



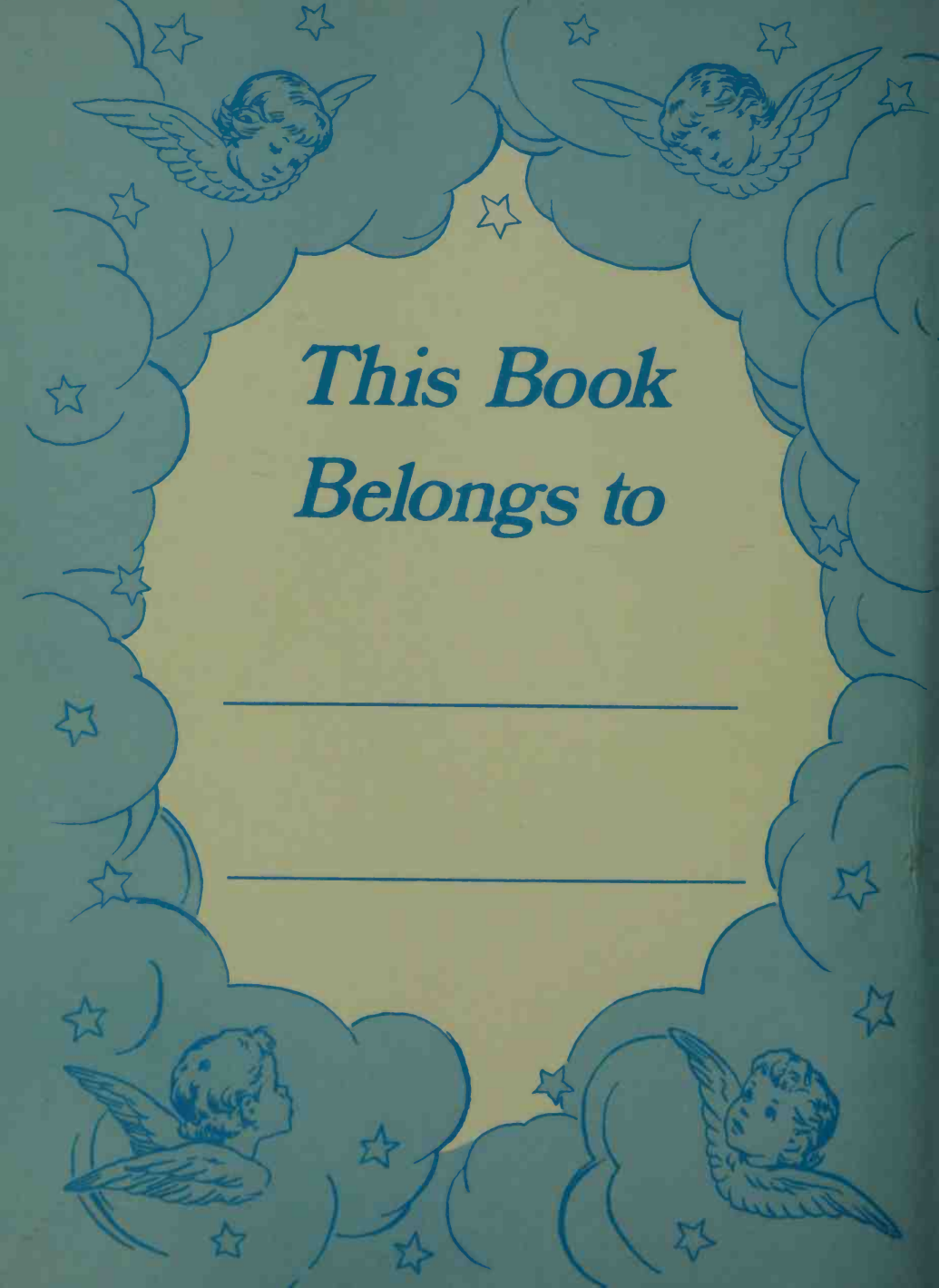
Book of Saints



By
FATHER LOVASIK, S.V.D.

Part 10





*This Book
Belongs to*

Book of Saints

“SUPER-HEROES OF GOD”

By REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.
Divine Word Missionary

PART 10

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Saint Ermengild

February 13

ERMENGILD came from a royal family. Her father was Erconbert, King of Kent, and her mother was Queen Sexburga, who is also on the roll of Saints.

Ermengild married King Wulfhere of Mercia, a pagan. She brought her husband into the Faith and through her goodness influenced him to spread Christianity throughout his kingdom.

Ermengild bore two children—Saint Werburga, who became a nun, and Coenrad, who became King of Mercia (704-709) and later a monk at Rome.

Upon the death of her husband, Ermengild became a nun in the abbey where her mother Sexburga was the abbess. Ermengild became abbess when Sexburga went on to the Abbey of Ely to succeed Saint Ethelreda, her mother's sister.

In time, Ermengild also retired to Ely, where her daughter Welburga was a nun. When Sexburga died, Ermengild became the third successive royal abbess of Ely.

Saint Ermenegild gave up everything to follow Christ. She died on February 13, 703.

Saint John Ogilvie

March 10

BORN in 1579, John Ogilvie belonged to the Scottish nobility. He was raised as a Calvinist but, impressed with the faith of the martyrs, decided to become a Catholic at the age of seventeen.

After receiving a Catholic education, John entered the Society of Jesus. He was ordained a priest in Paris in 1610.

The young priest worked in Austria and France until 1613. Then he asked to be sent to Scotland so that he might help those of his country to return to the true Faith.

In Scotland John brought many people back to the Catholic Faith. He had to work in secret because the Catholic Faith was outlawed in Scotland at that time.

In time, John was betrayed by one posing as a Catholic that he went to help. He was arrested and convicted of high treason because he converted Protestants to the Catholic Faith.

The courageous priest was sentenced to death and hanged at Glasgow in 1615 at the age of thirty-six.



Saint Zozimus

March 30

BORN about 570, Zozimus was dedicated to the service of Saint Lucy by his parents, who owned land in Syracuse, Sicily.

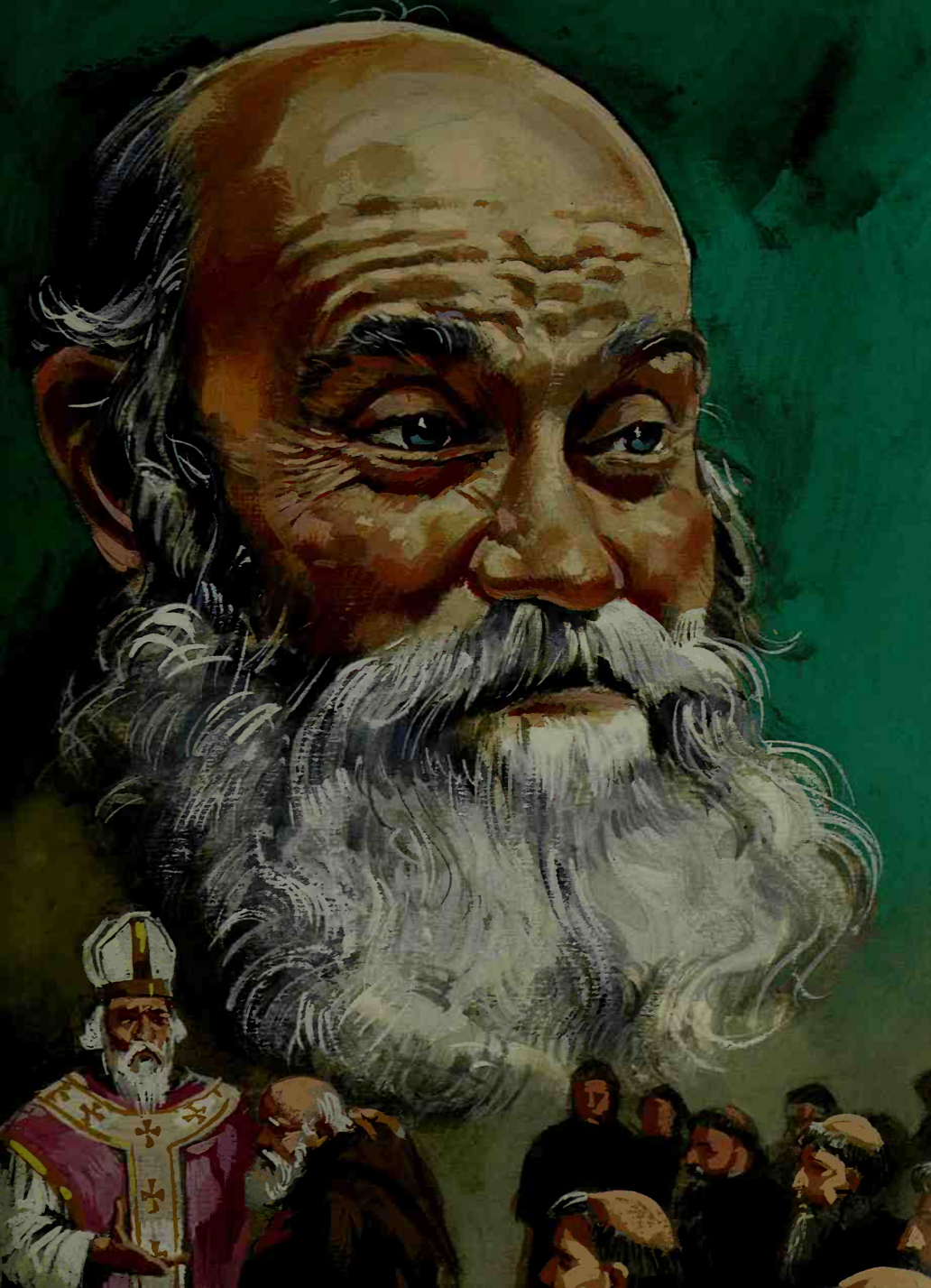
When the boy was seven, he was placed in Saint Lucy's Monastery near Syracuse. He remained there as a monk for thirty years.

When the abbot of Saint Lucy's died, Zozimus was appointed abbot and a few days later was ordained. He ruled the monastery with much love, wisdom, and prudence.

Zozimus became known to everyone, even those outside the monastery, by his good qualities and holiness of life. In 649, he was elected Bishop of Syracuse by the people. Although he thought of himself as unworthy of such a high honor, he agreed to follow the wishes of the people, which he regarded as the will of God.

As Bishop, Zozimus was careful to teach the people the Faith and to care for the poor. He died around 660 at ninety years of age.

This saintly Bishop gave us a good example of zeal for the spread of God's Word.





Saint George the Younger

April 7

SAIN**T** George the Younger was born in Mitylene, Greece, in the eighth century. Because he was very rich, he was able to use his wealth to help the sick and the poor.

George felt called to follow Christ. So he gave away all his possessions and became a monk in the local monastery. He practiced his Faith with such care that he was made Bishop of Mitylene.

As Bishop, the Saint continued his great generosity and his devout following of Christ. When persecution came under Emperor Leo the Armenian, George stood firm for the Catholic Church and spoke out against the destruction of holy statues.

The saintly Bishop was then sent into exile at Chersonese. He offered his sufferings in union with those of Christ for the conversion of sinners. He was called to his eternal reward in 816.

When the Saint's relics were returned to Mitylene, many miracles were recorded.

George is called the Younger to differentiate him from two previous Bishops of Mitylene who are also Saints.

Saint Fructuosus of Braga

April 16

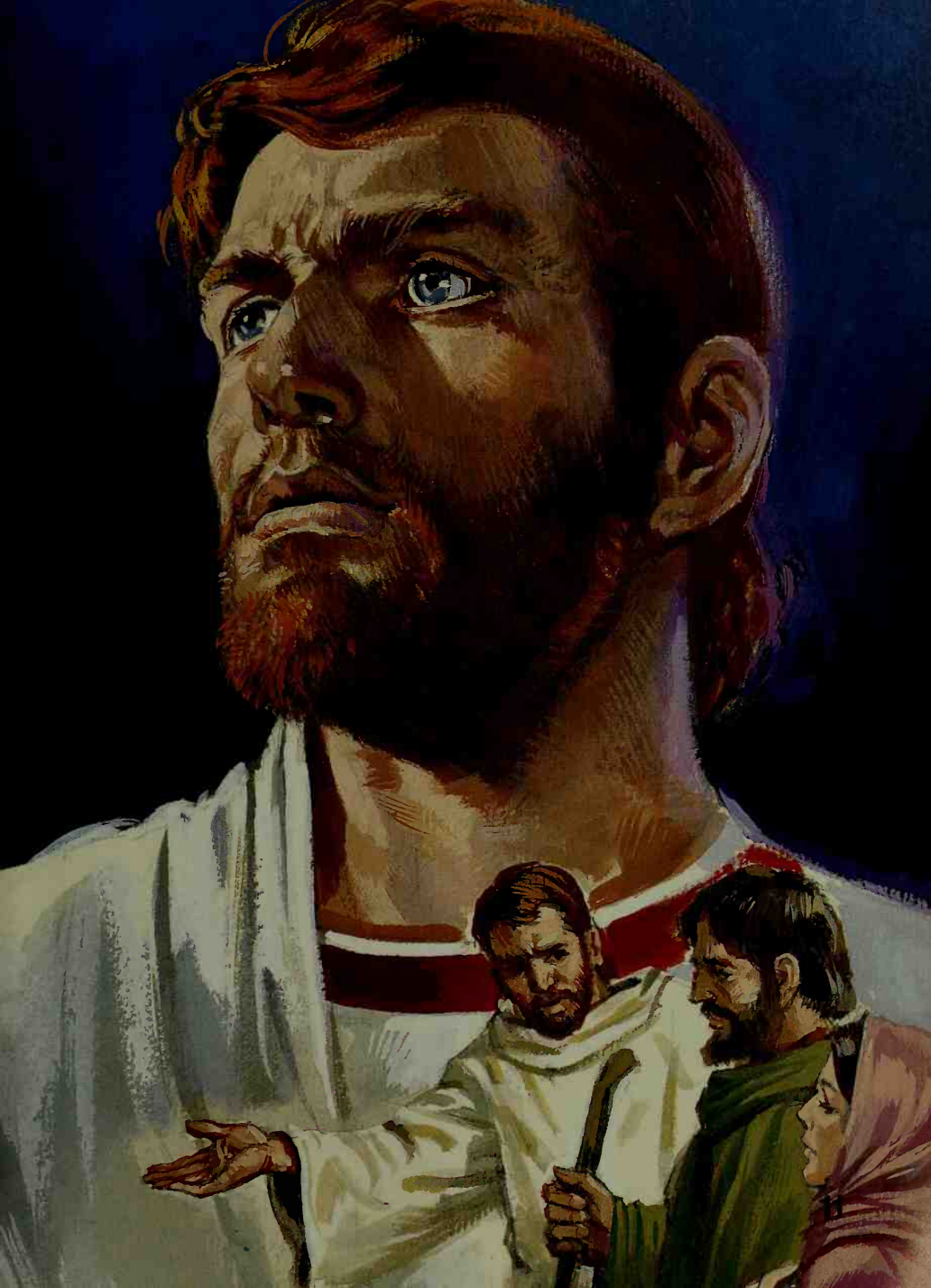
FRUCTUOSUS was born into a well-to-do Spanish military family of the seventh century. At an early age he decided to devote his life to the service of God.

After the death of his parents, he used his inheritance to help the poor and to found several monasteries. Then he went to the wilderness to live the austere life of a hermit.

In time, many people flocked to him, including entire families. Fructuosus built convents for both men and women, placing them under the Benedictine Rule.

Although Fructuosus wanted to remain in his life of solitude, he agreed to become Bishop of Dumium because the Church needed him there. After doing much good for the people of his diocese in leading them to Christ, he was made Bishop of Braga in Portugal in 656.

Some people at the new diocese were against him, but Fructuosus soon won them over. He worked tirelessly for all, preaching the Good News of Christ and living it by his example. He died in the year 665.





Blessed Helen of Udine

April 23

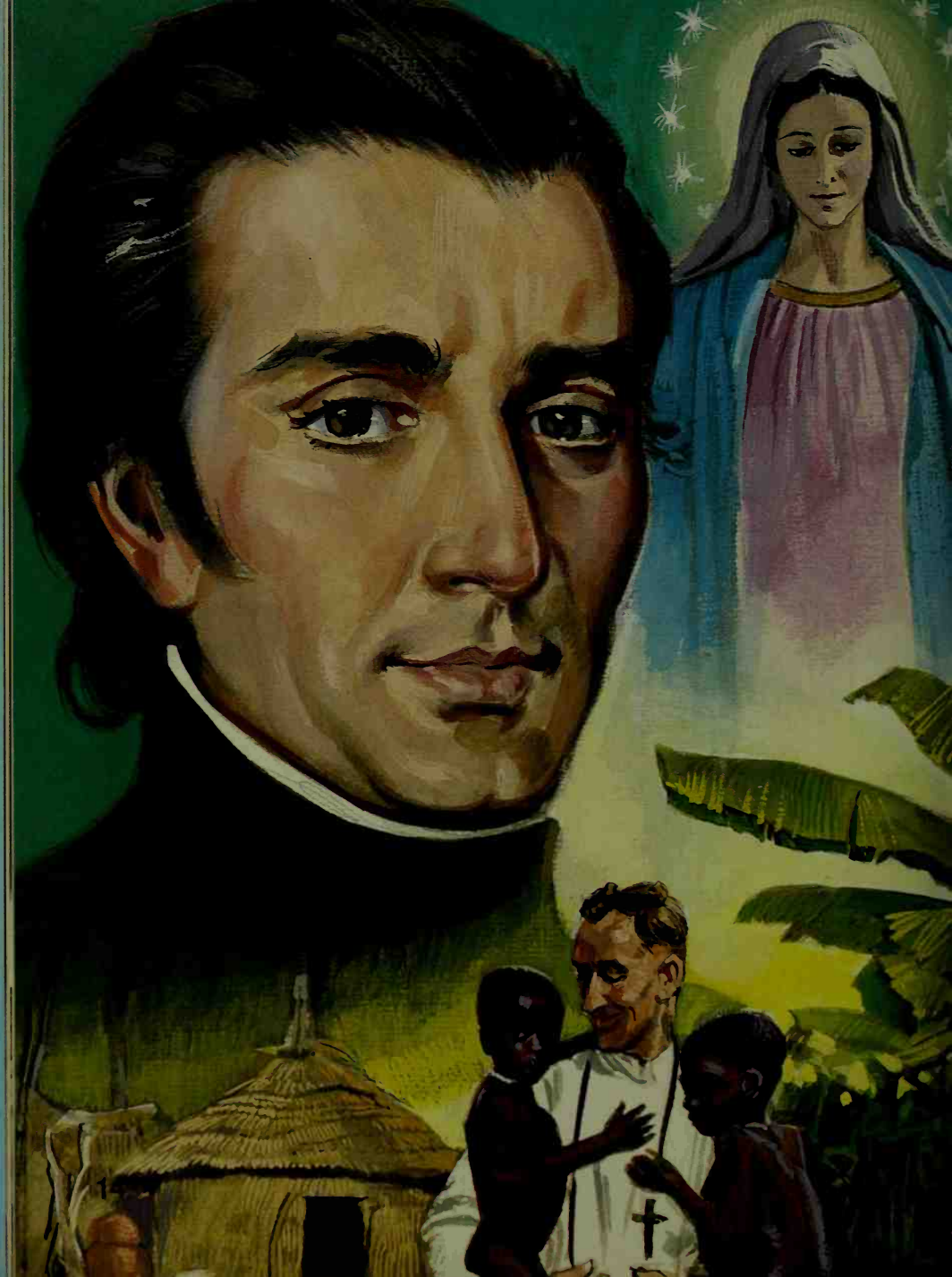
HELEN was born in Northeast Italy in 1396. At the age of fifteen, she married a knight named Anthony Cavalcanti and they eventually went to live in Udine.

They had three sons and three daughters and twenty-five happy years of marriage. Then her husband died as a result of a disease that he contracted in Venice while on a diplomatic mission for the city of Udine.

Her husband's death was a tragedy for Helen. Helen put away the symbols of wealth and dedicated herself to God. She became a member of the Third Order of the Hermits of Saint Augustine.

For the rest of her days she devoted herself to prayer and works of charity. This led her later to take a vow of perpetual silence, except on Christmas night. However, this silence did not extend to her own household.

Many people were cured through Helen's intercession. For the last three years of her life she was bedridden on her pallet of stones and straw. She died in 1458.



Saint Eugene de Mazenod

May 21

EUGENE de Mazenod was born in 1782 at Aix-en-Provence in France. It was the time of the French Revolution with all its hardships.

He became a priest and returned to carry out his ministry in his hometown. That area had suffered greatly during the revolution and was not a safe place for a priest. He worked with the poorest of the poor and was joined by other priests. This became the beginning of the Missionaries of Provence.

Later Eugene was named Bishop of Marseille. There he built churches, founded parishes, cared for his priests, and taught the young.

Eugene founded the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and in 1841 the Oblates sailed for missions in five continents. Thus, Eugene's strong faith, spirit of detachment, and acceptance of the Holy Spirit's direction brought the Faith and Sacraments to untold numbers in difficult mission lands.

After a life devoted to spreading the Good News, Eugene went to his heavenly reward in 1861. He was declared a Saint by Pope John Paul II on December 3, 1995.

Saint Monegundis

July 2

MONEGUNDIS was born at Chartres, France, in the sixth century. We know little about her childhood. But as a young woman, she married and later gave birth to two daughters.

The two girls were her pride and joy, but they died prematurely. To cope with her grief, Monegundis received her husband's consent to become an anchoress, a woman living alone and completely devoted to God. She built a cell at Chartres and lived on bread and water while walled up in it.

Some years later Monegundis moved to Tours and built another cell, near the tomb of Saint Martin. She remained there dedicated to prayer and works of penance for the rest of her life.

Her way of life was appealing to women, and many women were drawn to her. Some of her followers organized the Convent of St. Pierre-le-Puellier in Tours.

Monegundis went to her eternal reward in 570. She was immediately venerated as a Saint, and many miracles were attributed to intercessions at her tomb.



Saint Mildred

July 13

MILDRED was the daughter of Merewald, Ruler of the Angles in the seventh century. Her mother was Saint Ermenburga, a princess of Kent.

Mildred was sent to be educated at the convent school in Chelles, near Paris. Following her stay in France, she was asked in marriage by a young nobleman.

Mildred kindly turned down his request, for her heart was set on serving God in the religious life. She entered a monastery called Minster, which had been founded and was now ruled by her mother.

The monastery was located on the isle of Thanet. She received the Benedictine habit there from Saint Theodore of Canterbury.

In time, she succeeded her mother as Abbess of Minster. She ruled with loving care, following the preachings of her Master, Jesus Christ.

Mildred gained a reputation for great holiness and for generosity and compassion to the poor and needy. She was called to her eternal reward about the year 700.





Saint Justin de Jacobis

July 31

JUSTIN was born in San Fele, Italy, in 1800. When he was eighteen years old, he entered the Vincentian Order and was ordained a priest in 1824. He was blessed with the gift of an ardent zeal for souls and the welfare of others.

Justin carried out his ministry with zeal in Naples, especially during the cholera epidemic. Later he was chosen to be Prefect Apostolic for Abyssinia and asked by the Church to establish a mission in Ethiopia.

The Saint went to Africa in 1839 and remained there for twenty years. He worked unceasingly for the people there, founding missions and establishing a native clergy.

Justin was made a bishop in 1849 and continued to carry out his mission in spite of all obstacles. He was subjected to persecutions and was thrown into prison several times for courageously preaching the Faith, but never stopped doing the Lord's work.

Finally, worn out by his labors, Justin went to his heavenly reward in 1860. He was declared a Saint by Pope Paul VI in 1975.

Saint Moses the Black

August 28

MOSESES was an Ethiopian born into slavery around the year 330. When he came of age, he first went to work in the home of an Egyptian official.

However, he lost his job and began to live an aimless and wandering life. He was seeking God but did not know it.

Moses' life changed one day when he happened to take refuge among hermits at the monastery of Petra in the Skete desert in Lower Egypt.

He was so impressed with the holy men that he himself became a monk in that monastery. He asked God to forgive the sins of his former life and to keep him from all future evil.

Moses lived as a hermit until he was ordained a priest by Archbishop Theophilus of Alexandria. He became famous for his supernatural gifts.

In 405, he was together with six other monks and was attacked by a group of Bedouins. In imitation of his Divine Master, Moses refused to defend himself and gave up his life in this world.





Saint Beatrice Da Silva Meneses

September 1

BEATRICE Da Silva Meneses was born in Ceuta, Portugal, in 1424. She was the daughter of the Count of Viana and the sister of Saint Amedeus of Portugal. In Portugal, Beatrice is known as Brites.

Beatrice was raised in the household of Princess Isabel. When Isabel married John II of Castile in 1444, Beatrice went with her to Spain and for a time took part in the life of the court.

However, Beatrice felt called by God to the religious life. So, shortly after arriving in Spain, she entered the Cistercian Convent of Saint Dominic of Silos at Toledo, where she spent years dedicated to prayer and spiritual exercises.

In 1484, Beatrice founded the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The first house of the Congregation was the castle of Galliana, which was given to the nuns by Queen Isabel as a gift.

The life of Beatrice was filled with devotion to God and help for the salvation of human beings. She died at Toledo in 1490 and was declared a Saint by Pope Paul VI in 1976.

Saint Catherine of Genoa

September 15

CATHERINE was born in 1447 into a noble family of the renowned city of Genoa in Italy. At the age of sixteen, she married Julian Adorno.

Her husband's way of life soon reduced the couple to poverty. Julian then changed his ways for the better and became a member of the Franciscan Third Order.

The couple agreed to live as brother and sister for the glory of God. They devoted themselves to prayer and to the service of others both at home and in the poor quarters of the city.

They also worked in a hospital, where Catherine became the director. But in 1493, Catherine caught the plague and was forced to retire from her position as head of the hospital.

The following year, Julian was called to his reward. Catherine persevered in her life of holiness. She wrote two famous works on the spiritual life.

Catherine went to her heavenly home in 1510. She was declared a Saint by Pope Clement XII in 1737.



Saint Gerard Sagredo

September 24

GERARD Sagredo was born early in the eleventh century in Venice, Italy. As a young man, he joined the Monastery of Saint George in Venice, but later he went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

While traveling through Hungary, Gerard was appointed by the King, Saint Stephen, to tutor his son. Then the King realized that Gerard was the perfect person to convert the pagan people of his kingdom.

Saint Stephen appointed Gerard as the first Bishop of Csanad. The new Bishop worked night and day to lead the people to Christ.

By his holy life and powerful preaching, Gerard was able to bring the people to the Catholic Faith.

When King Stephen died in 1038, there was a general revolt by the non-Christians in Hungary. In 1046, while Gerard was in the town of Buda, he was captured by some pagan soldiers and slain by the lance.

Saint Gerard is known as the Apostle of Hungary and venerated as the First Martyr of Venice.





Saint Mary Soledad

October 11

EMANUELA Torres-Acosta was born in 1826 at Madrid, Spain. She felt called to God's service as a religious from her earliest years.

In 1848, Emanuela was asked to head a new community of women religious whose purpose was to minister to the sick. Taking the name of Mary Soledad, she helped the congregation get on its feet.

In 1855, she formed a new community called the Handmaids of Mary Serving the Sick. She became the Superior and held that position for thirty-five years.

The Handmaids of Mary received great public acclaim for their heroic work during the cholera epidemic of 1865 in Madrid. Accordingly, the community expanded throughout Europe and the Americas.

The spread of the congregation was due in great part to Mary Soledad. She was consumed by love for God and others, a tireless worker and a fine administrator.

After founding forty-six houses, Mary Soledad died in 1887. She was declared a Saint by Pope Paul VI in 1970.



Prayer

HEAVENLY Father,
You are glorified in Your Saints.
As we read the accounts of their lives,
fill us with the same Holy Spirit,
Who made them holy.

May He enable us to follow their example,
enjoy their friendship,
and receive their protection on earth.
Then, after sharing their Faith on earth,
help us to experience their peace in heaven.

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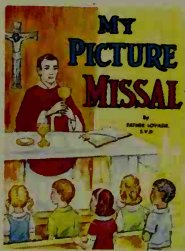
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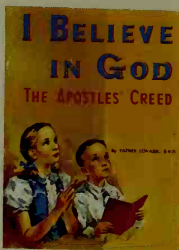
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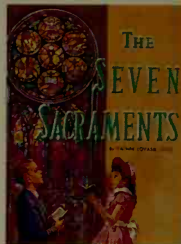
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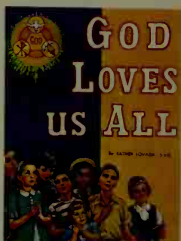
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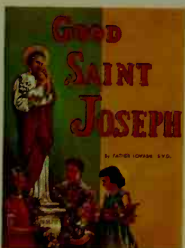
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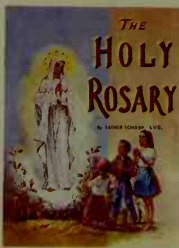
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