanese doctor was coming to visit, but he was not sick. He suspected a trick. He asked Paula to bring his good clothes—he wanted to be ready to meet God.

The doctor arrived and gave Peter an injection and something to drink, and plugged his nose and ears. When Peter began to convulse, the doctor covered his mouth, and the soldiers held him down until he suffocated. Soon the rest of the prison camp found out what happened to Peter.

The next morning, the Japanese guards acted surprised to find Peter dead. They said he had died of an infection, but the crowd that attended Peter's funeral knew the truth. They knew Peter was a martyr for the faith.

Saint Charles de Foucauld

Born into an aristocratic family in Strasbourg, France, Charles was orphaned at the age of 6, raised by his devout grandfather, rejected the Catholic faith as a teenager, and joined the French army. Inheriting a great deal of money from his grandfather, Charles went to Algeria with his regiment, but not without his mistress, Mimi.

When he declined to give her up, he was dismissed from the army. Still in Algeria when he left Mimi, Charles reenlisted in the army. Refused permission to make a scientific exploration of nearby Morocco, he resigned from the service. With the help of a Jewish rabbi, Charles disguised himself as a Jew and in 1883, began a one-year exploration that he recorded in a book that was well received.

Inspired by the Jews and Muslims whom he met, Charles resumed the practice of his Catholic faith when he returned to France in 1886. He joined a Trappist monastery in Ardeche, France, and later transferred to one in Akbes, Syria. Leaving the monastery in 1897, Charles worked as gardener and sacristan for the Poor Clare nuns in Nazareth and later in Jerusalem. In 1901, he returned to France and was ordained a priest.

Later that year Charles journeyed to Beni-Abbes, Morocco, intending to found a monastic religious community in North Africa that offered hospitality to Christians, Muslims, Jews, or people with no religion. He lived a peaceful, hidden life but attracted no companions.

A former army comrade invited him to live among the Tuareg people in Algeria. Charles learned their language enough to write a Tuareg-French and French-Tuareg dictionary, and to translate the *Gospels* into Tuareg. In 1905, he came to Tamanrasset, where he lived the rest of his life. A two-volume collection of Charles' Tuareg poetry was published after his death.

The outbreak of World War I led to attacks on the French in Algeria. Seized in a raid by another tribe, Charles and two French soldiers coming to visit him were shot to death on December 1, 1916.

Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity

Elizabeth Catez was born in 1880 in Avor, France. Her father was an army captain and died when she was seven years old. She had a younger sister, Guite, and they were very close to each other and their mother. At the age of seven, Elizabeth told a friend of the family, Canon Angles, that she would be a religious. She was a precocious child with a flashing temper until she made her First Communion. From that time on she was noticeably calm in temperament. She was an accomplished pianist. Her family was middle class, and they enjoyed parties and other social activities.

From the time of her First Communion in 1891, she “wanted to give her life and to return a little of His great love.” At the age of thirteen she bound herself to Jesus with a vow of virginity. Elizabeth’s heart had been captured, and now she could think only of Him. On her twenty-first birthday she had her mother’s blessing at last to enter the Carmel in Dijon, close to her home. Elizabeth expresses in her letters a deep joy at being in Carmel. Everything led her to her “Three,” the Trinity. She offered herself unconditionally to “Him”; He accepted.

Elizabeth became ill shortly after entering Carmel and suffered for five years from a stomach ailment, now thought to have been Addison’s disease. Her suffering was intense both spiritually and physically; this caused her love for Jesus to increase, and also her desire to offer these sufferings to Him.

In her writings Elizabeth refers often to the words of Saint Paul. She speaks of her vocation: “To be a bride, a bride of Carmel,” means to have the flaming heart of Elijah, the transpierced heart of Teresa, to be His “true bride,” because she was “zealous for His honor.” St. Elizabeth of the Trinity had true depth of prayer, was a mystic, a great lover of Jesus, and a real friend to her sisters in Carmel and her family. She referred to herself as *Laudem Gloriam*, Praise of Glory. She died November 9, 1906. Her last words were: “I am going to Light, to Love, to Life!” Her canonization took place in Rome on October 16, 2016.

Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro Juarez

Born on January 13, 1891 in Guadalupe, Mexico, Miguelito, as his doting family called him, was intensely spiritual and equally intense in his mischievousness, frequently exasperating his family with practical jokes. Miguel was particularly close to his older sister and after she entered a cloistered convent, he came to recognize his own vocation to the priesthood. Although he was popular and had prospects of a lucrative career managing his father's thriving business, Miguel renounced everything for Christ his King and entered the Jesuit novitiate in El Llano, Michoacan in 1911.

He studied in Mexico until 1914, when a tidal wave of anti-Catholicism crashed down upon Mexico, forcing the novitiate to disband and flee to the United States, where Miguel and his brother seminarians trekked through Texas and New Mexico before arriving at the Jesuit house in Los Gatos, California.

In 1915, Miguel was sent to a seminary in Spain, where he remained until 1924, when he went to Belgium for his ordination to the priesthood in 1925. Miguel suffered from a severe stomach problem and after three operations, when his health did not improve, his superiors, in 1926, allowed him to return to Mexico in spite of the grave religious persecution in that country.

The churches were closed and priests went into hiding. Miguel spent the rest of his life in a secret ministry to the sturdy Mexican Catholics. In addition to fulfilling their spiritual needs, he also carried out the works of mercy by assisting the poor in Mexico City with their temporal needs. He adopted many interesting disguises in carrying out his secret ministry. He would come in the middle of the night dressed as a beggar to baptize infants, bless marriages and celebrate Mass. He would appear in jail dressed as a police officer to bring Holy Viaticum to condemned Catholics. His many exploits could rival those of the most daring spies. In all that he did, however, Fr. Pro remained obedient to his superiors and was filled with the joy of serving Christ, his King.

Falsely accused in the bombing attempt on a former Mexican president, Miguel became a wanted man. Betrayed to the police, he was sentenced to death without the benefit of any legal process.

Blessed Carlos Acutis

Carlo Acutis was born May 3, 1991, in London though his family moved to Milan shortly after. From a young age, Carlo seemed to have a special love for God, even though his parents weren't especially devout. His mom said she had been to Mass only for her First Communion, her confirmation, and her wedding but young Carlo's unique and unexplained devotion led to her deep conversion. The priest promoting his cause for sainthood noted that Carlo "managed to drag his relatives, his parents to Mass every day. It was not the other way around; it was not his parents bringing the little boy to Mass, but it was he who managed to get himself to Mass and to convince others to receive Communion daily." What an inspiration for a child to model faith witness to a family!

He had a gift for empathy and was known for defending kids at school who got picked on, especially disabled kids. Carlo loved soccer and video games. He tried to stay disciplined and only played games for an hour a week even though he really wanted to play much more. He also bought computer programming books and taught himself computer coding and animation. He had a great devotion to Mary loved to pray the rosary. He went to Mass and confession as often as he could.

He loved the Eucharist and was fascinated by Eucharistic miracles. He asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages — to the places of the saints, and to the sites of Eucharistic miracles. Using his research, he began creating what would eventually become a website to catalog and share the information with others. Carlo was concerned by people growing distant to the Church and the sacraments and desperately wanted to bring them back. On the site, he told people that "the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven."

At age 15, Carlo was diagnosed with an untreatable leukemia. He offered up his suffering for others coping with illness and said, "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church." Carlo died from his illness on Oct. 12, 2006. At his request he was buried in Assisi because of his love for St. Francis. His cause for canonization began in 2013 and he was designated "Venerable" in 2018. A healing miracle has been attributed to his intercession and he was designated "Blessed" October 10, 2020.