



# SAINTS TO LIVE BY

ST. BONAVENTURE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE #72

JULY 2020

## Summer is here!

When we hear the month of July we think of vacation, swimming and enjoying the outdoors. We might think of Canada Day when our nation turns 153 years old! Perhaps on Canada Day each of us can say a short prayer thanking God for the freedom we enjoy in this great nation of ours.

On July 15th we celebrate the feast of St. Bonaventure, the saint our Parish was named after. He was a Franciscan priest, a theologian and philosopher. He was also named a 'Doctor of the Church'. The name Bonaventure means 'fortunate one' and we are truly blessed to have St. Bonaventure.

## St. Mary Magdalen Postel

This saint was born in the year 1756, in France and was named Julie Postel. Her parents were middle class and devout Catholics.

Julie attended a Benedictine convent in Valognes, France and decided at the young age of 16, to

dedicate her life to Christian education. It is quite amazing that at this age Julie opened a school for girls in her hometown!

Five years later, the French Revolution broke out and Julie was forced to close her school. She made a secret chapel under the stairs of her home where Mass was said and where the Blessed Sacrament was kept.



This was felt to be too risky given the political climate and Julie was given the unusual privilege of carrying the Blessed Sacrament on her person and giving Communion to the sick and dying.

After peace was restored in 1801, Julie gave all her time to teaching children and adults, preparing them for receiving the

sacraments, as well as organizing charities to help the poor and marginalized.

At the age of 51, Julie was ready to establish a congregation of nuns whose purpose was to teach and inspire the young in the faith and to help the poor and relieve their misery. She took the name Sister Mary-Magdalen. Her congregation suffered extreme poverty and had to earn their living by working in the fields. Finally their efforts paid off, schools were opened and the Congregation of nuns grew in number. At the time of her death the community numbered in the thousands and had spread to England, Italy and Germany.

This great saint died in 1846 at the age of 90. We celebrate her feast day on July 16th.

**We wish a happy feast day to all those who celebrate their Saint's day in July. We pray your patron saints watch over you and guide you as you strive to be good people like them.**



## SAINT HENRY

Henry was born in the year 972, to his father, Henry, Duke of Bavaria and to his mother, Gisella, the daughter of Conrad, King of Burgundy. He received an excellent education under the supervision of St Wolfgang, Bishop of Ratisbon.

In the year 995, when Henry was just 23 years old, he succeeded his father as duke and in the year 1002 he was chosen to succeed his cousin, Otto III, as Holy Roman Emperor. He created the See of Bamberg 4 years later and built

a cathedral there.

He was known as a just and fair leader, as well as being a man devoted to the Lord and a man of prayer.



Henry died in 1024 at the age of 52. His feast day is July 13 and St Henry is the patron saint of the childless, the disabled, of Dukes

and those rejected by Religious Orders

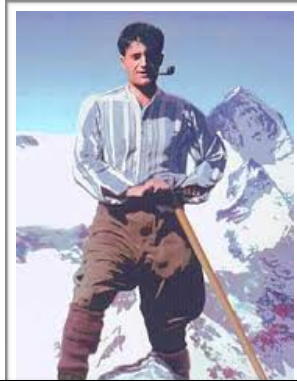
## Did you know...



When St. Henry was a teenager, his patron saint appeared to him and said only "after 6". Henry wasn't sure what this meant but assumed that it meant he would die in 6 years. Because of this, he lived very piously. He did not die, but instead became emperor and reigned over his people fairly and justly.

## Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Pier Giorgio Frassati shattered the traditional notion that saints are meek, mild, frail creatures. The many photographs of him show a young man with almost movie-star good looks, dark hair and strong jaw with broad shoulders. As a boy he was an exceptional athlete and never lost his love for strenuous physical activity.



**Verso l'alto - toward the top**

With a group of friends who called themselves "The Shady Characters" Pier Giorgio went on long hikes and mountain climbing expeditions and competed in wild, even reckless ski races on the slopes of the Italian Alps.

His father was one of the wealthiest and most influential men in Italy. He was a senator, Italy's ambassador to Germany and publisher of the newspaper La Stampa.

Pier Giorgio approach to religious life was uncompromising. He prayer the rosary while hiking, often to the exclusion of talking to his friends. He began each day with mass and Holy Communion. And he spent part of each day helping the poor and the desperate of Turin, his hometown.

Never spoiled by his wealthy parents he rarely had funds to spare for the poor, so he took a more hands on

approach. He kept a notebook with names and addresses and needs of the poor and impoverished so he could help in any way he could.

In 1925 he fell ill a few weeks after his 24th birthday. He tried to ignore it but the doctor told the Frassati's

that Pier Giorgio had contracted an especially virulent form of polio for which there was no treatment and would surely die within a few days. He gave his notebook to his sister Luciano on his deathbed and begged her not to forget the people he was trying to help. He died

on July 4th 1925.

More than 1000 strangers from all over the slums of Turin, came to his funeral to the surprise of his parents. They knew their son had a kind heart but were unaware that his acts of charity and compassion had touched so many.

## St. Camillus de Lellis

Camillus de Lellis must have made an intimidating nurse. Six feet, six inches tall and powerfully built, a man who had been a soldier and a compulsive

gambler, he didn't look like the nurturing type. Yet, Camillus, the patron of nurses, revolutionized

health care in sixteenth century Italy. His hospitals were scrupulously clean, the hospital kitchen served healthy meals, and the nursing staff were trained medical professionals.

He learned about hospital mismanagement while working odd jobs in the wards of San Giacomo Hospital in Rome. This hospital was typical, the food was foul, the hygiene was virtually nonexistent and patients with contagious diseases were placed behind those with simple injuries - an arrangement that led to soaring mortality rates. Camillus felt he could do better. More to the point, the city desperately needed more hospitals, especially for those unable to afford medical care.

He turned a tiny house in the middle of a bad part of Rome to a hospital where the poor were treated free of charge. At this hospital he put his novel ideas into practice. The wards were well ventilated, patients

received healthy meals, and contagious patients were quarantined. His reputation for charity, sanctity and common sense, spread and more men began volunteered to help. They formed a new religious order of priests dedicated to treating the poor. In 1930 Pope Pius XI formally names St. Camillus the patron of nurses.



## Feast Days to Remember

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

**July 4**

Saint Henry

**July 13**

St. Bonaventure

**July 15**

St. Mary Magdalen Postel

**July 16**

St. Camillus de Lellis

**July 18**

## PRAYER TO BL. PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Heavenly Father,  
Give me the courage to strive for  
the highest goals, to flee every  
temptation to be mediocre.

Enable me to aspire to greatness,  
as Pier Giorgio did, and to open  
my heart with joy to Your call to  
holiness.

Free me from the fear of failure.  
I want to be, Lord, firmly and  
forever united to You.

Grant me the graces I ask You  
through Pier Giorgio's  
intercession, by the merits of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen**