

# Fun Facts About Saints in America

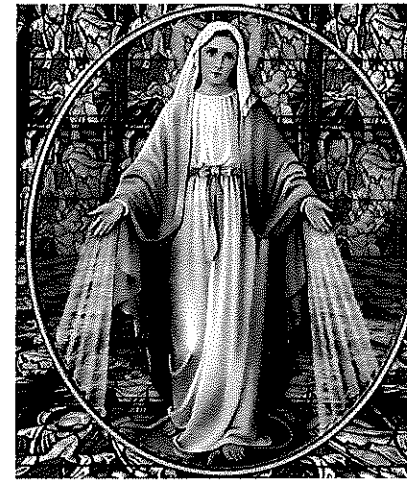
## Who was the first native-born American saint to be canonized?

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) was the first person born in the United States to be canonized. She was a convert to the Catholic faith after her husband died. Her canonization Mass was celebrated by Pope Paul VI in 1975.



## Who is the Patron Saint of the United States?

Our Blessed Mother, Mary, is named the patroness of the United States under the title of "The Immaculate Conception." This title reflects our doctrine that Mary was preserved from the stain of original sin so that she could be a fitting vessel for the Son of God. She was named our patroness in 1846 by the US Bishops. She was chosen as our patroness because of the devotion to Mary from the various ethnic groups who immigrated to the United States—she was seen as a unifying force as we sought to become "One Nation, Under God." Our national basilica is named for her. Mary, under the title of "Our Lady of Guadalupe" is also named the patron of all the Americas.



## Who was the first American citizen to be canonized?

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini was the first US citizen to be canonized a saint—she was born in Italy and immigrated to the US to be a missionary. She was canonized in 1946 by Pope Pius XI.



## Who was the first Bishop in America to be canonized?

Saint John Neumann (1811-1860) was born in Bohemia and is the first bishop (and the only U.S. male so far) to be canonized. He was the 4th bishop of Philadelphia, PA and traveled as a missionary from New York to Pennsylvania. He established the first Diocesan school system in the U.S. He was canonized in 1977 by Pope Paul VI.



## Who was the first Native American to be canonized?

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680) was born near the place where St. Isaac Jogues and companions were martyred. She was raised by the chief of a Mohawk village after her parents died. She became a Catholic at 19 and faced much persecution by her people before she moved to Montreal, Canada.



## Who was the first African American priest in the US?

Venerable Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) is the first Black American to be ordained a priest in 1886. Born a slave in Missouri, he escaped with his family to Illinois. After attending Quincy College, he traveled to Rome for seminary. He served as pastor in parishes in Quincy and Chicago.



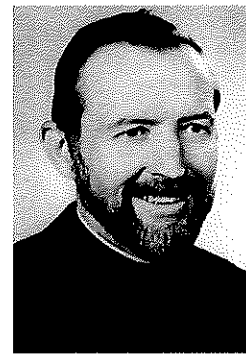
## Who were the first martyrs in North America to be canonized?

Saint Isaac Jogues (1607-1646) and companions were the first to be martyred in what would later be called the United States. Isaac, a Jesuit priest from France, and 6 companions (all Jesuits) worked as missionaries to the Iroquois, Huron and Mohawk peoples. They experienced horrific tortures and martyrdom. The North American martyrs were canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1930.



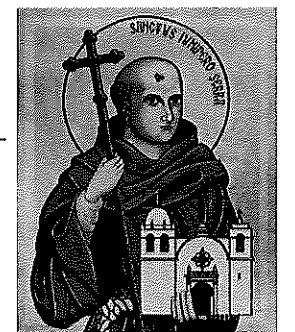
## Who was the first native-born American to be declared a martyr?

Blessed Father Stanley Rother (1935-1981) was born in Okarche, Oklahoma. He was ordained a priest in 1963 and served in the Diocese's Guatamala missions for 14 years. He was targeted during the Civil War in Guatamala for his insistence on helping the poor, and he was killed in 1981. Pope Francis declared he was killed as a martyr, which led to his Mass of Beatification in 2017 in Oklahoma City.

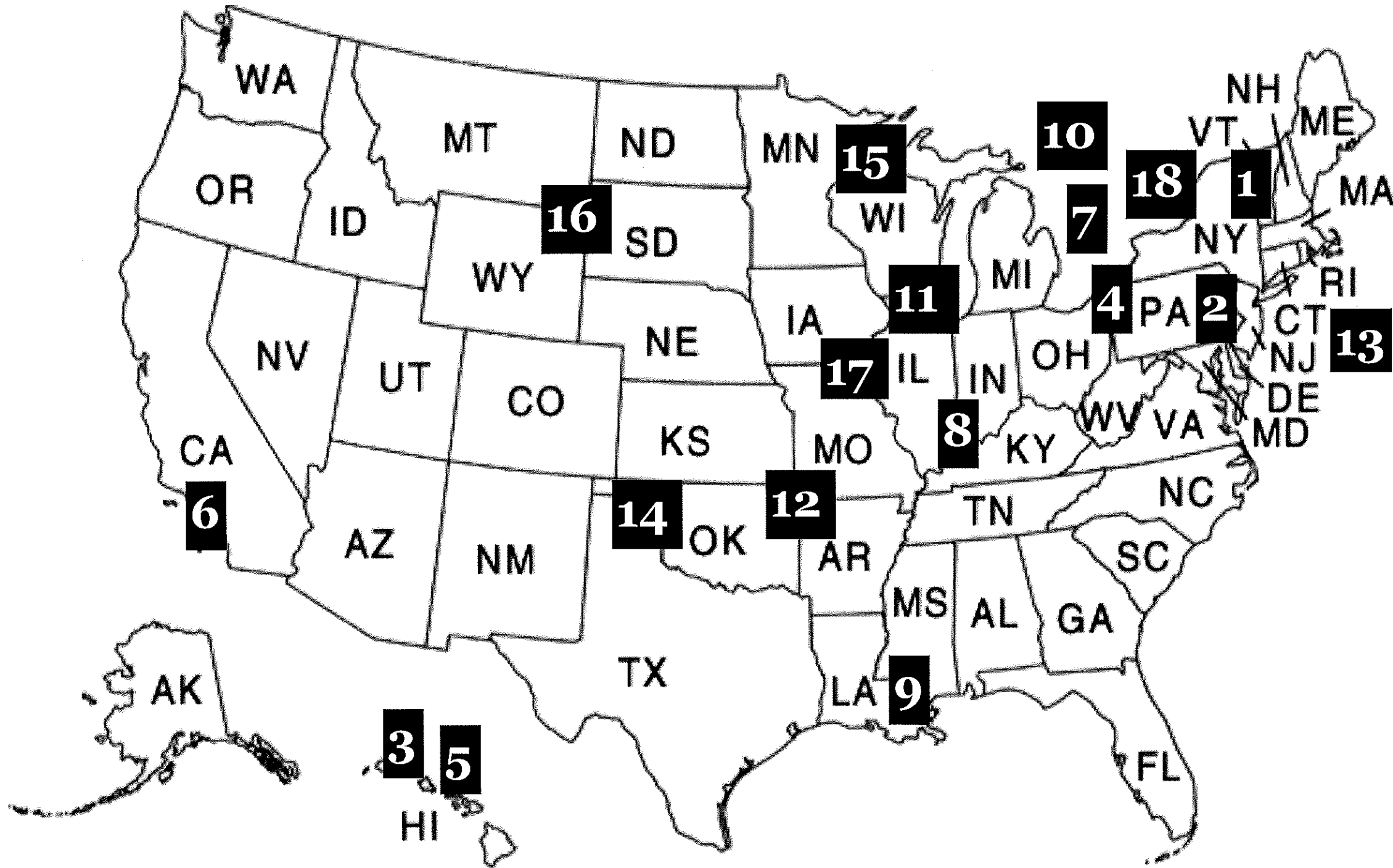


## Who was the first saint whose canonization Mass was in the U.S.A.?

Saint Junipero Serra (1713-1784) is called the "Apostle to California" for his work establishing 21 missions up and down the state. He was a tireless missionary and protector of the Native Americans. His canonization Mass took place on September 23, 2015 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Pope Francis celebrated the Mass on his first visit to the United States.



# Sanctify! United States of America Saints and Blessed



1. **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** (Jan 4)—Founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. Considered founder of the US Catholic school system. +1821
2. **St John Neumann** (Jan 5)—Missionary and 4th bishop of Philadelphia. Founded the first diocesan Catholic school system in US. +1860
3. **St. Marianne Cope** (Jan 23)—Missionary to lepers of Molokai, HI. +1918
4. **St. Katharine Drexel** (Mar 3)—School builder and founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. +1955
5. **St. Damien de Veuster of Molokai** (May 10)—Missionary to the lepers of Molokai. +1889
6. **St. Junipero Serra** (July 1)—Franciscan priest, founder of the Spanish missions in California. +1784
7. **St. Kateri Tekakwitha** (July 14)—Native American and consecrated virgin. +1680
8. **St. Mother Theodore Guerin** (Oct 3)—Missionary and founder of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods. +1856
9. **Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos** (Oct 5)—Missionary preacher
10. **St. Isaac Jogues** (Oct 19)—Jesuit priest, missionary and one of the North American martyrs. +1646
11. **St. Frances Xavier Cabrini** (Nov 13)—Missionary and founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. +1917
12. **St. Rose Philippine Duchesne** (Nov 18)—Missionary to Native Americans. +1852
13. **Blessed Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich**—Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth. +1927
14. **Blessed Father Stanley Rother**—first American-born martyr, missionary to Guatamala. +1981
15. **Blessed Father Solanus Casey**—Capuchin Franciscan, humble servant. +1957
16. **Venerable Nicholas Black Elk**—Lakota catechist. +1950
17. **Venerable Father Augustus Tolton**—first African American priest. +1897
18. **Venerable Fulton J. Sheen**—Archbishop and renowned teacher on television and radio. +1979

*There are 49 Americans who are named a Canonized Saint, Blessed or Venerable. These heroes of our faith inspire us and pray for us. Those named "venerable" have had their cause for sainthood accepted by the Vatican. Those named "Blessed" have had one authenticated miracle happen by their intercession. After another miracle, they can be canonized a Saint.*