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Saint Lucy Filippini

March 25

THE name Lucy means "light." And Lucy Filippini worked tirelessly all her life to bring the light of Christ to others.

Lucy was born in 1672 in Tarquinia, about sixty miles from Rome. Her parents died shortly after her birth.

Even while quite young, Lucy was drawn to a life of prayer and always showed concern for others. These qualities brought her to the attention of Cardinal Barbarigo.

The Cardinal sent her to Montefiascone to work under Blessed Rose Venerini who founded a school to train new teachers.

There Lucy began her life's work devoted entirely to Christian education. She started many new schools. And support was never lacking because people admired her modesty, charity, and deep spirituality.

In 1707, at the request of Pope Clement IX she founded several schools in Rome, which prospered because of her zeal and enthusiasm.

Lucy died a saintly death on March 25, 1732, the exact day she had predicted.

Saint Winifred

November 3

VERY few Saints have two feast days during the year. In Wales Winifred's martyrdom is celebrated on June 22 and her death on November 3.

Winifred lived in Wales in the seventh century. Her uncle Saint Beuno helped to nourish her desire to lead a life of virtue and holiness.

According to legend, a chieftain named Caradog became enraged when Winifred spurned his advances. As she tried to flee, he seized her and cut off her head.

Then Saint Beuno implored God to restore Winifred's life and his prayer was answered.

Winifred later became a nun and then abbess at the convent of Gwytherin. Fifteen years after her miraculous restoration to life she died around 650.

When Winifred was martyred, at the place where her head fell, a spring gushed forth. This was called Holy Well. It became a favorite site for pilgrimage where many cures have been reported over the centuries.

Devotion to Saint Winifred grew rapidly. And six ancient churches in Wales were dedicated to her.