



Francis of Assisi As a child and a young man, Francis did not like school very much. He loved to have a good time. He was funny. He loved to sing and get dressed up. He was handsome and courteous. People liked him. Francis came from a rich family. He wasted money sometimes. But he always took care of the poor. When Francis was a young man, he heard God call him to help others. He left his family and his rich life. But he kept his happy ways, and he spent his life with other followers who spread God's love wherever they went. Francis loved animals. He asked the emperor to make a special law that said people must provide for the birds and the beasts, as well as for the poor. His feast day is October 4th.

Saint Monica Monica was a Christian and she was married early in life to a pagan official who had a very violent temper. Monica's married life was not happy. Since Monica was a Christian she continued to pray and do good works. Her words and example helped many women in her town. Monica and her husband had three children. Monica's husband would not allow them to be baptized. However, Monica continued being a child of the light and, by her prayer and example, her husband became a Christian and her oldest son Augustine turned from a sinful life and became one of the most important leaders in the early church.

Saint Vincent de Paul It would be impossible to list all the good works that Vincent achieved over his life time. Love of God and neighbor were the most important thing for him. He took care of children and senior citizens. He worked with the rich and the poor. He started out as a tutor to children. Later he became a parish priest. He founded an order of priests and an order of sisters. No matter how busy he was, Vincent always took time to pray and to take care of the needs of others. He is a good example of someone who lived the Great Commandment. His feast day is September 27th. He is the patron saint of charitable societies.

Saint Paul Paul did not like the Christians. He punished them for believing in Jesus. One day Paul heard Jesus say, "Why do you persecute me?" Paul knew he had done wrong. He was very sorry. From that time on Paul stopped punishing the Christians. He was baptized, and he went everywhere telling people about Jesus and helping them believe in him. Many people became followers of Jesus because Paul told them about him. The Church celebrates Saint Paul's feast on July 25th.

John Vianney John was from a family of farmers in France. As a young man he taught other children their prayers. But school was very hard for John. He was a slow learner he studied very hard to become a parish priest. He loved the people in his parish. John had a gift from God. He used his gift to help sinners who came to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. People would come many miles to celebrate the sacrament with him. Sometimes he would hear confessions all day long. He helped people know God's forgiving love.

Oscar Romero Oscar was a new bishop in El Salvador when one of his priest friends was murdered for helping the poor. When Oscar went to his friend's funeral, he saw the poor people there. They had no one to help them. The rich people were not very nice to the poor. They did not treat them fairly. Bishop Oscar decided he would help them. Many important people were angry with him for helping the poor. Bishop Oscar knew they were so angry that they might kill him. He said, "If they kill me, tell them they are forgiven." They did kill him one Sunday while he was giving a homily during Mass.