

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL
SAINTS OF THE UPPER CLERESTORY WINDOWS

Abraham (window 1), the starting point or source of the three monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), born Abram and given the name Abraham meaning “father of many nations” because of God’s promises to him and to his seed for his faith and trust (shown when he with his family left Haran and journeyed into the unknown country of Chanaan), and obedience (he was ready to sacrifice his only son Isaac on God’s command). The New Testament traces the descent of Jesus Christ from Abraham.

David (window 2), is renowned for his greatness. Great as a prophet, king, general, administrator, musician, poet, warrior, sinner, and penitent, he is the man of whom God said “I am going to make your fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth” (2 Sam 7:9). He is regarded as a type of the Messiah Whom he pre-figured: Bethlehem is the birthplace of both; his shepherd life points out Christ, the Good Shepherd; the five stones chosen to slay Goliath are typical of the five wounds; he became king when he was 30 years old and he reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel and Judah for 33 years (2 Sam 5:4-5).

Malachias (Malachi) (window 3), a minor prophet of the 5th century BC and regarded as the last of the canonical prophets of the Old Testament and author of the Book of Malachi; his name means “my messenger”. He chastised the priests for their slackness, and condemned divorce and interreligious marriage. He promised that God’s messenger (identified as Elijah and later as St. John the Baptist) would prepare the way for the Messiah (Mal 3:1).

St. Stephen (window 4) feast day: December 26, was one of the first seven deacons and “a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, full of grace and fortitude” (Ac 6:5, 8), whom the Apostles appointed to look after the day-to-day administration of the first Christian community in Jerusalem while they devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. Stephen, “his face as if it had been the face of an angel,” defended himself before the Sanhedrin, the council of the Jews, against false accusations of blasphemy. For his defense, his long speech so outraged them that they cast him out of the city and stoned him, thus making him the first Christian martyr.

St. Cecilia (window 5), feast day: November 22; was a patrician girl of Rome who was brought up as a Christian. She was responsible for converting her husband, Valerian, and his brother, Tiburtius, to Christianity. Both brothers were later arrested for burying the bodies of martyrs and were beheaded. When Cecilia refused to repudiate her faith she was brought into court and at length, slain. Today St. Cecilia is generally known as the patron saint of music and musicians because it is said that at her wedding, Cecilia sang to the Lord in her heart.

St. Sebastian (window 6), feast day: January 20; born at Narbonne and later came to Rome where he found the twin brothers Marcus and Marcellinus. He encouraged them to die for Christ. St. Sebastian was not only a good soldier in the Roman army but a champion of Jesus Christ. No matter what he did or in what he did it, his martyrdom was exemplified. It was through his persecution for the Church that God raised him up.

St. Agnes (window 7), feast day: January 21, born into a wealthy Roman family, known for her beauty, and consecrated her virginity to God. Agnes was sent by Emperor Diocletian to a house of prostitution because she refused the advances of his servants. There

she remained firm in her faith; she was martyred at age 10 or 12 for preserving her virginity. She is buried on the Via Nomentana. Because of her innocence, her symbol is a lamb, and she is the patron of young girls.

St. Gregory Nazianzen (window 8), feast day: January 2; born in Cappadocia in 329, was also known as Saint Gregory the Theologian. He is a Doctor of the Church and is also a highly regarded saint in Eastern Orthodoxy. A gifted and skilled rhetorician, poet, and orator, as well as a profound theologian, Gregory served as a bishop in Sosina, Nazianzen and as Patriarch of Constantinople. St. Gregory Nazianzen became one of the outstanding defenders and formulators of Trinitarian orthodoxy and his body of work included poetry, letters, sermons, and lectures on religious themes.

St. Monica (window 9) 332 - 387 AD, feast day: August 27; mother of St. Augustine of Hippo. Although Augustine was raised a Christian, he was never baptized. As a young man, he lived with his mistress, who bore him a son, but much to his mother’s dismay, he had no interest in marriage. Over the years, St. Monica prayed, fasted, cajoled, pleaded, and begged her son to change his ways. She was so insistent that her spiritual director finally told her, “Surely the son of so many tears will not perish.” In fact, she dogged Augustine until he finally was converted.

St. Augustine (window 10) 354 - 430 AD, feast day: August 28; one of the most important figures in the development of Western Christianity. In Roman Catholicism, he is a saint and pre-eminent Doctor of the Church, and the patron of the Augustinian religious order. Many Protestants, especially Calvinists, consider him to be one of the theological fountainheads of Reformation teaching on salvation and grace. Born in Africa as the eldest son of Saint Monica, he was educated and baptized in Italy. His works, including *The Confessions*, which is often called the first Western autobiography, are still read around the world. He is considered the patron saint of brewers, printers, theologians, sore eyes, and a number of cities and dioceses.

St. Bridget, also spelled Brigid, (window 11); born at Fochard, in Ulster. While a very young girl, Bridget consecrated her life to God and was professed as a nun by St. Mel of Armagh. About 470 AD, Bridget founded a monastery in Kildare and was abbess of the convent, the first of its kind found in Ireland. Bridget was one of the most remarkable women of her time for her extraordinary spirituality, her boundless charity, and compassion for those in distress. Her piety attracted many as they were anxious to solicit her prayers. She was a Columban Sister. She died at Kildare on February 1, 525 AD, buried at Downpatrick, Ireland, and shares the title Patron of Ireland with St. Patrick.

St. Patrick (window 12), feast day: March 17; was born in 387 at Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, Scotland, the son of Calpornius and Conchessa, Romans living in Scotland. When he was about 14, Patrick was captured into slavery, taken to Ireland, a nation of Druids and pagans, and put to work herding sheep. Escaping the bonds of slavery at 20, Patrick returned to Britain and his family. A dream in which the people of Ireland called out to him: “We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more”, led him to begin his studies for the priesthood. St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, under whom he had studied for years, ordained him.

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After becoming a bishop, Patrick was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland, and over the next 40 years, he converted the nation. He and his disciples built churches, he worked many miracles, and wrote of his love for God in *Confessio*. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering, he died March 17, 461 at Saul, where he had built the first church. Patrick is remembered for using the shamrock as a teaching tool to explain the Trinity. His Breastplate (Lorica) prayer is a favorite among Catholics even today and is a powerful illustration of his love for, and trust in, the saving power of Jesus Christ. He is the patron saint of Ireland.

St. Ursula (window 13), feast day: October 21; virgin and martyr; was born in Great Britain of Christian parents. Ursula's father, Maurus, was king of a region in Scotland. Ursula was sought in marriage by a young pagan prince, but she had already vowed her life and her heart to Jesus Christ. In 383 AD, she and her followers set out on a pilgrimage for Cologne, which was being besieged by Huns. All the virgins were beheaded in a dreadful massacre while Ursula was shot dead with an arrow. Saint Ursula is the patron saint of Catholic girls' education, educators, school children, and a holy death. She is the namesake for the Ursuline Order, founded for the education of young Catholic girls and women.

St. Benedict (window 14) 480-547 AD, feast day: July 11. St. Benedict built 12 monasteries; one, Monte Cassino in Italy, was rebuilt three times and is still standing and operating. Under his rule, monasteries became sanctuaries of learning and hospitality in the Middle Ages. St. Benedict's influence on monastic life was so great that his rule, or plan, for monks became the standard throughout Europe, even today. Although he needed some support from his monks, he was standing in the chapel with his hands raised to heaven when he died.

St. Boniface (window 15), feast day: June 5; a highly regarded teacher, preacher, monk, and missionary. Ordained a priest at the age of 30, he declined the position of abbot in order to become a missionary in the pagan-ridden Germanic lands of Friesland, Hesse, Thuringia (Hungary), and Bavaria. As a missionary, he converted many and established Benedictine monasteries, schools, and churches in various regions throughout France and Germany. He was made a regional bishop in 722. He organized and reformed the incorrigibly corrupt Church in France by dividing the area into provinces, each led by an archbishop. He was killed in Friesland by a gang of renegade pagan bandits, but not before he asked to lay his head on his Bible.

St. Cyril (window 16), feast day: February 14; the younger brother of St. Methodius. They were natives of Thessalonika. He was educated at the imperial university, ordained a deacon, and later became a priest. In due course he took over the chair of one of his teachers, Photius. In 861 he was sent on a religio-political mission to the ruler of the judaized Khazars. His older brother, Methodius, joined him. Later, an ambassador in Constantinople asked the emperor to send missionaries to Moravia who were capable of teaching the people in their own language. The first requirement was the provision of characters in which the Slav tongue might be written. The characters are now called cyrillic. Both brothers were sent to Moravia and had much success, but were handicapped by the lack of a bishop to ordain priests. They went to Rome where Pope Adrian II approved their cause of the use of Slavonic in the liturgy. Cyril died in Rome on February 14, 869.

St. Methodius (window 16), feast day: February 14. After being governor of one of the Slav colonies, Methodius became a monk and joined his younger brother, Cyril, in a mission to the Khazars. The two brothers had much success in Moravia in the use of Slavonic in their preaching and ministrations. When they went to Rome, both brothers received episcopal consecration. Following Cyril's death in 869, Methodius took up his brother's leadership. When he returned to Moravia, his boundaries enlarged to the borders of Bulgaria and he was made metropolitan. The Western clergy did not approve of the use of Slavonic but Rome finally granted some concessions but with reservations. He was fighting a losing battle with the German influence and died on April 6, 884, worn out by his apostolic labors and the opposition he encountered.

St. Dominic (window 17), feast day: July 11; was born in Caleruega, Spain and at age 14 left the care of his uncle and entered the school at Palencia. While a student he was made a canon and then sent to southern France in 1205 to counter the heretical teachings of the Albigensians who held that matter was evil and only rigorous spiritual asceticism was good. He adopted an austere lifestyle of begging and preaching and recruited others, thus the Order of Preachers or Dominicans began in 1216. All were highly educated and preached and taught. They stay poor willingly following in his footsteps. He died in 1221.

St. Francis of Assisi (window 18), feast day: October 4; was born to the Bernadone family in Assisi, Umbria, Italy in 1181. His spiritual journey began with a dream of God calling him to return home, a journey which caused great physical and emotional pain, ridicule, but ultimately, acceptance and reverence. His example of poverty and humility was inspirational to so many and his companions came from all walks of life. Francis showed honor, respect, and love to every person whether they were beggar or pope. Francis obtained papal permission to form his order of Franciscans. Francis died on October 4, 1226 at the age of 45, but his legacy lives on today through the many good works of the Franciscans who live the simple teachings of Francis throughout the world. He is the patron saint of animals, merchants & ecology.

St. Simon Stock (window 19), feast day: May 16; was born in England. He became a hermit and then went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem where he joined the Carmelites. When he returned to England he was elected superior general. He expanded the Order by establishing new foundations in Europe. He also revised the rule which was approved by Pope Innocent IV in 1237. He was favored with a vision of the Blessed Mother who revealed to him the merits of wearing the brown scapular. The surname Stock may come from the legend that he lived inside a tree trunk in his youth.

St. Hedwig (window 20), feast day: October 16. The daughter of the Duke of Croatia and Dalmatia, and the aunt of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Hedwig was born in Bavaria in 1174. At the age of twelve, Hedwig was married to Duke Henry of Silesia, the head of the Polish Royal family. She bore him seven children, and they had a happy marriage. Henry founded a Cistercian convent at Trebnitz, as well as hospitals and monasteries. Upon her husband's death in 1238, she gave away her fortune and entered the monastery at Trebnitz. She bestowed alms on the needy, gave aid to colleges and to religious persons, widows and orphans, the weak and the feeble, lepers, prisoners, travelers, and needy women nursing infants. She died in the convent on October 15, 1243.

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Many miracles were reported after her death, and she was canonized in 1266 by Pope Clement IV.

St. Catherine of Siena (window 21), feast day: April 29; a Dominican tertiary, renowned for the deep wisdom of her letters and *The Dialogue* which records her instruction by God; Doctor of the Church; one of the greatest of Christian mystics and a stigmatist in 1375 (although at her request, the marks did not appear outwardly in her body until her death). She devoted herself to caring for the sick, serving the poor, ministering to condemned prisoners and the spiritually troubled, ecclesiastical politics, and promoted the reform of the Dominican Order. She lived for long intervals on practically no food except the Holy Eucharist. She is patroness of Siena and later of Italy.

St. Francis Xavier (window 22), feast day: Dec. 3, famous Jesuit missionary (one of the seven including St. Ignatius Loyola who made the famous vow of Montmartre in 1534, marking the formation of the Society of Jesus), apostle of the Indies and of Japan. He, with the exception of St. Paul, was the greatest of all Christian missionaries, having traveled thousands of miles to Rome, Goa, Portugal, India, the East Indies, the Philippines, Japan, etc. His conversions are in the hundreds of thousands, made more remarkable because he worked through interpreters, his miracles are legion, and he worked under the most harrowing conditions. From his pioneer work developed the Jesuit missions in the Far East. He died on his way to evangelize China, was canonized in 1622, and proclaimed patron of all foreign missions. His body is still enshrined at Goa in the church which formerly belonged to the Society.

St. Benedict the Moor (window 23), feast day: April 4; was a freed slave who rose to become a superior of both Franciscan hermits and (later) Friars. As a novice master for the Friars, he displayed gifts for teaching theology, and reading hearts. His reputation for holiness and miracles drew thousands. He requested to be relieved of his post and made a cook at the height of his fame. He died in 1589 (having foretold the hour of his death); his body was reported incorrupt when exhumed several years later. Beatified in 1743 and canonized in 1807, he is the patron saint of Palermo (Italy), of African-Americans, and the missions to blacks.

St. Rose of Lima (window 24), feast day: August 23; born in Lima, Peru on April 20, 1586. Known for her beauty, she resisted her parents' efforts for her to marry and lived as a recluse in a garden shack at her home where she practiced penance and mortification. She joined the Dominicans as a tertiary, experienced many mystical gifts and visions, and received invisible stigmata. In one room of her family home she cared for destitute children and elderly sick. Considerable in scope, it has been described as the beginning of social service in Peru. She was canonized by Pope Clement X in 1671 as the first native-born saint of the New World, and was proclaimed patron of Peru, of all of South America, of the Indies, and of the Philippines.

St. Francis de Sales (window 25), feast day: January 24; born in Savoy, France August 21, 1567. He studied at the Jesuit College of Clermont in Paris, then studied law and theology at the University of Padua, received his doctorate at age 24, and ordained in 1593. Famous preacher, teacher, and intellect, he founded many schools and the Order of the Visitation with St. Frances de Chantal. Francis

was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1877 for his many spiritual classics, including *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *Treatise on the Love of God*. These works stressed that sanctity and perfection are possible for every Christian. He is the patron of authors and the Catholic press.

St. Vincent de Paul (window 26), born in 1580 to farming parents near Pouy in Gascony, France. At the age of 20, he was ordained a priest. He became the confessor of peasants who needed spiritual guidance and a good confessor. He also became chaplain of the galley slaves. Around 1633 he founded the Congregation of the Mission (or Vincentian priests) to minister to the poor and direct seminaries; he lived to see 25 houses founded in Paris, Poland, and other places. He founded confraternities to aid the sick and poor in parishes and from these emerged the Ladies of Charity, and later the Daughters of Charity. Vincent died in his chair at the age of 80 having many illnesses. He is the universal patron of charity.

St. Alphonsus Ligouri (window 27), feast day: August 1. Born at Marianella, near Naples in 1696 of noble parents, Alphonsus was the eldest of seven children. His spiritual training was entrusted to the Fathers of the Oratory. Alphonsus was known as a most devout brother of the Little Oratory. At age 16, he was made a Doctor of Law and became a very successful one. However, he was determined to labor for the honor and glory of God. He entered the priesthood and later founded the missionary Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. At age 66, Alphonsus became Bishop of Agatha. He was a very learned man, writing his first book at age 49 and by age 83 had published six volumes when the director forbade him to continue writing due to constant illness. His love for Jesus Christ and trust in Mary sustained him until 1787 when he died in his 91st year. St. Alphonsus Ligouri was venerated in 1796, beatified in 1816, and canonized in 1839.

St. Paul of the Cross (window 28), feast day: October 20. St. Paul of the Cross was born at Ovada in the Republic of Genoa, on January 3, 1694. The son of a merchant, and a pious youth, Paul reached the conclusion that God wished him to establish a congregation in honor of the Passion of Jesus Christ. In 1720 his bishop vested him with the habit that had been shown to him in a vision, the same habit that the Passionists still wear today. From that moment Paul applied himself to repair the Rules of his institute. His first attempt failed, but succeeded later when Benedict XIV approved the Rules in 1741 and 1746. Meanwhile St. Paul built his first monastery near Obitello, and later established a larger community at the Church of St. John and Paul in Rome. For fifty years he remained the tireless missionary of Italy. Paul treated himself with the greatest rigor, and believed that he was a useless servant and a great sinner. His death occurred in Rome in 1775, during his eighty-first year. He was canonized 1867.

Note: The Upper Clerestory windows are the uppermost windows found along the nave and transept of the cathedral. Both the first and last windows are partially hidden from view by the magnificent Beckerath organ.

(Prepared by the Liturgical Team, 2006)