

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

II

FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

Companion Volume to
Lives of the Saints

By

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Illustrated



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ceive the Eucharist from him. Many cures and miracles were attributed to him. He died in 597, having spent the final sixty-nine years of his life upon a pillar.

REFLECTION In reflecting upon the unusual holiness, life-styles, mortifications, and supernatural phenomena associated with St. Simeon, we assure ourselves that conversion of life is well worth pursuing. We need not look for special interventions but should accept the rigors of fulfilling the duties of our state in life.

PRAYER *Father in Heaven, as we await the Second Coming of Your Son, You bid us draw closer to You in prayer, virtue, and good works. Through the intercession of St. Simeon Stylites the Younger, grant us the grace always to keep in mind our personal salvation and the evangelization of others through well-lived lives. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT, Virgin

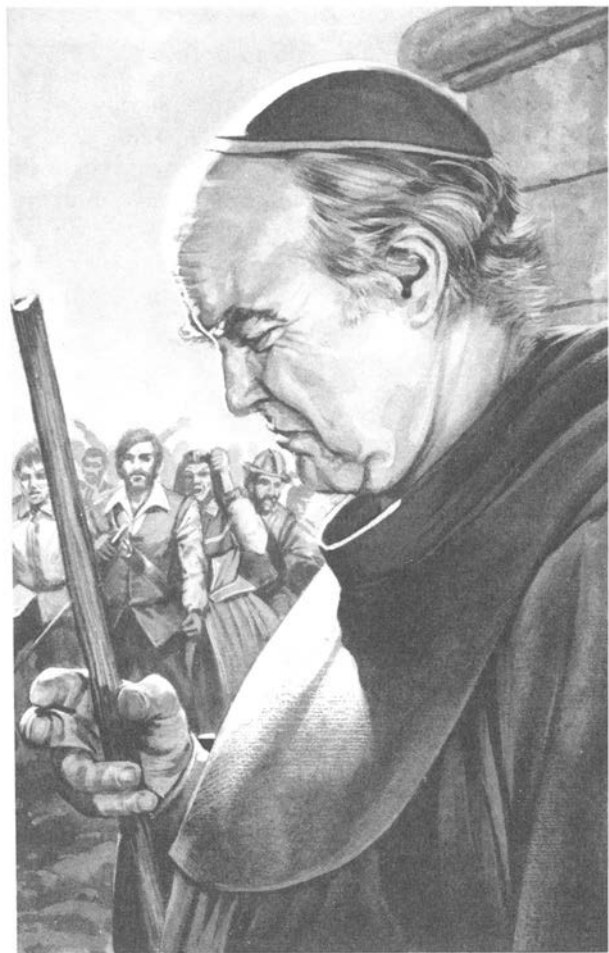
May 25

MADELEINE Sophie Barat was born on December 12, 1779, at Joigny in Burgundy, France. Her older brother, who was studying for the priesthood, saw to Madeleine's early education and discipline. Since she was a very attractive young lady, her priest-brother was afraid that she would be led astray, and thus he moved her to Paris where he lived.

Since she had great interest in the Christian education of young ladies, on November 21, 1800, Madeleine entered religious life, and one year later she went to Amiens to found the first school and convent of her new congregation of nuns, the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was appointed superioress at the age of twenty-three and she held that office for sixty-three years.

Many other branches continued to open, and in 1818, Rose-Phillippine Duchesne was sent with four companions to work in North America. In 1826, with the approval of Pope Leo XII, the Society of the Sacred Heart was formally established.





ST. PETER OF ALCÁNTARA, Priest**October 19—*Patron of Brazil***

PETER was born at Alcántara, a small town in Estremadura, Spain, in 1499. Like that of most of the Saints, his childhood was virtuous. After studying philosophy at home and canon law at Salamanca, he resolved to enter religion. At sixteen years of age he received the habit of the Franciscans in the solitary convent of Manjarez.

From the beginning of his religious life his characteristic virtue, mortification, manifested itself. About three years after his profession, though he was but twenty years old, he became superior of a small convent at Badajoz, and at the expiration of his term he was promoted to the priesthood, in 1524, and soon after was employed in preaching. His greatest delight was solitude, and he obtained permission of his superiors to take up his abode in the convent of St. Onuphrius, situated in a most remote locality,

In 1538, he became provincial of the province of St. Gabriel in Estremadura, and upon the expiration of his term, in 1541, he went to Lisbon to join Father Martin, who was laying the foundation of an austere reformation of the Order. In 1555, he began a reformation of his own, which was characterized by its extraordinary rigor, and which bears the name Strictest Observance. The following year he was appointed commissary of his Order in Spain, and in 1561 he was chosen provincial of his reformed Order.

Two years previously, while making the visitation of some of his monasteries at Avila, he met St. Teresa, who was then suffering much in endeavoring to reform her own Order. He rendered her great assistance by his encouragement and advice. St. Peter was then approaching the end of his career, for he died soon after in his convent of Arenas, in 1562.

Peter was canonized by Pope Clement IX in 1669 and was declared Patron of Brazil by Pope Pius IX in 1862.

REFLECTION The life of St. Peter of Alcántara is a providential reminder that one of the essential elements of any spirituality is a spirit of penance and austerity. Such austerity aims to root out those characteristics that are opposed to the essentials of a virtuous life.

PRAYER *O God, Your servant St. Peter of Alcántara has shown us how to suppress our personal desires so that Your presence to us might grow more and more. Through his intercession, may we always strive to be faithful to his good example. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



ST. BERTILLA BOSCARDIN, Virgin

October 20

BERTILLA was born into a peasant family on October 6, 1888, at Brendola, Italy. She worked for a time as a servant, and then she joined the Sisters of St. Dorothy of Vicenza.