



*Prayers for the Week Ahead*

WEEK BEGINNING 3RD JUNE

# Monday 3rd June



Lwanga and his companions were young men between the ages of fourteen and thirty who belonged to King Mwanga's royal court. As followers of the Catholic faith, they died because they rejected the impure desires of the king. Charles Lwanga, Master of the Pages, stood out for his zeal after his conversion to Christianity thanks to the missionary efforts of the White Fathers. The witness of his life and words brought others to the faith. He exercised great moral authority over the pages, some of whom were already Christians while others prepared for baptism, like Kizito, who was only fourteen years old.

The King of Uganda, Mwanga II, was enraged when he discovered that his pages embraced Christianity and so he began a persecution against *"those who pray,"* the name he gave to Christians. He convoked a council and ordered for the Christian pages to be called forth. He ordered them to deny the faith so that they would agree to the practice of sodomy with him. He also ordered that anyone not willing to renounce the faith should step forward. Charles Lwanga was the first to step forward, then the others followed him.

Charles Lwanga and his companions were beatified by Benedict XV in 1920. In 1934, Charles Lwanga was declared patron of Catholic Action and of African youth. On October 18, 1964, Paul VI canonized Charles Lwanga and his companions, selecting June 3 as the date for their feast day.

St Charles Lwanga and  
Companions, Martyrs

St Charles, pray for us.

# Tuesday 4th June



Francis (Francesco) Caracciolo was born in Villa Santa Maria in the Abruzzo region, in the Kingdom of Naples. He belonged to the Pisquizio branch of the Caracciolo family and received in baptism the name of Ascanio. From a young age, he had a reputation for gentleness and uprightness. When he was 22, he was attacked by one of the several skin maladies collectively described as "leprosy" in those days. So serious was this attack that he was considered hopeless. With death so near, he made a vow that if he regained his health, he would spend the rest of his life in the service of God and his fellow men. He recovered so quickly after this vow, that his cure was considered miraculous. Eager to fulfil his promise to God, he went to Naples to study for the priesthood. As a priest Francis spent many hours in the confessional. Here he was enriched with the gifts of prophecy and the reading of hearts. He also begged in the streets for the poor and gave away most of his possessions to the needy. But it was his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament for which Francis Caracciolo is most noted and remembered. Such was his love for the Holy Eucharist, that he would spend almost the entire night in adoration. The little sleep he allowed himself was often spent on one of the altar steps. In 1608, Caracciolo moved to Agnone to found a religious house in honour of the *Santissima Annunziata*, but he died before the completion of his dream. After the death his remains were transported from, where he moved to found was died, to Naples, without having any visible signs of embalmment.

## St Francis Caracciolo

St Francis, pray for us.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June



St. Boniface

St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr St. Boniface, the famous English monk and missionary to Germany, died on this date in A.D. 754. So, to commemorate his death, here's a prayer commonly attributed to him.

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children, we praise you for all you have given us, for all you have done for us, for all that you are to us. In our weakness, you are strength, in our darkness, you are light, in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace. We cannot number your blessings, we cannot declare your love: For all your blessings we bless you. May we live as in your presence, and love the things that you love, and serve you in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June



St Norbert

St Norbert was born about 1080 in the Rhineland and was ordained in 1115. He lived a life of penance and apostolate, and encouraged other clergy to do the same. This aroused hostility, and he left Germany and went to France, where he established a community of Canons who followed the rule of St. Augustine - living in community, celebrating the Divine Office and preaching to the people. From this came the Premonstratensian Order. He was elected Bishop of Magdeburg in 1126. He died in 1134.

PRAYER:

Father, you made the bishop Norbert an outstanding minister of your Church, renowned for his preaching and pastoral zeal. Always grant to your Church faithful shepherds to lead your people to eternal salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

# Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June



## The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

*The heart has always been seen as the "center" or essence a person ("the heart of the matter," "you are my heart," "take it to heart,") and the wellspring of our emotional lives and love ("you break my heart," "my heart sings,") Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is devotion to Jesus Christ Himself, but in the particular ways of meditating on his interior life and on His threefold love -- His divine love, His burning love that fed His human will, and His sensible love that affects His interior life.*

From the earliest days of the Church, "Christ's open side and the mystery of blood and water were meditated upon, and the Church was beheld issuing from the side of Jesus, as Eve came forth from the side of Adam. It is in the eleventh and twelfth centuries that we find the first unmistakable indications of devotion to the Sacred Heart. Through the wound in the side, the wound in the Heart was gradually reached, and the wound in the Heart symbolized the wound of love."

This general devotion arose first in Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries of that time, especially in response to the devotion of St. Gertrude the Great, but specific devotions became popularized when St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), a Visitation nun, had a personal revelation involving a series of visions of Christ as she prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. She wrote, "He disclosed to me the marvels of his Love and the inexplicable secrets of his Sacred Heart." Christ emphasized to her His love -- and His woundedness caused by Man's indifference to this love.