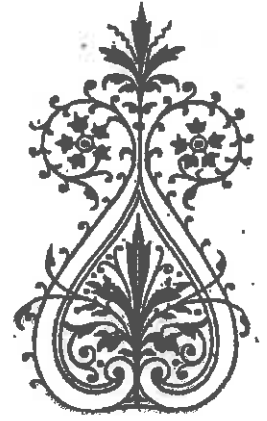


Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

July 8th, 2018

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Month of the Most Precious Blood

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Wednesday, July 11th – Feast of St. Benedict, Abbot & Patron of Europe

In some ways, the sixth century was a lot like the twenty-first century. People were afraid of strangers. The rich didn't speak to the poor. People within the same social class competed with one another for status by showing off their wealth and possessions. St. Benedict taught people a way to use prayer and Christlike attitudes to get over their fear and mistrust of each other.

Benedict was born in 480 to a noble family of northern Italy, in the town of Nursia. The Roman Empire was breaking apart. Invading tribes from beyond its borders had been taking over the land and looting cities. Many people lived with no thought of the future.

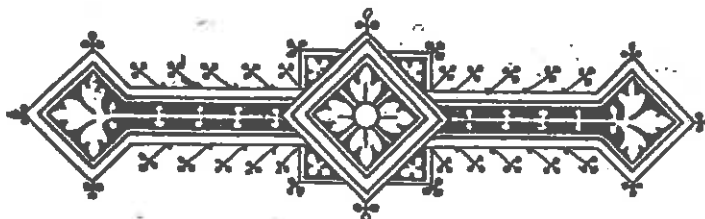
In those years people who wanted to be close to God often gave up society all together. They would find an isolated place and spend the rest of their lives there. So at age 20, for three years Benedict became a hermit. He lived in a cave on a high cliff that was almost impossible to get to. Over that time people heard about Benedict and many came to join him.

Around the year 530, Benedict founded a monastery called Monte Cassino. Everyone in the community lived under one roof. To help them, Benedict wrote a common-sense guide called the Rule of Life. It divided the day into times of prayer, study, work and rest. His famous motto was "Ora et labora," Pray and work. St. Scholastica, Benedict's sister, settled nearby and formed the first community of women to use Benedict's rule.

In these communities, everyone worked and no one kept personal possessions. This helped to prevent envy and pride. Benedict encouraged a spirit of generous forgiveness. This generosity was extended to strangers and the needy. Every visitor to the abbey was treated like Christ. No one was ever turned away. Hospitality is still a trademark of Benedictine communities around the world.

St. Benedict spent his life leading his monks, counseling visitors to the abbey and caring for the sick who lived nearby. When he died in 547, he was buried with Scholastica at Monte Cassino.

Benedictine monks and nuns would later be given credit for preserving European civilization during the Middle Ages. Because of this, St. Benedict has been named the patron saint of Europe by Pope Paul VI in 1966.



Friday, July 13th – Feast of St. Henry

St. Henry's father and mother were the duke and duchess of Bavaria. Henry was the eldest of four brothers and sisters. His brother Bruno became the bishop of Augsburg. His sister Gisella married Stephen of Hungary and his sister Brigid became abbess of the monastery of St. Paul in Regensburg.

When he became emperor of Germany in 1002, Henry prayed for humility. His prayers must have been answered because he lived his whole life surrounded by wealth and honors without becoming self-centered. Henry took his job seriously and worked hard. Because of that, he was able to establish peace and order in an empire that had been neglected before he came into power.

In time Henry was crowned Holy Roman Emperor. He ruled a large portion of Europe and traveled constantly, staying at monasteries that he helped to fund. The monasteries were an important way to provide for the local people, because the monks went out to the neighborhoods to tend the sick and needy. Each time Henry entered a new city he spent the first evening of his visit in a prayer vigil.

Like all rulers, Henry made some unwise decisions. For instance, Henry equipped his bishops with land and power as if they were kings. Over time both the church and the state suffered as a result. The confusion of roles became one cause of the Protestant Reformation.

Henry and his wife, Kunegunda of Luxemburg, who also has been named a saint, are buried in the cathedral of Bamberg, which they helped to build. After Henry's death in 1024 at age 51, she became a Benedictine nun. They had no children together.

Friday, July 14th – Feast of Saint Kateri Tekawitha

Kateri Tekawitha is a classic example of the student who taught her teachers. The French who explored the Mohawk nation where she lived thought that her people were uncivilized. Yet in her short life Kateri lived out a strong example of the Christian way of life. Soon after her death Europeans were making pilgrimages to her tomb, hoping to learn from her example.

Kateri was born in what is now upstate New York. Her father was chief of the Turtle clan of Mohawks. Her mother, an Algonquin, was a Christian. When Kateri was four, her family was killed by smallpox. The deadly disease left Kateri, the only survivor, with a scarred face and weakened eyesight. Her name, Tekawitha, means "one who feels her way along." She was taken to live with her uncle, who became the new chief.

Kateri was respected in her community for her many skills. She was especially talented at sewing beautiful beadwork. When she was 11 years old, some "black robes" visited her uncle's lodge at Kanawake on the Mohawk River. ("Black robe" was the Indian name for a Jesuit missionary.) Their stories of Jesus reminded her of the stories her mother had told her long before.

By the time she was 17, the age when Mohawk girls marry, Kateri had decided to become a Christian. She knew this decision would not be well understood by her relatives. People who called themselves Christians had burned Native American villages and had spread diseases like smallpox that had killed Kateri's family.

Kateri was baptized on Easter Sunday of 1676. She was named for the martyr St. Catherine of Alexandria. Her uncle, who was fond of her, supported her decision, but her aunts were very angry. She fled to a Christian settlement near Montreal. There she spent the last few years of her life.

At the settlement, Kateri continued to do bead work and other tasks. She cared for the children of the community, tended the sick, and spent many hours in prayer. Her health began to fail, though, and by the winter of her 24th year, Kateri was so weak that she had to be carried to church on a sled. Soon she was unable to leave home at all. She had the children of the settlement gather in her cabin so that she could tell them Mohawk legends and stories from scripture.

When she knew she was dying, she promised a friend, "I will love you in heaven." Her funeral was held on Holy Thursday, amid the mourning of her community. She is the first Native American and the first American layperson to be so honored.

Novena to Our Lady of the Scapular

First Day – July 8th

O Beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, holy and singular, who brought forth the Son of God, still ever remaining a pure virgin, assist us in our necessity! O Star of the Sea, help and protect us! Show us that you are our Mother!

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.

Second Day – July 9th

Most Holy Mary, Our Mother, in your great love for us you gave us the Holy Scapular of Mount Carmel, having heard the prayers of your chosen son, Saint Simon Stock. Help us now to wear it faithfully and with devotion. May it be a sign to us of our desire to grow in holiness.

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.

Third Day – July 10th

O Queen of Heaven, you gave us the Scapular as an outward sign by which we might be known as your faithful children. May we always wear it with honor by avoiding sin and imitating your virtues. Help us to be faithful to this desire of ours.

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.

Fourth Day – July 11th

When you gave us, Gracious Lady, the Scapular as our Habit, you called us to be not only servants, but also your own children. We ask you to gain for us from your Son the grace to live as your children in joy, peace and love.

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.

Fifth Day – July 12th

O Mother of Fair Love, through your goodness, as your children, we are called to live in the spirit of Carmel. Help us to live in charity with one another, prayerful as Elijah of old, and mindful of our call to minister to God's people.

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.

Sixth Day – July 13th

With loving provident care, O Mother Most Amiable, you covered us with your scapular as a shield of defense against the Evil One. Through your assistance, may we bravely struggle against the powers of evil, always open to your Son Jesus Christ.

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.

Seventh Day – July 14th

O Mary, Help of Christians, you assured us that wearing your Scapular worthily would keep us safe from harm. Protect us in both body and soul with your continual aid. May all that we do be pleasing to your Son and to you.

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.

Eighth Day – July 15th

You give us hope, O Mother of Mercy, that through your Scapular promise we might quickly pass through the fires of purgatory to the Kingdom of your Son. Be our comfort and our hope. Grant that our hope may not be in vain but that, ever faithful to your Son and to you we may speedily enjoy after death the blessed company of Jesus and the saints.

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.

V. Our Lady of the Scapular, Hope of the Despairing.

R. Intercede for us with thy Divine Son.

Let us pray.

Our Lady of the Scapular, glorious Queen of Angels, channel of God's tenderest mercy to humanity, refuge and advocate of sinners, with confidence I prostrate myself before thee, beseeching thee to obtain for me (mention your request here). In return I solemnly promise to have recourse to thee in all my trials, sufferings and temptations, and I shall do all in my power to induce others to love and reverence thee and to invoke thee in all their needs. I thank thee for the numberless blessings which I have received from thy mercy and powerful intercession. Continue to be my shield in danger, my guide in life, and my consolation at the hour of death. Amen.

Ninth Day – July 16th

O Most Holy Mother of Mount Carmel, when asked by a saint to grant privileges to the family of Carmel, you gave assurance of your Motherly love and help to those faithful to you and to your Son. Behold us, your children. We glory in wearing your holy habit, which makes us members of your family of Carmel, through which we shall have your powerful protection in life, at death and even after death. Look down with love, O Gate of Heaven, on all those now in their last agony! Look down graciously, O Virgin, Flower of Carmel, on all those in need of help! Look down mercifully, O Mother of our Savior, on all those who do not know that they are numbered among your children. Look down tenderly, O Queen of All Saints, on the poor souls!

(mention your request here)

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...

Our Lady of the Scapular, pray for us.