

BRACKET DIAGRAM

BOOK 3 WEEK 4

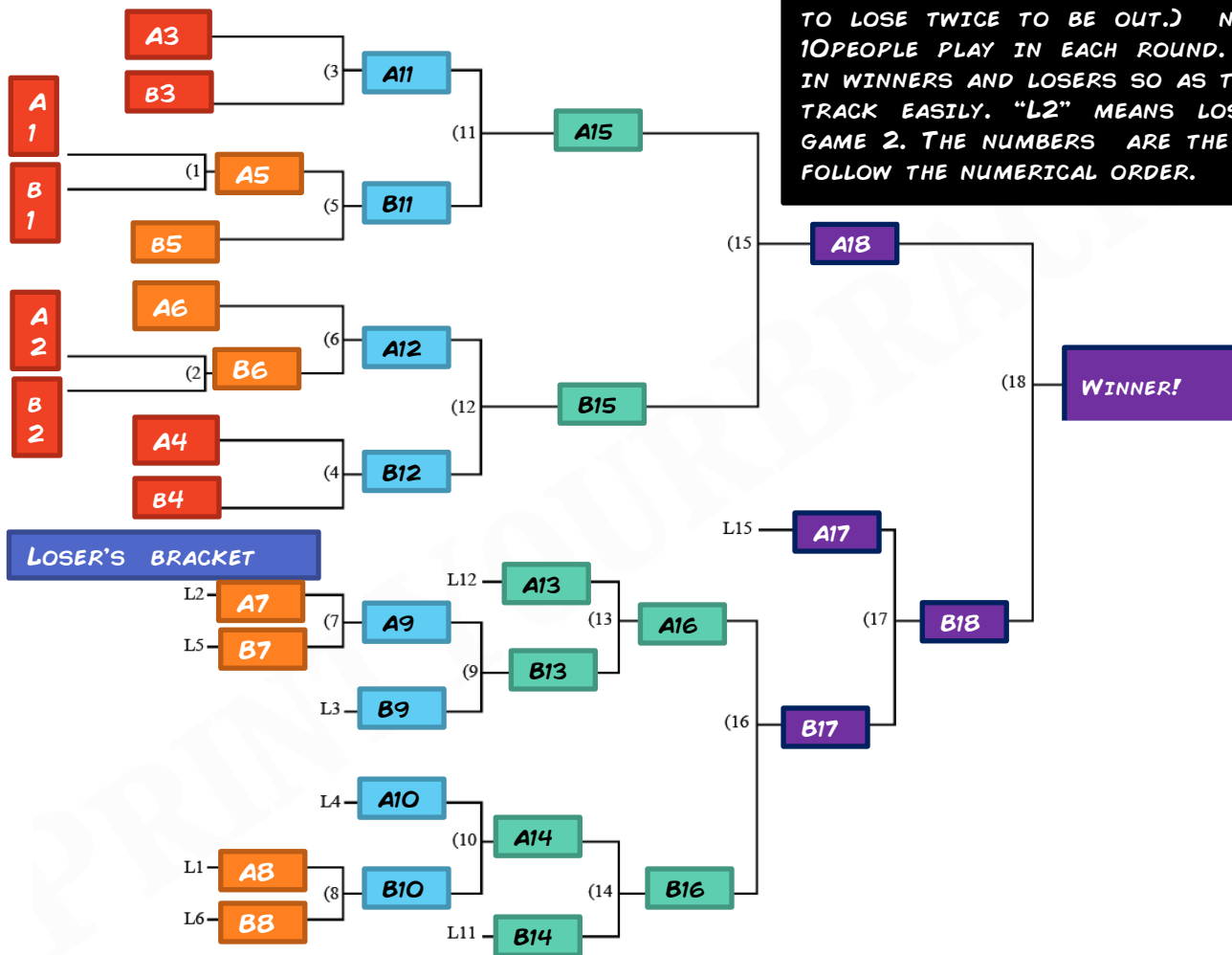
INSTRUCTIONS: Use the diagram below to draw the bracket on a white board or roll of paper.

WINNER'S BRACKET

(IF THEY KEEP WINNING THEY STAY UP HERE)

EXPLANATION:

THIS BRACKET IS FOR 10 PLAYERS AND IT IS DOUBLE ELIMINATION. (YOU HAVE TO LOSE TWICE TO BE OUT.) NOT ALL 10 PEOPLE PLAY IN EACH ROUND. WRITE IN WINNERS AND LOSERS SO AS TO KEEP TRACK EASILY. "L2" MEANS LOSER OF GAME 2. THE NUMBERS ARE THE GAMES FOLLOW THE NUMERICAL ORDER.



RED SQUARES REPRESENT ROUND 1 SHOWDOWNS. ONLY 8 PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST ROUND. 2 PEOPLE FROM THE 10 PLAYERS WILL BE WAITING TO ROUND 2 TO GO.

ORANGE SQUARES REPRESENT ROUND 2 SHOWDOWNS ONLY 8 PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THE 2ND ROUND. 2 OF THOSE PEOPLE WILL BE GOING FOR THE FIRST TIME (B5 AND A6)

BLUE SQUARES REPRESENT ROUND 3 SHOWDOWNS ONLY 8 PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THE 3RD ROUND

GREEN SQUARES REPRESENT ROUND 4 SHOWDOWNS ONLY 6 PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THE 4TH ROUND BUT 2 PEOPLE WILL NEED TO PLAY TWICE. (PLAY GAMES IN THIS ORDER: 13,14,15,16)

PURPLE SQUARES REPRESENT FINAL ROUND OF SHOWDOWNS ONLY 3 PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THE FINALS BUT 1 PERSON WILL NEED TO PLAY TWICE. (PLAY GAMES IN THIS ORDER: 17, 18)

VOTING CARDS

BOOK 3 WEEK 4

INSTRUCTIONS: Print out the voting cards so each person on the team can vote for #1 or #2 in each bracket.

I VOTE FOR

A

**AS THE
STRONGEST**

I VOTE FOR

A

**AS THE
STRONGEST**

I VOTE FOR

B

**AS THE
STRONGEST**

I VOTE FOR

B

**AS THE
STRONGEST**



TEAM DISCUSSION: INNER STRENGTH SHOWDOWN

ROUND 1 CARDS

BOOK 3 WEEK 4

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the round 1 cards so that each person on the team has one.

CUT LINE



ST DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI 1840-1889

HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:



FR WALTER CIZEK 1904-1984

HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:



ROUND 1 CARDS

BOOK 3 WEEK 4

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the round 1 cards so that each person on the team has one.

CUT LINE

ST MOTHER TERESA **1910-1997**

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



FR EMIL KAPAUN **1916-1951**

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



ROUND 1 CARDS

BOOK 3 WEEK 4

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the round 1 cards so that each person on the team has one.

CUT LINE

**BLESSED MIGUEL PRO
1891-1927**

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



**POPE
JOHN PAUL II
1920-2005**

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



ROUND 1 CARDS

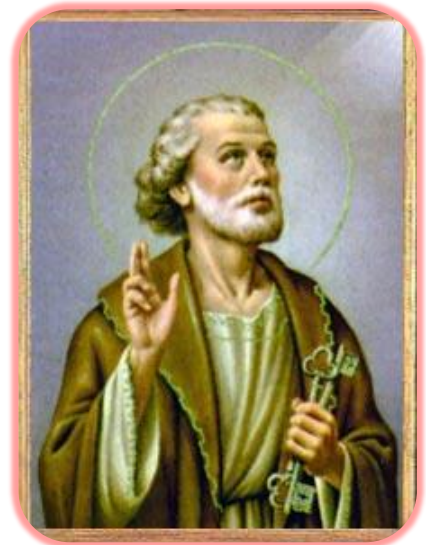
BOOK 3 WEEK 4

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the round 1 cards so that each person on the team has one.

CUT LINE

ST PETER

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



**ABRAHAM
OLD TESTAMENT**

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



ROUND 1 CARDS

BOOK 3 WEEK 4

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the round 1 cards so that each person on the team has one.

CUT LINE

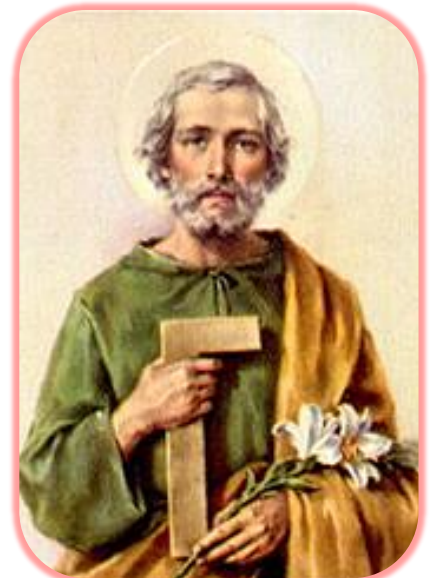
ST PAUL

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



**ST JOSEPH
NEW TESTAMENT**

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



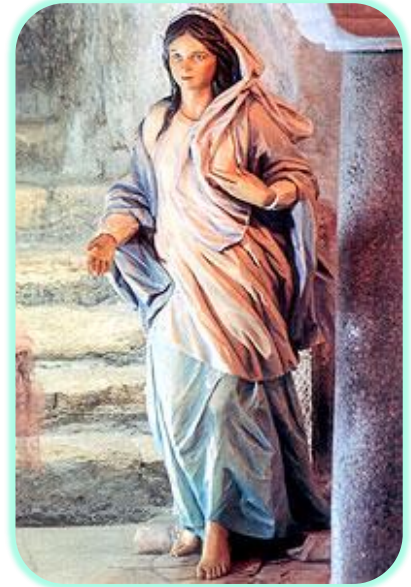
SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



MOSES OLD TESTAMENT

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE

ST GIANNA MOLLA 1922-1962

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



NOAH OLD TESTAMENT

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE



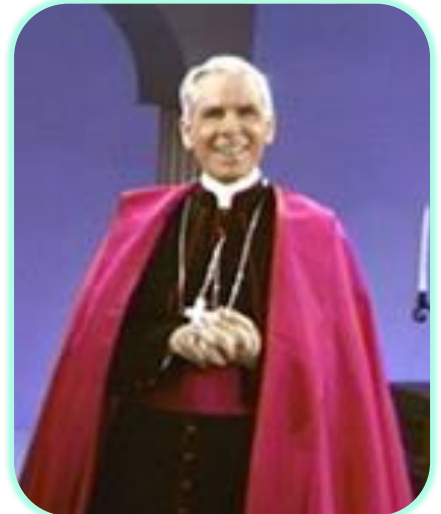
**MARY VIRGINIA
MERRICK
1866-1955**

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



**FULTON J SHEEN
1895-1979**

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



SUBSTITUTE CARDS

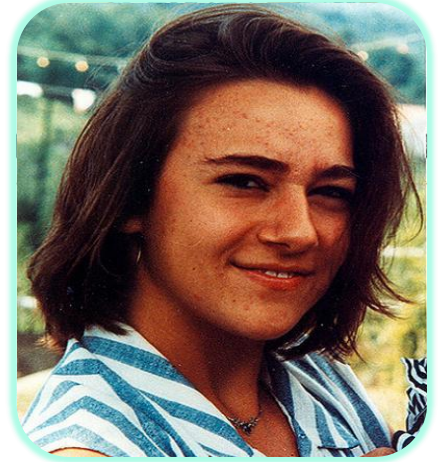
INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE



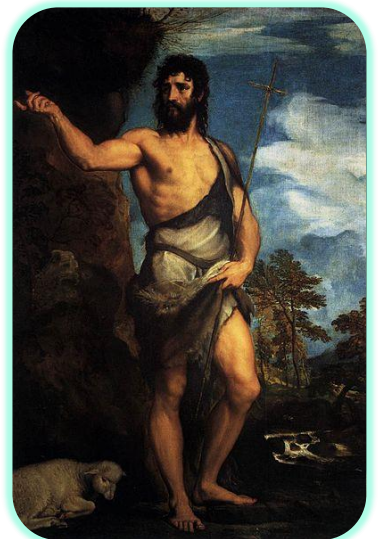
BLESSED CHIARA BANDANO 1971-1990

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



JOHN THE BAPTIST NEW TESTAMENT

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE

ST FRANCIS CABRINI 1850-1917

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



ST STEPHEN ACTS OF APOSTLES 7

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE

**ST ELIZABETH
ANN SETON
1774-1821**

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



**SAINT
JOSE SANCHEZ
1913-1926**

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE

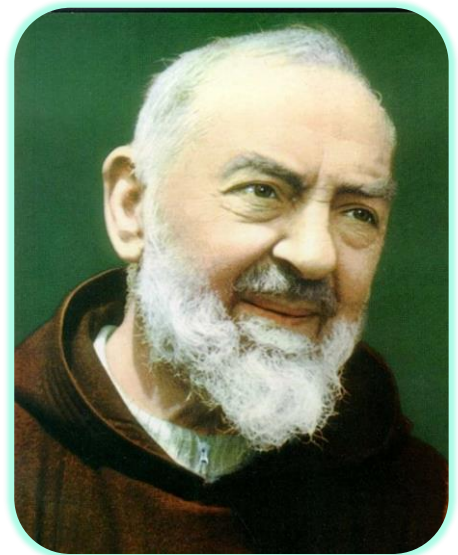
ST BERNADETTE 1844-1879

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



ST PADRE PIO 1887-1968

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE

ST MARIA GORETTI 1890-1902

**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



BLESSED ALBERTO MARVELLI 1918-1946

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



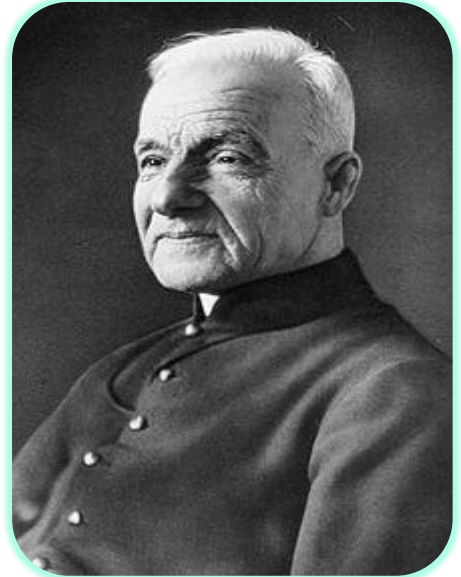
SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

CUT LINE

**ST ANDRE
BESSETTE
1845-1936**

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



ST MATTHEW

**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**



SUBSTITUTE CARDS

INSTRUCTIONS: Print off the sub cards so that each person on the team has the opportunity to take at least one. You should have about 20 sub cards.

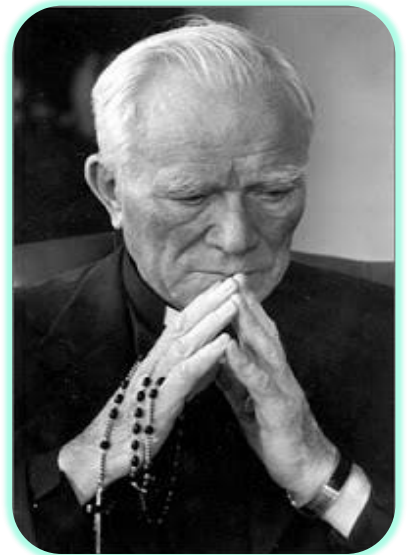
CUT LINE

GWEN CONIKER 1939-2002



**SHE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**

FR PATRICK PEYTON 1909-1992



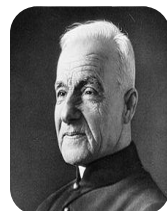
**HE IS A CHAMPION OF STRENGTH
BECAUSE:**

INSTRUCTIONS: Print out the stories for reference and research .



BLESSED ALBERTO MARVELLI

Alberto Marvelli was born in 1918 in Ferrara, Italy. He was given a Christian formation by his mother, who set an exceptional example of charity to the poor. More than once, when Alberto had sat down to his dinner, half of his meal would suddenly be carried away from the table by his mother to feed a pauper at the door. She would tell her son, "Jesus has come, and he is hungry." He became a firm defender of the poor. He got involved with the youth group in his parish. As a teenager, Alberto was known to have a strong prayer life. Every day he would do half an hour of meditation, spiritual reading, attend daily Mass, and pray the rosary. He went to confession weekly. When he was only 18, Alberto became president of a local chapter of the Catholic Action lay apostolate (a service driven youth group like Challenge and Conquest). After graduating from University with an engineering degree, he became a high school teacher. In this period he devoted himself to service of those in need, and prayer. An avid bicyclist, he used his bike to carry donations to the poor. During World War II, he continued to serve the poor even though it was risky and costly. He is known to have given away even his bicycle and the shoes off his feet to those most in need. During the German occupation, he saved numerous people from deportation to the concentration camps by breaking open the locked rail cars to let the prisoners free. He even carried off to a safe place a tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament, under a broken house. After the war, he was chosen by the community to take on many positions of responsibility as an engineer for the rebuilding of the town. He was killed on October 5, 1946, when an army truck hit him while riding on a bicycle. His remains rest in the Church of S. Agostino in Rimini in a decorated tomb. He was beatified in Loreto on September 5, 2004 by Pope John Paul II.



ST ANDRE BESSETTE

Andre was born near Montreal, Canada on August 9th, 1845. He was the 8th child in his family and was orphaned at the age of 12 when both his parents died. He spent 13 years wandering job to job working as a wagon driver, baker, and shoe maker, but he was not successful in any of them. He could barely read and write and was sick most of his life but they said that no one was a harder worker than he was. He prayed often and was a great example of faith and kindness for other young men. His parish priest sent him to the Brothers of the Holy Cross with a note of recommendation saying, "I am sending you a saint." He was rejected by the Brothers, since they were dedicated to teaching and Andre was not very good at reading or writing and he had bad health. He felt like he was meant to be a Brother so he asked the bishop special permission and he was allowed to join the order of the Holy Cross. Since he could not teach, he became the porter at the College of Notre Dame. His job was to answer the door, welcome guests, and deliver mail. He did that job joyfully for 40 years. He had a great devotion to St. Joseph and one day he went to the Archbishop asking permission to build a chapel to St. Joseph on a hill near the College. The Archbishop said he could build the church if he could raise the money so Br. Andre began to cut people's hair for a nickel or dime and collect donations for St. Joseph. After a number of years, Br. Andre decided to build a small chapel with the few hundred dollars he had collected. People began to come to the shrine to hear mass and pray, leaving donations to build a bigger shrine. Word spread about this holy, kind and simple man and soon people from all over Canada came to see him. Brother Andre helped many souls experience healing in the chapel on the mountaintop. He has been credited with thousands of cures. When he died on Jan. 6th, at the age of 91, close to a million people came to the Shrine of St. Joseph for his funeral. He was canonized a saint on Oct. 17th, 2010.

ST BERNADETTE



St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France in 1844. She lived in great poverty. On February 11, 1858, when Bernadette was only 14 years old, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her in a cave on the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. She was ridiculed and questioned when she reported the vision. The authorities tried to frighten Bernadette to change her story, but she remained faithful to the vision and Mary. On February 25, a spring emerged from the cave and the waters were discovered to be miraculous, capable of healing the sick and lame. Bernadette announced that the vision stated that Mary was the Immaculate Conception, and that a church should be built on the site. Later, Bernadette became a nun with the Sisters of Notre Dame in Nevers, France. She soon discovered that she suffered from a painful, incurable illness. She died in 1879. Lourdes became one of the major pilgrimage destinations in the world, and the spring has produced 27,000 gallons of water each week and many miracles happen at this pilgrim site. Bernadette was canonized in 1933

BL. CHIARA BANDANO



Chiara was an only child, born in Italy on Oct. 29th, 1971. Chiara seemed to have everything going for her as a teen. She had a loving, holy family and a rock solid faith that was nurtured by retreats and youth ministry programs. She tried to go to mass everyday. She was popular amongst her friends and was liked by boys. She was beautiful. She was great at tennis, swimming and mountain climbing. Her outgoing personality and adventurous spirit made everyone think Chiara had a bright life ahead of her. When she was 17, one day while playing tennis she felt a strong pain in her shoulder. The doctors discovered it was bone cancer. She struggled through the pain of chemotherapy but was able to accept her disease and say "yes" to God's plan for her life. She went through surgery, which was unsuccessful and she could no longer walk. One of her doctors remarked, "Through her smile, and through her eyes full of light, she showed us that death doesn't exist; only life exists." A priest who visited her in the hospital asked her "The light in your eyes is splendid. Where does it come from?" Chiara's reply was simple: "I try to love Jesus as much as I can." Like any teenage girl, she loved her hair, but with each lock that fell out she'd pray, "For you, Jesus." Her best friend helped her prepare for her own funeral during the last summer of her life. She never cried or complained. She just prayed often. Chiara picked the songs and she picked a white dress because she felt as a bride going to meet Jesus. She died on Oct. 7th, 1990 and her last words to her mother were "Be happy because I am happy". 2000 people attended her funeral.

ST DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI



St. Damien was born in Belgium in 1840. He joined the Sacred Hearts Fathers in 1860 and was sent to Honolulu, Hawaii, where he was ordained a priest. For the next nine years he worked in missions on the big island, Hawaii. When he was 33 years old, he went to the leper colony on Molokai, after volunteering for the assignment. These people were forgotten, hated, and exiled. Damien cared for lepers of all ages, but was particularly concerned about the children in the colony. Father Damien's arrival is seen by some as a turning point for the community. Under his leadership, basic laws were enforced, shacks became painted houses, working farms were organized, and schools were established. After sixteen years caring for the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of those in the leper colony, he eventually caught the disease himself. He is considered a "martyr of charity". When he was 45 years old, he announced he had caught leprosy but he continued to build hospitals, clinics, and churches, and some six hundred coffins. He died when he was 49 years old in Molokai. Pope John Paul II declared him beatified on June 4, 1995. He is called the Hero of Molokai or the Leper Priest. At his canonization in 2009, Pope Benedict XVI said, "Father Damian made the choice to go on the island of Molokai in the service of lepers who were there, abandoned by all. So he exposed himself to the disease of which they suffered. To follow Christ, Father Damian not only left his homeland, but has also staked his health and life."

DOROTHY DAY



Dorothy Day was born in 1897 in Brooklyn, NY but father was a sports writer and they moved to California for his work. After the earthquake of 1906 in San Francisco, her father lost his job and they moved to Chicago. Her family was Episcopalian but not very religious. She moved to New York in her twenties and lived a very bohemian lifestyle, involved in social action, writing about injustices, women's rights and the antiwar movement. Day began a period of spiritual awakening which would lead her to embrace Catholicism. She had picked up a rosary and she began to attend Mass on Sundays at the nearby Catholic church. Her friends did not agree with this and became a problem even with her boyfriend., who did not want to get married or have kids. Dorothy found that she was pregnant out of wedlock and she decided to have her child and to have it baptized, to give the child a sense of spiritual belonging she had never had. One day she met a nun on the street and asked her how she could have her daughter Tamar baptized. The nun helped her, but on the condition that Dorothy memorized the Baltimore Catechism. Dorothy did not want to lose her boyfriend so she kept putting off joining the Church because she knew she had to stop living with him outside marriage. But finally she found the strength and left him and was baptized into the Catholic Church. She moved with Tamar to Los Angeles and later she returned to New York just Later Day began writing for Catholic publications, such on the events of that situation around the country. She then became a Benedictine oblate, which gave her spiritual assistance throughout the rest of her life. She founded the Catholic Worker Movement, which helped to teach the poor about turning to faith as an alternative to Communism during the Depression. Despite suffering from poor health, Day traveled around the world to preach the power of God's love and the way of pacifism. She went to India, where she met Mother Teresa and saw her work. She died of a heart attach. In March 2000, Pope John Paul II granted permission to open Dorothy Day's cause for sainthood. Today she is known officially as a "Servant of God" in the Catholic Church.

EDITH STIEN



Edith Stein was born on Oct. 12th, 1891 in Germany into a Jewish family. From the time she was young she was very smart, excelled in school and eventually received a doctorate in Philosophy. Many professors and students admired and appreciated her brilliant mind. Through her studies she searched for the truth and after reading the life of St. Teresa of Avila, she converted to the Catholic Church and was baptized in 1922. After her conversion she dedicated her time to teach and write and became quite a famous author. But she was not interested in the fame, because she really wanted to dedicate her life to prayer and become a nun. During World War II, she was forced to stop writing and teaching due to her Jewish family roots, so she decided it was a perfect time to finally join the Carmelite nuns. In 1934, she became a nun and took on the religious name "St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross". As the Jewish persecution grew in Germany, she realized she was putting the other nuns at the convent in danger, so she secretly moved to another convention in Holland. Finally, the Nazis invaded Holland and arrested all Catholics with Jewish family roots. In 1942 Edith was taken to the death camp of Auschwitz and died there on August 9th. Pope John Paul II canonized Edith Stien in 1998. She is a wonderful example to us of how to seek the truth always and live before God alone. She took her talents and intelligence to help others get to know God's love.

ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON



Elizabeth Ann was born on August 28, 1774 in New York City. She was raised in the Episcopal Church. Her mother, daughter of an Episcopal priest, died when Elizabeth was 3. She was rejected by her step-mother so her dad returned to England leaving Elisabeth to be raised in NY by her aunt and uncle. Elizabeth grew up in New York high society. She was a prolific reader, and read everything from the Bible to contemporary novels. At age 19 she married to William Seton, a wealthy businessman. She had five children. Although busy with raising a large family, she continued to show the concern for the poor of the city. She helped to organize a group of prominent ladies who would visit the sick poor in their homes to render what aid they could. Due to the United Kingdom's combat with Napoleon of France, her family business was bankrupt and the impoverished. Soon after this, her husband fell ill and his doctors sent him to Italy for the warmer climate, with Elizabeth and their eldest daughter accompanying him. Landing at the port of Italy, they were held in quarantine because of his illness, and William died. Elizabeth and her daughter were taken in by the family of her late husband's Italian business partners and she was introduced to Catholicism. Two years later, after her return to the United States, she converted to Catholicism. In order to support herself and her children Seton had started an academy for young ladies. Most of the parents withdrew their daughters from her school when they heard she was now Catholic. Soon she met a visiting priest who asked her to start a school with them. She moved to Maryland and started Saint Joseph's Academy, a school dedicated to the education of Catholic girls. Elizabeth also felt God calling her to start a religious community of nuns to the care of the children of the poor called the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. She died of tuberculosis January 4, 1821, at the age of 46. She was buried in what is now the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

FR EMIL KAPAUN



Emil was born on April 20, 1916 and grew up on a farm in Kansas. His parents were immigrants from the Czech republic. He went to seminary in Missouri. He was ordained a priest and shortly after joined the army as a chaplain. He worked at Camp Wheeler in GA to 19000 service men and women. He was sent to India for a few years and was promoted to be a Captain. He was discharged and went to the Catholic University in Washington where he earned a Masters in Education. Afterwards he re-enlisted in the army and was sent to Japan as a military chaplain. He would not sleep for days at a time trying to minister to the dying, performing baptisms, hearing confessions, offering communion and mass. He was known to celebrate mass on a jeep since it was the only place available. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in September 1950. He was then sent to Korea, a month after North Korea invaded South Korea. In November 1950, he was captured by the communists. He marched for 87 miles to a prison camp in North Korea. In prison camp, he helped the fellow prisoners – giving away his food, raising moral, smuggling medicine into the camp for the prisoners and stealing food from the camp guards to provide for the sick. He was a hero to many prisoners and he helped them become good Catholics before their deaths. He developed pneumonia and a blood clot in his leg and died on May 23, 1951 in prison when he was only 35 years old. In 1993, he was named a servant of God for his heroic life of virtue. “He was the symbol of something the enemy knew he could not kill—the unconquerable spirit of a free man, owing final allegiance only to God.” – Fellow prisoner

ST FAUSTINA



Sister Faustina was born in Poland in 1905 and her parents named her Helenka. She grew up in a big family. They were poor and could not afford much education. She would go to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament often and during one of those moments she felt the calling to be a nun. She entered the convent of the Sisters of Mercy when she was 20 years old and took the religious name Faustina and what then known as Sister Faustina. Her duties were simple – cooking and cleaning. From the beginning of her religious life, she had many religious experiences and visions of Christ. She underwent many spiritual trials and sometimes darkness, she fought through many temptations, and she had many moments when she could hear Christ speaking to her. Once, Jesus appeared to her in a white garment with red and white rays coming out of his heart and said the following to her: “Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: ‘Jesus, I Trust in You’. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the whole world.” Finding someone to paint the image took some time and finally the artist was chosen and he painted under the guidance of Sister Faustina. Finally, after several failed attempts at painting the image, Jesus told her the painting “was good enough”. The painting was completed in June 1934. She wrote about praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and brochures were made about praying to this image of Christ. The last two years of her life, she came down with tuberculosis and was bed ridden most of the time, writing and receiving visions from Christ. He died when she was 33 in Krakow. She was declared a saint on April 30th, 2000. Now this famous Divine Mercy picture of Christ and the Chaplet of Mercy is said by millions. The first Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday.

ST FRANCIS CABRINI



St. Frances was born in Lombardi, Italy in 1850, one of thirteen children. At eighteen, she wanted to become a nun, but she caught smallpox while helping people in her town and she could not join right away. She helped her parents until their death, and then worked on a farm with her brothers and sisters. When she was 24 years old, her parish priest asked her to help run a girls orphanage which she did for six years. At the request of her Bishop, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor children in schools and hospitals. After hearing about the need of the Italians who immigrated to the US, she decided to go to the United States with six nuns in 1889 to work among the Italian immigrants. Soon after arriving, she opened her first orphanage in New York's "Little Italy". She had a deep trust in God and was also a great organizer and business woman. She soon founded schools and orphanages to help immigrants and children in New York, Nicaragua and New Orleans. In 1892 she opened her first hospital in New York city where doctors would offer their services to the poor at no charge. She travelled west in the US to Chicago, Denver, Seattle and Los Angeles founding schools and orphanages along the way. In 1909 she became a citizen of the United States. On Dec 22, 1917, while working in Chicago with a group of nuns on a Christmas party for the kids in one of their orphanages, she had a heart attack and passed away. In her life, she had started over 70 hospitals, schools and orphanages in England, France, Spain, the United States, and South America. In July 1946, she became the first American citizen to be canonized a saint.



FULTON J SHEEN

Sheen was born on a farm in Illinois in 1895. He had four brothers and his parents stressed the importance of their Catholic faith, attending church and saying the Rosary together nightly. He was popular and did well in school. Everyone thought he would become a priest. After graduating college, he went to seminary in Minnesota and then to the Catholic University to earn a doctorate in philosophy. After a brief time in a parish, Sheen became a professor at Catholic University teaching philosophy and theology. Sheen's interests were mainly writing books and articles that would earn him praise throughout the country. In 1928, he went on the a nationally broadcast radio program and became the program's most popular preacher. Sheen was soon in demand throughout the country as a preacher, retreat leader, and teacher. In 1951, Sheen was consecrated a bishop in Rome. Sheen was known to convert many famous people including Henry Ford II and thousands of Americans came into the Church because of Sheen's efforts. In 1951, Sheen received an offer to have his own television show. He took the country by storm, winning an Emmy, appearing on the cover of Time magazine. Sheen's humor, charm, intelligence, and considerable acting skill radiated throughout the TV series, captivating millions eager to hear Christian answers to life's common problems. He believed that God is love, that miracles happen, and that the Catholic Church best taught the divinely revealed truths about life and death. He and one of the shows producers had an argument which led to cancelling Sheen's television series. So in 1966, Sheen became the Bishop of Rochester. Bishop Sheen had been an active participant in the Vatican II sessions in Rome and thoroughly endorsed the reforms that followed. He battled serious heart disease but still travelled, preached and wrote. In October, 1979 Sheen met John Paul II in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Pope privately told the 84-year-old Archbishop that he had been a loyal son of the Church. He died in his chapel before the Eucharist in 1979 when he was 84.

ST GIANNA MOLLA



Gianna Beretta was born near Milan on October 4, 1922. From the time she was young she embraced her faith and she saw life as a marvellous gift from God. While in high school and university she was very involved in apostolic service with other young people in Catholic Action, especially with the elderly and needy. She graduated with a degree in Medicine, specializing in being a pediatrician, and opened a medical clinic near her home town. She felt her work as a doctor was truly a mission to help mothers & babies. She enjoyed painting, skiing and the working with young people helping others. She met Pietro Molla and soon became happily engaged. They were married in 1955, excited to form a truly Christian family. They had 3 children Pierluigi (Louis), Mariolina and Laura. She also had two miscarriages. She balanced the demanding life of being a mother, wife and doctor. In September 1961, she was expecting her fourth child and in the 2nd month of pregnancy, she discovered she had developed a growth that required surgery to save her own life. However, the surgery included removing the growth and that put at risk the life of her unborn child. She decided to carry the baby for the whole pregnancy, not removing the growth until the end although it could put at risk her own life. A few days before her baby was due, she said, "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child - I insist on it. Save her". On April 21, 1962, baby Gianna was born. Despite all efforts and treatments to save both o mother and baby, on April 28, 1962 Gianna Molla died, giving up her life for her child. Her last words were "Jesus, I love you." She was 39 years old. Gianna was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2004.



GWEN CONIKER

Gwen Cecilia Billings was born in Chicago in 1939. She met her future husband, Jerry Coniker when she was 15 years old, while they were both attending St. Gregory High School. They were married five years later and consecrated their marriage to Jesus through Mary at Our Lady's side altar. Seeing the decline in Christian values in society, they soon became deeply involved in the right-to-life and family values movement. Gwen loved children and would say, "There's nothing like a baby!" She had thirteen children. The direction of their lives was drastically changed in 1971 when they prayed together and consecrated their family to Mary. After making this consecration, Jerry and Gwen were convinced more than ever that the battle to end abortion and save the family was primarily a spiritual one, thus they made the decision to devote their full-time to the work of the Church. That same year, the Conikers sold their home and business and they moved their family to Fatima, Portugal where they lived for two years. During that time, their third son was born. The Conikers returned to the United States in 1973 and they began to work for Fr. Bernard Geiger. Jerry and Gwen founded the Apostolate for Family Consecration in 1975 in Wisconsin. When she became pregnant with her eleventh child, Gwen was willing to risk death despite the warnings of her doctor, in order to give birth. Theresa Marie, a healthy baby girl, was born just after Christmas in 1975. Jerry and Gwen were married for forty-two years, and their love for each other grew every day. They had the joy of watching their family grow, first with their 13 children, then 11 faithful spouses, and 52 grandchildren (and still counting!), who through the grace of God are all in the Faith. Their love for God and each other blossomed into an international Apostolate for Family Consecration movement for families with four interrelated family ministries—Familyland TV Network, Catholic Familyland centers all over the world, Consecration in Truth Catechetics and Lay Ecclesial Teams—with members on five continents. Gwen met John Paul II nine times. In 1999, Pope John Paul II appointed Jerry and Gwen Coniker to be members of his Pontifical Council for the Family. In 2002, Gwen was diagnosed with cancer, and her last days were spent in very intense pain. She passed away in 2002 in the arms of her loving husband.

JOHN PAUL II



Karol Wotijyawas born on May 18th, 1920 near Krakow, Poland. By the time he was 21, his mother, brother Edmund and father had died. After high school, he went to Krakow University and studied drama. In 1939 Nazi forces closed the university and he went to work at a rock quarry and chemical plant for four years, to avoid being deported to a concentration camp. In 1942 he felt called to be a priest and began studying in the "underground" seminary in Krakow. When World War II was over he was ordained a priest on Nov. 1, 1946. After studying in Rome for a few years, he became a parish priest and worked as a chaplain for university students. In 1964 he became the Archbishop of Krakow and in 1967 he became a cardinal. He was elected Pope on October 16th, 1978 and took the name Pope John Paul II. In his first mass as Pope he said those unforgettable words "Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!" He was Pope for 27 years and during that time he was a true missionary, travelling to the ends of the world to bring the world Christ's message. He made 104 trips outside Italy and over 17 million people attended masses and audiences with him. He founded World Youth Days and he participated in 19 World Youth Days with millions of young people. He canonized 438 saints and named 1338 people blessed. He helped produce the new Catechism of the Catholic Church, wrote 14 encyclicals and 5 books. After a courageous life, Pope John Paul "the Great" died on April 5th, 2005. Three million people came to Rome for his funeral. On May 1st, 2011 Pope Benedict XVI beatified Pope John Paul II and he said the following words in the homily, "By his witness of faith, love and apostolic courage, he helped believers throughout the world not to be afraid to be called Christian, to belong to the Church, to speak of the Gospel. In a word: he helped us not to fear the truth. He gave us the strength to believe in Christ. Blessed are you, beloved Pope John Paul II, because you believed!"



SAINT JOSE SANCHEZ

Blessed Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio was a young boy in Mexico during the Cristero wars. He was born on March 28, 1913, and when the Cristero wars started 13 years later Jose was anxious to join the rebel army with the rest of his brothers. Despite his parents' reluctance and the reluctance of the general, he was eventually allowed to join. Two years into the war during an intense battle the general's horse was killed, and Jose offered his own horse so that the general could escape. Jose then emptied out all of his ammunition shooting the enemy troops until they captured him and imprisoned him in a local church. After many attempts to force him to denounce his faith. He refused to give in so the government's soldiers cut off the bottom of his feet and forced him to walk through the town to the cemetery where he would be executed. Along the walk they would told him to that if he would say death to Christ so that he would live, but each time he replied "Viva Cristo Rey!" "Long live Christ the King!" Finally, upon reaching the cemetery He was shot multiple times, and died kissing a cross that he had drawn on the ground with his own blood.



BLESSED LAURA VICUNA

Laura was born in 1891 in Santiago, Chile. Her parents were wealthy aristocrats and her father was in the military. They were forced into exile by the revolution and they took refuge in a poor house. Soon after her father died and her mother had to take refuge with her two daughters in Argentina. Laura's mother went to work for a man named Manuel at a hotel, so that she could pay for her daughters to go to school. She found a job at a hotel and her daughters soon entered a catholic school run by nuns where she was taught a love for religion took a deep interest in the Catholic faith. When she was 10 years old she made her first communion, and told everyone she loved God and wanted to serve the poor and needy and die without having sinned or hurt him. She spent time daily in the school's chapel praying. She told her best friend that she wanted to be a nun when she grew up. Even when very young, Laura was mature enough to understand her mother's problems and the immoral situations her mother had to face everyday. At that time, her mother's boss Manuel became very possessive of Laura's mom and her sister. Once, he was very mean to Laura and tried to convince her to forget about becoming a nun. He threaten to stop paying her mother so she could not afford to send her to school. When the nuns at her school learned of the conflict, they gave Laura a scholarship. Although she was grateful to her teachers, she still worried about her mother's situation. Laura became seriously ill with tuberculosis. Before she died, Laura told her mother: "Mama, I offer my life for you, I asked our Lord for this". Before I die, Mother, would I have the joy of seeing you be closer to Jesus and not sin?" Her mother agreed. Finally Laura smiled and said to her mother: "Thanks, Jesus! Thanks Mary! Goodbye, Mother! Now I die happy!" On January 22, 1904, Laura died of her disease, weakened by the physical abuse from Manuel. She was only 13 years old. She was beatified by John Paul II.



ST MARIA GORETTI

St. Maria Goretti was born in Italy in 1890. Her father died when she was young and her mother had to struggle to feed her children. When Maria was just 12 years old, an eighteen-year-old neighbor named Alexander, tried to do impure things with Maria. When Maria said that she would rather die than consent, Alexander stabbed her. As she lay in the hospital, she forgave Alexander before she died. Alexander was captured and sentenced to thirty years in prison. He did not repent, until one night he had a dream of Maria and she forgave him. When he woke, he repented and lived a different life. When he was released from prison, he went directly to Maria's mother to beg her forgiveness, which she gave. "If my daughter can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness," she said. Maria was declared a saint in 1950 and Alexander was there

MARY VIRGINIA MERRICK



Mary Virginia Merrick, was born to a prominent Washington, DC family in 1866. At an early age, Mary thought of others and hoped to become a Sister of Charity and “take care of all the little children who had no one to take care of them.” An accident in her teens changed her plan. She fell from the window seat of her playhouse, damaging her spine and confining her to a life of pain and partial paralysis. She spent the next 75 years propped up in bed or in a reclining chair. This severe disability did not stop her from the second part of her plan: taking care of the ‘little ones.’ In 1884, learning of a mother who had no clothing for her expected child, Mary gathered a group of friends who sewed and made some clothing for the newborn.. This was the beginning of a program that spread nationwide. In 1887, the group became The Christ Child Society and other programs were established as needs became apparent. A request for a red wagon by her young errand boy in a letter to the Christ Child – whom Miss Merrick described as “the Giver of all good things” – was the beginning of a tradition of Christmas gifts to families who otherwise would have nothing. The shoe program and “Fresh Air” opportunities for children to enjoy a respite from city heat followed. The Merrick Boys Club was established in the Capitol Hill area, with prominent businessmen as directors. A home for sick children and residential care facilities for emotionally disturbed youngsters became part of the Society’s work. Undaunted by her physical disabilities, Miss Merrick was a trendsetter in the Nation’s Capital. Her motto was “to see a need and fill it” and this she did with courage and persistence. Miss Merrick continued as president of the Society until 1948 when increasingly poor health forced her to retire. She remained head of the Washington Chapter until her death. She regularly attended Mass at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Mary Virginia Merrick died on January 10, 1955 and in 2003, the Congregation for the Cause of Saints in Rome declared Mary Virginia Merrick a Servant of God.

BLESSED MIGUEL PRO



Miguel Pro was born in 1891 in Mexico. Two of his sisters joined the convent. He entered the Jesuit seminary when he was 20 to be a priest. He was noted for his charity and ability to talk about spiritual subjects without being boring. His friends said that there were two Pros: the playful Pro and the prayerful Pro. He was known for the long periods he spent in the chapel. In 1911, the president of Mexico was ousted after a rigged election and the Mexican Revolution began. In 1917, a new constitution was created and some of the articles were aimed at suppressing the Catholic Church, like there were to not be any catholic schools and it outlawed religious orders of priests, who were not allowed to dress like priests. So Miguel Pro left for Spain to finish his studies to be a priest and then went to Nicaragua to teach and then to Belgium where he was ordained. He was all alone and said “After the ceremony the new priests gave their first blessing to their parents. I went to my room, laid out all the photographs of my family on the table, and then blessed them from the bottom of my heart.” Father Pro went back to Mexico in 1926. Calles was now president and he was extremely anti catholic, putting any priest in prison if they criticized the government. In some places the government had closed all the churches and killing many priests. Fr. Pro was pastor for a Church which was forced to go “underground.” He celebrated the Eucharist secretly and ministered the other sacraments. He was arrested, released from prison the next day, but kept under surveillance. A rebel tried to assassinate the ex president and the government took advantage of this as an excuse to arrest Fr Pro and his brothers. None of them were involved and the guilty man confessed but the president sentenced Fr Miguel Pro to death and he was executed without trial. His last request was to kneel and pray. He had a crucifix in one hand and a rosary in the other before the firing squad. His last words were: “May God have mercy on you! Lord, you know that I am innocent! With all my heart I forgive my enemies! Long live Christ the King!”. 40,000 people came to his funeral procession. The Cristeros fought with renewed enthusiasm, many of them carrying the newspaper photo of Pro before the firing squad. He was canonized in 1988.

ST PADRE PIO



Padre Pio was born May 25, 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy, a small country town located in southern Italy. When he was five years old, he solemnly consecrated himself to Jesus. In his childhood, he liked to sing hymns, play church and preferred to be by himself where he could read and pray. Padre Pio's parents first learned of his desire to become a priest in 1897. A young Capuchin friar was canvassing the countryside seeking donations. Padre Pio was drawn to this spiritual man and told his parents, "I want to be a friar... with a beard." His parents gave their blessing, and he then went on to study very hard for the priesthood. On August 10, 1910, the much-anticipated day finally arrived. The twenty-three year old Fra Pio was ordained a priest. Just one month later, Jesus and Mary appeared to him and gave him the wounds of Christ, the Stigmata. He experienced this for the rest of his life, offering the suffering for many souls and for the world. News of his stigmata spread throughout the world, giving many people hope as they began to rebuild their lives after World War I. Many pilgrims began to flock to the area to see Padre Pio. Restrictions and controversies surrounding Padre Pio's ministry continued from 1924 – 1931 while he served and lived in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. In 1956 he helped found and open a hospital there, a "Home to Relieve Suffering". He himself suffered from many illnesses most of his life. On September 23, 1968, Padre Pio called his superior and asked to make his confession. He then renewed his vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. At 2:30am, Padre Pio died in his room. As he foretold, Padre Pio lived sick but died healthy, with the stigmata healed. On September 26, 1968, over a hundred thousand people gathered at San Giovanni Rotondo to pay their respects to this holy man. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina was canonized by Pope John Paul II.

FR PATRICK PEYTON



Fr Patrick Peyton was born on 1909 in Ireland. He had 8 brothers and sisters. They grew up on a farm and although Patrick wanted to be a priest from the time he was young, he instead decided to stay and help his father with the farm, since he was growing old in age and was ill. At age 19 he and his brother, Tom, set sail to the United States to live with his sister Nellie in Pennsylvania. Once there he got a job working as a janitor at the Cathedral. Being at the church everyday and seeing the priests frequently, helped him to rekindle his own desire to be a priest. He entered the seminary at the Congregation of Holy Cross in Notre Dame, Indiana. A few years later, he started coughing blood and doctors discovered he had advanced stages of Tuberculosis, which was incurable in those days. His sister Nellie came to see him and reminded Patrick of the never ending love of the Blessed Mother and how their family lived the life of prayer, especially the Holy Rosary. Nellie encouraged him to ask our Holy Mother for help. Patrick consecrated himself completely to Mary and devoted himself to praying the rosary. The doctors discovered that the patches on his lungs had disappeared miraculously. With this miraculous cure through the rosary of our Holy Mother, Father Peyton vowed to Mary that he would promote the rosary all his life. A few years later, Father Patrick Peyton was ordained a priest. He was one of the first evangelizers to promote that families pray the rosary together. He coined the phrase, "The family that prays together, stays together." He founded the prayer movement called "Family Rosary Crusade". He held massive Rosary rallies all over the world. He died peacefully in 1992 holding a rosary in his hands. The cause for his sainthood began in 2001 and is considered a servant of God.

SAINT MOTHER TERESA



Mother Theresa was born in Macedonia on August 26th, 1910. Her real name is Agnes Gonxha, but when she became a nun, she took on the name Sister Theresa, after St. Theresa of the Little Flower Jesus. In her teens, Agnes became a member of a youth group in her local parish and because of her youth group leader she became interested in missionaries. When she was 18, she decided to follow God's call to be a Catholic missionary nun and joined an Irish order called the Sisters of Loretto, who did missionary work in India. In Calcutta, Mother Teresa taught geography and catechism at St. Mary's High School and later became a principal of that school. In 1946, she received a second calling from God. It was clear to her that God was asking her to leave the Sisters of Loreto and dedicate her life to work with the poorest of the poor, starting her own community of missionary nuns. In prayer, Jesus revealed to her his pain at the neglect of the poor. So Mother Teresa established the Missionaries of Charity, dedicated to the service of the poorest of the poor. She went to Calcutta and began to work in the slums. She visited families, cared for elderly abandoned people, orphaned children, people dying of hunger and even lepers. She started each day by receiving Jesus in the Eucharist and then went out, rosary in her hand, to serve Him in "the unwanted, the unloved, the uncared for." After some months, she was joined, one by one, by her former students. The group of nuns continued to grow and 1960- 1990 Mother Teresa, opened 600 houses in 123 countries where the Missionaries of Charity were serving the poorest of the poor. The news and media around the world began to notice the work she and her nuns were doing and in 1979 she was given the Nobel Peace Prize. She suffered with heart problems as she got older and September 5th, 1997 Mother Theresa's earthly life came to an end. She was beatified by her friend, Pope John Paul II on October 19th, 2003. Pope John Paul II said " She was one of the most important figures of our time...a humble gospel messenger and in love with God."



FR WALTER CIZEK

Walter was born on Nov 4, 1904 in PA. His parents were polish immigrants. When he was growing up he was not always well behaved and belonged to gangs. In 1928 he shocked his family by announcing he wanted to be a priest and he entered the Jesuit seminary in New York. In 1929, he volunteered to be a missionary in Russia. At that time, many religious rights were not allowed and catholics did not have priests available, so he wanted to help. So Walter went to Rome to learn theology and Russian. He was ordained a priest and then he was sent to a mission in eastern Poland. With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the Soviet Union occupied Poland and Fr Cizek was forced to move. He saw the opportunity to flee to Russia with thousands of other people, giving him the opportunity to reach the catholics in Russia. So he entered Russia, under the disguise of a logger, while administering the sacraments and priestly duties secretly. In 1941, Fr Cizek was arrested because they thought he was a spy for the Vatican and he was put in prison in Moscow. He was there for 5 years, mostly in solitary confinement and he was tortured. He was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in the Siberian work camps. He worked in coal mines for over 10 years. During his imprisonment he prayed, celebrated the liturgy, heard confessions and even gave retreats to other prisoners. After his 10 year sentence was complete, he was ordered by the KGB to live in different cities in Russia until he finally was traded to the US in exchange for 2 Soviet agents. After he returned to the US he was a professor in Fordham University until he died on Dec. 8th, 1984 in PA.