

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: TO GO WHERE GOD LEADS US

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" 1 Corinthians 6:19

SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Saint Gabriel Archangel (patron saint of communication workers)

Feast day: September 29,

The name Gabriel means "man of God," or "God has shown himself mighty." It appears first in the prophecies of Daniel in the Old Testament. The angel announced to Daniel the prophecy of the seventy weeks. His name also occurs in the apocryphal book of Henoch. He was the angel who appeared to Zachariah to announce the birth of St. John the Baptizer. Finally, he announced to Mary that she would bear a Son Who would be conceived of the Holy Spirit, Son of the Most High, and Saviour of the world. The feast day is September 29th. St. Gabriel is the patron of communications workers.



St. Isidore of Seville (patron saint of computer technicians, internet)

Feast day: April 4

Isidore was probably born in Cartagena, Spain to Severianus and Theodora. His father belonged to a Hispano-Roman family of high social rank while his mother was of Visigothic origin and apparently, was distantly related to Visigothic royalty. His parents were members of an influential family who were instrumental in the political-religious maneuvering that converted the Visigothic kings from Arianism to Catholicism. The Catholic Church celebrates him and all his siblings as known saints:

- An elder brother, Saint Leander of Seville, immediately preceded Saint Isidore as Archbishop of Seville and, while in office, opposed king Liuvigild.
- A younger brother, Saint Fulgentius of Cartagena, served as the Bishop of Astigi at the start of the new reign of the Catholic King Reccared.
- His sister, Saint Florentina, served God as a nun and allegedly ruled over forty convents and one thousand consecrated religious. This claim seems unlikely; however, given the few functioning monastic institutions in Iberia during her lifetime, the claim could be creditable.



Proclaimed Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XIV in 1722, and became the leading candidate for patron of computer users and the internet in 1999.

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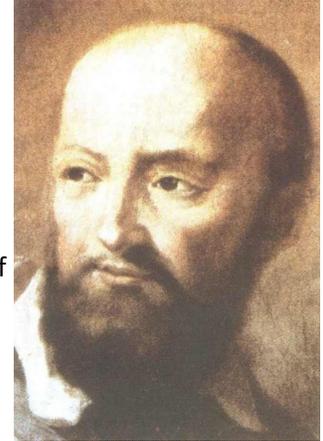
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SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Saint Francis of Sales (patron saint of journalists, writers)

Feast day: January 24

Born in France in 1567, Francis was a patient man. He knew for thirteen years that he had a vocation to the priesthood before he mentioned it to his family. When his father said that he wanted Francis to be a soldier and sent him to Paris to study, Francis said nothing. Then when he went to Padua to get a doctorate in law, he still kept quiet, but he studied theology and practiced mental prayer while getting into swordfights and going to parties. Even when his bishop told him if he wanted to be a priest that he thought that he would have a miter waiting for him someday, Francis uttered not a word. Why did Francis wait so long? Throughout his life he waited for God's will to be clear. He never wanted to push his wishes on God, to the point where most of us would have been afraid that God would give up!



Perhaps he was wise to wait, for he wasn't a natural pastor. His biggest concern on being ordained that he had to have his lovely curly gold hair cut off. And his preaching left the listeners thinking he was making fun of him. Others reported to the bishop that this noble-turned-priest was conceited and controlling.

Francis decided that he should lead an expedition to convert the 60,000 Calvinists back to Catholicism. He wrote out his sermons, copied them by hand, and slipped them under the doors. This is the first record we have of religious tracts being used to communicate with people.

In 1602 he was made bishop of the diocese of Geneva, in Calvinist territory. He only set foot in the city of Geneva twice -- once when the Pope sent him to try to convert Calvin's successor, Beza, and another when he traveled through it.

At that time, the way of holiness was only for monks and nuns -- not for ordinary people. Francis changed all that by giving spiritual direction to lay people living ordinary lives in the world. But he had proven with his own life that people could grow in holiness while involved in a very active occupation. Why couldn't others do the same? His most famous book, *INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE*, was written for these ordinary people in 1608. Written originally as letters, it became an instant success all over Europe -- though some preachers tore it up because he tolerated dancing and jokes!

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SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Prayer for Catholic Radio

God our Father, we humbly seek your all-powerful blessing on the work we have begun and ask you to bring it to completion. Give success to the work of our hands.

Lord Jesus, we seek your blessing on this radio station and ask you to consecrate it to the bold proclamation of your living Word, proclaimed in the midst of your One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Guard us from the evil one and from all those who would sow destruction or despair. Keep us in communion of mind and heart with our Pope and Bishops, upon whom we invoke your mercy.

Spirit of God, rain upon our labors your sevenfold gifts that we may make known in truth and love the voice of Jesus. Keep us ever-faithful to your inspirations, always open to the Truth, and never allow us to be conquered by pride. Create unity in our work and broadcast through us the seeds of the Word. Make us instruments of reconciliation among all your people, and of genuine renewal and reform.

Mother of the Word incarnate, remember this work as you come into the presence of your Son. Help us to remain humble in the image of your own heart, and guide us to the Heart of your Son. Protect us from all evil and bring to us the God of Life whom you bore in your womb and nursed at your breast. Help us to proclaim the greatness of the Lord and to ever-rejoice in God our Savior.

May the offering of our service and the prayer of the blessed Archangel Gabriel, patron of radio broadcasting, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord.

Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.