

## **DOMINICAN SAINTS OF OCTOBER**

### **BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

#### **OCTOBER 3**

#### **Blessed Dominic Spadafora FRIAR AND PRIEST**

Born at Randazzo in Sicily about the year 1450, Dominic Spadafora received the habit at the priory of St Zita at Palermo and became a zealous preacher of the Word in Sicily and throughout Italy. He had a special devotion to the passion of our Lord and by his charity and humility converted many to the Lord, even attracting some to the Order. He founded the priory of Our Lady of Grace in Monte Cerignone, Sicily, where he remained as superior until his death on December 21, 1521. This commemoration recalls the date of the translation of his remains in 1677.

#### **OCTOBER 4**

#### **Our Holy Father Francis of Assisi DEACON FEAST**

Giovanni Francesco Bernadone was born at Assisi in 1182. After a carefree youth with little meaning and purpose he was converted to the Lord, left all his material possessions behind, and strove to conform his life to the poor Christ by simplicity of life and to the crucified Christ by his charity. Francis attracted many followers to his way of life and in 1210 his first rule was approved. In 1221 in the house of Cardinal Ugolino in Rome he met Saint Dominic, the only meeting of the two founders that is sufficiently attested by historical data. In 1223 his revised rule was formally confirmed and a year later he received the special grace of the stigmata. He finally embraced "sister death" on October 3, 1226.

The special celebration of his feast in the liturgy of the Order expresses the bond which exists between the Friars Minor and the Friars Preachers based upon that bond which existed between their founders. Saint Catherine of Siena said of them: "Truly Dominic and Francis were two pillars of holy Church: Francis with the poverty that was his hallmark and Dominic by his learning."

#### **OCTOBER 5**

#### **Blessed Raymond of Capua FRIAR, PRIEST AND MASTER OF THE ORDER OPTIONAL MEMORIAL**

Raymond delle Vigne was born at Capua, Italy, about 1330 and while studying at the University of Bologna entered the Order there in 1350. After holding various administrative and teaching positions in the Roman Province he was assigned to be spiritual director for Saint Catherine of Siena, whose friend, confidant, biographer, guide and disciple he became. In May, 1380, Raymond was elected Master of that portion of the Order which had remained

faithful to the Roman Pontiff, Urban VI. He vigorously promoted reform within the Order while at the same time working to restore unity to the Church, rent asunder as it was by the Western Schism. He died at Nuremberg on October 5, 1399, while visitating the German priories.

**OCTOBER 6**  
**Blessed Bartolo Longo**  
**LAY DOMINICAN**

Bartolo Longo was born in Naples in 1841 and obtained his degree in civil law at the University there. Faith was weak in the intellectual circles of the time and Bartolo had wavered in his own faith, even to the point of dabbling in spiritualism. He was converted through the work of Father Alberto Radente, O.P., and in 1872 became a Tertiary with the name Rosario. Called to promote the Rosary by divine intervention he was responsible for building the Sanctuary of our Lady of Pompeii (1876) as well as the founding of a congregation of sisters, the Sisters of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii (1877). He was zealous not only in promoting devotion of our Lady, but also in works of social justice. He died at Pompeii on October 6, 1926.

**OCTOBER 7**  
**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
**FEAST**

From its beginning the Order of Preachers has shown special honour and devotion to Mary, Mother of God. The Rosary, which places before us, the chief mysteries of the life, passion and resurrection of our Saviour, has been one of the chief ways in which the Order has expressed this devotion. Our brother, Alan de La Roche (1428-1478) helped to define the structure of the Rosary and zealously promoted its recitation. At Douai in 1470 he established the first Rosary Confraternity. In 1476 our brother Jacob Sprenger established at Cologne the first such Confraternity which had papal approval. Pope Saint Pius V gave the Rosary definitive form in his bull *Consueverunt Romani Pontificis* (September 17, 1569).

Today's feast commemorates the great naval victory won by Christian forces over the Turks at Lepanto on Sunday, October 7, 1571. Pope Saint Pius V decreed that a feast in honour of Our Lady of Victories be celebrated each year on that day. His successor, Gregory XIII, transferred the feast to the first Sunday of October under the new title of the Most Holy Rosary, since it was precisely through the invocation of Our Lady of the Rosary that the victory was thought to have been gained. In the reform of the liturgy the feast was returned to its original day.

**OCTOBER 8**  
**Blessed Ambrose Sansedone**  
**FRIAR AND PRIEST**

Blessed Ambrose was born at Siena, Italy, in 1220 and entered the Order there in 1237. Together with Thomas Aquinas and Peter of Tarentaise (Pope Innocent V) he studied at Paris and Cologne under Saint Albert the Great and he and Thomas began to teach at Cologne under Albert's guidance. In addition to teaching and preaching he was often involved in diplomatic missions for both popes and monarchs. In the midst of this activity he was able to maintain a contemplative prayer life. He died at Siena on March 20, 1287. His commemoration falls on the anniversary of the confirmation of his cult by Gregory XV on October 8, 1622.

**Also OCTOBER 8**  
**Blessed Matthew Carreri**  
**FRIAR AND PRIEST**

Blessed Matthew was born at Mantua, Italy, around 1420 and entered the Order there in 1440. His life was marked by assiduous prayer, severe penance and an exact fidelity to regular observance, all of which prepared him for a life of apostolic preaching. So great was his charity that he once offered to deliver himself into slavery in order to rescue a mother and her daughter captured by pirates. Throughout his life Blessed Matthew laboured to promote regular observance in the Order. He died at Vigevano on October 5, 1470.

**OCTOBER 9**  
**Saint Louis Bertrand**  
**FRIAR AND PRIEST**  
**MEMORIAL**

Saint Louis was born in Valencia, Spain, on January 1, 1526, and in 1544 entered the Order against the wishes of his parents. He came to so exemplify the ideals of Dominican life that he was appointed master of novices. Combining an austere life with zeal for spreading the gospel, he asked to be sent to the farthest parts of the Americas and in 1562 was sent to what is now Colombia. He was given the gift of communicating with the Indians in their own tongues and with the encouragement of Bartolomeo de Las Casas defended their rights against the Spanish conquerors. He returned to Spain in 1569 and again assumed the position of master of novices. He died at Valencia on October 9, 1581. Saint Louis is the patron of novitiates and formation personnel.

**OCTOBER 11**  
**Blessed James of Ulm**  
**FRIAR AND RELIGIOUS**

Blessed James was born at Ulm, Germany, in 1407 and spent his early years as a mercenary soldier. Once when passing through Bologna he stopped to pray at the tomb of Saint Dominic. He experienced a conversion and asked to be admitted to the Order as a co-operator brother. He pursued the art of stained-glass making and his work can still be seen in the chapel of the Bentivoglio palace and in the cathedral of Saint Petronius in Bologna. He is remembered for his humble obedience and his contemplation on the passion of the Saviour. He died on October 11, 1491, at Bologna.

**OCTOBER 13**  
**Blessed Magdalen Panatieri**  
**LAY DOMINICAN AND VIRGIN**

Blessed Magdalen was born at Turino, Italy, in 1443 and while still quite young was received as a tertiary by the Sisters of Penance of Saint Dominic. She received many spiritual graces, including the stigmata, but was best known for her ministry to the children of the town, whom she cared for and catechised. Her prayer was always that she be in the world, but not of the world. Much revered by the people of the city, she died October 13, 1503.

**OCTOBER 14**  
**Blessed Marie Poussepin**  
**SISTER AND VIRGIN**

Blessed Marie was born in the town of Dourdan, in France, in 1653. She was educated in piety and morals by her mother and her parish priest, joined a parish sodality and took over the running of her father's business of manufacturing stockings. In 1696, having become a professed member of the Third Order of St Dominic, she widened the scope of her charity, helping the sick and educating children, especially from the country. In the little town of Sainville she set up a house, later to become the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity, or the Dominicans of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin. After a long life, faithful to Divine Providence, she died on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1744. Pope John Paul II declared her Blessed in 1994.

**OCTOBER 19**  
**Blessed Agnes of Jesus Galand (of Langeac)**  
**VIRGIN AND NUN**

Born at Le puy-en-Velay in 1602, and brought up by loving parents, she consecrated herself to the Virgin Mother of God at seven years of age. In the year 1623 she entered the newly-established convent of the Order of Preachers at Langeac, where she became Novice Mistress and Prioress. Burning with love for Christ crucified and for the Church, for three years, inspired by the Lord, she dedicated herself to prayers and penances for the establishment of a seminary in France, the work of the outstanding priest, Jean Jaques Olier. On 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1694 she entered eternal life. Pope John Paul II inscribed her among the blessed in the year 1994.

**OCTOBER 21**  
**Blessed Peter of Città di Castello**  
**FRIAR AND PRIEST**

Blessed Peter was born in Città di Castello in 1390 and at the age of fifteen received the habit in the reformed priory of Cortona where he was to spend his entire Dominican life. Sustained by a life of contemplation and penance he became a zealous and effective preacher. In his preaching he often urged his listeners to meditate upon their own death so as to avoid eternal death. He died at Cortona on October 21, 1445.

**OCTOBER 22**  
**Anniversary of the Dedication of A Church**  
**SOLEMNITY**

When the actual date of the dedication of a church is unknown, our liturgical custom provides for the celebration of its anniversary on October 22, the day on which the Dominican church at Toulouse (*Les Jacobins*) was dedicated in 1385. This church which was one of the most famous of the Dominican churches in the early days of the Order was designated by Pope Urban V in 1328 as the resting place for the remains of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

**OCTOBER 25**  
**Blessed Peter of Geremia**  
**FRIAR AND PRIEST**

Blessed Peter was born at Palermo in 1399 and attended the University of Bologna to pursue the study of law. However, he gave up a promising legal career and entered the Order, making his profession in 1423 at Fiesole in the priory of San Domenico where Saint Antoninus was prior. He himself served as prior in several houses and was a zealous promoter of regular observance, the life of study and the ministry of preaching. Pope Eugene IV summoned him to serve at the Council of Constance in 1439. He returned to Sicily where he continued to foster the reform of the Order and died there on March 3, 1452.

**OCTOBER 26**  
**Blessed Damian of Finale**  
**FRIAR AND PRIEST**

Damian Furcheri was born towards the beginning of the fifteenth century at Perti, a city near Finario (now Finale Borgo), near Genoa. He is remembered for his preaching, especially his insistence upon repentance and the renewal of regular life. He died at Reggio Emilia near Modena in 1484.

**OCTOBER 27**  
**Blessed Bartholomew of Vicenza**  
**FRIAR AND BISHOP**

Blessed Bartholomew Breganza was born at Vicenza around 1200 and received the habit from Saint Dominic at Bologna. For several years he preached throughout Lombardy and Emilia and laboured to restore peace and public order. In 1253 he was named bishop of Limassol, Cyprus, and in 1255 was transferred to Vicenza, where again he worked to reconcile warring factions. He was present at the second translation of the remains of Saint Dominic in 1267 and preached the sermon on that occasion. He died at Vicenza in 1270. His friend King Louis IX of France gave a portion of the crown of thorns of our Lord which he housed in a church built for this purpose.

**OCTOBER 30**  
**Blessed Peter Higgins, priest,**  
**and Blessed Terrence Albert O'Brien, bishop,**  
**FRIARS AND MARTYRS**

*In some provinces, Blessed Peter Higgins is celebrated separately on 23<sup>rd</sup> March; vide Analecta S.O.P., [1993], pp. 20 – 27.*

Both these martyrs were born in Ireland in 1601, and both entered the Order in 1622. Peter was prior of the community at Naas, and Terence Albert prior provincial of Ireland and Bishop of Emly. Peter died on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1642; Terence Albert on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1651.

They suffered on account of their assiduous devotion to the Church of Christ and the Successor of Peter, the Roman Pontiff, for they refused to acknowledge the English king as head of the Church. With fifteen others, companions in the same persecution (1579-1654), they were beatified on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1992.

**Also OCTOBER 30**  
**Blessed Benvenuta Bojani**  
**LAY DOMINICAN AND VIRGIN**

Blessed Benvenuta was born on May 4, 1255, at Cividale del Friuli. She became a member of the Sisters of Penance and devoted herself to a life of penance for the conversion of sinners. Through the intercession of Saint Dominic she was healed of a serious illness and devoted the remainder of her life to prayer and even greater penance. She died on October 30, 1292.