

**DOMINICAN SAINTS AND BLESSEDS
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES AND NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2

**Blessed Guala of Bergamo
PRIEST AND BISHOP**

Born in Bergamo, Italy, about 1180 Guala Romanoni was already a canon of that city when Saint Dominic received him into the Order in 1219. Blessed Guala was then sent to establish a priory at Brescia which he governed with prudence and zeal. In 1229 Pope Gregory IX appointed him Bishop of Brescia and Apostolic Legate to Lombardy. He laboured to reconcile Emperor Frederick II and the Pope and to establish peace among the cities of northern Italy. As Bishop of Brescia his concern for the poor and unfortunate earned him the title, "Father of the poor and advocate of widows and orphans." He died on September 3, 1244.

Also SEPTEMBER 2

**Blessed Ingrid of Skänninge
NUN**

Ingrid Elofsdotter was born in Sweden in the thirteenth century of Gothic lineage. When her husband died, she dedicated all her possessions to God and, after a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, took the habit of the nuns of the Order of Preachers. She became Prioress of the new convent of Skänninge, which she herself had founded, and there she died in the Lord's embrace in the year 1282. In 1499, Pope Alexander VI allowed her public cult and the solemn translation of her relics, which took place in the year 1507.

SEPTEMBER 4

**Blessed Catherine of Racconigi
LAY DOMINICAN AND VIRGIN**

Blessed Catherine was born at Racconigi, a village in Piedmont, in 1486 of very poor parents and she continued to suffer hardship and poverty throughout her entire life. She showed an affinity for prayer at an early age and was finally received into the Order of Penance. Because the friars of the Order were suspicious of her mystical gifts, she became the object of detraction and persecution which continued until the end of her life. In the midst of such difficulties she would pray, "Jesus alone is my hope." She worked untiringly to bring peace to her region and died at Carmagnola on September 4, 1547.

SEPTEMBER 5

Anniversary of Deceased Friends and Benefactors

Gospel poverty, which our Holy Father Dominic wished to be the foundation for preaching in our Order, has drawn many friends and benefactors to help us in fulfilling this evangelical mission, either by actually associating themselves with us or through material gifts. Today in one common celebration we remember our deceased friends and benefactors who have been connected with the work of our Order in so many ways.

Suffrages for this anniversary are carried out only at the Eucharist. However, any community, observing whatever must be observed according to the general norms, may commemorate this anniversary in the Divine Office in a more appropriate form (see: GILH, nos. 245-252).

SEPTEMBER 6

**Blessed Bertrand of Garrigue
FRIAR AND PRIEST**

One of Saint Dominic's original sixteen companions, Blessed Bertrand was born at Garrigue near Nimes in southern France. He associated himself with Saint Dominic in preaching against the Albigensians and made profession into his hands in 1216. In 1217 he was sent to Paris to assist in establishing the Priory of Saint Jacques. Blessed Bertrand was a frequent travelling companion of Saint Dominic and gave precious testimony to his virtues and miracles during the process of canonisation. He died at Le Bouchet (Drôme), the monastery of the Cistercian nuns near Orange, during the month of April, 1230.

Also SEPTEMBER 6

**Blessed Michael Czartorysky, friar and priest,
and Blessed Julia Rodzinska, virgin and nun,
MARTYRS**

Michael Czartoryski was born in Poland on 19th February 1897. In September 1927 he received the Dominican habit at Cracow. Ordained in 1931, he became Master of Brothers, then of Students. He ministered to the injured during the Spring Uprising in Warsaw in 1944, and declined an opportunity to leave the badly wounded and escape before the German troops captured him. He was shot, together with the wounded men, on 6th September, 1944. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Warsaw on 13th June, 1999.

Dominican nun Julia Rodzinska (1899-1945) died of typhus in Stutthof concentration camp, having helped several Jewish women, together with seven other sisters. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1999.

SEPTEMBER 10

In some provinces, the feast of Blessed Alphonus Navarette, friar and priest, and his companions, who were martyred in Japan in 1614 is celebrated today. In most provinces, however, these saints are honoured together with other martyrs of the Orient on 6th November.

SEPTEMBER 18
Saint Juan Macias
FRIAR AND RELIGIOUS
Memorial

Juan Macias was born at Ribera in Estramadura, Spain, in 1585 of a noble but impoverished family. Orphaned in early childhood, Juan worked as a shepherd for his relatives, an occupation which provided him time for prayer. Inspired by a vision he left his native country and set sail for the Americas, arriving finally in Lima, Peru, where for a time he tended the sheep of a wealthy Spaniard. In 1623 he decided to enter the Order at the priory of Saint Mary Magdalene in Lima, where he served as porter for twenty-two years. Like his friend Saint Martin de Porres, he was known for his love and care for the poor and for his special devotion to the Rosary. He died on September 16, 1645.

SEPTEMBER 20
Blessed Mark of Modena
FRIAR AND PRIEST

Blessed Mark was born in Modena, Italy, shortly after the beginning of the fifteenth century. He entered the Order in his native city and made rapid progress in holiness and learning. He became a renowned preacher throughout northern Italy and for many years served as prior at Pesaro where he died on September 21, 1498.

Also SEPTEMBER 20
Blessed Francis de Posadas
FRIAR AND PRIEST

Blessed Francis was born at Cordoba, Spain, in 1644 of very poor parents. In 1663 he fulfilled the desire of his early youth and entered the Order at the priory of Scala Caeli in Cordoba. His zealous preaching and hearing of confessions were such that he was considered to be another Saint Vincent Ferrer. He was noted for his profound compassion for the poor and the imprisoned; often he would give his own clothing to relieve their needs. He died at Cordoba on September 20, 1713.

SEPTEMBER 24
Blessed Dalmatius Moner
FRIAR AND PRIEST

Born at San Coloma de Farnès in Catalonia in 1291, Blessed Dalmatius was sent to the University of Montpellier and in 1314 after completing his studies entered the Order at the priory of Gerona (Spain). For many years he taught at the studium generale at Gerona and became the master of novices. Because of his austere life and his love of solitude and prayer his reputation for holiness became widespread. His desire to live as a hermit was fulfilled when the community allowed him to hollow out a cave on the priory property where he spent the last years of his life, leaving it only to celebrate Mass and go to choir. He died in his beloved cave on September 24, 1341.

SEPTEMBER 26
Blessed Lawrence of Ripafratta
FRIAR AND PRIEST

In some provinces, Blessed Lawrence is transferred to 25th September, to make room for Ss. Cosmos and Damian, martyrs, on this day.

Blessed Lawrence was born at Ripafratta, near Pisa, in 1373. When already a deacon he entered the Order at Pisa with the encouragement of Blessed John Dominic. After some years of preaching he was appointed master of novices at Cortona where he trained such friars as Saint Antoninus and Fra Angelico. He served as prior and lector at Fiesole and in 1425 moved to Pistoia where he was appointed vicar general of the reformed priories. He remained there until his death on September 27, 1456.

SEPTEMBER 28
Saint Dominic Ibáñez de Erquicia
and Saint James Kyushei Tomonaga, PRIESTS,
Saint Lawrence Ruiz, LAY DOMINICAN AND HUSBAND
and Companions, MARTYRS
Memorial

On this day the Order commemorates sixteen martyrs who laboured to establish the Church in Nagasaki, Japan, and who were martyred at various times during the years 1633, 1634 and 1637. After enduring horrible tortures, they were executed by the method known as "the gallows and pit," their bodies were burned, and their ashes scattered. Of this group nine were from Japan, four from Spain, one from France, one from Italy, and one from the Philippines. Father Dominic Ibáñez de Erquicia was the first to die on August 14, 1633. Lawrence Ruiz, the father of a family and the protomartyr of the Philippines, died on September 29, 1637. Thirteen of these martyrs were members of the Dominican Family and three were associated with it.