

August Calendar Saints and Composers

1 Alphonsus Ligouri, bishop and doctor of canon and civil law. In the eighteenth century, Alphonsus emphasized the mercy of God in his preaching and writing.

7 Sixtus II, pope and martyr. In the third century, Sixtus was arrested as a Christian just one year after his election and martyred on the spot with at least four of the seven deacons who guided the church in Rome.

8 Dominic, priest. The founder of the Order of Preachers worked effectively against the Albigensian heresy through preaching and good example in the thirteenth century.

9 Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), virgin and martyr. The philosopher Edith Stein "read herself into" Catholicism through a study of the New Testament and the writings of Teresa of Avila. She became a Carmelite and was martyred at Auschwitz in 1942.

10 Lawrence, deacon and martyr. Arrested with Sixtus II (see August 7), Lawrence was asked to show the arresting officer the church's wealth. He assembled the sick and poor and said: "Here are the church's treasures."

11 Clare of Assisi, virgin and foundress. A friend to and follower of Francis, Clare founded the community of religious women following the Franciscan rule later called the "Poor Clares" in the thirteenth century.

13 Pontian, pope and martyr, and Hippolytus, priest and martyr. Bitter enemies before their arrest, the two became martyrs together after their arrest and imprisonment in 235. Hippolytus compiled the earliest record of liturgy in Rome, the Apostolic Tradition.

14 Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest and martyr. Arrested by the Gestapo in 1941, Father Kolbe was sent to Auschwitz. He replaced another prisoner in a punishment cell, and was slowly starved. At the point of death, he was finally executed.

16 Stephen, king of Hungary. Crowned as king on Christmas Day, 1000, he founded many dioceses and fostered the work of the church.

18 Antonio Salieri, musician, was born on this date in 1750. Court composer to the Austrian emperor, Salieri encouraged the work of other composers, including Beethoven, Schubert, Czerny, Hummel, Liszt, and, of course, Wolfgang A. Mozart.

19 John Eudes, priest. He founded congregations dedicated to priestly formation and fostered devotion to the hearts of Jesus and Mary in the seventeenth century.

20 Bernard, abbot and doctor of the church. Completely absorbed in his work, he preached crusades to liberate the Holy Land from Muslim domination in the twelfth century, and he preached love for God "without limit." "When God loves," Bernard preached, "and he asks for is to be loved in return."

21 Pius X, pope. His 1903 motu proprio, *Tra le sollecitudini*, encouraged the use of Gregorian chant to aid the "active participation" of people "in the sacred mysteries and in the solemn public prayers of the Church." He also promoted active participation through early and frequent celebration of sacramental communion.

21 Giuseppe Guarneri, violin maker, was born on this date in 1698. Since he signed his instruments with the IHS logo ("Jesus"), a Guarneri instrument is also called a "del Gesù."

23 Rose of Lima, virgin. The daughter of a conquistador, Rose became a Dominican and cared for the sick and suffering among the poor in Lima, especially the slaves and the native population. Her garden became a spiritual center of colonial Peru's capital in the early seventeenth century.

24 Bartholomew, apostle. From the Gospels, all we have is this apostle's name. Ancient tradition names him a martyr.

25 Louis, king of France. IX had regard not only for peace among peoples and for their temporal good but also for their spiritual welfare. He undertook a crusade to recover the tomb of Christ for Christians, and he died on crusade in 1270.

25 Leonard Bernstein, composer and conductor, was born in this date in 1918. His compositions dealing with religious themes include Symphony No. 1: Jeremiah Symphony; Symphony No. 3: Kaddish; Chichester Psalms; and Mass, composed for the opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

27 Monica, mother. Her example and prayer moved her son, Augustine, to become a practicing Christian in the late fourth century.

28 Augustine, bishop and doctor of the church. While bishop of Hippo in North Africa in the early fifth century, he wrote several of the classics of western theology and spirituality. His teachings shaped the medieval church. He feared the power of music, but he also recognized its positive ability to convey the Christian message.