

St Oscar Romero was born in El Salvador in 1917.



He became Archbishop of San Salvador, and spoke out publicly against poverty, social injustice, assassinations, and torture amid a growing hostilities between opposing political parties in El Salvador.

He was assassinated by a lone gunman believed to have been under orders from one of the warring political factions Romero had criticised, whilst he was saying Mass on 24th March 1980.

St Josephine Bakhita was born in 1869 in Sudan.



**She was kidnapped by slave traders
at the age of seven.**

She spent twelve years in cruel slavery.

But that was not the end of her story.

**With the help of some religious Sisters,
she won her freedom, became a Catholic**

**and joined the Religious Order,
where she did everyday **simple tasks with dignity**
and impressed all those she met
with her goodness and her faith.**

She died in 1947 in Italy.

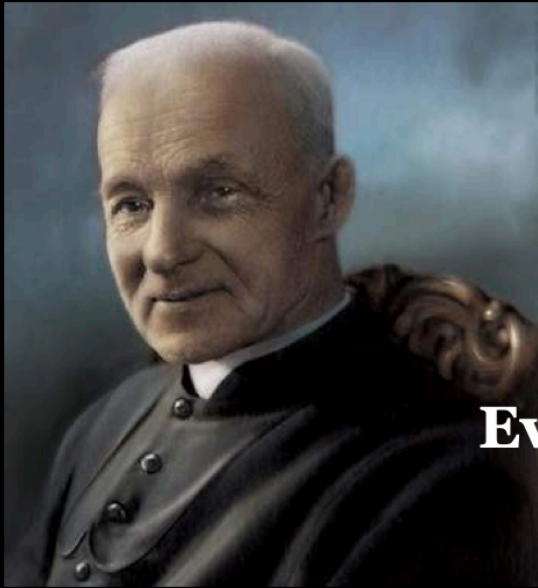
St Andre Besette was born in Montreal, Canada in 1845.

**He was adopted at age 12, as his parents had died.
He tried various jobs - farmhand, shoemaker,
baker, blacksmith and factory worker,
but failed at all of these.**

**He wanted to enter a Religious Order of brothers,
but was not accepted for a long time
due to his poor health and lack of skills.**

**Eventually, he was given the humble job of doorkeeper
at Notre Dame College in Montreal,
with additional duties as sacristan,
laundry worker and messenger.**

**He became much loved as he listened to people's troubles
and visited the sick and nursed the dying.**



St Bernadette Soubirous was born in France in 1844.

The family lived in extreme poverty.

**She was a sickly child, and
could hardly read and write due to her frequent illnesses.**

**She had a series of visions of the Virgin Mary
in the nearby Massabielle grotto.**

**Mary revealed her identity to Bernadette with the words
“I am the Immaculate Conception”**

**and, among other messages, Our Lady told Bernadette
that a chapel should be built there.**

To escape public attention, she entered the convent at Nevers.

There she passed her remaining years in prayer and seclusion,

She was happy, and loved for her kindness, holiness, and wit.



St Teresa was born Anjezë (Agnes) Gonxhe Bojaxhiuin 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia.

She left her home in September 1928 to join a Religious Order known as the Sisters of Loreto, in Ireland.

She was then assigned to the Loreto Entally community in Kolkata and taught at St. Mary's School for girls.

In India she felt compelled to work with poor people - many of whom were homeless and dying on the streets of Kolkata.

Mother Teresa, as she was known, was the founder of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women dedicated to helping the poor. She was noted for her charity, unselfishness and courage, her capacity for hard work and a natural talent for organization



St Maximilian was born in 1894 in Poland.

**He had a great devotion to Our Lady because as a child,
he had seen a vision of her.**

**He joined the Franciscan Friars and was ordained a priest in
1918. He worked in parishes in different parts of the world
including China and Japan.**



**He had returned to Poland when the Second World War broke
out and was arrested by the Nazis for speaking out against the
regime and he was sent to Auschwitz Concentration Camp.**

**In 1941, one prisoner escaped from the camp, the deputy camp
commander, picked ten men to be starved to death to deter
further escape attempts. When one of the selected men,
Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out, "My wife! My children!",
Kolbe volunteered to take his place. and as the last man alive
he was given a lethal injection. He is clearly known for his
**great faith and sacrifice as well as his support for those
persecuted because of their beliefs or ethnicity.****

St Katherine was born in 1858 into a very wealthy family in Philadelphia USA.

She inherited over 100 million dollars when her father died. The family were brought up to be generous, and always helped those in need.

Katherine had a particular interest in helping the poorest Native American Indian and African American communities.

She joined a Religious Order of Sisters and set about putting her great wealth to good use .

She established 145 missions, 50 schools for African Americans, and 12 schools for Native Americans, in the US and Mexico.

The only 'black' Catholic University in the US, in Louisiana was also set up by Katherine and the Sisters.

She was recognised for her selfless service, and generosity towards victims of injustice.



St Martin was born in the city of Lima, in Peru, in 1579. His father was a Spanish nobleman who abandoned the family, his mother was an African slave.



He grew up in poverty, but was drawn to a religious way of life, but this was not allowed at the time, for a person of his ethnic origin, So he became a volunteer who performed menial tasks in the monastery in return for the privilege of living with the religious community. He also took on on kitchen work, laundry, and cleaning.

Eventually Martin was assigned to the infirmary, where he was placed in charge and would remain in service until his death at the age of 59. He was known for his care of the sick, and unfailing patience in this difficult role. Martin also cared for the sick outside his monastery, often bringing them healing with only a simple glass of water.

Many people believed that he had cured them.

TO BE SAINTS
IS NOT A
PRIVILEGE
FOR THE FEW,
BUT A
VOCATION
FOR
EVERYONE.

POPE FRANCIS

