

## APRIL CALENDAR SAINTS AND COMPOSERS

**April 1 – Juan de Padilla, monk and protomartyr of the U.S.:** As one of the earliest Franciscan evangelists accompanying Coronado, on his exploration of the southwest, Juan de Padilla was martyred by the natives, in about 1542.

**April 2 – Francis of Paola, hermit:** His motto was “Charity”. Francis spent most of his life as a hermit. He spent the last 25 years of his life as adviser to the French throne.

**April 3 – Pope Paul Vi:** Pope Paul Vi approved the revised *Roman Missal* on this day in 1969

**April 4 – Isidore, bishop and doctor:** During his 36 years as bishop of Seville, Isidore converted the Visigothic people from Arian Christianity to Catholic orthodoxy. He was a voluminous writer and many of his writings have survived.

**April 5 – Vincent Ferrer, priest:** Present at the Papal court at Avignon, Vincent traveled widely as a missionary throughout the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, and northern Italy. He also made many conversions of the Moors (African Muslims) in Spain.

*April 6 – Notker Balbulus, composer: Born in the year 840, Notker was the most famous author of sequences in the early Middle Ages, and one of the few composers from that time whose name we know.*

**April 7 – Probable date of Jesus’ crucifixion; John Baptist de la Salle, priest:** He assisted in the founding of Brothers of the Christian Schools and established the first teacher training school at Rheims in 1687.

**April 9 – Marian Anderson’s Concert at the Lincoln Memorial, 1939; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, martyr:** A German minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dietrich was an antiwar, anti-Nazi activist during the World War II. He was arrested in 1943 and executed on April 8, 1945.

**April 11 – Stanislaus, bishop and martyr:** Bishop of Krakow, Stanislaus was martyred, in 1072, by the violent Prince Boleslaus II, ruler of Poland.

*April 13 – Premiere of Handel’s Messiah; Martin I, pope and martyr: Because he exercised his papal powers in theological matters in direct conflict with the imperial court of Constantinople, Pope Martin I was arrested by imperial forces of Constant II. He was exiled to Crimea and replaced as pope. He died in exile in 655.*

**April 15 – Damien de Veuster, priest:** Born Joseph, ordained Damien, he became the most compassionate and prominent advocate for the leper colony of Kalawao on the island of Molokai. He died a victim of leprosy, on Molokai in 1889.

**April 17 – Astrological Date of the birth of Jesus**

**April 20 – Massacre of Jews In the Warsaw Ghetto:** This event, which took place in 1943, is now commemorated as Yom HaShoah.

**April 21 – Anselm of Bec, bishop and doctor:** A philosopher and theologian, he was ordained Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093. He constantly argued with the English king over the rights of the church.

**April 23 – George, martyr:** Formerly a patron of England, Portugal, Aragon, Catalonia, Lithuania, Georgia and Ethiopia. Also patron of the Boy Scouts. Little is known about George except that he was probably martyred during the persecution of Diocletian in the third century.

**April 24 – Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest and martyr:** A Franciscan Capuchin, Fidelis was a well-known preacher and confessor among the Zwinglian Protestants in the Grison area of Switzerland. He was martyred in 1622.

**April 26 – Pedro de San José Betancour, “Mother of Guatemala”:** He worked to spread the gospel to the peoples in Guatemala. Because of his care for orphans, children, the sick, homeless and travelers, he became known as “Mother of Guatemala”.

**April 28 – Peter Chanel, priest and martyr:** A missionary on Futuna Island in the New Hebrides chain, part of Oceania, Peter was martyred in the mid nineteenth century.

**April 29 – Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor:** A spiritual director for many people, she was a nurse and an arbitrator of disputes between claimants to the papal throne in Rome and Avignon. She received the stigmata in 1375. She was adviser to Pope Urban VI at age thirty-three.

**April 30 – Pius V, pope and reformer:** Pope Pius V oversaw the first major reform of liturgy for the Roman Rite and the first reform of the liturgy that had been mandated by an ecumenical council in the Church. The new Roman Missal appeared in 1570.