



# *A Year with the Saints*

Reflections from the  
Society of St. Vincent de  
Paul Diocesan Council of  
Dallas Staff

With a Foreword by  
Luis Gonzalez, CEO

# *A Word of Thanks...*

Since beginning at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul North Texas in 2022, I have sent out a daily Gospel reflection to our Council staff as a way for us to get our day started and to ground us in Scripture and reflection. It is a way for us to unite in prayer to begin each day, praising Him for His faithfulness and thanking Him for the privilege to be able to do what we do and serve our neighbors in need.

Because you are a critical part of our mission and have enabled us to serve in hope, we have gathered these daily Scripture reflections into Year of Prayer books for the past two years. I am overjoyed to know that many of you have incorporated these reflections into your daily prayer life. Words cannot fully express how humbled I am to be His instrument and how grateful I am to know that these are helpful to you.

This year, we thought we would approach our gift a little differently. All Council team members were invited to identify their favorite saint and write a short reflection on why this particular saint is of significance to them. In the pages that follow, we have listed these saints in the order of their feast day. It is our hope that you find inspiration from the selected saints and the team members who are inspired by them. We invite you to step a little further into our Vincentian charism by getting to know a little something about us and why we love to serve His children.

We invited two Dallas natives who are part of the National Council formation team to be part of this reflection series - Tim Williams and Sister Consuelo Tovar.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul North Texas and enabling us to serve our neighbors in your name. We could not do the great work we do without your love and support and ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers, as we pray for each of you each day. Thank you for living into our motto - "Be the Face of Christ, See the Face of Christ".

Serviam

*Luis E. Gonzalez*

# Blessed Rosalie Rendu



*Feast Day:  
February 7*

- Years Alive: 1786-1856
- Birthplace: Confort, France

Image courtesy of the Daughters of Charity

## About Blessed Rosalie Rendu:

Rosalie Rendu was born at Confort, France, the eldest of four girls. She entered the Daughters of Charity on May 25, 1802, just after the Community was reestablished in France after the French Revolution. Her zeal for the poor drove her to establish the means to educate poor children, to care for infants, to support the elderly unable to care for themselves, and to supervise young working girls. Friend and guide to the rich as well as the poor, Sister Rosalie involved the wealthy in her service of the poor. One of her disciples in her mission of service was Frédéric Ozanam, one of the seven founders of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. After fifty years of dedicated service to the poor in the Mouffetard district of Paris, she died on February 7, 1856.

## Why she inspires me (Cindy, Vincentian Services)...

When I became a Vincentian, hearing these words from Rosalie at our Orientation helped me understand the key difference in our service vs any other help organization: “Be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you can bring to them.” After 8 years serving with the Society, I can attest that this is very true. Many may try to help families with money or resources, but if their manner while doing so is callous or uncaring, it strips them of their dignity in the process, which is infinitely more precious. I take Rosalie’s reminder with me always, to look into the eyes of someone who is suffering and sincerely say, “I see you; I know it’s been hard; I’m here for you; let’s try to see what we can do together” first, so that my help can always respect and honor them as Christ intended.



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# St. Patrick



Image courtesy of  
Catholicsaintmedals.com

*Feast Day:  
March 17*

- Years Alive: early 5th century to mid 5th or early 6th century
- Birthplace: Wales
- Patron saint of: Ireland

## About St. Patrick

St. Patrick is the patron saint and National Apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born in Britian (Wales) and was active as a missionary in Ireland during the fifth century. It is estimated that he died in the mid-fifth to early-sixth century. When Patrick was about 16 years old, he was captured by Irish slaves from his home in Britian. He was taken as a slave to Ireland and lived there for six years before escaping and returning to his native land. After becoming a cleric, Patrick returned to Ireland to spread Christianity.

As legend has it, Patrick used the Shamrock and its three leaves to explain the concept of The Holy Trinity - three persons in one God.

His feast day is March 17th, the day it is thought that he died. St. Patrick's Day is recognized all over the world.

## Why he inspires me (Louise, Mini Loan Program)...

I carry dual citizenship, both Irish and American. I was born and raised in Ireland and moved to the US when I was 21 years old. March 17th is a National holiday in Ireland and a day when all practicing Catholics attend Mass. As a child being raised in a Catholic school in Ireland, I learned a lot about his life. I reflect on his faithfulness and trust in The Lord, even in the midst of slavery and ill-treatment. What an inspiration that is – a reminder for us that even in turbulent times, God is there for us, providing his grace and comfort in his ever-loving arms.



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# St. Joseph



Image courtesy of Catholiconline.com

*Feast Days:*  
*March 19*  
*May 1*

Patron saint of: Fathers,  
Husbands, Workers, the  
Universal Church, and a  
peaceful happy death

## About St. Joseph

St. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers and husbands, exemplified by his selfless love as the protector of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and the Blessed Virgin Mary. While there are no spoken words recorded in Scripture from the mouth of St. Joseph, we know of one - the holy name of Jesus, given to Him by St. Joseph through a dream.

St. Joseph was a craftsman, supporting the Holy Family through his manual labor. The Holy Spirit spoke to him in dreams, and he responded in complete obedience. He is known as the Terror of Demons for his defense of the Holy Family. Because of his own purity and that of the Blessed Virgin, he is the Guardian of Virgins, depicted with a white lily. His precise death unknown, but it is believed he died just before Jesus began His public ministry and that he died in His Presence, making him the patron of a happy death.

## Why he inspires me (Luis, Chief Executive Officer)...

St. Joseph has been my patron saint for almost 30 years as I take my vocation as husband and father to be the most important vocation I have been blessed with. His selfless outpouring of love and service to the Holy Family, quietly serving them and protecting them through faithful obedience to the will of God has served as an exemplary model for me to emulate. Since first consecrating myself to St. Joseph in 2015, my devotion and appreciation for him has only blossomed, especially as the defender of faith and purity, the model of holiness in work and the joy of being in constant adoration of Christ.



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# St. Óscar Romero



*Feast Day:  
March 24*

- Years Alive: 1917-1980
- Birthplace: Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador
- Patron saint of: El Salvador, persecuted Christians

Image courtesy of The New Yorker

## About St. Óscar Romero:

St. Óscar Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador during the 1970s. At the time, a civil war broke out, which caused intense violence, corruption, and political instability. Many who spoke out against the government were killed or disappeared. Despite his struggles with Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder, he spoke out against these injustices on his radio program and the pulpit.

On March 24, 1980, he celebrated the Mass. After he finished his homily, a gunman entered the sanctuary and shot him in the heart; he later died from his injuries. He is considered a martyr due to the fact that he was killed for standing up for the Gospel.

## Why he inspires me (Margaret, Communications)...

St. Óscar Romero was a humble, soft-spoken man who struggled with scrupulosity, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Despite his fears and the deteriorating conditions in his country, he still spoke out in support of the poor and oppressed. He knew that in doing so, he was putting a target on his back. And yet, he did so anyway. Over 40 years later, he's remembered for his love of Christ and His people.

Many times, we avoid standing up against injustice because we're either fearful of the consequences or we lack the confidence to do so. His story reminds us that regardless of our struggles and challenges, God calls us to a life of holiness. Even if it means sacrificing friendships, careers, and our lives. May his example give us the strength to fight against injustice and preserve the dignity of every human being.



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# *St. Benedict Joseph Labre*



*Feast Day:*  
*April 16*

- Years Alive: 1748-1783
- Birthplace: Amettes, Boulogne, France
- Patron saint of: the mentally ill, homeless, rejected, and pilgrims.

## About St. Benedict Joseph Labre:

St. Benedict dedicated himself to a life of poverty, wandering, and perpetual adoration in Rome, Italy. Many have said that holiness has a bit of madness in the eyes of the world. This would certainly have been said of Benedict Joseph Labre during his life. Many who suffer mental or emotional disorders feel unable to connect with the world and the people they encounter. He sought admission into various religious orders, including the Trappists, Carthusians, and Cistercians. However, due to different reasons, he was rejected by all of them. Benedict Joseph Labre spent several years in complete poverty.

## Why he inspires me (Carmen, StudyTime)...

I chose St. Benedict Joseph Labre as he suffered as my sons did/do and I can relate to how he suffered. He reminds me of the value of compassion, and unwavering faith in God's providence. He reminds me of when I used to lay in the pews at church, crying and praying for guidance on how to help my sons.

St. Benedict Joseph Labre's life serves as a testament to the transformative power of faith, selflessness, and devotion to God. Despite facing rejection and living in extreme poverty, he found solace in perpetual adoration and became a source of spiritual guidance and miraculous healings for many. Today, he continues to inspire and intercede for those facing mental illness, homelessness, and rejection, reminding us of the value of compassion, perseverance, and unwavering faith in God's providence.



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# St. Florian



Image courtesy of Catholic Online

*Feast Day:*  
*May 4*

- Years Alive: AD 250-c. 304
- Birthplace: Aelium Cetium (present-day Sankt Pölten, Austria), Roman Empire
- Patron saint of:  
Firefighters

## About St. Florian:

St. Florian was an officer in the Roman Army who eventually rose to become a commander. As part of his duties, he organized and lead fire brigades.

While he was a commander, the government was persecuting Christians by stripping them of their rights and even killing them. St. Florian was ordered to offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods, but he refused. As a result, he was tortured, set on fire, and thrown in the river Enns with a stone around his neck.

He's considered to be a martyr since he died for the Faith. He also has had several miracles attributed to his intercession, and he's considered a powerful protector in dangerous situations, especially those that involve fire or water.

## Why he inspires me (Melani, StudyTime)...

I chose St. Florian because my fiancé is a firefighter for Dallas. He has been a firefighter for 25+ years. I have faith and pray that St. Florian will protect my fiancé and other firefighters as they work. My fiancé carries a St. Florian coin in his pocket every day.



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# *St. Louise de Marillac*



*Feast Day:  
May 9*

- Years Alive: 1591-1660
- Birthplace: Paris, France
- Patron saint of: social workers

## About St. Louise de Marillac:

St. Louise was born on Aug 12, 1591, in Ferrieres, France and died on March 15th in Paris, France. With St. Vincent de Paul, she cofounded The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, a congregation of lay women dedicated to teaching and hospital work – they were the first non-cloistered religious institute of women devoted to charitable works. Louise was canonized on March 11, 1934, and her feast day is May 9th. Her remains are enshrined in the chapel of the motherhouse of The Daughters of Charity at 140 Rue de Bac in Paris – the body is a wax effigy containing her bones.

## Why she inspires me (Louise, Mini Loan Program)...

I was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland. I was educated in kindergarten through 7th grade at Caritas College, a convent school run by the Daughters of Charity. My mother had a very close relationship with the sisters. When my mother was pregnant with me, Str. Colmcille requested of my parents that if I was born a boy, I would be named Vincent and if born a girl I would be named Louise. They obliged, and of that I am very proud. Her feast day is my birthday, May 9th.



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# St. Aloysius Gonzaga



*Feast Day:*  
*June 21*

- Years Alive: 1568-1591
- Birthplace: Castiglione delle Stiviere, Republic of Venice [Italy]
- Patron saint of: students, AIDS victims and their caregivers

## About St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Born into an aristocratic family in northern Italy, the young Aloysius was exposed to life in the palaces and wealthy homes of Italy and Spain. In 1585, at the age of 17 he renounced all claims to inheritance and entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in Rome. In 1587, he took vows and began studies for the priesthood.

By early 1591, a plague broke out in Rome. The Jesuits established a hospital for those stricken by the plague. Aloysius Gonzaga volunteered, carrying the litters with the sick into the hospital, then bathing the sick and preparing them for the priests to administer the Sacraments. Aloysius became infected and succumbed on the Octave of Corpus Christi (June 21, 1591) at the age of 23.

After he was canonized in 1726, he was celebrated as the patron saint of students. In the United States, there are two Jesuit high schools that are named for him, and Jesuit High in Dallas calls St. Aloysius Gonzaga their patron saint. Because of his care for the sick and dying, he has also been considered a patron saint of AIDS victims and their caregivers.

## Why he inspires me (Ned, Development)...

I have chosen St. Aloysius because for many years, I taught in secondary schools and because he was someone who, although born to wealth, gave up his claim to wealth to serve the needy. He is an example of selflessness and service that I both admire and seek to live out in my life.



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# Our Lady of Perpetual Help



*Feast Day:*  
*June 27*

- Created between 1325 - 1480
- Enshrined: Church of St. Alphonsus of Liguori (Rome)
- Patron saint of: the Republic of Haiti, Redemptorist Order

## About Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Devotion to Our Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help centers around the 13th century Byzantine icon shown above, which was brought to Rome in the 1500s. In 1866, Pope Pius IX was inspired to move the icon to a more public setting under the custody of the Redemptorist order to allow for greater devotion. Hundreds of healings were reported within months of the public display. The Redemptorists were charged to “Make her known” and in 1945 her patronage was confirmed under papal decree by Pope Pius XII.

## Why she inspires me (Magaly, Pharmacy)...

Have you ever thought about the message behind this icon? The story goes that the Child Jesus had a nightmare about His passion. He was so scared that he woke up and ran straight to His mother Mary. As you can see, one of His sandals is falling off because of how fast He ran to his mother. You can also see that Mary has a stern look on her face in protection of her child while the Archangel Gabriel and the Archangel Michael are carrying a cross and a pair of nails.

I believe that through this image, our Lord is telling us to run to Mother Mary when we're scared or need to be consoled, just like He did. She is here to protect us and calm us down when we are agitated and restless. Never be afraid to run to Mary, she is here for us just like she was for Jesus.



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# *Bl. Stanley Rother*



*Feast Day:  
July 28*

- Years Alive: 1935-1981
- Birthplace: Okarche, Oklahoma
- Patron saint: Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Image courtesy of Catholic Prayer Card

## About Bl. Stanley Rother:

Bl. Stanley Rother is the first martyr from the US and the first US-born priest to be beatified. Ordained in Oklahoma, he joined a diocesan mission in Guatemala and became their beloved shepherd. Despite struggling with languages in seminary, he translated the Bible into the native Tz'utujil language of his flock. When civil war broke out, he was recalled to the US for his safety. His heart yearned to be back with his flock, saying "the shepherd cannot run" and within months of his return, he was executed in the rectory. His body rests in a newly dedicated shrine just south of Oklahoma City while his heart is enshrined with his people in Guatemala.

## Why he inspires me (Luis)...

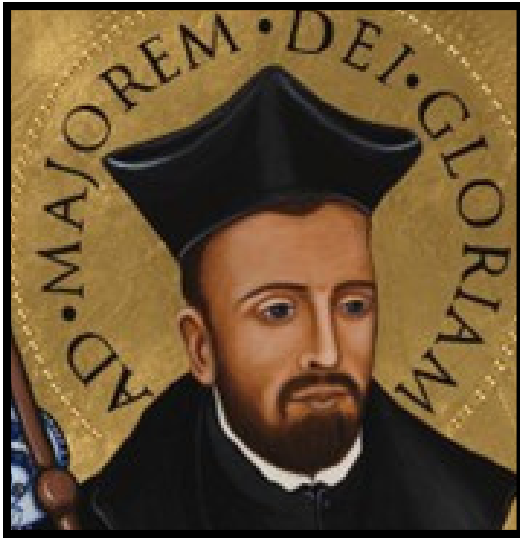
Blessed Stanley exemplifies the call of priestly vocations, most specifically the call to be shepherd to his flock and give of himself completely. Reading his biography, [The Shepherd Who Didn't Run](#), deepened my appreciation and love for our priests and how we need to pray for them always. Providentially, since visiting his shrine earlier this summer, my exposure to the young men in our seminary here in Dallas has increased and inspired great hope for the future of our diocese and our Church. He lived out the inscription on his ordination card - "For myself I am a Christian. For the sake of others, I am a priest."



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# *St. Peter Faber, SJ*



*Feast Day:*  
*August 2*

- Years Alive: 1506-1546
- Birthplace: Duchy of Savoy, Holy Roman Empire
- Patron saint of: Spiritual Exercises and Co-Patron of the Jesuits

## About St. Peter Faber, SJ

He was a scholar and theologian sent as an emissary of the Pope on successive missions to Germany, Belgium, Spain, and (eventually) to the Council of Trent in 1546. He was the first of the original ten Jesuits to be ordained a priest and was entrusted as Ignatius Loyola's "second in command" during Ignatius' absence from the group in 1534 and 1535.

His early death (at age 40) was attributed to his tireless travel (always on foot) on behalf of the Church. He wore himself out!

Today, he is buried under the entry steps to the Church of the Gesu in Rome, where inside are the burial altars of his more famous brother Jesuits – Ignatius Loyola and Francis Xavier!

## Why he inspires me (Ned, Development)...

I have chosen Peter Faber as an example for my life because he was always competent, but he preferred to take a "backseat" role to his brother Jesuits. He was the ultimate second seat guy – always there to back up the leader!



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# St. Augustine of Hippo



Image Courtesy of Wikipedia

*Feast Day:*  
*August 28*

- Years Alive: 1506-1546
- Birthplace: Duchy of Savoy, Holy Roman Empire
- Patron saint of:  
theologians, printers, and  
brewers

## About St. Augustine of Hippo

Augustine is the patron saint of theologians, printers and brewers. While his theological teachings and philosophical thoughts have helped shape Catholicism, Augustine is also considered by Protestants to be one of the theological fathers of the Reformation.

Influenced by Greek and Roman philosophers, Augustine helped shape and create some of Western Christianity's key theological ideas and doctrines, including those around original sin, divine grace, and virtue. He is remembered today as one of the key theologians in Christianity, alongside St. Paul.

After his baptism in 387, Augustine worked tirelessly to convert the people of Hippo to Christianity. During his lifetime, it's believed he preached some 6,000-10,000 sermons, of which 500 are still accessible today. He was known for speaking for up to an hour at a time (often several times a week), and his words would have been transcribed as he spoke. Ultimately, he lived a relatively monastic life and believed his life's work was to interpret the Bible.

## Why he inspires me (Rogers, StudyTime)...

Much of what draws me to St. Augustine is related to his upbringing with a pagan father and a Christian mother, St. Monica. He chose Christianity after falling prey to the many temptations in life. He was known for overcoming many personal failings and ultimately embracing spreading the teachings of Jesus from North Africa to Rome. St. Augustine is one of the most important figures in Western Christianity. A theologian and philosopher from North Africa, he rose up the ranks of the early Christian church to become Bishop of Hippo.



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# St. Teresa of Calcutta



Image Courtesy of The New Times

*Feast Day:  
September 5*

- Years Alive: 1910-1997
- Birthplace: Skopje, North Macedonia
- Patron saint of: World Youth Day, Missionaries of Charity, and co-patron of the Archdiocese of Calcutta

## About St. Teresa of Calcutta

Gonxha Agnes was born on August 26, 1910, in the North Macedonia city of Skopje. In 1928, she joined the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland and received the name Mary Teresa (after Thérèse of Lisieux). She arrived in Calcutta in 1929 and taught school during her years with the Sisters of Loreto. On September 10, 1946, St. Teresa received a “call within a call” where Jesus revealed to her His thirst for love and for souls. He asked that she establish a religious community, the Missionaries of Charity, dedicated to service of the poor. The words of Jesus, “I thirst” became the driving force of her life. By the time of her death on September 5, 1997, there were nearly 4,000 Sisters in 610 foundations spread through 123 countries of the world

## Why she inspires me (Joanne, Operations)...

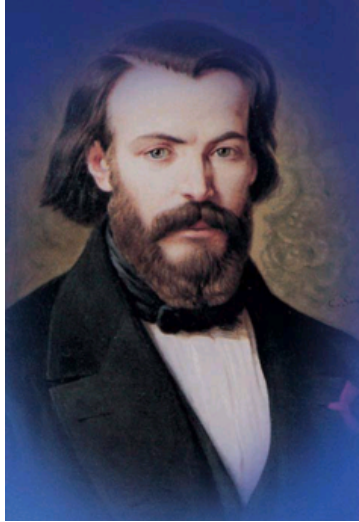
While I have always loved and admired St. Teresa, she has been especially helpful to me during my time with St. Vincent de Paul. She had absolute trust in providence, and she was dedicated to the service of the poor. I pray to St. Teresa frequently that she helps me to trust more and to learn to love the poor as she did



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# Blessed Frédéric Ozanam



*Feast Day:  
September 9*

- Years Alive: 1813-1853
- Birthplace: Milan, Italy
- Raised in Lyon, France

## About Blessed Frédéric

Frédéric's short life coincided with a period of great turmoil and revolution punctuated by devastating epidemics. Frédéric was the 5th of 14 children, and one of only three to survive to adulthood. The observation of his parents' undiminished faith through this suffering and loss was for him no doubt a lesson in the acceptance of God's will. He was gifted intellectually and left Lyon for university in Paris in 1831, arriving in the wake of the July Revolution. At the Sorbonne, he was faced with outspoken anti-Catholic views from both professors and fellow students, and he soon gained a large group of admirers for his courageous defense of the faith. Faced with a challenge to prove the good of the Church in a debate with some of these students, Frédéric's response was an exercise in humility, as he and six others determined that they must demonstrate the good of the church in the same way Christ had done. In founding the Society on his twentieth birthday, Frédéric declared, "Let us go to the poor." He would go on to earn two doctorates by the age of 24, spoke or wrote eight languages, became the youngest full professor in the Sorbonne's history, and was a devoted husband and father until his death at the age of forty.

## Why he inspires me (Tim, National Director of Faith Formation)...

To help guide our way towards holiness, we look to the example of those who have gone before us in our Vincentian Family. For the lay Vincentian, there can be no better model than Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam, primary founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. For Frédéric, there was no demarcation between Sunday and the rest of the week, no boundary between his prayer and his action, no separation between the secular and the spiritual life. Indeed, his own words anticipated St. John Paul's teaching, when he advised a friend that "We do not have two lives, one for seeking the truth, the other for practicing it. That is why Christ does not let Himself be sought. He shows Himself fully alive in this Christian society which surrounds you, he is in front of you, He is pressing against you." Frédéric never took his own salvation, much less his own holiness, for granted. He served his family, his friends, his students, his fellow citizens, and especially the poor with humility and selflessness, always seeking God's will, and always trusting in His Providence. In the end, through the many threads of his life, he wove for us a beautiful fabric of holiness, and one that his humble example invites all of the laity to wear.



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# St. Padre Pío

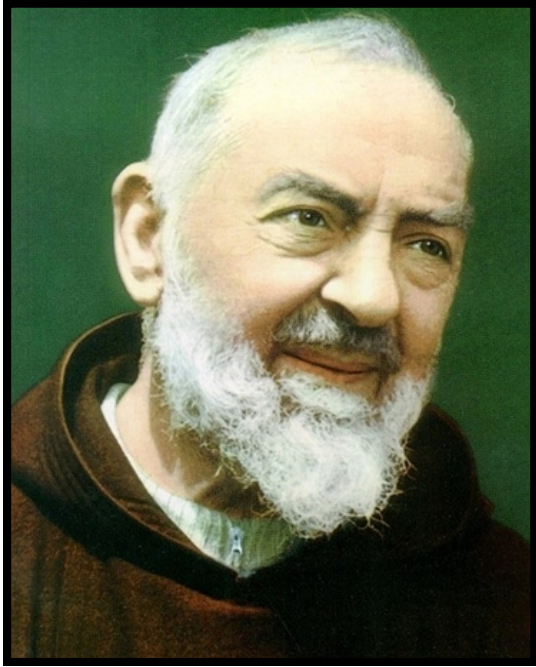


Image Courtesy of Wikipedia

*Feast Day:  
September 23*

- Years Alive: 1887-1968
- Birthplace: Pietrelcina, Benevento, Kingdom of Italy
- Patron saint of: Civil Defense Volunteers, Adolescents, Stress relief, Pietrelcina, January blues.

## About St. Padre Pio

Padre Pio was an Italian Capuchin Friar, priest, stigmatist and mystic. He was marked by the stigmata (wounds of Christ) in 1918. This led to several investigations by the Holy See and sanctions. Despite this, his reputation kept increasing during his life, attracting many followers.

Padre Pio lived with the stigmata until a couple of days before his death, when the wounds miraculously healed, and there was no trace of them. It is said he lost about a quart of blood a day from these wounds, yet he would sit in the confessional and do daily Mass.

## Why he inspires me (Juli, Mini Loan Program)...

Padre Pio first got my attention when I was a new convert to the Catholic faith. The idea that this man suffered for 50 years with the stigmata, serving his fellow man each day in Mass and the confessional was overwhelming for me. I became a Catholic in 1978. Padre Pio had died 10 years before that and was really taking off in the Catholic communities I was involved in. The more I read about his life and the things that he did, the more it inspired me to continue to grow in my Catholic faith and knowledge. If he could suffer like that with the stigmata and the torment of the devil nightly, I could passionately serve my Catholic community.



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# *St. Vincent de Paul*



*Feast Day:  
September 27*

- Years Alive: 1581-1660
- Birthplace: Pouy, Gascony, Kingdom of France
- Patron saint of: Charitable societies & Volunteers

## About St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul was a French Catholic priest renowned for his charity and compassion for the poor. Focusing on missions to the peasantry and the education of clergy, his legacy continues through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which serves the poor worldwide.

## Why he inspires me (Carlos, Pharmacy)...

I selected St. Vincent de Paul because of his unwavering dedication to serving the poor and marginalized. His life exemplifies compassion and humility, virtues that resonate deeply with my values. His story inspires me to contribute positively to my community and to always seek ways to help those in need.



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# *St. Therese of Lisieux OCD*



Image courtesy of The Catholic Company

*Feast Day:  
October 1*

- Years Alive: 1873-1897
- Birthplace: Alençon, France
- Patron saint of: florists, missions, loss of parents, priests, and the sick

## About St. Therese of Lisieux

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, known as "The Little Flower," was born on January 2, 1873, in Alençon, France. She entered the Carmelite convent at Lisieux at age 15, where she embraced a simple and profound spirituality centered on love and trust in God. Her autobiographical work, "Story of a Soul," has inspired millions with its message of doing small things with great love. Thérèse's "little way" emphasizes humility, simplicity, and the sanctity found in everyday life. Canonized in 1925, she is a Doctor of the Church, highlighting her theological insight and impact. Her feast day is celebrated on October 1, and she remains a beloved and influential saint worldwide.

## Why she inspires me (Chris, Development)...

St. Thérèse experienced the loss of her mother at a young age, serious health issues, emotional sensitivity, spiritual turmoil, and despair in her weaknesses until discovering what she famously called "The Little Way". She realized that with a profound trust in the love of Christ, we shall acknowledge our littleness and live the Gospel as a little child who is trying to go up a stairway with steps too steep for him to reach. We are to abandon ourselves completely to God who will take us upstairs himself as if on an elevator of love. She once said that "God would never inspire me with desires which cannot be realized; so in spite of my littleness, I can hope to be a saint". I go back to this quote daily, knowing that my weaknesses, sufferings, and falls are nothing but opportunities for the Lord to glorify Himself through me if I just allow Him to lift me in His great Love. The way of abandonment. I seek the intercession of little Thérèse daily and consider her a deeply close spiritual friend and sister.



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# St. John Paul II



Image courtesy of the Chicago Catholic

*Feast Day:  
October 22*

- Years Alive: 1920-2005
- Birthplace: Wadowice, Poland
- Patron saint of: Youth, Families, World Youth Day

## About St. John Paul II:

The youngest of three children, Karol Wojtyla, suffered loss early in the death of his mother, brother, and father. At university, Karol embraced nature, poetry, and theater. He met his spiritual mentor who introduced him to Carmelite spirituality, leading him to the priesthood. Karol was ordained a priest at 26, consecrated a bishop at 38, and elevated to cardinal at 48. On October 16, 1978, he was elected Pope. In 1981, he survived an assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square. During The Jubilee, he prayed for the forgiveness of God and those wounded by the sins of the Church. Shortly after saying, "Let me go to my Father's house," he died on Divine Mercy Sunday.

## Why he inspires me (Peggy, Operations)...

As a middle schooler on October 5, 1979, I remember: the wait, the anticipation, the elation. After hours of early morning travel, anxiously standing in place, and jubilant exchanges with others, the open-air Mass in Grant Park, Chicago began with a glorious, angelic choir. His smile. His presence. His endearing demeanor. Imagine sitting at the feet of Jesus. His radiance. His joy. His encouragement. JP II roused emotion, unity, and love.

Consider his legacy: the Luminous mysteries, institution of Divine Mercy, addresses comprising the Theology of the Body, universal call to holiness by beatifying 1,338 people and canonizing 482 saints, Catechism, World Youth Day. JP II embraced love, lived love, evoked love for all of humankind, for the Church, preeminently for the Trinity.



Society of

**St. Vincent de Paul**  
NORTH TEXAS



# *All Saints Day*

## *Feast Day: November 1*

As Vincentians, our work requires prayer and continuous guidance through the Holy Spirit. On All Saints Day, we pray for the intercession of the saints through this special Litany of Saints representing the patron saints of our conferences. May their witness inspire us and our neighbors, to come to know and love God through our words and actions.

Lord have mercy.  
Christ have mercy.  
Lord have mercy.

St. Joseph, Pray for us.  
St. Paul the Apostle, Pray for us.  
St. Rita, Pray for us.  
St. Patrick, Pray for us.  
St. Philip the Apostle, Pray for us.  
St. Pius X, Pray for us.  
St. Thomas Aquinas, Pray for us  
St. Anthony, Pray for us.  
St. Martin de Tours, Pray for us.  
St. Michael the Archangel, Pray for us.  
St. William, Pray for us.  
St. Ann, Pray for us.  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pray for Us.  
St. Francis of Assisi, Pray for us.  
St. Gabriel, Pray for us.  
St. Mary, Pray for us.  
St. Mark the Evangelist, Pray for us.  
St. Michael the Archangel, Pray for us.  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Pray for us.  
St. Francis of Assisi, Pray for us.  
St. Monica, Pray for us



Mary Immaculate, Pray for us.  
Jesus, Prince of Peace, Pray for us.  
Jesus the Good Shepherd, Pray for us.  
Our Lady of the Lake, Pray for us.  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.  
Immaculate Conception, Pray for us.  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us.  
Corpus Christi, Pray for us.  
Christ the King, Pray for us.  
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for us.  
Holy Trinity, Pray for us.  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Pray for us.  
Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us.  
All You Holy Men and Women, Pray for us!

# St. Martín de Porres



*Feast Day:  
November 3*

- Years Alive: 1579-1639
- Birthplace: Lima, Peru
- Patron saint of: mixed-race people, barbers, innkeepers, public health workers

## About St. Martin de Porres

St. Martin de Porres was a Dominican lay brother known for his miraculous healing powers and devotion to the poor and sick. Born in Lima, Peru to a Spanish father and a freed African slave mother, he faced discrimination for his mixed-race heritage. Despite this, he dedicated his life to serving others and is remembered for his humility, compassion, and love for all God's creatures.

## Why he inspires me (Lisa, St. Vincent Center)...

I selected St. Martin de Porres because of his dedication to serving the poor and marginalized in society. His selfless acts of charity and compassion towards those in need inspire me to strive for a more humble and generous way of living even as a young child. Additionally, I am drawn to his ability to see the humanity in everyone, regardless of their social status or background. St. Martin de Porres' unwavering faith and commitment to helping others resonates deeply with me and serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of kindness and empathy in our lives.



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# St. Frances Cabrini



Image Courtesy of Catholic Online

*Feast Day:  
November 13*

- Years Alive: 1850-1917
- Birthplace: Sant' Angelo Lodigiano, Lombardy, Italy
- Patron saint of: immigrants and hospital administrators

## About St. Frances Cabrini

St. Frances Cabrini was an Italian nun who devoted her life to religious work from a young age. After she took her religious vows and became Mother Cabrini, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, which cared for poor children in schools and hospitals. Within five years, they established seven homes, as well as a free school and a nursery.

At the direction of Pope Leo XIII, she and six other sisters traveled to New York City to assist the wave of Italian immigrants. Despite obstacles and administrative hurdles, she spent the next 35 years caring for immigrants, the poor, the uneducated, the sick, and the abandoned. She founded 67 institutions to support them, such as orphanages, schools, and hospitals. She is remembered for her faith and resourcefulness, especially when faced with challenges.

## Why she inspires me (Annie, StudyTime)...

I chose St. Frances Cabrini because she served as a servant to God by taking care of the poor children in hospitals and schools. She founded many orphanages, schools and hospitals. I try to follow her example through my after school tutoring of the under privileged children.



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# Our Lady of Guadalupe



Image Courtesy of Knights of Columbus

*Feast Day:  
December 12*

- Year: 1531 to St. Juan Diego
- Location: Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City
- Patroness of the Americas, Diocese of Dallas, pro-life

## About Our Lady of Guadalupe

She is the Patroness of the Americas, whose appearance to Juan Diego as an olive-skinned pregnant woman led to the mass conversion of millions of indigents in Mexico. Her image on the cloak (tilma) of Juan Diego remains an unexplained miracle that continues to be venerated today by millions of pilgrims. The pregnancy sash around her waist inspires the pro-life movement and her prayerful gaze has drawn the faithful to the love of her Son.

## Why she inspires me (Sr. Consuelo, Daughter of Charity)...

I grew up in the 50's when the Mexican-American Catholic community in Dallas was "small in number and rich in faith". My parish was named Our Lady of Guadalupe, now the National Shrine Cathedral. For her feast day, we celebrated a novena, sang Las Mañanitas, and listened the story of the dark-skinned Virgen whose tender gaze lifted the spirits of an oppressed people, and lovingly proclaimed the greatness of God's mercy and justice.

What further endeared me to her was when I learned that my father lovingly and tenderly called me "Mi Morenita" (My little, brown-faced child) in homage to the title given to Our Lady by the mestizo People of God, who saw themselves reflected in the image of "La Moreñita". La Virgen de Guadalupe left her image forever imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma as the message of God's love, protection and mercy to all who approach the Son in her womb: Jesus, Emmanuel. As a Daughter of Charity, I continue to pray to Our Lady to inspire my Vincentian Vocation so that I may "seek the face of Christ and be the face of Christ" with the Good News of God's love and mercy.



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# *The Society of St Vincent de Paul of North Texas*

## About The Society of St Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a world-wide Catholic lay volunteer organization that seeks to build the faith, spirituality and holiness of its members. It is through that faith that Vincentians go out to offer friendship and support to the poor in our community.

Established by a group of six college students in Paris in 1833, the Society placed itself under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul, the French priest who is considered the patron saint of charitable societies. Under the tutelage of Rosalie Rendu, a nun from the Daughters of Charity, the students learned to share of themselves and their treasure with the poor of Paris. Their ideals quickly “caught fire” and within three years there were more than 200 members of the nascent Society in and around Paris.

By 1845 the Society had spread across Europe and came to the US in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1956 the first Conference of the Society was established in the Diocese of Dallas at Holy Trinity Parish - a parish run by the Congregation of the Mission, or Vincentian religious order - and has grown from there.

Today there are almost forty active parish-based Conferences with more than 800 members serving in the Diocese of Dallas. The Society impacts the lives of more than 80,000 of our neighbors. In the spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, who is revered as the founder of the Society, “No act of charity of foreign to the Society.”

A small professional staff provides supports and governance for the conferences and operates four major systemic change programs: **StudyTime**, an afterschool tutoring program; **Mini Loan Program**, a financial stability and literacy program for families entrapped by predatory loans; **St. Vincent Center**, a multi-layered social service center in Lancaster; and the **St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy**, providing life-sustaining medications to low-income uninsured residents of Texas at no charge to the patient



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