

MINIATURE
STORIES *of the* SAINTS



BOOK ONE

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BOOK ONE



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Saint Aloysius

GONZAGA

Aloysius was the son of a very famous and noble family.

They expected him to make a name for himself in the world.

Instead, he promised God he would never marry. He asked to love God and Our Lady alone.

When he was very young, he became a Jesuit. From the very start, he was as holy as he could be. He kept his soul as pure as the whitest snow.

He loved Mary with all his heart. He stayed for hours on his knees before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

But he was a brave young man. When a terrible sickness came over the city, Aloysius went out to care for the sick. Once he brought home a very sick old man and nursed him in his own bed.

He wanted very much to be a priest.

But God wanted to show young people that even the very young can be saints. So he took Aloysius early with him to Heaven.

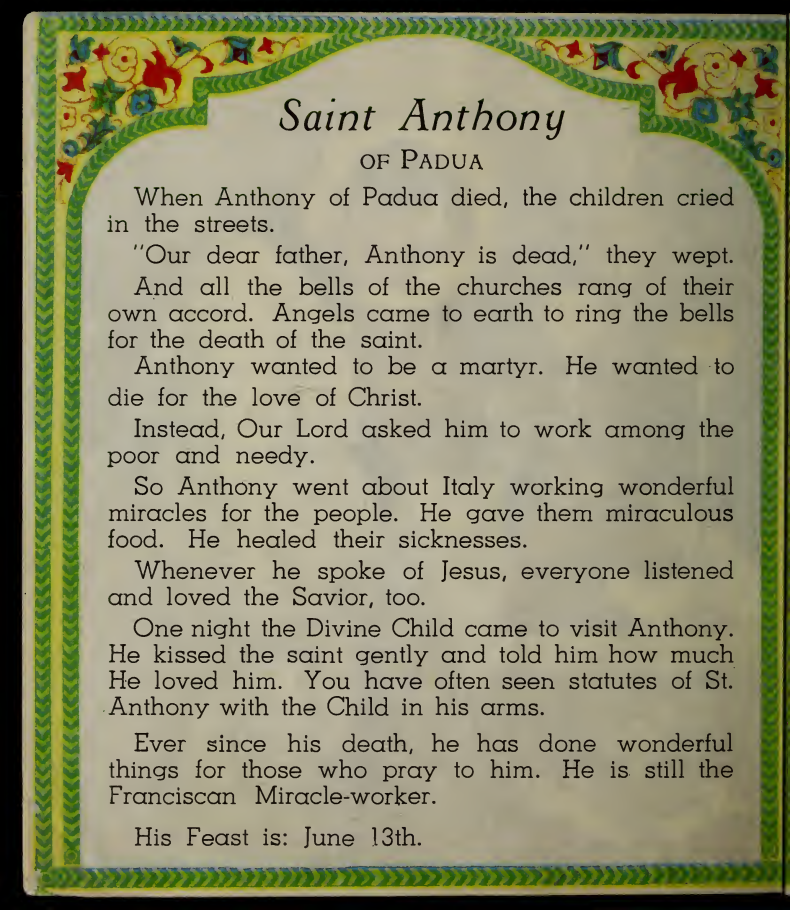
He is the special patron of boys and girls.

Boys and girls can all study as hard as he did. They can love Christ and Mary with all their hearts.

But most of all, they can be very pure.

His Feast is: June 21st.





Saint Anthony

OF PADUA

When Anthony of Padua died, the children cried in the streets.

"Our dear father, Anthony is dead," they wept.

And all the bells of the churches rang of their own accord. Angels came to earth to ring the bells for the death of the saint.

Anthony wanted to be a martyr. He wanted to die for the love of Christ.

Instead, Our Lord asked him to work among the poor and needy.

So Anthony went about Italy working wonderful miracles for the people. He gave them miraculous food. He healed their sicknesses.

Whenever he spoke of Jesus, everyone listened and loved the Savior, too.

One night the Divine Child came to visit Anthony. He kissed the saint gently and told him how much He loved him. You have often seen statues of St. Anthony with the Child in his arms.

Ever since his death, he has done wonderful things for those who pray to him. He is still the Franciscan Miracle-worker.

His Feast is: June 13th.



Saint Bernard

OF CLAIRVAUX

When Bernard went to be a monk and a priest, thirty of his young friends went with him.

Later on, his father became a priest. And all his brothers joined him in his monastery. He had only one sister. At first she was very gay and vain. But soon she became a nun, too.

That all showed how people loved Bernard and followed him.

He built a great monastery in a valley called Clairvaux. It was so strict people said, "No one will join." Instead, hundreds of brave young men came.

The Turks, who hated Christians, were very strong and had great armies. Bernard taught soldiers how to be fine pure knights. They became the Knights of the Temple.

He led the Christian armies to fight against the Turks. He carried only a crucifix.

But most of all, he loved Christ and Our Lady. As a boy as a great priest, even in the army, he wrote beautiful songs to them. Some of them we sing to this day.

His Feast is: August 20th.



Saint Charles

BORROMEO

Charles Borromeo was a rich Italian young man. His family was noble. His uncle was Pope Pius IV.

But more than anything, Charles wanted to be a good priest.

At that time the Protestant churches had just begun. They did not believe in the Mass or the Blessed Sacrament.

Besides, because of war and disease, Italy badly needed good priests and fine Catholics.

So Charles became a priest. The Pope made him a Bishop very young. At once he worked hard for the poor. He took care of the sick in their own homes. When he preached, thousands came to hear him.

But often he sat by the road and taught one poor man his prayers.

He loved the Church because Christ loved it. He brought thousands back to Mass and Holy Communion. He built fine seminaries for priests, and schools for children.

In the end, a terrible sickness came to Milan, his city. Charles nursed the sick himself. He laid them on his own bed.

He died of the sickness, a martyr of charity.

His Feast is: November 4th.



Saint Francis

OF ASSISI

Many people say that St. Francis was the man who was most like Our Lord.

He saw how money makes many people bad and proud. So he wanted to be as poor as Our Lord was.

He used to say, "I am married to Lady Poverty."

Far in the East are men called Moslems. They do not believe in Jesus Christ. So Francis went to visit them. And though they hated other Christians, they listened to Francis. They thought Jesus must be very fine, because Francis, His friend, was so good.

Once when Francis was praying a wonderful thing happened. God placed in his hands and feet the same marks that Our Lord carried after He was crucified. These are called Stigmata.

Francis preached about Jesus and Mary every where.

He built the first Christmas crib.

But so that everyone could hear about Our dear Lord, he gathered men and women to work with him. They worked among the poor people. They taught them how happy it is to be good.

They are called the Franciscans.

His Feast is: October 3rd.





Saint George

MARTYR

George was a Roman soldier a long time ago. Most people then did not know Our Lord or love Him. But George's parents did.

Yet George became a soldier because he was brave and strong.

Now the wicked Roman Emperor began to kill the Christians. He ordered his soldiers to arrest and kill them too.

George refused to do this.

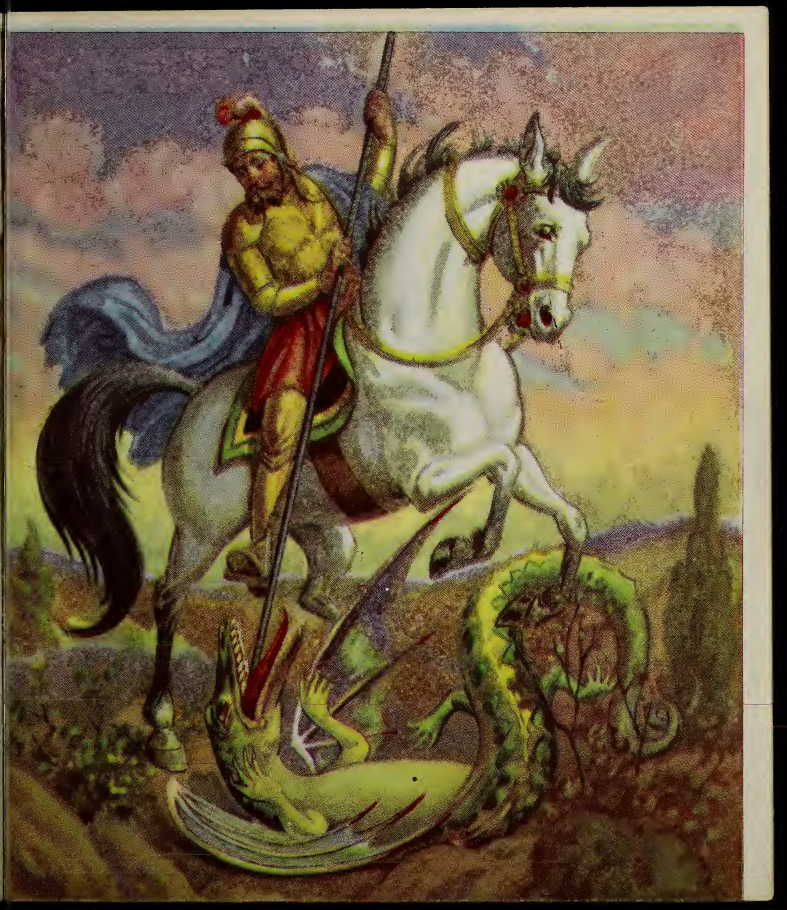
Instead, he told the Emperor that everyone should believe in Jesus Christ and follow him.

The Emperor was furious. He threw the young soldier into prison. He killed him most painfully. And George was happy to be a Martyr for Christ.

Soldiers always remember and love young Colonel George. They know he hated and fought evil. So they have always sung songs about him and how he slew the great dragon of sin and evil and cowardice.

George is the patron of all brave men. He is the favorite saint of England.

His Feast is: April 23rd.



Saint Henry

EMPEROR

When Duke Henry of Bavaria was very young, he had a dream. His patron saint appeared to him and showed him the words, "After six."

The young man thought this meant he would die after six years. So he prepared for death. He lived like a saint.

Instead, after six years, he was chosen German emperor. But because for six years he had lived like a saint, he was a holy and great emperor.

He determined to rule for the glory of God and the good of his people. First he helped convert to Christ the nations near him who did not believe in the Savior.

A wicked man had driven the Pope from Rome. He was sitting on the Pope's own chair. Henry led his army against this bad man, beat him, and brought the Holy Father back to Rome.

Whenever he entered the city, his first visit was always to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Once Christ rewarded him wonderfully. Henry saw Jesus Himself say Mass in a great church in Rome.

Both Henry and his wife, Cunegunda, became great saints.

His Feast is: July 15th.



Saint James

THE GREATER

James was one of the three Apostles Jesus kept nearest to Him.

The other two were Peter and John.

Like so many of the Apostles, James was a fisherman.

He followed Our Lord up the mountain when His face became bright as the Sun.

He was in the room when Jesus brought the little dead girl back to life.

When our dear Lord suffered the Agony in the Garden, James was near Him.

He had a fierce temper which he conquered with difficulty. But he had great faith and preached powerfully. So he was called the Son of Thunder.

After Our Lord ascended into Heaven, James bravely went around telling everyone about the Savior.

King Herod was angry. He cried, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ?"

"Indeed I do," James answered at once.

So the soldiers cut off his head with a sword, and he died a martyr.

His Feast is: July 25th.



Saint John

THE BELOVED APOSTLE

John was a young fisherman in the Holy Land.

One day, our dear Lord said to him, "Come and follow Me." Quickly he left family, boat, everything, and became an Apostle.

He saw Our Lord heal the sick and raise the dead. He heard the wonderful things Our Lord taught. He loved Jesus very much.

He sat next to Jesus the night when He gave His Apostles their First Communion.

Then when the other Apostles ran away from Calvary, John stayed on beside Mary. And Jesus gave this young man Mary for his Mother.

He became a great bishop. He wrote the Fourth Gospel and beautiful letters.

He took care of Mary after Jesus ascended into Heaven.

The Romans tried to kill him by boiling him in oil. But Jesus protected him. He was not even hurt.

Because he was very pure, Jesus loved him best of all the Apostles.

His Feast is: December 27th.



Saint Joseph

Joseph was a poor carpenter of Nazareth.

Yet he came from the royal family of David. And he was pure and good and hard working.

God knew He could trust Joseph, so He chose him for a most important task. He became the husband of Mary and the Foster Father of Our Lord.

So he protected Mary on the way to Bethlehem. He was present on the first Christmas. He led Mary and Jesus safely into Egypt when Herod was trying to kill the Child.

Later he worked for them. He made them a sweet little home. He earned money to give them their food and clothing.

When Jesus was a big boy, Joseph taught Him the carpenter's trade.

Joseph did not live to see Jesus become great and famous. Instead he died happily with Mary at his bedside, and Jesus blessing him.

He worked very hard to make life safe and happy for Jesus and Mary.

So Jesus has made him the Protector of the Whole Church.

His Feast is: March 19th.



Saint Lawrence

MARTYR

Lawrence was a fine young Roman.

He was chosen a deacon. That meant that it was his work to care for the sick and the poor.

But the Romans thought he was the treasurer of the Church.

So they took him prisoner. "Show us the treasures of the Church," they cried.

Lawrence had a great sense of humor.

"Gladly," he answered.

The Romans hurried after him, expecting to find gold and precious stones. Instead, he led them to the hospital where the poor and the sick lived.

"Here are the treasures of the Church," he cried. They were furious. But Lawrence knew how God loves the poor and needy.

In the end, the Romans put him to death. They laid him on a gridiron over a fire. But even there, Lawrence could joke.

"Turn me over," he cried, as the fire burned, "for I think I am done on this side."

Even in his pain, God gave Lawrence deep happiness.

His Feast is: August 10th.



Saint Martin

BISHOP

The father and mother of Martin did not believe in God.

So when Martin wanted to become a Christian, they wouldn't let him. Instead, his father put him into the army when he was only fifteen.

Martin was a good soldier. Though most of the soldiers were not Christians, he loved Our Lord.

One winter night, Martin met a poor beggar, freezing in the snow. Martin had no money, so he took his sword, cut his cloak in half and gave one half to the beggar.

That night, Our Lord came to him wearing the half cloak. He heard Jesus say to the angels, "Look; though Martin is not yet baptized, he gave Me his garment."

So Martin became a Christian and converted his parents too.

Because he was brave and strong, the people asked him to stop being a soldier and become their bishop. He did. He is one of the great apostles of France.

His Feast is: November 11th.



Saint Michael

ARCHANGEL

St. Michael is one of the Archangels. He is a warrior of God.

Once on a time long ago, the bad angels made war in Heaven. They cried, "We will not serve!" They raised the red flag. They tried to drive God from the Heavenly City.

But Michael led the armies of the good angels. He drove out the evil army. He knelt before God and cried that God was his only King.

So God made him the General of His armies.

All through history, Michael has fought the battle of God.

He is the Devil's strong enemy. He is the friend and protector of all those who love God and follow Jesus Christ.

He protected the Chosen People, the Jews, in their wars against their enemies. He is always on the side that is right and good.

In the end of the world, a bad man named Antichrist will come. He will make war on Christ and the good people. But Michael and his army will drive him from the world.

That is why we pray after Mass, "St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle."

His Feast is: September 29th.



Saint Patrick

OF IRELAND

Patrick's name was a very noble one. It was taken from a Latin name that meant "a nobleman."

Everyone loves Patrick, so many countries say he was born there. But wherever he was born, he became the friend of all and the Apostle of Ireland.

The Irish in those days did not know about Jesus and Mary. Patrick felt very sorry for them.

He studied hard, and became a priest and a bishop.

The Pope sent him to Ireland to make it Catholic. The people of Ireland welcomed him with joy. The kings sat and listened to him. All the soldiers and colleens asked to be baptized.

He taught them about the Blessed Trinity by showing them how the shamrock had three leaves yet was one plant.

He drove all evils out of Ireland as if they were snakes.

Soon he built churches and schools everywhere. And St. Brigid worked for the women while St. Patrick worked for the men.

Since St. Patrick's time, the Irish have carried the love of Jesus and Mary all over the world. That's why everyone loves St. Patrick and keeps his feast day.

His Feast is: March 17th.



Saint Paul

APOSTLE

At first his name was Saul. He hated Jesus Christ and all who believed in Him.

He helped the men who killed St. Stephen, the first martyr.

Next he got an order from the judges to arrest Christians everywhere and put them to death.

But as he rode away to do this, a light struck him from his horse. The voice of Jesus called him. Saul was deeply sorry. He believed in Jesus Christ. He became one of His greatest Apostles.

He travelled on land and sea to tell people about Our Lord. He taught the simple. He talked to the learned. He was shipwrecked. He was thrown into prison. But nothing stopped him from preaching Christ and His Cross.

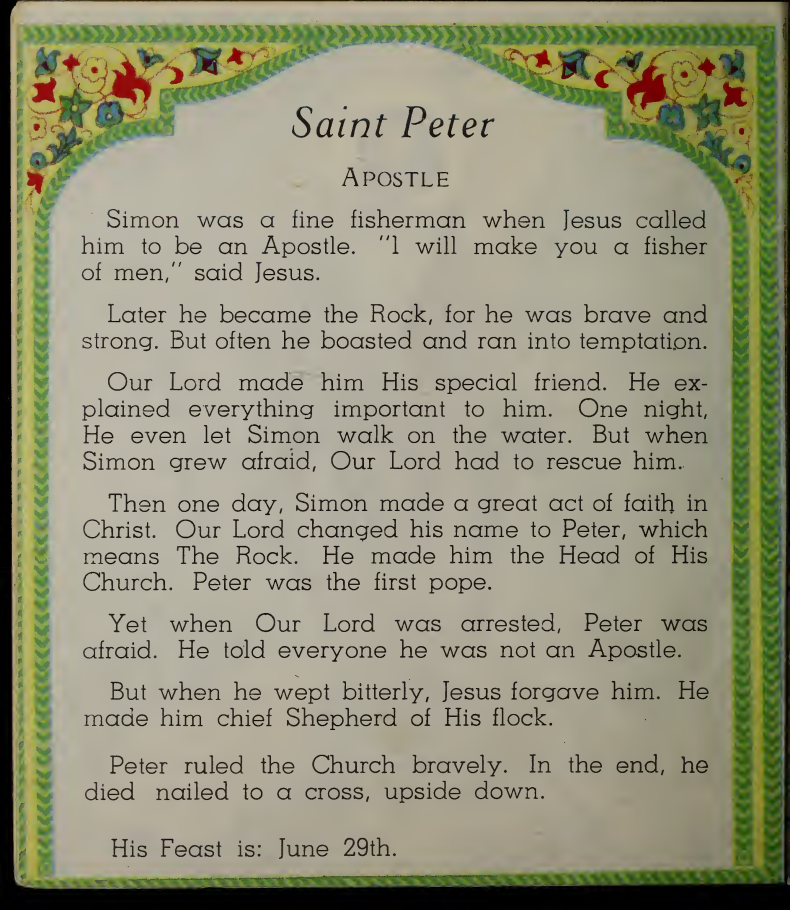
Thousands believed in Jesus because of this great man. God changed his name to Paul. He wrote beautiful letters called Epistles.

In the end, he was killed with St. Peter in Rome.

St. Peter and Paul are both buried in the great Church of St. Peter.

His Feast is: June 30th.





Saint Peter

APOSTLE

Simon was a fine fisherman when Jesus called him to be an Apostle. "I will make you a fisher of men," said Jesus.

Later he became the Rock, for he was brave and strong. But often he boasted and ran into temptation.

Our Lord made him His special friend. He explained everything important to him. One night, He even let Simon walk on the water. But when Simon grew afraid, Our Lord had to rescue him.

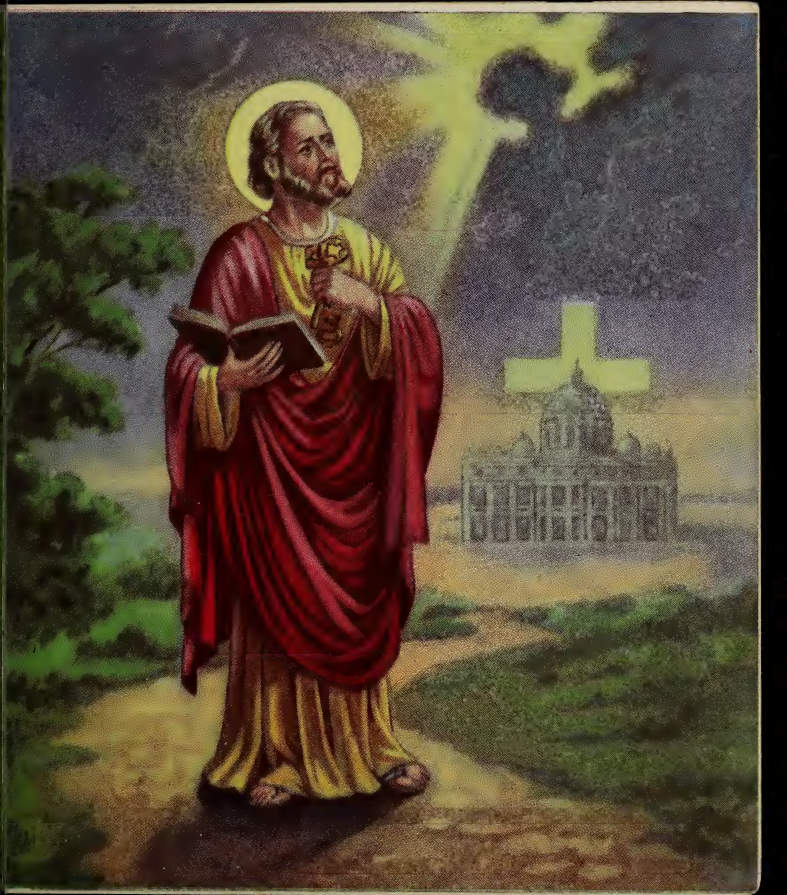
Then one day, Simon made a great act of faith in Christ. Our Lord changed his name to Peter, which means The Rock. He made him the Head of His Church. Peter was the first pope.

Yet when Our Lord was arrested, Peter was afraid. He told everyone he was not an Apostle.

But when he wept bitterly, Jesus forgave him. He made him chief Shepherd of His flock.

Peter ruled the Church bravely. In the end, he died nailed to a cross, upside down.

His Feast is: June 29th.



Saint Thomas

AQUINAS

Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican priest.

His family did not want him to be a priest. They tried very hard to stop him. But he longed to say mass and preach. In the end, he won.

Thomas became a great student. He learned to know all about Our Lord and His teachings. Young people came from all over the world to listen to his classes.

He wrote a wonderful book called the Summa.

Priests and wise men still study it today.

But he also wrote beautiful poetry and hymns. The hymns you sing at Benediction were written by Thomas.

One day Our Lord, hanging on the cross, said to Thomas: "You have written well about Me, Thomas. What reward do you wish?"

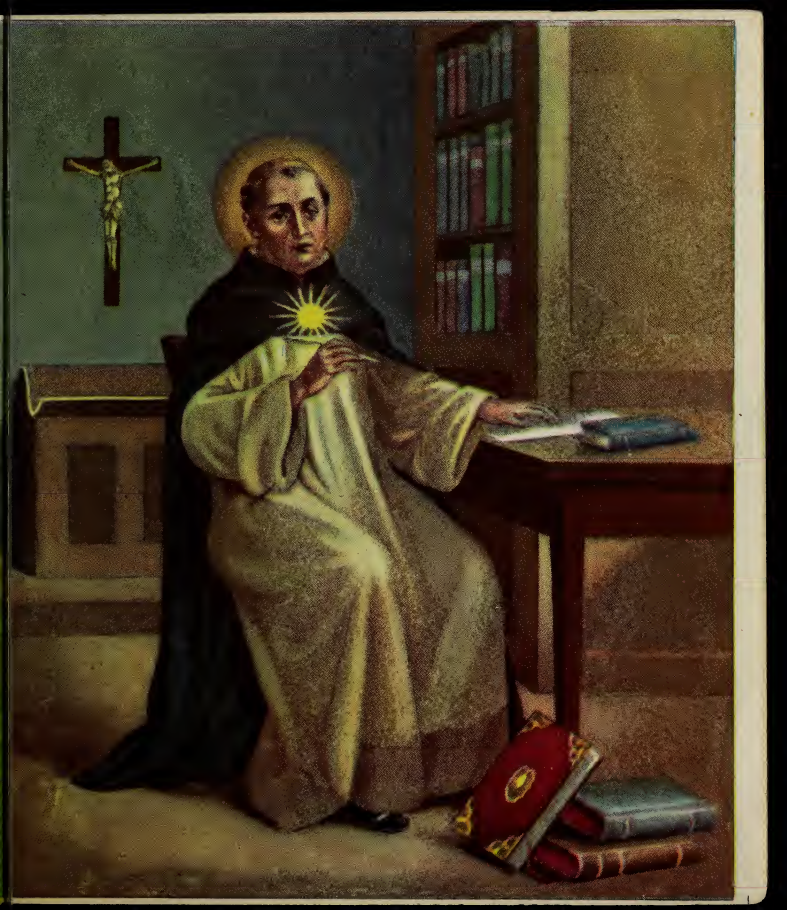
"Only yourself," answered the saint.

He knew that if he had Jesus, he had everything.

Millions of people still read the books and sing the hymns of this saint.

The Church calls him the Teacher who was like an Angel.

His Feast is: March 7th.



Saint Vincent

DE PAUL

Vincent de Paul was a very holy priest.

He remembered how Our Lord loved the poor and worked for them.

So he did all he could to make life sweet and easy for them.

He gave them whatever money he had. He carried the poor sick home and took care of them in his own house. When he found poor children, he gave them food, clothing, toys, and his love.

But always he told them about Jesus Christ. He told them that the Savior was poor too, and loved the poor most of all.

Once he was captured by pirates and carried away to sea.

But he made the pirate himself love Jesus Christ and became a Catholic.

To help him work for the poor, he gathered fine men and women about him. They continued his work after he died.

The men are called Priests of the Mission.

The women are the Sisters of Charity who do so much for the poor.

His Feast is: July 19th.



Saint William

ARCHBISHOP

William was a rich young man. He was sent to fine schools. Everyone expected him to lead an exciting, successful life.

Instead, he wanted to follow Our Lord very closely. If Jesus worked hard, he wanted to work hard too. If Jesus was poor, he preferred to be poor. Since Jesus was busy about His Father's business, young William wished this for himself.

So he became a priest when he was very young. He studied hard. He prayed well. And when he preached, people loved to listen.

But even this was not enough. He joined the poorest and hardest order of monks, called Cistercians.

He loved the prayer, peace, and quiet there. Yet the people wanted him back to care for them.

So the Pope made him Archbishop of Bourges. He did not want the honor but he obeyed the Holy Father.

William never ate meat, though he gave it to his guests and the poor. He spent no money on himself, but all on the church, the school, and the needy.

When he died, all the people followed his body to the grave, weeping.

His Feast is: January 10th.



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