

St Paul is the Patron Saint of our school and is one of the most important and influential of all the saints. Many of his writings are contained in the New Testament and have influenced the growth and development of the Church. St. Paul was originally known as Saul, and he was a Roman citizen and a Pharisee. He even presided over the persecutions of the early Christians. Saul experienced a powerful vision that caused him to convert to Christianity while on the road to Damascus. He was baptised and took the name Paul.

Paul travelled the world and visited Jerusalem to see St. Peter, the first pope and pay homage to him. He preached ceaselessly, often drawing criticism from those who disagreed with him. He also established many churches and wrote many letters to answer questions and resolve disputes. The letters that have survived have become part of the Bible. Paul's writings are important because they provide good advice for how Christians should live. Paul continued to preach but, in 67 AD, he was arrested in Rome for a second time and this time he was beheaded.

St. Paul is the patron saint of missionaries, evangelists, writers, journalists, authors, public workers, rope and saddle makers, and tent makers.

Ministerium Tuum Imple (2 Tim 4:5)

Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

St. Paul wrote these words to the disciple Timothy when he was in prison at the end of his life. He passed on his mission, as a follower of Jesus Christ, to Timothy and to us. We are called to be a community where Christ is present and is taken to others.

We receive the gift of God's love and grace and share in His mission of following Christ's example by:

- Being a community in which our **LOVE** of God and **LOVE** of each other can be seen in everything we do;
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St Angela Merici was born in Desenzano in 1474. She became a tertiary Franciscan and devoted herself and her companions to the education of poor girls. After Angela Merici's death, these groups formed the order of Angela's Company of Ursula. The work of the Ursulines continues in education today. St Angela Merici is the patron saint of disabled people, illness and sickness.

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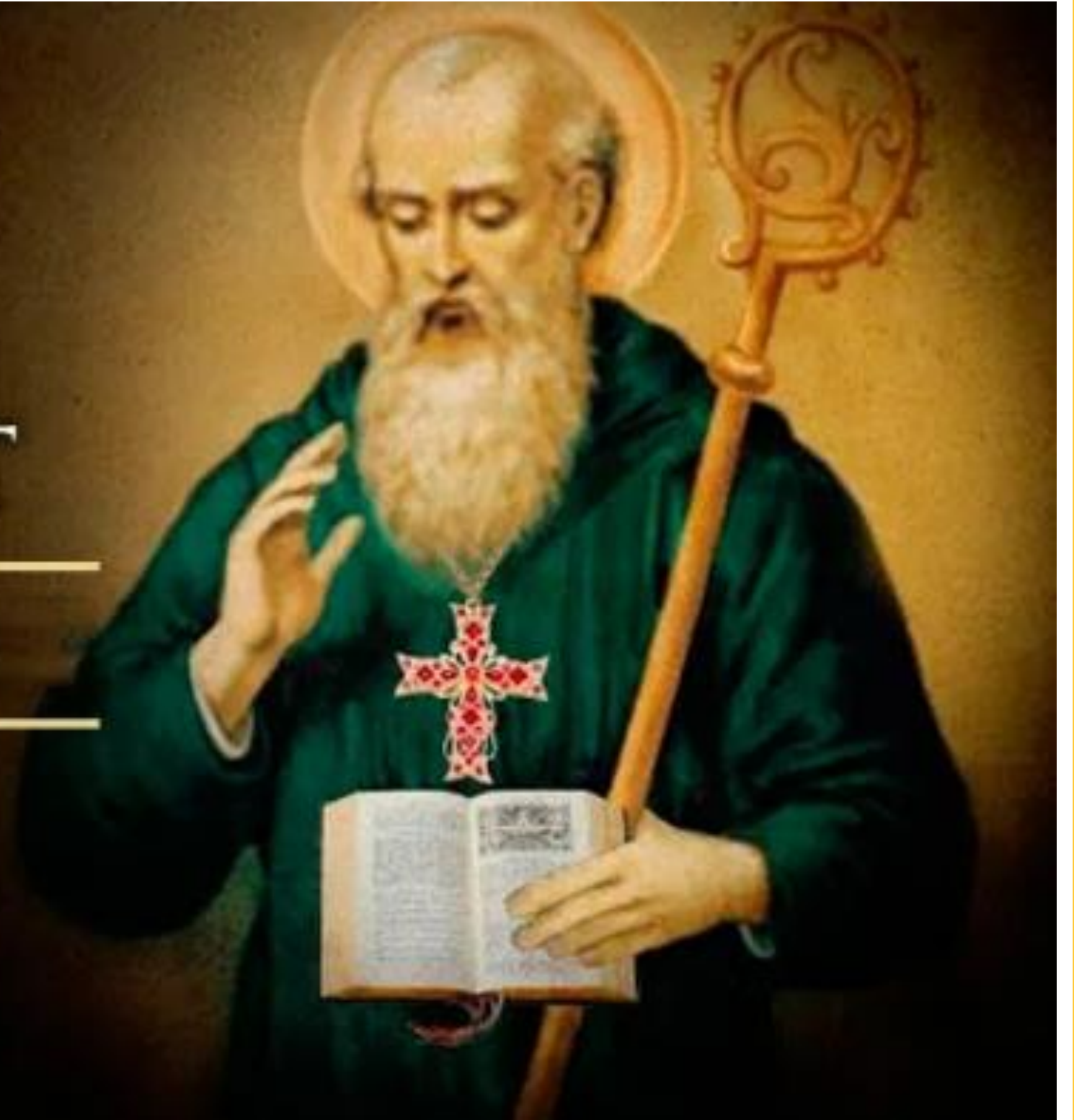
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ST. BENEDICT

July 11th



St Benedict of Nursia was born in Nursia in 480. He became a hermit at the age of 14 and others, impressed by his way of life, joined him. He moved to Cassino, Italy in 529 and founded a monastery there. Here he completed his rule for monks. This shaped the future of monasticism. St Benedict is the patron saint of agricultural workers, monks, Europe, schoolchildren and people in religious orders.

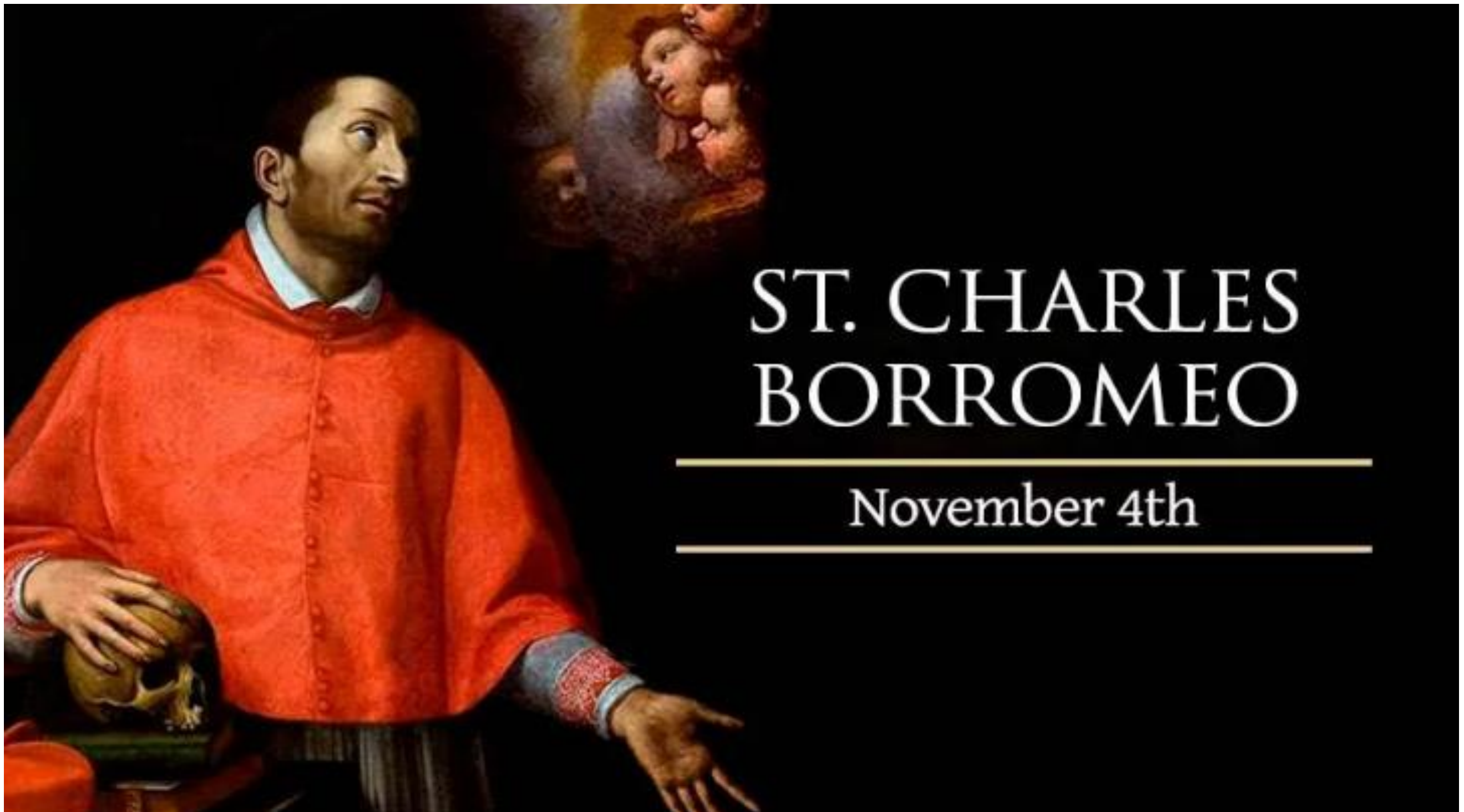
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St Charles Borromeo was born in Italy in 1538. He became a priest giving all he had to the poor. St Charles is also known for founding Sunday Schools for children. During the plague, he tried to feed 60,000 daily, tending to the sick and dying. As a Bishop and Cardinal he worked for the good of the Archdiocese of Milan and for the updating of the Catholic Church during the Council of Trent. St Charles Borromeo is the patron saint of learning, the arts and of Bishops.

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St Elizabeth of Hungary was born in Hungary in 1207. She led an austere, simple life and devoted herself to works of charity. She became a tertiary Franciscan in 1228 following the death of her husband. St Elizabeth was a lifelong friend of the poor and gave herself entirely to relieving the hungry. She built a Franciscan hospital and cared for the sick until her death aged 24. St Elizabeth of Hungary is patron saint of bakers, hospitals, homeless and nursing services.

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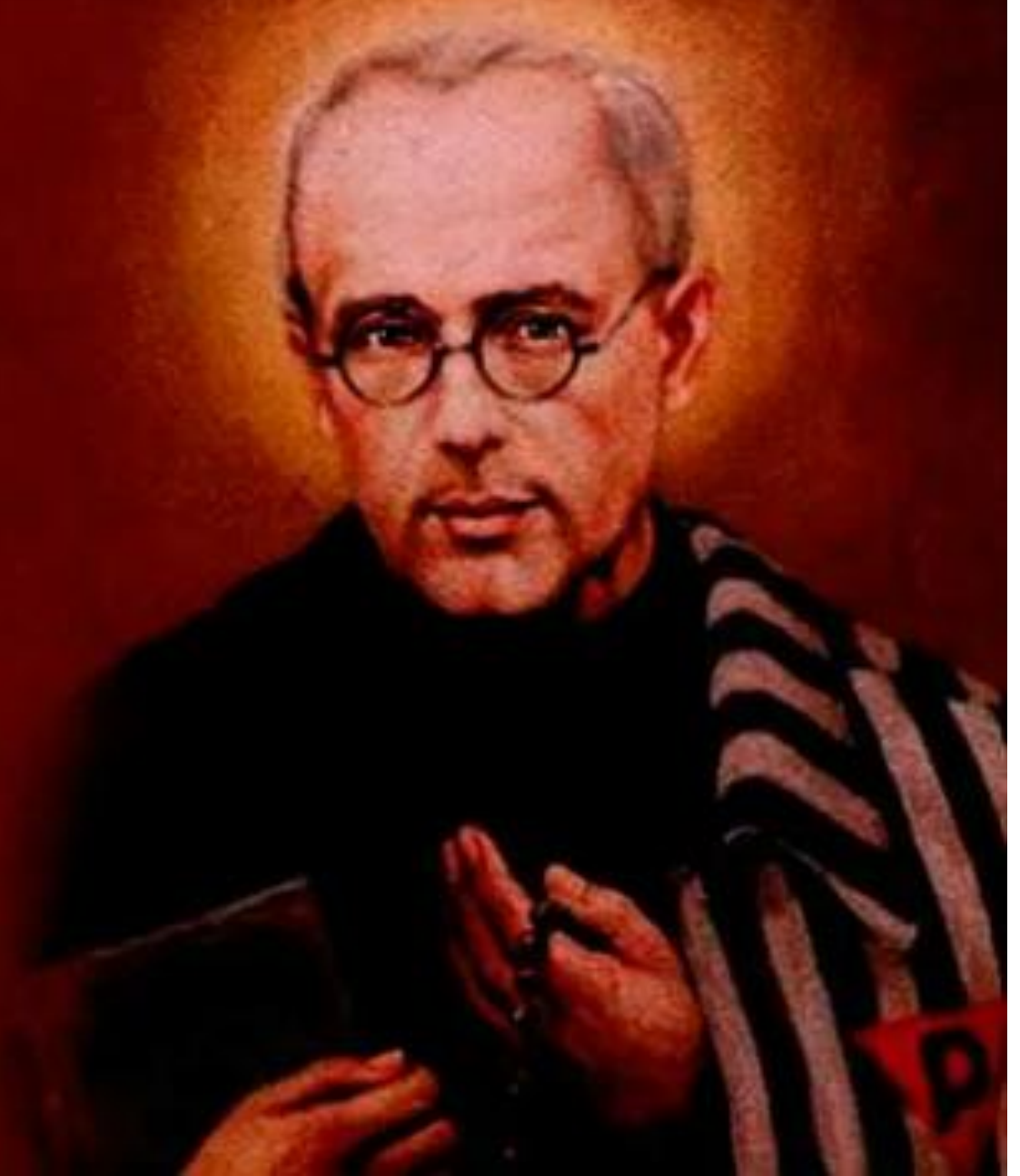
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ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

August 14th



St Maximilian was born in Poland in 1894. He became a Franciscan priest and set up a Franciscan community in Warsaw. In 1939 when the Nazis invaded Poland he became an outspoken opponent and was arrested but later released. He was re-arrested in 1941 and sent to Auschwitz. There he offered himself in place of another prisoner who had been sentenced to death. He and others were left to starve and he was finally killed by lethal injection. St Maximilian Kolbe is the patron saint of drug addicts, families, journalists and prisoners.

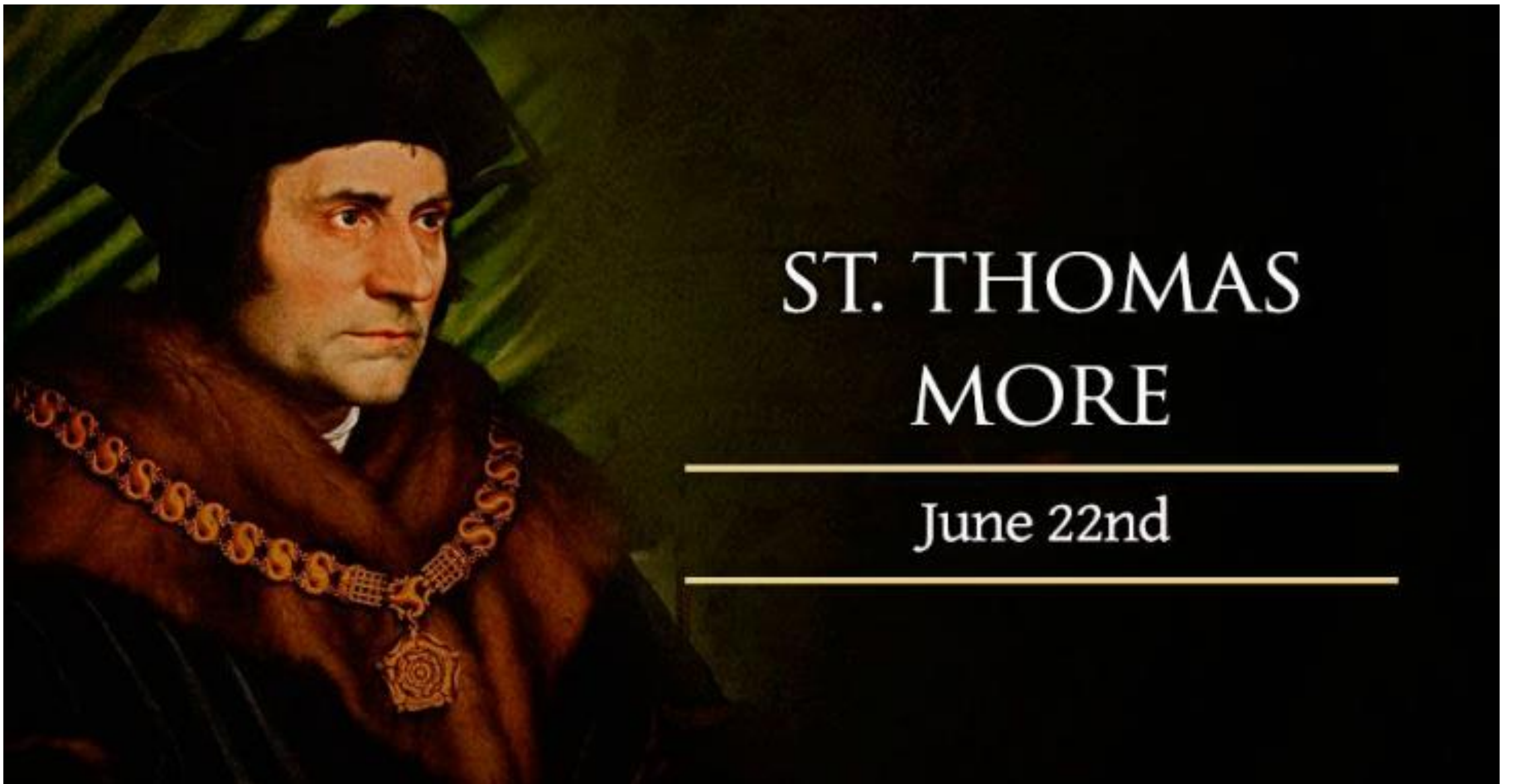
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ST. THOMAS MORE

June 22nd

St Thomas More was born in London in 1478. He became Lord Chancellor in 1529 and was a close friend of Henry VIII. He retired in 1532 when Henry VIII declared himself Head of the Church of England. In 1534 Henry asked Thomas to swear an allegiance to the King as Head of the Church of England. Thomas refused, was arrested and put in the Tower. He was charged with treason and beheaded in 1535. St Thomas More is the patron saint of adopted children, civil servants, lawyers, politicians, step-parents and widowers.

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Saint John Neumann

January 5th

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St John Neumann was born in Prachatitz, Bohemia in 1811. He came to the United States of America in 1836 in order to preach and spread the Word of God. In 1840 he joined the Redemptorist Fathers. He became Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As Bishop he helped to bring several sisterhoods from Europe to run the increasing number of Catholic schools he had set up in Philadelphia.

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ST. TERESA OF AVILA

October 15th



St Teresa of Avila was born in Avila in 1515. She was crippled by disease in her youth which led to her being home educated. She entered a Carmelite convent at 17 against her father's wishes but seeing her conviction to call, her father and family consented. Soon after taking her vows, Teresa became gravely ill and never really recovered her health. She became a great mystic and teacher of prayer. At the age of forty she began the reform of her Order of Carmelites as she considered her original house too lax in its rule. St Teresa was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church on 27 September 1970. St Teresa of Avila is the patron saint of headaches and Spain.

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St John Vianney was born near Lyons in 1786. He became a priest and ran the parish at Ars-en-Dombes where he lived a very austere life. He heard confessions from all over the world for sixteen hours a day. His life was filled with works of charity and love. He is the patron saint of priests.

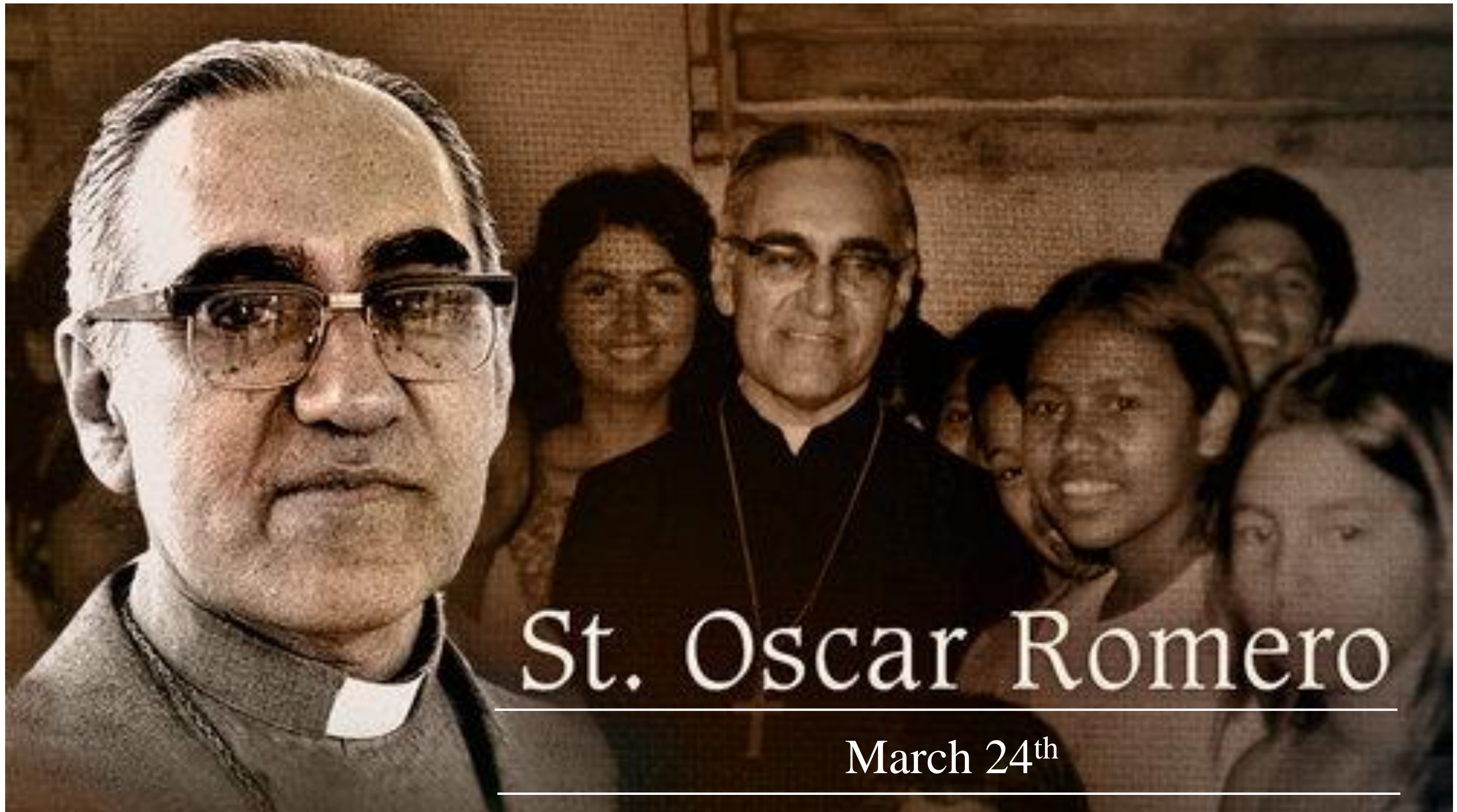
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St. Óscar Romero was born on August 15, 1917 in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador. He was a vocal critic of the violent activities of government armed forces, right-wing groups, and leftist guerrillas involved in El Salvador's civil conflict. He denounced violence and spoke out on behalf of the victims of the civil war. He defended the right of the poor to demand political change. Archbishop Romero was shot dead on 24 March 1980, aged 62, while celebrating Mass.

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Catherine of Siena, a lay member of the Dominican Order, was a mystic, activist, and author who had a great influence on Italian literature and the Catholic Church. Canonized in 1461, she is also a Doctor of the Church. Catherine had her first vision of Christ when she was five or six years old. Catherine vowed to give her whole life to God. After a period of illness Catherine joined the Mantellate who taught her how to read. Catherine's custom of giving away clothing and food without asking anyone's permission cost her family significantly, but she requested nothing for herself. Catherine died in Rome, on 29 April 1380, at the age of thirty-three, having eight days earlier suffered a massive stroke which paralyzed her from the waist down. Her last words were, "Father, into Your Hands I commend my soul and my spirit."

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St. Rose of Lima is the patron of Peru, South America, and the Philippines. Her name was Isabel de Flores. She was born in Lima, Peru on April 20, 1586. As a young girl growing up, Rose was given to fasting and mortification. She remained at home, but she lived a secluded life. To do her share in supporting the family, she did needlework and sold the flowers she cultivated. When she was twenty years of age, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and converted a little hut in the backyard into a hermitage, where she often went to pray. She also transformed a room in her parents' house into a sort of infirmary, where she cared for destitute children and elderly people.

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