



SAINTS TO LIVE BY

ST. BONAVENTURE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE #72

OCTOBER 2020

Our Lady!

October is a very special month in the Church calendar as it is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, and other important days. St. Therese of Lisieux is quoted as saying that 'She (Our Lady) is more Mother than Queen'. On October 7th we honour Our Blessed Mother as Our Lady of the Rosary and on October 11th we celebrate the Divine Maternity of Our Lady. Perhaps on October 7th we could say one decade of the Rosary for peace in the world. On October 2nd we celebrate the feast of The Holy Guardian Angels who watch over us and protect us. On that day we can thank our Guardian Angels for their care and protection. On October 12th we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday here in Canada. It would be good to thank Our Dear Lord for the fact we live in this free country where we can practice our faith without fear of persecution.

St. Pelagia

St. John Chrysostom, a fifth century patriarch of

Constantinople, was preaching about the mystery of grace (which brings one the worst sinner to repentance) when he enlivened his sermon with an example that everyone in the congregation would recognize. He reminded listeners about the eras best know actress, a woman whose talents

on stage were celebrated throughout the eastern Roman Empire. Although famous for her acting, she was infamous as a seductress who went beyond all in lasciviousness, as John put it. For her sake, rich men squandered their fortunes and fathers abandoned their children. She even ensnared the empresses brother. How did she do it? John speculated that she drugged or bewitched her victims. Yet, as wicked as she was, re repented, asked to be baptized and entered the convent. There her repentance was so sincere that her devotion to prayer and good works, so complete that she developed a new reputation as a saint. "Let no man who lives in vice, despair!" John concluded.

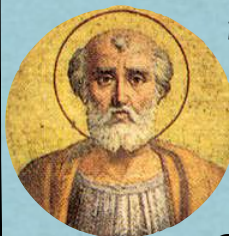
Its an uplifting story, but one part is missing, the actresses name. Apparently she was so well known in Constantinople that St. John felt no need to mention it. The notorious actress became known as Pelagia, thanks to an expanded fictionalized account of her life as told by James the Deacon. In James version of the story, Pelagia is an actress of such extraordinary beauty and powerful allure that even Bishops found it hard not to look at her as she passed by. He recounts that, by chance, she overheard a Bishop sermon that moved her to renounce her sinful life and begin a new life, not in a convent, but a monastery, where her acting skills enabled her to pass as a monk for the rest of her life. She is the patron saint of actresses and her feast day is October 8th.

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



SAINT CALLISTUS

We celebrate the feast of this early pope on October 14th. He was born in Rome in the late 2nd century. When he was young he was the slave of a Christian. He was found to be honest and very bright and was consequently put in charge of a bank. Unfortunately the bank failed and as a result he was sentenced to hard labour. Eventually Callistus was freed and placed in charge of the



public Christian burial ground in Rome. This cemetery is still known as the Cemetery of St Callistus.

Pope Zephyrinus ordained Callistus a deacon and relied upon him as an advisor. After the Pope's death in 217, Callistus was chosen to succeed him as the 16th Pope. He instituted strong human reforms,

despite severe opposition.

In 222, Callistus was killed by an angry mob and is widely venerated as a martyr.

Did you know...



St. Callistus is the first pope (except for Peter of course) to be honoured as a martyr by the church.

Blessed Josephine Leroux

Josephine was born in the year 1747 in France. At 21 she entered the convent of Poor Clare's at Valenciennes and made her vows the following year. For 20 years she led a secluded life of prayer and sacrifice as a cloistered nun, until laws passed by the authorities forced the religious from their convents and Sister Josephine had to return to her family.

In 1791, the Austrian army seized Valenciennes and many religious were able to return to their convents. Josephine took shelter with the Ursuline nuns because her own convent had not been re-built. The Austrians had to evacuate in 1794 and as a result those religious who had returned to their convents were arrested. Sister Josephine was among those nuns who were arrested and sentenced to death.

It is reported that Josephine and the other nuns sang hymns on the way to the place of execution. Upon arriving there Josephine expressed her happiness for being worthy to die for Christ. Before placing her head under the knife of the guillotine she forgave her executioners.

Josephine died in 1794 at the age of 47. What a wonderful example of true faith and courage!!!

We celebrate her feast day on October 23rd.

Saint Jude

St. Jude's role as the patron saint of

impossible situations is an American phenomenon. European Catholics in desperate straits pray to St. Rita of Cascia to fix the unfixable. Although the story of how St. Jude came to be associated with impossible cases is itself impossible to pin down, we do know how devotion to St. Jude first began to spread in the United States. In the 1920's the

Claretian Fathers staffed Our Lady of Guadalupe parish on the south side of Chicago, a neighbourhood surrounded by steel mills, where many of the parishioners worked. Business slowed toward the end of the decade, and the mills started to lay off workers. Jobs became more scarce and unemployment insurance did not yet exist. Sadly, Father James Tort, the pastor of Our Lady of Guadeloupe Parish began to see many of his parishioners standing on breadlines. Father James had a deep devotion to St. Jude, a saint who at the time was not widely revered. At first he prayed to his favourite saint in private, but as conditions for his unemployed parishioners worsened, Father Tort announced a public novena, nine days of solemn prayer to St. Jude to begin on February 17th, 1929. So many people attended that first novena that Fr. Tort repeated it again and again. Several months later, on October 28th, the saints feast day, the parish concluded a solemn novena to St. Jude that was so packed that loud speakers were hauled in to broadcast to the crowd of thousands who stood



outside. The next day the stock market crashed, a catastrophe

that made St. Jude novenas a regular part of the parish life at Our Lady of Guadalupe for years to come. As stories of answered prayers spread across Chicago, other parishes began novenas to St. Jude as well. Throughout the Great Depression and World War II and every day since, the priests and people of Our Lady of Guadalupe have gathered to ask St. Jude to help them in temporal and spiritual necessity.

Today this parish in Chicago is the National Shrine of St. Jude and everyday the mail brings stories from grateful people who testify that St. Jude helped them at the moment they needed help.

St. Jude, according to Lukes gospel, was the brother the apostle St. James the Less and they were both related to Jesus. St. Jude is also credited as the author of one of the New Testament epistles. Tradition says that he and his fellow apostle St. Simon carried the gospel to Persia, where both were martyred. His feast day is October 28th.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE IN TIMES OF SUFFERING

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, I place myself into your hands at this difficult time.

my fears, and healing for my suffering. Ask our loving God to strengthen my faith and give me the courage to accept His Will for my life.

Help me to know that I am not alone. Please pray for me, asking God to send me comfort for my sorrows, bravery for

Thank you, St. Jude, for the hope you offer to all who believe in you. Amen.

Feast Days to Remember

St. Therese of Lisieux

Oct 1

Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels

Oct 2

Our Lady of the Rosary

Oct 7

St. Pelagia

Oct 8

Divine Maternity of Our Lady

Oct 11

Saint Callistus

Oct 14

Blessed Josephine Leroux

Oct 23

St. Jude

Oct 28