

Jesuit Saints and Martyrs

The following source books provide brief biographies of the Jesuit saints and beati which may be useful for preaching, school assemblies and in the classroom.



Jesuit Saints and Martyrs

Joseph Tylenda SJ (Loyola University Press; 1984; ISBN 0 8294 0447 3) Short biographies of 323 Jesuit Saints, Beati, and those in process of being canonized.



Companions of Jesus: Spiritual Profiles of the Jesuit Saints and Beati

Various authors and translators (British Province of the Society of Jesus; 1974; privately printed) Short biographies with a more spiritual slant. Currently out-of-print.

The Jesuit Martyrology

Bl Diego de San Vitores SJ

Jesuit Priest and Martyr (1627 - 72)

Feast Day: 6th October

Born 1627 of noble family at Burgos, Spain

Entered Society of Jesus 1640

Ordained 1651

Sent as missionary to the East

Established first Christian mission on Guam

Martyred 1672

St Francis Borgia SJ

Jesuit Priest and Third Jesuit Superior General (1510 - 1572)

Feast Day: 3rd October

Born 1510 at Gandia in Valencia, Spain.

Educated at the Court of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

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Married 1526 (age 16) and had eight children.

On his father's death in 1543 he became Fourth Duke of Gandia.

Following the death of his wife (1546), he renounced his title and joined the Society of Jesus. He refused a Cardinal's hat offered because of his nobility. In 1565 he was elected third Superior General of the Society.

Died 1573.

Canonized 1670.

Saint Leo Mangin SJ, St Paul Denn SJ, St Rémy Isoré SJ, St Modeste Andlauer SJ

Feast Day: 9th July

Martyred with 52 lay Christians in July 1900

St Aloysius Gonzaga SJ

Jesuit Scholastic (1568 - 91)

Feast Day: 21st June

Born 1568 eldest son of the Marquis of Castiglione in Lombardy

Entered the Society of Jesus 1585

Died nursing plague victims in Rome 1591 age 23

Patron of St Aloysius College Glasgow (1859)

BI Thomas Whitbread SJ

Jesuit Priest and Martyr (1618 - 79)

Feast Day: 18th June

Born 1618 Essex

Educated at St Omers

Entered the Society of Jesus 1635

Worked in the English Mission from 1647

A victim of the Oates Plot 1678

Martyred at Tyburn 1679

Thomas Whitbread is one of the St Omers (Stonyhurst) Martyrs

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Bl Jacques Berthieu SJ

Jesuit Priest and Martyr (1838 - 96)

Feast Day: 8th June Born 1838 at Polminhac, Cantal, France

Ordaind priest 1864 for the Diocese of Saint-Flour

Entered the Society of Jesus in 1873

Sent to the mission on Madagascar

Martyred 1896 assisting refugees

Known as the Martyr of Madagascar (Premier Martyr de l'Île Rouge)

Bl Peter Wright SJ

Jesuit Priest and Martyr (1603 - 1651)

Feast Day: 19th MayBorn 1603 at Slipton, Northamptonshire

Entered Society 1629 at Watten

Martyred at Tyburn 1651

Beatified 1929

St Andrew Bobola SJ

Jesuit Priest and Martyr (1591 - 1657)

Feast Day: 16th May

Born 1591

Martyred by the Cossacks 1657

Patron Saint of Poland

St Francis Jerome SJ

Jesuit Priest (1642 - 1716)

Feast Day: 11th May

Born 1642

Entered Society 1670 at age 28

Worked among slum-dwellers and slaves in the Kingdom of Naples

Died 1716

Canonized 1839

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St José Rubio SJ

Jesuit Priest (1864 - 1929)

Feast Day: 4th May Born 1864 at Dalías on the south coast of Spain

Ordained 1887 for the Madrid Diocese

Entered the Society of Jesus at Granada 1906

Died 1929

Canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2003

Known as the Apostle of Madrid

St John Ogilvie SJ

Jesuit Priest and Martyr (1579 - 1615)

Feast Day: 10th March

Short biography and spiritual profile by James Quinn SJ

Born 1579 at Drum-na-Keith, Scotland

Entered the Society of Jesus at Brno 1599

Returned to Scotland 1613

Martyred at Glasgow Cross 10th March 1615

Canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1976

The Jesuit Church of St Aloysius Glasgow has the status of a minor basilica as the national shrine to St John Ogilvie, Martyr of the Scottish Reformation

There are images and other resources in the Resources Portal for some of these Jesuit Saints and Martyrs.