

DOMINICAN SAINTS OF AUGUST

Brief biographical notes

AUGUST 2

BLESSED JANE OF AZA MOTHER OF SAINT DOMINIC AND BLESSED MANNES OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

Blessed Jane was born of the prominent d'Aza family and married Felix de Guzman. Three of their children spent their lives in the service of the Church - Anthony, Mannes and Dominic. An early source describes her as "virtuous, chaste, prudent, and full of compassion for the poor and the afflicted; among all the women of the region she was outstanding for her good reputation." She died at Caleruega, Spain, at the beginning of the thirteenth century.

AUGUST 3

Blessed Augustine Kazotic FRIAR AND BISHOP

Blessed Augustine was born at Trogir in Dalmatia about 1260 and entered the Dominican Order at an early age. He completed his studies at the University of Paris and returned to his own country where he was regarded as an excellent preacher. In 1303 Blessed Benedict XI appointed him Bishop of Zagreb where he successfully restored order in the aftermath of the Tartars. In 1317 he was transferred to the See of Lucera, where he laboured to restore peace after the Moslem withdrawal and completely reformed the diocese. He died there on August 3, 1323.

AUGUST 5

OUR HOLY FATHER DOMINIC PRIEST SOLEMNITY



Dominic de Guzman was born at Caleruega, Spain, around 1172-1173. After completing his studies at Palencia, he was ordained a priest and became a Canon Regular in the Cathedral Chapter of Osma. While on a diplomatic mission with his bishop, Diego d'Azevedo, he experienced first hand the Albigensian heresy which was at that time widespread in southern France. From that time on he determined to dedicate his life to the ministry of preaching and to live a life of simplicity. Eventually he was supported in his work by a monastery of nuns at Prouille which he had directed from its foundation in 1206.

Convinced of the need for a group of trained preachers who would spread the truth of the gospel by their preaching and teaching and would live in apostolic poverty, in 1215 at Toulouse Dominic organised his fellow preachers into a new religious Order which was formally approved by Pope Honorius III on December 22, 1216. His own love of prayer and study, his zeal for the salvation of souls, and his belief in apostolic poverty became the foundation stones of his Order. On August 15, 1217, he dispersed this small band throughout Europe and from such beginnings the Order grew.

It was said of Saint Dominic that 'he either spoke with God or about God.' He died at Bologna on August 6, 1221. (Outside Australia / New Zealand, his feast is August 8.)

AUGUST 9
Blessed John of Salerno
FRIAR AND PRIEST

Blessed John was born in Salerno, Italy, around 1190 and was ordained a priest. While pursuing studies at the University of Bologna he was attracted to the Order by the preaching of Blessed Reginald. Saint Dominic himself received him and then sent him to Florence to establish the priory of Santa Maria Novella. He also established a monastery of Dominican nuns at the nearby city of Ripoli. He was an eloquent preacher and Pope Gregory IX commissioned him to deal with the heretical sect known as the Patarines. He died at Florence in 1242. From the Common of Pastors or the Common of Holy Men: for Religious, except for what is proper.

AUGUST 12
Blessed Thomas Jean-Georges Rehm, friar & priest
and his Companions, MARTYRS

Jean-Georges Rehm was born in 1752 at Katzenthal (Upper Rhine). At twenty years of age, he took the Dominican habit in the General Novitiate of Paris, taking the name "Brother Thomas". The following year he made profession as a son of the priory of Sélestat. In 1791, during the French Revolution, he refused the schismatic oath imposed on the clergy. The priory having been destroyed, Jean-Georges left for the département of La Meuthe, where he continued to preach the Catholic Faith. In 1793, the Revolutionary Committee sent him to prison at Nancy, and he was taken, with many others, to Rochfort, near La Rochelle, and was condemned to deportation.

From May to August, 1794, however, he remained a prisoner in a ship, and was exhausted by the appalling treatment which brought on his death on 11th August, 1794. He was one of a group of sixty-four French priests and religious beatified by Pope John Paul II on 1st October, 1995.

AUGUST 13
Blessed Aimo Taparelli
FRIAR AND PRIEST

Blessed Aimo of the noble Taparelli family was born at Savigliano in Piedmont, Italy, in 1395. He had been married before entering the Order and upon his reception was sent to study at the University of Turin where he later taught. Much of his life was devoted to preaching and in 1466 he was appointed inquisitor for Liguria and Lombardy, replacing Blessed Bartholomew Cerverio who had been martyred. For more than thirty years he carried out this difficult task with courage and skill. He died at Savigliano on August 15, 1495, in his one-hundredth year.

AUGUST 15
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
SOLEMNITY

On this solemnity we gratefully recall the intercession and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary over the Order which the liturgy can express in several ways: before Mass by a procession or solemn entrance,- at Mass by placing special emphasis on one of the moments of the eucharistic celebration,- in the Liturgy of the Hours by celebrating one of the hours in a more solemn manner or by choosing some of the special elements.

AUGUST 17
Saint Hyacinth of Poland
FRIAR AND PRIEST
MEMORIAL

Saint Hyacinth (Jacek) was born near Wroclaw (Breslau) in Upper Silesia, Poland, around 1185. He was ordained and became a canon of the cathedral of Krakow. On a journey to Rome in 1220 he was attracted to the Order by the holiness and preaching of Saint Dominic. In 1221 he was sent with Henry of Moravia to establish the Order in Poland. The priory of Krakow was established in 1222 and the Province of Poland in 1225. St. Hyacinth laboured many years in this region and established priories at Gdansk and at Kiel. Like so many saints of the Order he was devoted to Mary, the Mother of God. He died in Krakow on August 15, 1257.

AUGUST 18
Blessed Mannes
FRIAR, PRIEST AND BROTHER OF SAINT DOMINIC
OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

Blessed Mannes, an older brother of Saint Dominic, was born at Caleruega, Spain, about 1170. He was among his younger brother's first followers and later assisted in establishing the priory of Saint-Jacques at Paris in 1217. In 1219 he was entrusted with the care of the Dominican nuns at Madrid. According to an early source he was 'a contemplative and holy man, meek and humble, joyful and kind, and a zealous preacher. ' He died at the Cistercian monastery of San Pedro at Gamiel d'Izan near Caleruega about the year 1235.

AUGUST 19
Blessed Jordan of Pisa
FRIAR AND PRIEST

Blessed Jordan was born near Pisa around 1260 and entered the Order there. He served as lector in several houses of the Order and was known for his eloquent preaching throughout the region of Pisa and Florence. His preaching ministry was all the more remarkable in that he used the Tuscan dialect rather than the customary Latin. While he was on his way from Pisa to Paris, he fell ill at Piacenza and died August 19, 1311.

August 23
Saint Rose of Lima
LAY DOMINICAN AND VIRGIN MEMORIAL

Isabella Flores, commonly known as Rose, was born in Lima, Peru, in 1586, and became the first canonized saint of the Western Hemisphere. She made a vow of virginity at an early age and only with great difficulty overcame the objections and misunderstanding of her family to her way of life. At the age of twenty she became a Dominican Tertiary and lived in a hermitage which she had set up in her family's garden. She practised severe penances for the salvation of sinners and for the missionary efforts of the Church in The Indies. Her great love for Christ manifested itself by her care of and concern for the poor and sick. She had a special devotion to Christ in the Eucharist and to Mary, the Mother of God. Her desire to teach others the secret of prayer made her a zealous promoter of the Rosary. She died at Lima on August 24, 1617.

AUGUST 26
Blessed James of Bevagna
FRIAR AND PRIEST

Blessed James was born at Bevagna, Italy, in 1220 and entered the Order in Spoleto. In time he returned to Bevagna to establish a priory there. He was sent to preach against the Nicolaitan heretics who at that time were playing havoc with the faith in Umbria. He was successful in converting one of its leaders who made a public repudiation of his heresy at Orte. Once during a period of spiritual dryness and doubt blood spurted from the crucifix before which Blessed James was praying and he heard Christ saying: 'This blood is the sign of your salvation.' He died at Bevagna on August 22, 1301.

AUGUST 28
Saint Augustine
BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
FEAST

Saint Augustine was born at Tagaste in what is now Algeria around the year 354. He was not only the bishop of Hippo and a theologian who profoundly influenced the Western world, but the author of a rule and the master of our communitarian way of life. His *Regula ad servos Dei*, originally composed for a community of women was adopted by the canons regular in the twelfth century. When Innocent II. invited Saint Dominic to choose a rule for his followers from already existing and approved rules, they chose the *Rule of Saint Augustine*. As Humbert of Romans has shown in his commentary on the Rule, the apostolic life which forms the basis for the Rule of St. Augustine was well-suited to the purpose of the Order of Preachers. The *Rule* along with the *Constitutions* remains today the foundation of Dominican profession.

