

SAINT ANNE OF THE SUNSET

Religious Education Newsletter
For the Week of November 12 (Sunday)

***Introducing Saints Frances Xavier Cabrini
(Virgin) and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
(Religious)***

(Carmen Perlas)

This week of November 12, 2023, the Catholic Church celebrates the Memorial of two (2) women Saints, Saint Frances Xavier (November 12) and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (November 17). As a woman myself, I found their lives very inspiring. Their stories of self-sacrifice and perseverance are templates of holiness and love of God and neighbor. While both these saints were born many years ahead of us, the works they have done for others are very much needed in today's world of greed and power. These are their stories.



Saint Frances Xavier the first United States citizen to be canonized as a Saint. She was the Italian-born founder of the Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart.

She was born on July 15, 1859 in Lombardi, Italy and died at the age of 67 on December 22, 1917 in Chicago. Sister Frances served and loved the orphan children under her care having founded 67 institutions. Her story is filled with perseverance - for after having arrived from her country, Italy to New York in 1889, she was tiny and frail and did not have enough money to begin any kind of missionary work. Along with six (6) members of the order she formed, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, they have to beg their way to set up the first institution, an ill-equipped hospital, which would be the first among the sixty-seven other

institutions of orphanages, schools and hospitals she would later establish. Endowed with a wonderful administrative ability, these places would thrive into the caring and the loving of the poor, uneducated, sick abandoned children, men and women especially Italian immigrants. She was beatified on November 12, 1938 by Pope Pius XI and later on canonized by Pope Pius XII on July 7, 1946. She is the patron saint of immigrants.



Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (also known

as Saint Elizabeth of Thuringia) was of noble blood having been born (July 7, 1207) to the Hungarian King Andrew II and Gertrude of Merania. As customary to the culture at that time, her father arranged

marriage between her and Ludwig IV of Thuringia, a German nobleman. They were married in 1221 and were blessed with three beautiful children, two of whom became nobility and the third entering religious life. Though born wealthy and very influential, Gertrude had a great love for the poor. She used her advantage (royal position) not for herself but for the benefits of those who were less fortunate. Her life was marked by austerity, simplicity and self-sacrifice. She would set aside time to take bread to hundreds of poor people in her land. Elizabeth took care of sick people when in 1226 disease and floods struck Thuringia. She spent a lifetime of service to God and the poor. After the death of her husband, Ludwig, Elizabeth joined the Third Order of Saint Francis. At a young age of only 24 years, Elizabeth passed away on November 12, 1221 in Marburg, Hesse. While still alive she experienced miracles such as at the time she took home a leper, put him in a bed, but later after removing the covers - 'seeing the figure of Christ crucified stretched upon the bed.' Pope Gregory canonized her on May 27, 1235.

This Week's Gospel Reflection
Parable of the Ten Virgins(Matthew 24: 1-13)



In this parable, Jesus compared the Kingdom of Heaven to ten maidens or virgins (bridesmaids) who took their lamps in order to meet the bridegroom. The five wise virgins brought with them oil, while the foolish ones did not bring any. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. As in all his parables, there is a major teaching point from our Lord. In this parable, Jesus exhorts all the faithful to be wise, ready and prepared for the Second Coming of Christ, because we do not know the day nor the hour.

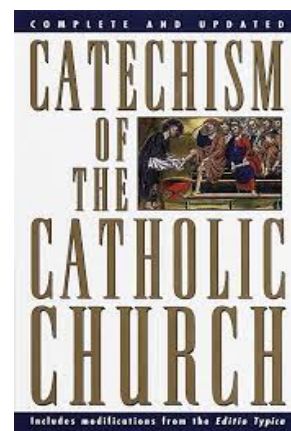
**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING
EVENTS**

November 19, 2023 (Next Sunday) - Family Mass @10:00 a.m. - As always, please be at the Church early to prepare for the Mass. **Thanksgiving Celebration** - also on this Sunday, we will have a little get together as a

family community to celebrate Thanksgiving. Let's bring something to share with everyone.

November 26, Sunday - Thanksgiving Week - There will be no classes on this Sunday. Our next class is on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent.

WHY DID JESUS DIE? Continuing on with our Parents' (Family Catechesis), this week we will discuss from the Alpha video series the reason why Christ died for us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (Par 601) explains this as follows:



"He died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures"

601 The Scriptures had foretold this divine plan of salvation through the putting to death of "the righteous one, my Servant" as a mystery of universal redemption, that is, as the ransom that would free men from the slavery of sin.³⁹⁷ Citing a confession of faith that he himself had "received", St. Paul professes that "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures." In particular Jesus' redemptive death fulfills Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering Servant.³⁹⁹ Indeed Jesus himself explained the meaning of his life and death in the light of God's suffering Servant.⁴⁰⁰ After his Resurrection he gave this interpretation of the Scriptures to the disciples at Emmaus, and then to the apostles.⁴⁰¹