

Key Saints and Blessed

Holy Catechists Companions

St. Paul the Apostle (1st century, feast days January 25 and June 29), patron of Rome, evangelists, missionaries, and theologians. The great preacher of the kerygma and catechizer of Christians.



St. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584, feast day November 4), patron of bishops, catechists, catechumens, cardinals, seminarians, and spiritual directors and leaders: helped greatly in the development of the Roman Catechism and helped to implement the reforms called for by the Council of Trent.

St. Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621, feast day September 17), patron of canon lawyers, catechists, and catechumens: a cardinal who knew Sacred Scripture and doctrine very well, he composed two catechisms, which have had a lasting effect on the Church. Robert helped bring about a renewal of the Church after Trent, reminding us that we should direct ourselves to intensely knowing, loving, and imitating Jesus Christ.

St. John Bosco (1815-1888, feast day January 31), patron of editors, juvenile delinquents, publishers, students, young children, founder of the Salesian Congregation. St. John Bosco dedicated his life to educating young girls and boys, beginning with orphans, whom he taught to read and write.



St. Peter Calungsod (1655-1672, feast day October 21), patron of the Philippines and Filipino youth, Visayans, altar servers, and catechumens: sent as a young boy from the Visayas region in the Philippines to the Mariana Islands, to the modern-day island of Guam, to catechize the Chamorro people who lived there. While accompanying a priest who was to perform a baptism, Peter was martyred by hostile aggressors who were jealous and suspicious of the Christian missionaries. Peter was only 17 years old at the time.



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St. Clelia Barbieri (1847-1870, feast day July 13), patroness of catechists: when her mother moved close to the parish while Clelia was still young, she would spend much of her day in prayerful contemplation. As a young teenager, Clelia joined “The Workers of Christian Catechism,” and quickly became an inspirational leader. Though many men sought to marry her, Clelia knew she was called to devote her life to serving the Church and others. She founded the religious institute of the Little Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows at the age of 21, an order dedicated to serving the poor and sick. She died at 23 from tuberculosis.

Bl. Carlos Manuel Cecilio Rodríguez Santiago (1918-1963, feast day July 13): Charlie, as he was known during his life, grew up in Puerto Rico. He suffered from ulcerative colitis, a disease which debilitated him for most of his life. In spite of his condition, he formed discussion groups to promote Catholic liturgy, driven in large part by his fondness of the Easter Vigil. He taught catechesis to high school students, providing them with study guides that he furnished with his own money.

