

October Calendar Saints and Composers

1 Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin and doctor of the church. Her nine years in the Carmelite convent at Lisieux seemed very ordinary, but the writings discovered after her death in 1897 revealed an extraordinary spiritual life. Don't judge a book by its cover!

4 Francis of Assisi, founder and troubadour. He led a life of evangelical poverty and preached the love of God to all in the thirteenth century. He also used song in his ministry, composing lyrics such as the "Canticle of All Creatures" and singing snatches of chant, incorporating the texts of hymns and chants into his letters, sermons, and other writings.

7 *William Billings, composer and music educator, was born on this date in 1746. Largely self-educated, he taught choral singing in the Boston area. His 1770 collection of 120 vocal compositions, The New-England Psalm Singer, was the first published collection of wholly American music and the first tune book produced by a single American composer.*

9 Denis, bishop and martyr, and Companions, martyrs. The first bishop of Paris, martyred in 258, gave his name to an abbey that played a significant role in the development of church music.

9 John Leonardi, priest. He organized a community of priests to implement the reforms of the Council of Trent in the late sixteenth century.

9 *Heinrich Schütz, musician and composer, was baptized on this date in 1585. His works include many settings of psalm texts as well as of other biblical and religious texts.*

9 *Camille Saint-Saëns, music educator and composer, was born on this date in 1835. His greatest influence came when he was the organist at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris and a teacher at the Ecole Niedermeyer. He was the first established composer to write a musical score for a movie.*

11 *Giuseppe Verdi, composer, was baptized on this date in 1813. His major fame comes from his operas. Despite a long opposition to the Catholic Church, he also composed a Requiem, a Te Deum, and a Stabat Mater.*

12 *Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, was born on this date in 1872. Though a professed atheist, he edited the 1906 edition of the English Hymnal, for which he composed the tune Sine Nomine ("For All the Saints"). He also wrote other hymn tunes, edited a later collection of hymns, and wrote settings for Mass and the liturgy of the hours.*

14 Callistus I, pope and martyr. He began life as a slave, was sent to the Sardinian tin mines for being Christian, but was freed from the mine by the emperor's concubine. Returning to Rome, he was elected one of the seven deacons who governed the church. Elected pope in 217, he was martyred five years later.

15 Teresa of Avila, virgin and doctor of the church. After eighteen years of a fairly ordinary religious life as a Carmelite, Teresa sought a deeper form of prayer. Her descriptions of that search and of its results, written in the sixteenth century, have become classic texts. In her spare time, she reformed the Carmelite communities, assisted in this work by St. John of the Cross.

16 Hedwig, religious. Queen Hedwig of Silesia and Poland had seven children then lived with her husband, King Henry I, in continence and simplicity. They encouraged the Franciscans and Dominicans to enter their

territory in the early thirteenth century, and they donated their wealth to the church. After her husband's death, Hedwig became a Cistercian nun.

16 Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin. Her life of prayer was built on the power of divine love expressed in the "sacred heart" of Jesus. After a vision in 1675, she worked to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart.

17 Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr. Arrested as a Christian when he was sixty years old, Bishop Ignatius was taken from Antioch across Asia Minor to be executed in Rome. On the way, he wrote to various communities of Christians: These letters offer valuable insights into the belief and structure of the very early church. Ignatius was martyred in 107.

18 Luke, evangelist. The author of the longest work in the New Testament, the two-volume work Luke-Acts of the Apostles, was also a poet and, possibly, a physician.

19 Isaac Jogues and John de Brébuf, priests and martyrs, and Companions, martyrs. There were eight Jesuits who would collectively become the North American Martyrs after their murder by members of the Iroquois Confederation in the years 1646, 1648, and 1649.

20 Paul of the Cross, priest and founder. The founder of the Congregation of the Passion (Passionists) was also a missionary seeking to reform the church in Italy in the eighteenth century.

20 Charles Ives, composer, was born on this date in 1874. He worked as an insurance actuary and composed music in his spare time.

22 Franz Liszt, pianist and composer, was born in this date in 1811.

23 John of Capistrano, priest. He led an untiring apostolic life preaching throughout Europe both to strengthen Christian life and to refute heresy in the fifteenth century.

24 Anthony Claret, bishop. Founder of the Claretians, he served as the missionary bishop of Santiago de Cuba in the 1850s. He was later the personal confessor of Queen Isabella II, going into exile with her in 1868. He attended the First Vatican Council and died in exile.

26 Domenico Scarlatti, musician and composer, was born on this date in 1685. The son of a famous musician, Domenico held posts in Rome, Lisbon, and Madrid.

28 Simon and Jude, apostles. The gospels tell us that Simon was a Zealot, interested in overthrowing Roman occupation of Judea by force. Jude is regarded in popular devotion as the patron of desperate or lost causes. Tradition says that they went to Persia as missionaries.

31 Erik R. Routley, hymnist, was born on this date in 1917. He became one of the twentieth century's great explainers and defenders of Christian hymnody.