

Let us praise and give thanks to the Lord for our new Saints. Below are the brief biographies of the five new Saints canonized by Pope Francis on Sunday morning, Oct. 14, 2019, at Mass in St. Peter's Square: **Cardinal John Henry Newman, Giuseppina Vannini, Mariam Thresia Chiamamel Mankidiyan, Dulce Lopes Pontes, and Marquerite Bays.** They walked by faith and now we invoke their intercession.



Cardinal Henry Newman: From Anglican priest to Catholic cardinal

Canonized by Pope Francis on Sunday, October 13, 2019.

Cardinal Henry Newman spent his life in search of Truth. He always said it was the only reason for living.

From England to Rome: At the age of 25, Newman said he had met God, not "as a notion, but as a person". Two years later, he became an Anglican priest and taught at Oxford.

Always one to question the essence of the Truth and of Faith, Newman found an answer when he first visited Rome in 1833.

From Rome to Oxford: Back in Oxford, he found he was increasingly far from Anglicanism. He began studying the Fathers of the Church, common to all denominations, and gathered around him a group of scholars who questioned themselves on important topics such as respect for the tradition of the first centuries.

In 1843 he made his decision. Two years later he asked to be admitted to the Catholic Church. After completing his theological studies in Rome, he was ordained a priest in 1847.

The Birmingham Oratory: In 1850 Henry returned to England and threw himself into various activities: he founded the Dublin University, produced a new translation of the Bible into English, took over the direction of a magazine, and founded an Oratory in Oxford dedicated to St Philip Neri, in whose Congregation he had been ordained a priest.

In 1879, Pope Leo XIII created him a Cardinal. John Henry Newman died at the Birmingham Oratory on 11 August 1890. He was declared Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI on 19 September 2010 during his visit to Britain.



Giuseppina Vannini: From being an orphan to caring for the sick

Sister Giuseppina Vannini, Founder of the Daughters of Saint Camillus, canonized by Pope Francis on Sunday, October 13, 2019.

Her childhood name was Giuditta and she was born in Rome in 1859. Both her parents died within three years of one another, and Giuditta and her two siblings were left orphans.

The call: It was at the orphanage run by the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de' Paul that she first experienced the call to religious life. In 1891, Giuditta participated in a spiritual retreat where she met Camillian Father Luigi Tezza. A few months earlier, Fr Tezza had been tasked with restoring the

Camillian Tertiaries. He asked Giuditta to assist him, and she agreed.

The new institute: Giuditta took the religious name of Sister Giuseppina and soon became Superior General of the new religious Congregation known as the Daughters of Saint Camillus. The new institute needed the definitive approval of the ecclesiastical authority, but Pope Leo XIII refused it twice because he had decided not to allow the foundation of new religious communities. The Congregation did receive official approval, however, in 1909.

The Daughters of Saint Camillus: Mother Giuseppina died in 1911 from heart disease in Rome at the age of 51. By then, the Camillians already had 156 professed religious and 16 religious houses between Europe and America. The main legacy the Foundress left her sisters was the pure and simple physical and spiritual care of the sick, exercised at home as in hospitals, leprosariums and nursing homes, both in European rehabilitation centers, and in mission countries.

Pope Saint John Paul II declared her Blessed on 16 October 1994.



Mother Mariam Thresia Mankidiyan: From silent mystic to apostle of the family

Mariam Thresia, Founder of the Congregation of the Holy Family of Thissur, in India, canonized by Pope Francis on Sunday, October 13, 2019.

Mariam Thresia Mankidiyan was born in 1876 in Kerala, India, and named after Saint Teresa of Avila. She spent her entire life assisting the poor, the sick, the elderly and all those in need.

A childhood of charity: Thresia's Mother was the greatest influence in her childhood, reading her stories from the Bible and the lives of the Saints, and teaching her how to pray. When Thresia was 10 years old, she made a private vow of virginity and decided to consecrate her life to Christ. At the same time, she attended to the sick and the poor, nursing lepers and caring for orphaned children.

Mystical experiences: Thresia had a series of mystical experiences, including the gift of healing and prophesy. She bore the stigmata in secret and passed through her own "dark night of the soul". At first, she joined the Franciscan Poor Clares, then the Discalced Carmelites of Ollur. In the end she decided that what she really needed was to lead a life that was withdrawn and in silent union with God.

The "House of Solitude": In 1913 she created her first small community with two friends. It was to become the nucleus of the Congregation of the Holy Family. During the 12 years in which Mother Mariam was at the head of the Congregation, despite the difficulties associated with the outbreak of the First World War, the Congregation flourished with new convents, schools, boarding schools and orphanages.

Mother Mariam Thresia died on 8 June 1926 and was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II on 9 April 2000.



Her secular name was Maria Rita, and she was born in Salvador de Bahia in 1914. After her mother died, she went to live with her aunts. When she was 13, they took her to visit one of the poorest areas of the city. Maria Rita was so struck by what she saw that she began dedicating herself to the poor and needy of her neighborhood.

Love and service

Maria Rita was particularly devoted to Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and felt a strong calling to religious life. She said she was ready to perform the "small acts of love" that Jesus transforms into great works.

After entering the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God, she became Sister Dulce, her Mother's name, and spent her time attending to the local poor and destitute. Eventually she founded the Sao Francisco's Workers Union and opened a clinic, a library, a school and even cinema for the poor.

A hospital in a henhouse

As Sister Dulce's reputation grew, so did the number of people seeking her help and attention. She started out housing them in abandoned buildings in a rundown area of Bahia, known as "Rat Island".

After a series of evictions, Sister Dulce's Superior said she could use the henhouse attached to the convent, on condition she took care of the chickens. She did: by feeding them to her sick patients. That chicken coop was later to become the present-day Santo Antonio Hospital, a 1500-bed health care centre specializing in cancer treatment.

Nobel Prize nominee

Sister Dulce herself developed serious respiratory problems and had to spend 16 months in that hospital. It was there that Pope John Paul II came to visit her while he was on a trip to Brazil in 1990. The President of Brazil had already nominated her for the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of her work with the Charitable Works Foundation of Sister Dulce, which she founded in 1959.

The "Mother Teresa of Brazil", as she was known, died on 13 March 1992 at the age of 77. Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed her Blessed on 22 May 2011.



Marguerite Bays was born in La Pierraz, in the Swiss canton of Fribourg, in 1815. She was the second of seven children and grew up in a farming family. When she was 15 she began her apprenticeship as a seamstress, a skill she practiced all her life.

Service to "God's favorites"

Marguerite used to pray the Rosary regularly and attended daily Mass, paying frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and inviting everyone she met to join her in prayer. She spent all her free

time working in the parish, where she taught catechism to the children, visited the sick, took care of the poor, and all those people she thought of as "God's favorites".

This life of active apostolate led her to join the Franciscan Third Order, now the Secular Franciscan Order, in 1860.

Holiness lived in the family

Her profound spirituality caused many people to ask Marguerite why she did not enter the convent. Instead, she understood that her place was at home, and her way to holiness lay in her daily service to her family. This choice did not always make things easy for her.

When her elder brother married her housemaid, Josette, Marguerite had to suffer the harassment of her sister-in-law who did not understand her prayer life.

Marguerite endured everything in silence, and when Josette was dying, the only person she wanted by her side was Marguerite. She took care of everyone in her family: her sister who returned home after a failed marriage, her brother who ended up in prison, and a nephew born out of wedlock who she brought up single-handedly.

Pain experienced in silence

In 1853, when she was 35, Marguerite was operated on for intestinal cancer. The treatments were very invasive, and she prayed to Our Lady for healing and for a different understanding of suffering.

When Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, on 8 December 1854, both of her prayers were answered. From then on, Marguerite was forever bound to the figure of the suffering Christ on the cross.

She developed the stigmata, the crucifixion wounds of Jesus, on her hands, feet and chest. At first she kept it secret, but the news soon leaked out. On Fridays and during Holy Week, she would fall ill or experience moments of ecstasy.

Gradually the pain became more and more intense, and on 27 June 1879, Marguerite died.

Pope Saint John Paul II proclaimed her Blessed on 29 October 1995.