

Mother of God: Mary

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word...Do whatever he tells you.”

Apostle to the Apostles: Mary Magdalene

Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran Saint: ‘apostle to the apostles’, Patron of Women

Host Hostess

3rd century Church services were held in the home hosted by women like Lydia, Nympha, Chloe, and John Mark’s mother Mary.

Unmercenaries: Zenaida and Philonilla

1st women to start a free clinic. Brother Bishop, Cousin Apostle Paul. Zenaida: spiritual councilor, pediatrics, & psychiatrics. Philonilla: gynecologist, teacher.

Hermione and Eukhidia

Philip deacon appointed by Apostles: 4 prophetess daughters. Hermione turned house into 1st Christian medical clinic & hostel. Caused pagan temple statues to crash & crumble. Beheaded in 117.

Mary Glowrey (1887-1957)

1st female MD practicing in New Zealand & clerical Catholic, Sister of Society of JMJ, President Catholic Women’s Social Guild. 37 yrs. Building/training Indian health care system treating >21M/yr., >600M personally.

Martyrs: Perpetua (182-203)

Nursing mother, wrote dairy, rare surviving ancient document by a woman. Her pregnant slave gave birth in prison. Attacked by wild beasts, executed by sword. Carthage Church read from her dairy for centuries.

Edith Stein (1891-1942)

Devout Jewish Polish family, nurse, PhD philosophy, became a Catholic, 3rd Order Dominican, Carmelite nun, moved to Holland, interned, and gassed at Auschwitz.

Archaeologist: Helena (246-330)

Constantine’s mother pioneered Christian pilgrimages/archaeology. Found “Title of the Cross” & sites of birth, crucifixion, & ascension, built Nativity Church, Holy Sepulcher, Church on Mt. Of Olives, & Mt. Sinai Chapel.

Missionaries: Nino (c280-332)

Raised by Bethlehem nun under uncle/Patriarch of Jerusalem. 1 of 35 nuns to escape martyrdom in Armenia, converted King & Queen of Iberia (Georgia). Georgians still name their girls Nino.

Pauline Marie Jaricot (1799-1862)

Bedridden, lost mother @17, joined Dominican 3rd Order, John Vianney Spiritual Director, established The Living Rosary, founded Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Died destitute, enduring legacy.

Francesca Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917)

rejected from convent 3x for health, substitute teacher, managed orphanage, Founded Missionary Sisters of Sacred Heart, served Italian immigrants, founded 67 hospitals, schools & orphanages in 16 cities/8 countries.

Katherine Mary Drexel (1858-1955)

Inheritance worth \$400M. Sister of Mercy, founded Sisters of Blessed Sacrament & 145 missions, 50 schools for African Americans, 2 for Native Americans, & Xavier U. of La, the only black Catholic college in US.

Blandina Segale (1850-1941)

Charity nun teacher, wild west missionary, founded school, prison ministry, public & parochial schools, orphanage, & hospital, advocate for immigrants. Diary published: portrayed *Death Valley Days*.

Deaconess:

Phoebe 1st deaconess, Byzantine deaconess served as greeters, baptizers, choral directors, midwives, & nurse, mentioned by Church Fathers, *The Apostolic Constitutions*, & Great Councils of Nicea & Chalcedon.

Macrina (324-379)

Basil the Great's sister founded convent, served as deaconess.

Melania of Rome (383-439)

Lost 2 children, her & husband converted & became monastics in Sicily, donated a sizable inheritance to poor, founded monasteries in Palestine and North Africa, befriended Augustine, served as deaconess.

Radegunde (520-587)

Gifted teacher entertained local clerics, attracted converts with miracles & holiness. Founded Abbey/infirmery of Holy Cross in Poitiers, 200 nuns studied Scripture, copied manuscripts, worked as weavers & seamstresses.

Presbytera

Orthodox priest's wife. Orthodox restored deaconess in 6 nations. Monasteries made up of monks & nuns, led by abbot/hieromonk assisted by nun or deaconess 2nd in command.

Leaders: Marcella (325-410)

Biblical, Greek, & Hebrew scholar, taught laity & priests, leading apologist. Founded 1st western female monastic order: *The Brown Dress Society*. Jerome translated Vulgate in her home, Barbarians tortured/died.

Brigid (452-524)

Donated inheritance & traveled caring for poor, founded monasteries for men & women ruled by women, renamed 1st site Kildare, *Church of the Oak*, as revered as Patrick. 'Bride' from her name, 'ideal woman.'

Nathalie Becquart (1969-)

Congregation of Xavieres, studied theology, philosophy, sociology, ecclesiology, & synodality, Deputy director youth pastoral care, 1st woman undersecretary w/voting rights on Synod of Bishops. Led *For a Synodal Church*.

Session 2 Church Doctors: Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Exegete, 1st woman theologian. Benedictine Superior, wrote songs, operas, poetry, books, & morality plays. Pope authorized preacher, environmentalist, attributed illness to toxins, stress & anger, used early diagnostics & holistic healing with herbal medicine, diet, exercise, lifestyle, & prayer.

Catherine (of Sienna) Benincasa (1347-1380)

Last of 25 children, 1st female *Dr.* Illiterate until 20. Healing ministry plague victims & lepers, nicknamed *mamma*, my little mother. Peacemaker/prophetess/reformer. Died in early 30's, stigmata.

Theresa of Avila (1515-1582)

2nd female Dr, *Dr. of Prayer*, only woman to found female & male monastics, Discalced or Barefoot *Carmelites*. Carmelites followed the pattern set by Elijah at Mt Carmel, persistent prayer in God's will.

Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)

Dr of Merciful Love, 'Little Way.' 1 of 4 monastic sisters, 'heart's desire to save souls.' Canon questioned her sincerity/priest restored her confidence. Novice mistress, chronic fatigue, died @24 from TB.

Teachers: Angela Merici (1474-1540)

Visited hospitals, took in orphans, reading classes for girls, founded 1st order of women dedicated to education, *Ursulines* grew worldwide, 1st female order to enter US in 1727, NOLA.

Marie Guyart (1599-1672)

1st N. Am. female missionary, Ursuline, wrote dictionaries & catechisms in Indian dialects. Founded school for French & Indian girls, French paid, Indians did not, wrote 20K letters to son, acquaintances, & students

Ignatia del Espiritu Santo (1663-1748)

Founded the Religious of the Virgin Mary in 1726 against Spanish law under spiritual direction of Jesuit priest, native educators serving the poor leading a life of charity and spiritual exercises..

Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821)

Episcopalian, widowed mother, converted in Italy, ran school. President St. Mary's College invited to teach poor girls. Formed 20 communities Sisters of Charity St. Joseph; 1st US order, parochial school & US saint, 1975.

Thea Bowman (1937-1990)

Grandfather slave, father MD, mother teacher, converted @9. Sister of St Francis @15, English BA, MA, PHD. Taught elementary to U. Led Black Catholic outreach 6 states & 3 countries. *African American Catholic Hymnal*.

Disciples: Marguerite of Navarre (1492-1549)

King's sister, Queen of Navarre, author, humanist & art patron. Mediated brother, Church, & Reformers. Wrote religious plays & poetry, studied literature, history, philosophy, & theology. Fluent in 5 languages. Encouraged vernacular Scripture. "The Prime Minister of the Poor" founded orphanages, schools, hospitals, & public works.

Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (1794-1882)

Haitian family fled to Cuba/Baltimore. Spoke French & Spanish, founded school for underprivileged, 1st African American Oblate Sisters of Providence. Overcame poverty, racism & cholera epidemic, opened home for widows & orphans, spread to 25 cities & foreign countries.

Henriette Dellile (1813-1862)

Biracial, helped African slaves @11, taught religion, helped sick & elderly @14. Illegal to teach slaves to read & write, acted out Scripture & Church History. Sold inheritance, founded African American *Sisters of the Holy Family*, opened home for poor, sick & elderly, & community center for blacks. Order spread to S. America.

Elizabeth Pilenko, Mother Maria of Paris (1891-1945)

Ukrainian Orthodox saint: skilled poet & embroidery iconographer, unwed mother, 2x divorced, Socialist Mayor, lost 4 year-old daughter. Established homes for destitute & infirmed. Joined Resistance with seminarian son,

sheltered Jews, provided baptismal records, smuggled interned children. Gestapo captured son died @24. Ministered in Concentration Camp prayer groups & Bible studies, Yad Vashin: Righteous Gentile.

Agnes Bojaxhiu, Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

Native Albanian, Irish Sister of Loreto, founded Missionaries of Charity. Questioned faith, moral authority to challenge Presidents! 45 yrs serving Indian poor, sick, orphaned & lepers, state funeral in Hindu Muslim nation.

Mary Rose McGeady (1928-2012)

Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Emmanuel College sociology, Fordham master's clinical psychology. Resigned Associate Director Brooklyn Catholic Charities for Times Square's *Covenant House*. Covenant rescues drug addicted, gang, physically abused children ... Serves 80K/year in 31 cities in 6 countries.

Intercessor: Elena Guerra (1835-1914)

Founded *Oblate Sisters of the Holy Spirit*, '24/7' prayer groups. Wrote Pope requesting renewal of preaching on the Spirit. At her request, Leo dedicated 20th century to Holy Spirit, ushered in with *Veni Creator Spiritus*.

Theologian: Elizabeth Behr-Sigel (1907-2005)

Protestant father, Jewish mother, 1st woman graduate U of Strasbourg master's theology, Dr. theology from Orthodox Church Paris, 1st female minister Reformed Church Alsace-Lorraine. Converted Orthodox @24, married Russian engineer, 3 children, served resistance. Taught Catholic/Orthodox seminaries & College. Ecumenical, advocate for deaconess. 95th birthday celebrated in Carmelite convent with Roman Catholic, Byzantine Catholic & Orthodox Bishops & priests & Protestant clergy.

Journalist: Rita Antoinette Rizzo, Mother Angelica (1923-2016)

Italian descent Ohio woman founded EWTN in Bible belt Birmingham. Someone told her she couldn't do it. Starting from a garage, built station into international operation in 20 yrs. Established shrine & convent.

Protestant Women: Pandita Sarasvati Ramabai

Widow women's rights advocate & refuge, Christian convert. Sent daughter & friend to Welch revival. Within 6 months there were prayer meetings, baptisms, healings, & 700 missionaries.

Rebecca Freundlich-Protten (1718-1780)

Freed house slave, joined Moravian missionaries. Formed mixed language study groups for slaves, married, adopted 9 orphans. Husband died, one of 1st ordained women, established Christian school in Ghana.

Hanna More (1745-1833)

Memorized Scripture @3, read & write @4, wrote poems/moral essays, taught @16, wrote morality plays. abolitionist, wrote poems exposing horrors, humanized victims, called out elites for tacit approval. Established Sunday schools, spread to children. Campaigned against misogyny, advocated for Indian missionaries.

Phoebe Palmer (1807-1874)

Methodists became middleclass & abandoned their roots serving the poor, Holiness Churches embraced them. Founded a nationwide women's prayer group, led to *Church of the Nazarene* & *Church of God*, Pentecostalism.