



St. Catherine of Siena:

Born: 1347 **Died:** 1380 **Canonized:** June 29, 1461

Feast Day: April 29 **Patronage:** fire prevention, bodily ills

Named a Doctor: 1970

St. Catherine of Siena was the 25th child born to her mother. After St. Catherine's sister, Bonaventura, died, her parents desired her to marry her brother-in-law. St. Catherine opposed this and began fasting and cut her hair short to mar her appearance. Her fasting and devotion to her family convinced her parents to relent and allow her to live as she pleased. She joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, which allowed her to live quietly, isolated from society. After multiple mystical

experiences, St. Catherine reentered the public and helped serve the poor and the sick. She also became quite involved in fractured politics and dictated many letters to scribes. She is credited with composing over 400 letters; her Dialogue, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine is considered one of the most influential and popular saints in the Church.

(Photo: National Catholic Register)

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."- St. Catherine of Sienna

St. John of the Cross:

Born: June 24, 1542 **Died:** December 14, 1591

Canonized: December 27, 1726 **Feast Day:** December 14

Patronage: Mystics **Named a Doctor:** 1926

St. John of the Cross was a Spanish priest, mystic, Carmelite friar, and theologian. He met St. Teresa of Avila, and partnered with her, engaging in the work of the Counter-Reformation in Spain. But with this came the price of opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, and imprisonment. He came to know the cross intensely as he sat month after month in prison in a dark, damp, narrow cell with only himself and God. In this darkness though, John's spirit came into the Light where he wrote poetry expressing the ecstasy of a mystical union with God. He eventually escaped imprisonment, and after being nursed back to health he continued to write, and eventually wrote his great prose masterpiece "Ascent to Mt. Carmel." In it, St. John of the Cross underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. St. John is truly "of the Cross" and has often been called the "Doctor of Mystical Theology." (Photo: Word on Fire)

"He who seeks not the cross of Christ seeks not the glory of Christ."- St. John of the Cross



All Saints Day—Showcase of the Saints: DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

"There are currently 36 Doctors of the Catholic Church. A Doctor of the Church is a person whose teaching on faith has been deemed sound and of benefit to the Church through their writing, study, or research. Along with significant theological contribution, the person must also display a high degree of sanctity, which is why all Church doctors are also canonized saints. They must also be formally proclaimed as such by the pope or ecumenical council." (U.S. Catholic.org)



St. Anthony of Padua:

Born: August 15, 1195 **Died:** June 13, 1231 **Feast Day:** June 13

Canonized: May 30, 1232

Patronage: lost items, lost people, Lisbon

Named a Doctor: 1946

St. Anthony's journey as a servant of God began at a young age when he joined the Augustinians in Lisbon. He gave up a future of wealth and power to serve God, and later joined the Franciscans as he longed to be one of those closest to Jesus- one who dies for the Good News. With illness preventing him from preaching to the

Moors, St. Anthony went to Italy and was stationed in a small hermitage where he spent most of his time praying, and reading the Scriptures. He was recognized as a man of great prayer, and a great Scripture and theology scholar, so he was asked to teach theology to the other friars. He was eventually asked to preach in France to convert and reassure those who had fallen away from Christ. His preaching and writings led him to be called the "Evangelical Doctor." (Photo: Catholic Culture)

(Photo: Catholic Culture)

"Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak."- St. Anthony of Padua

St. Thérèse of Lisieux:

Born: January 2, 1873 **Died:** September 30, 1897

Canonized: May 17, 1925 **Feast Day:** October 1

Patronage: missions **Named a Doctor:** 1997

St. Thérèse was born the daughter of Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin in France and is commonly referred to today as "The Little Flower." She felt an early call to the religious life, and joined the Carmelite community in Lisieux, Normandy at the young age of 15. She overcame many obstacles with a nervous disorder, and experienced a great "conversion" that allowed her to overcome her nervous fits so she could join the Carmelite community. Thérèse greatly desired to be a saint, and she obtained sainthood through the "little way." She died from tuberculosis when she was only 24. Pope St. John Paul II declared Thérèse a Doctor of the Church in 1997, the youngest person, and one of only four females, to be so honored. (Photo: Church Militant)

"Use the gifts you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you." – St. Thérèse of Lisieux



St. Ambrose:

Born: 340 **Died:** 397 **Feast Day:** December 7 **Canonized:** Pre-Congregation
Patronage: Beekeepers, beggars, learners
Named a Doctor: 1298

St. Ambrose was born to a Roman Christian family, and when he was just an infant a swarm of bees landed on his face and left behind a drop of honey. To his father, this was a sign that St. Ambrose would become someone great with a wonderful sense of speaking. St. Ambrose was educated in Rome where he studied law, literature, and rhetoric. He eventually became Governor of Liguria and Emilia, and then was elected to become the Bishop of Milan. Even though there were tensions between the Nicene Church and the Arians, St. Ambrose was favored by both groups. As a bishop he donated all of his land and gave his money to the poor. St. Ambrose is famous for converting one of the other most famous doctors of the Church, St. Augustine. His sermons, writings, and personal life reveal him as an otherworldly man involved in the great issues of his day.

(Photo: Catholic.org)

***"No one heals himself by wounding another."* - St. Ambrose**



St. Teresa of Avila:

Born: March 28, 1515 **Died:** October 4, 1582 **Canonized:** March 12, 1622
Feast Day: October 15 **Patronage:** headaches, sickness, and Spain
Named a Doctor: 1970

St. Teresa of Avila, also called St. Teresa of Jesus, was a Spanish mystic, religious reformer, author, and theologian. She lived in an age of political, social, and religious upheaval, but fought hard during the Catholic Reformation by reforming the Carmelite Orders of both men and women. St. Teresa was a true woman "for

God." Her heart belonged to God, and her ongoing conversion was a grueling lifelong struggle, involving ongoing purification and suffering. Her writings on prayer and contemplation are drawn from her experience: powerful, practical, and graceful. She founded over a half-dozen new monasteries, and as she traveled, she wrote, and fought always to renew and reform. (Photo: The Given Institute) ***"Let nothing disturb you; nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Nothing is wanting to him who possesses God. God alone suffices."* - St. Teresa of Avila**

St. Augustine of Hippo:

Born: November 13, 354 **Died:** August 28, 430
Canonized: Pre-Congregation **Feast Day:** August 28
Patronage: brewers, theologians, converts
Named a Doctor: 1298

St. Augustine of Hippo is one of the most famous saints that ever lived, and an influential theologian. He has also been called the "Doctor of Grace." These are quite the titles to obtain after living a life immersed in a wicked lifestyle and false beliefs. His sins of impurity, drunkenness, and his pride darkened his mind so much that he could not see or understand Divine Truth. But through the ceaseless prayers of his mother, St. Monica, the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, and God himself speaking to him in the Scriptures, St. Augustine became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion. He was redirected from love of life to a life of love. (Photo: Word on Fire) ***"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."* - St. Augustine of Hippo**



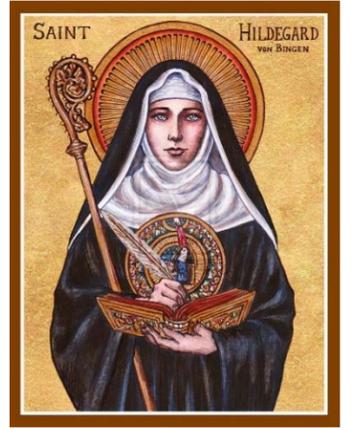
St. Hildegard of Bingen:

Born: September 16, 1098 **Died:** September 17, 1179
Canonized: May 10, 2012 **Feast Day:** September 17
Named a Doctor: 2012

St. Hildegard was an abbess, author, composer, pharmacist, mystic, visionary, poet, preacher, and theologian. She was born into a noble family with her parents promising her to God. Her holiness and piety made her adored by all she met, and she began to receive visions at a young age. When St. Hildegard turned 18, she became a Benedictine nun, and was elected superior when she was 38. Her unique nature and strong devotion to the Holy Spirit attracted many novices to the convent, which led to the founding of a new Benedictine house near Bingen, and later in Eibingen. St. Hildegard's visions were believed to have been communicated by God, and this was met with a favorable conclusion from Pope Eugenius III. Her fame began to spread throughout Europe, and people traveled from all over to hear her speak. Her most famous writing was "Scivias," but she also wrote commentaries on the Gospels, the Rule of St. Benedict, lives of the Saints, and a medical work on the well-being of the body. St. Hildegard is also a famous composer with there being more chant compositions of hers than any other medieval composer.

(Photo: The Feminine Genius Podcast)

***"There is the music of Heaven in all things."* - St. Hildegard of Bingen**



St. Thomas Aquinas:

Born: 1225 **Died:** March 7, 1274
Canonized: July 18, 1323 **Feast Day:** January 28
Patronage: academics, apologists, students
Named a Doctor: 1568

St. Thomas Aquinas is considered one of the Catholic Church's greatest theologians and philosophers. At the age of 5, St. Thomas was given to the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino, and he was eventually sent to Naples to complete his studies. It was there he was first attracted to Aristotle's philosophy. St. Thomas felt a strong desire to join the Dominican order, but his parents did not condone this decision and held him captive for a year in their home. After escaping from home St. Thomas went to Paris, then Cologne to finish his studies with Albert the Great. While completing his studies, St. Thomas was quiet and seldom spoke, which led others to call him a "dumb ox." But this was completely untrue. The writings of St. Thomas are a great contribution to the Catholic Church and he has been given the titles of the Angelic Doctor, the Common Doctor, and the Universal Doctor. (Photo: Franciscan Media)

"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."
- St. Thomas Aquinas