

DOMINICAN SAINTS OF NOVEMBER

Brief biographical notes

NOVEMBER 3

Saint Martin de Porres

FRIAR AND RELIGIOUS FEAST

Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579 of John, a Spanish nobleman, and Anna Velasquez, a freed slave. As a boy he studied medicine which later, as a member of the Order, he put to good use in helping the poor. Martin was received as a servant at the priory of the Holy Rosary in Lima where he was finally admitted to profession as a co-operator brother in 1603. In his life of prayer life Martin was especially devoted to the Blessed Sacrament and to the passion of our Lord. He was noted for his care of the poor and the sick. He died at Lima on November 3, 1639.

NOVEMBER 5

Blessed Simon Ballachi

FRIAR AND RELIGIOUS

Blessed Simon was born at Santarcangelo (di Romagna) near Rimini, Italy, about 1240 and entered the Order as a cooperator brother at Rimini. In imitation of his Holy Father Dominic Simon practiced severe penances for the conversion of sinners. He was noted for his simplicity of life and his compassion for others, especially for little children whom he taught the fundamental truths of the Christian life. He died at Rimini on November 3, 1319.

NOVEMBER 6

Blessed Francis de Capillas and Alfonsus Navarrete,

FRIARS AND PRIESTS ,

and Companions,

MARTYRS OF THE FAR EAST

MEMORIAL

"If certain saints or blesseds are listed in the calendar on the same day, provided they are of equal rank, they are always celebrated together even though one or more of them may be more proper to that calendar. If one or other of these saints or blessed is to be celebrated with a higher rank, that office alone is observed and the others are omitted." [Roman Calendar, n.57] Nevertheless, where "it is appropriate to assign them to another day in The form of an obligatory memorial" [Roman Calendar, n.57], the right remains of observing the memorial of these holy martyrs separately: either on a suitable day for each one [GILH, nn.244,245], observing no.56 of the Roman Calendar, or for some other special gathering on a more appropriate day, namely: January 15: Saint Francis de Capillas and his companion martyrs in China; September 10: Blessed Alfonsus Navarrete and his companion martyrs in Japan.

Today in one celebration the Order commemorates several of its martyrs of the Far East. They shed their blood for the sake of the Gospel in Japan and China at various times during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. 1. Japan: Alfonsus Navarrete, a Spanish Dominican, was beheaded at Omura on June 1, 1617. In 1622 nine Spanish Dominicans were burned to death at Nagasaki. During the years 1614-1632 more than a hundred Spanish and native Japanese Dominicans -- novices, cooperator brothers and tertiaries and confraternity members -- were martyred. 2. China: Francis de Capillas, a Spanish Dominican, laboured for a number of years in the Philippines before going to China in 1642. During a persecution he was beheaded at Fogan on January 15, 1648. In the following century several Spanish Dominicans were martyred at Foochow: Bishop Peter Sanz on May 26, 1747; and on October 28, 1748, Bishop Francis Serrano along with the priests Joachim Royo, John Alcober and Francisco Diaz. These Chinese martyrs, along with many companions, were canonised by Pope John Paul II in October, 2000. The martyrs of Vietnam, formerly commemorated on this day, are now commemorated on November 24.

NOVEMBER 7
All Saints of the Order of Preachers
FEAST

Today we faithfully remember "those who have gone before us in the family of Saint Dominic and who offer us the example of their way of life, their company in the communion of saints, and the help of their intercession. By this celebration may we be moved to imitate them and be strengthened in the spirit of our vocation." [LCO, nn.16, 67]

NOVEMBER 8
Anniversary of Deceased Brothers and Sisters of the Order

The practice of the universal Church has associated the feast of All Saints with that of All Souls, emphasizing the fundamental truth of the communion of saints. According to the custom of our Order after celebrating the feast of All Saints of the Order of Preachers we too remember our brothers and sisters who have gone before us with the sign of faith and pray that they might enjoy eternal rest with the Lord.

If the anniversary falls on Sunday, even though the Mass is of the Sunday, the Office or a vigil or a celebration of the Word of God may be celebrated. In this case the Mass is transferred to the next free day.

NOVEMBER 14
Blessed John Liccio
FRIAR AND PRIEST

Born around 1430 in Caccamo, Sicily, Blessed John entered the Order at the age of fifteen at the Priory of Saint Zita (Palermo) at the urging of Blessed Peter Geremia who clothed him in the habit. Known for his cheerful spirit and his charity, Blessed John promoted regular observance and devotion to Mary through the Rosary. Because of his preaching and concern for the poor he was called the "apostle of Sicily." He established a priory in his native city of Caccamo and became prior there in 1494. He died there on November 14, 1511.

Also NOVEMBER 14
Blessed Lucy of Nami
SISTER AND VIRGIN

Blessed Lucy was born in Nami, Italy, in 1476. In 1491 she was betrothed to Pietro de Alessio, a Milanese nobleman, but he respected her virginity and allowed her to remain with her family. She received the habit in 1494 and was sent to the community of Saint Catherine of Siena in Rome. In 1496 she moved to Viterbo and while there received the holy stigmata of Christ our Lord. The Duke of Ferrara wished her to serve as his advisor and so built the monastery and church of Saint Catherine of Siena where she took up residence in 1499. At the request of her confessor she wrote an account of her reception of the stigmata and of her interior life. She died at Ferrara on November 15, 1544.

NOVEMBER 15
Saint Albert the Great
FRIAR, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
FEAST

Albert of Lauingen was born in Swabia (Germany) at the beginning of the thirteenth century. While a student at the University of Pavia he was attracted to the Order by Blessed Jordan of Saxony. From 1242 until 1248 he taught at the University of Paris where Thomas Aquinas was one of his students. Albert helped to introduce Aristotelian physics as interpreted by Jewish and Arabian philosophers into Western thought. From 1248 he taught at Cologne and served as provincial of Germa (1254-1257). Together with Saint Bonaventure he defended the right of the Mendicant Orders to teach in the universities. He was named bishop of Ratisbon in 1260, but after two years he resigned because he considered himself unworthy. He continued his teaching at Wurzburg, Strasbourg and Cologne. In his attempts to blend the wisdom of the saints with human knowledge he was a distinguished writer and teacher, but he was even more distinguished in his life of holiness and his pastoral charity. He had a deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Virgin Mary who according to legend led him to the Order of Preachers. Because of his writings he is called "the Great" and the "universal doctor." He died at Cologne on November 15, 1280. In 1459 Pius II declared him a doctor of the Church; in 1931 Pius XI declared him a saint; and Pius XII named him patron of those involved in the natural sciences.

NOVEMBER 19
Blessed James Benefatti
FRIAR AND BISHOP

Blessed James was born at Mantua, Italy, in the latter half of the thirteenth century. He entered the Order there and came to the notice of Nicholas Boccassini, Master of the Order, who made him his socius. Blessed James continued as his advisor when Nicholas was created cardinal in 1298 and when Nicholas became Pope as Benedict XI (he was named bishop of Mantua in 1304). There he fought against the hatred and division which plagued the city. Because of his devotion to the poor during a time of pestilence and famine he was called "Father of the Poor." He died on November 19, 1332.

November 24
Saint Ignatius Delgado, FRIAR AND BISHOP,
Saint Vincent Liem, FRIAR AND PRIEST,
Saint Dominic An-Kham, LAY DOMINICAN AND HUSBAND,
and Companions, MARTYRS
MEMORIAL

This group of 117 martyrs suffered for the name of Christ during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the region known today as Vietnam. Of this number 96 were Vietnamese, 11 were Spaniards, and 10 were French; 58 were associated with the Missions Étrangères of Paris and 59 were members of the Dominican Family. The members of the Dominican Family included six bishops, sixteen priests, three members of the Priests' Fraternity of Saint Dominic, ten members of the Dominican laity, and twenty-four of the faithful from Dominican Missions. They were martyred at different times and places, e.g.:

- Eighteenth century: the priests Francis Gil de Federich († 1745) and Vincent Liem († 1773);
- 1838 - 1840: the bishops Ignatius Delgado († 838) and Dominic Henares († 838), the priest Joseph Fernández († 838) and twenty-three others;
- In the year 1861: the bishops Valentine Berrio-Ochoa and Jerome Hermosilla, the priests Joseph Tuâm and Pedro Almató, and the catechist Joseph Khang;
- During the years 1857-1862: the bishops José Maria Diaz Sanjudo († 857) and Melchior Garcia-Sampedro († 858); several native priests; and Dominic Pham Trong (An) Kham († 1859), a member of the Dominican laity.