

WELCOMING THE ROMAN MISSAL
(Third Edition)
DEEPEN, NURTURE, CELEBRATE

The Church is in the business of Canonizing Saints, not Damning Sinners: Part 1

Last week, I introduced a new column that will run for the next couple of months in anticipation of the implementation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal that will begin on the First Sunday of Advent. I stated that the purpose of this column would be to unpack the content and meaning of the new prayers that the priest says along with the people's responses in the Mass. I also pointed out that a guiding Liturgical principle of Pope Benedict XVI was that of continuity and not discontinuity. As the title of this week's column aptly reminds us, over the past 2,000 years, the Church has recognized men and women outstanding in holiness as models to emulate in our universal call to holiness. The Church leaves the business of eternal damnation to God. So, for the remainder of this week's column, I would like to list seven of the seventeen new saints and observances added to the Roman Missal. Although some of these saints have been canonized for a while now, they were not added to the Roman Missal when it was last published in English back in 1985.

January 3 – Most Holy Name of Jesus – This is part of the Church's celebration of Christmas, recognizing that God "bestowed on [Jesus] the name that is above every name" (Phil 2:9).

February 8 – St. Josephine Bakhita, virgin – Born in Darfur, Josephine survived kidnapping and slavery to become a nun who embraced and lived hope as a redeemed child of God.

April 23 – St. Adalbert, bishop and martyr – Martyred near the end of the first millennium, Adalbert was a missionary in the countries of central Europe, striving to bring unity to God's people.

April 28 – St. Louis Mary de Montfort, priest – This French priest is best known for his devotion to Mary, encouraging the faithful to approach Jesus through his mother.

May 13 – Our Lady of Fatima – The Virgin Mary appeared to three children in the Portuguese town of Fatima in 1917. During these apparitions, she encouraged penance and praying the rosary.

May 21 – Sts. Christopher Magallanes, priest and martyr, & Companions, martyrs – Martyred in 1927, this Mexican priest was noted for his care of the native peoples of Mexico and for his work to support vocations to the priesthood.

May 22 – St. Rita of Cascia, religious – A wife, mother, widow, and nun, Saint Rita was known for her patience and humility in spite of many hardships. Conforming herself to the crucified Christ, she bore a wound on her forehead similar to one inflicted by a crown of thorns.

~ Fr. Jesse