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PRAYER *God, You filled St. Henry with the abundance of Your grace to govern his earthly empire worthily, and called him to share Your glory in heaven. Through his intercession help us to shun the allurements of the world and come to You with pure minds. Amen.*



BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA, Virgin

July 14


KATERI was born near the town of Auriesville, New York, in the year 1656, the daughter of a Mohawk warrior. She was four years old when her mother died of smallpox. The disease also attacked Kateri and transfigured her face. She was adopted by her two aunts and an uncle.

Kateri became converted as a teenager. She was baptized at the age of twenty and incurred the great hostility of her tribe. Although she had to suffer greatly for her Faith, she remained firm in it.

Kateri went to the new Christian colony of Native Americans in Canada. Here she lived a life dedicated to prayer, penitential practices, and care for the sick and aged. Every morning, even in bitterest winter, she stood before the chapel door until it opened at four and remained there until after the last Mass. She was devoted to the Eucharist and to Jesus Crucified.

She died on April 7, 1680, at the age of twenty-four, and was beatified in 1980 by Pope John Paul II. She is known as the “Lily of the Mohawks.”

PRAYER *Lord, You called the Virgin, Blessed Kateri, to shine forth among the Native American people as an example of purity of life. Grant, through her intercession, that all peoples of every tribe, tongue, and nation, may be gathered into Your Church and proclaim Your greatness in one song of praise. Amen.*



**ST. BONAVENTURE, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church**

July 15

ST. BONAVENTURE, widely known as “The Seraphic Doctor,” was born at Bagnorea in

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PRAYER *Father in Heaven, as we await the Second Coming of Your Son, You bid us draw closer to You in prayer, virtue, and good works. Through the intercession of St. Simeon Stylites the Younger, grant us the grace always to keep in mind our personal salvation and the evangelization of others through well-lived lives. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT, Virgin May 25

MADELEINE Sophie Barat was born on December 12, 1779, at Joigny in Burgundy, France. Her older brother, who was studying for the priesthood, saw to Madeleine's early education and discipline. Since she was a very attractive young lady, her priest-brother was afraid that she would be led astray, and thus he moved her to Paris where he lived.

Since she had great interest in the Christian education of young ladies, on November 21, 1800, Madeleine entered religious life, and one year later she went to Amiens to found the first school and convent of her new congregation of nuns, the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was appointed superioress at the age of twenty-three and she held that office for sixty-three years.

Many other branches continued to open, and in 1818, Rose-Phillippine Duchesne was sent

with four companions to work in North America. In 1826, with the approval of Pope Leo XII, the Society of the Sacred Heart was formally established.

Madeleine died on May 25, 1865, at the age of eighty-six. She was canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI.

REFLECTION Although possessed of great natural beauty and a multiplicity of talents, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat responded to the call for the Christian education of youth. She gathered a small group to begin the religious life, and in a short time she was appointed superior of the fledgling organization. Under her very capable leadership, Madeleine's congregation opened foundations in twelve countries on two continents, and she continued in her office as superi-



ress for sixty-three years, until her death. The good that her congregation and its schools have accomplished throughout the years speaks eloquently of her love for and devotion to her Lord.

PRAYER *O God, You raised up Your servant St. Madeleine Sophie Barat for the Christian education of youth. May we always be open to and supportive of dedicated teachers. Bless their work with Your loving presence. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



ST. MARIANA OF QUITO, Virgin

May 26

MARIANA was born in 1618 in Quito, Ecuador. Her parents were of the Spanish nobility, but she was orphaned as a child, and she was raised with loving care by her sister and her sister's husband.

Early in life Mariana was attracted to religion, and at the age of twelve she became a recluse in her sister's house, under the direction of a Jesuit. She never left that house for the rest of her life, except to go to church. She ate very little, slept only three hours a night, and was reputed to have had the gifts of prophecy and miracles.

In 1645, Quito was ravaged by an earthquake and epidemic. Mariana offered herself publicly as a victim for the sins of the people. The earthquake immediately ended, and as the epidemic began to subside, Mariana was taken ill and died on May 26, 1645, at the age of twenty-six. Known