

ILLUSTRATED
LIVES OF THE SAINTS
II

FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

**In Accord with the Norms and Principles of
the New *Roman Martyrology* (2004 Edition)**

**Companion Volume to
*Illustrated Lives of the Saints***

By
Rev. Thomas J. Donaghy

Illustrated



CATHOLIC BOOK PUBLISHING CORP.
New Jersey

NIHIL OBSTAT: Rev. Msgr. James M. Cafone, M.A., S.T.D.
Censor Librorum

IMPRIMATUR: ✠ Most Rev. John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D.
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SISTER MARY HENRY O'CONNELL, S.H.C.J.
devoted daughter of
VENERABLE CORNELIA CONNELLY

(T-865)

© 2006, 1998, 1992 by *Catholic Book Publishing Corp.*, N.J.

Printed in China

ISBN 978-0-89942-948-9

www.catholicbookpublishing.com

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

PREFACE

THIS new book of short biographies of the Saints is a companion to the best-selling volume *Lives of the Saints* originally written by Father Hugo Hoever, S.O.Cist. whose latest revision appeared in 2005. Father Hoever's book includes all the Saints who appear in the official post-Vatican II liturgical calendar for the Universal Church and for the United States.

Over the years, readers have asked for the biographies of other Saints who do not form part of that calendar. Accordingly, this companion book contains a new series of saintly men and women for each day of the year—many of them newly canonized or beatified by the latest Popes. Other Saints given are taken from the 2004 Edition of the *Roman Martyrology*.

The dates assigned to the Saints are those given for them in the *Martyrology*. Most of the Saints are assigned to the date of their death, their birthday into heaven. If this fact is not known, they are given the traditional date on which their feast was celebrated. The ultimate source for the data of many of the early Saints is *Butler's Lives of Saints* (1756-1759).

A diligent attempt has been made to include in this selection of Saints a wider circle of persons—lay as well as clergy, women as well as men. In this way, a greater range of people, vocations, and

virtues is offered to today's Christians for edification and imitation.

A new feature of this volume is the *Reflection* at the end of each biographical entry. This addition is intended to make it easier for readers to recall and emulate one of the outstanding characteristics of each Saint.

After the *Reflection*, there is a *Prayer* patterned after the official liturgical prayers of the Church. This feature enables readers to ask God's help in imitating the Saint who is in the final analysis an imitator of Christ, the crown of all Saints.

Inserted throughout the book are over sixty new inspiring illustrations of Saints. They are an invaluable aid to our readers in getting to know, love, and imitate the Saints.

By becoming familiar with the Saints, we cannot help but arrive at a fuller, deeper, and more practical knowledge of Jesus—a knowledge of Him as He is coupled with the desire to follow Him. In turn, this knowledge of our Lord is a knowledge also of God the Father: "If you had known Me, you would also have known My Father" (John 14:7).

It is this knowledge of God the Father and the Son that is the fulfillment of every Christian's life—the beginning as well as the end of everlasting life: "Now this is everlasting life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Him Whom You have sent, Jesus Christ" (John 17:3).

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PRAYER *Father in Heaven, as we await the Second Coming of Your Son, You bid us draw closer to You in prayer, virtue, and good works. Through the intercession of St. Simeon Stylites the Younger, grant us the grace always to keep in mind our personal salvation and the evangelization of others through well-lived lives. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT, Virgin

May 25

MADELEINE Sophie Barat was born on December 12, 1779, at Joigny in Burgundy, France. Her older brother, who was studying for the priesthood, saw to Madeleine's early education and discipline. Since she was a very attractive young lady, her priest-brother was afraid that she would be led astray, and thus he moved her to Paris where he lived.

Since she had great interest in the Christian education of young ladies, on November 21, 1800, Madeleine entered religious life, and one year later she went to Amiens to found the first school and convent of her new congregation of nuns, the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was appointed superioress at the age of twenty-three and she held that office for sixty-three years.

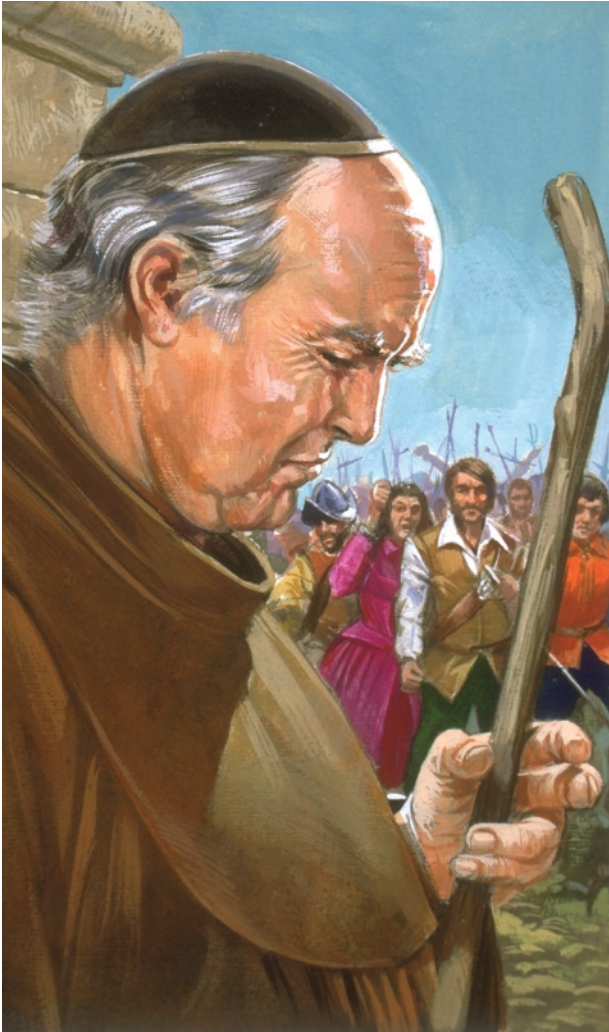
Many other branches continued to open, and in 1818, Rose-Phillippine Duchesne was sent

with four companions to work in North America. In 1826, with the approval of Pope Leo XII, the Society of the Sacred Heart was formally established.

Madeleine died on May 25, 1865, at the age of eighty-six. She was canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI.

REFLECTION Although possessed of great natural beauty and a multiplicity of talents, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat responded to the call for the Christian education of youth. She gathered a small group to begin the religious life, and in a short time she was appointed superior of the fledgling organization. Under her very capable leadership, Madeleine's congregation opened foundations in twelve countries on two continents, and she continued in her office as superi-





ST. PETER OF ALCÁNTARA, Priest*October 18—Patron of Brazil*

PETER was born at Alcántara, a small town in Estremadura, Spain, in 1499. Like that of most of the Saints, his childhood was virtuous. After studying Philosophy at home and Canon Law at Salamanca, he resolved to enter religion. At sixteen years of age he received the habit of the Franciscans in the solitary convent of Manjarez.

From the beginning of his religious life his characteristic virtue, mortification, manifested itself. About three years after his profession, though he was but twenty years old, he became superior of a small convent at Badajoz, and at the expiration of his term he was promoted to the priesthood, in 1524, and soon after was employed in preaching. His greatest delight was solitude, and he obtained permission of his superiors to take up his abode in the convent of St. Onuphrius, situated in a most remote locality.

In 1538, he became provincial of the province of St. Gabriel in Estremadura, and upon the expiration of his term, in 1541, he went to Lisbon to join Father Martin, who was laying the foundation of an austere reformation of the Order. In 1555, he began a reformation of his own, which was characterized by its extraordinary rigor, and which bears the name Strictest Observance. The following year he was appointed commissary of his Order in Spain, and in 1561 he was chosen provincial of his reformed Order.

Two years previously, while making the visitation of some of his monasteries at Avila, he met St. Teresa, who was then suffering much in endeavoring to reform her own Order. He rendered her great assistance by his encouragement and advice. St. Peter was then approaching the end of his career, for he died soon after in his convent of Arenas, in 1562.

Peter was canonized by Pope Clement IX in 1669 and was declared Patron of Brazil by Pope Pius IX in 1862.

REFLECTION The life of St. Peter of Alcántara is a providential reminder that one of the essential elements of any spirituality is a spirit of penance and austerity. Such austerity aims to root out those characteristics that are opposed to the essentials of a virtuous life.

PRAYER *O God, Your servant St. Peter of Alcántara has shown us how to suppress our personal desires so that Your presence to us might grow more and more. Through his intercession, may we always strive to be faithful to his good example. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



ST. AQUILINUS, Bishop of Evreux

October 19

ST. Aquilinus was born about 620 in Bayeux, France, and was part of the courts and wars of Clovis II. On coming back from a battle