

## JUNE 2008 FEAST DAYS

### Tuesday, June 3 — Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs



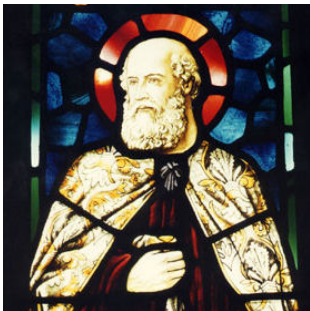
The twenty-two Martyrs of Uganda died on June 3, 1886, and were canonized in 1964. Charles Lwanga and his companions had become Christians through the Catholic missions of the Missionaries of Africa. About 100 persons died during the persecution of the cruel and immoral King Mwanga, who was determined to stamp out Christianity in his country.

### Thursday, June 5 — Boniface, bishop and martyr



Pope Gregory II sent the English Benedictine monk, Boniface, to Germany as a missionary. His work there as bishop, organizer and reformer earned him the title of "Apostle of Germany." On June 5, 754, he and 30 companions were killed by non-Christians as he was preparing to confirm more converts.

### Wednesday, June 11 — Barnabas, apostle



Barnabas, a Jew from Cyprus, came to Jerusalem where he joined the early Christian community. The apostles changed his name from Joseph to Barnabas, which means "man of encouragement." According to the Acts of the Apostles, he was a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit. For many years, he was Paul's partner in evangelizing the Gentiles. Tradition has it that he was stoned to death in his native Cyprus about the year 61.

### Friday, June 13 — Anthony of Padua, doctor of the church



Although Anthony (1195-1231) came from Portugal, the city of Padua in Italy claims him as its own. He was famous for his preaching, theological abilities, and his power as an intercessor, both in his lifetime and since his death. He died at the age of 36. He was so beloved and revered that he was canonized within the year. He is best known for his help in finding lost objects.

## Sunday, June 15 — Father's Day



On this 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us pray for our fathers, both living and deceased.

## Saturday, June 21 — Aloysius Gonzaga, religious



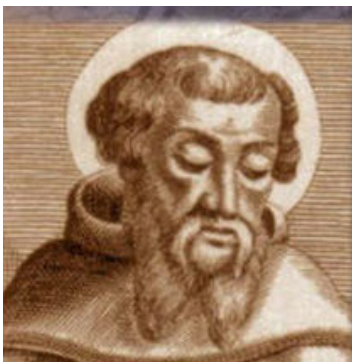
Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591) is the patron saint of young men. Against great resistance, in 1585 he gave up his rights as eldest son and joined the Jesuits, hoping to go to the missions. Instead, in 1591 the plague broke out in Rome and Aloysius offered to serve the sick and dying in the hospital. He caught the plague, recovered but weakened, and died three months later. He was only 23 years old, but his zeal for God remained an inspiration and example for all. He was canonized in 1726.

## Tuesday, June 24 — Nativity of John the Baptist



The birth of John the Baptist was one of the earliest feasts to be named to a particular day on the Church calendar. The date of June 24 was chosen because it is six months before the birth of Christ. With its proximity to the summer solstice, it signifies the waning of light, while the birth of Jesus near the winter solstice marks the coming of the light.

## Saturday, June 28 — Irenaeus, bishop and martyr



Irenaeus was born in Smyrna in Asia Minor, where he studied under Polycarp, a disciple of John. He became bishop of Lyons in Gaul in about A.D. 178. His refutation of Gnosticism helped to define the early doctrinal tradition of the Church.

## Sunday, June 29 — Peter & Paul, apostles



The two apostles, both martyred in Rome according to tradition, have been honored from the earliest days. Peter became the “Prince of the Apostles” and Paul the “Apostle to the Gentiles.” On this date we also remember the anniversary of the approval of the *Rule of Life* of the Society of Mary on June 29, 1983.

The Eucharist is offered for the intentions of the Holy Father. A special remembrance of the deceased popes occurs during a Eucharist in the week that follows the feast.