

The Saints of October

Gerard W. Hughes writes that a saint is one who 'has discovered his/her deepest desire. They then "do their own thing", which is also God's thing. Their will and God's will are in harmony, so that their lives are characterised by a continuous peace, tranquillity, freedom and joy, even—perhaps especially—in crises and suffering' (*God of Surprises*, Darton, Longman & Todd, 2008, p. 62).

When we reflect on the stories of the saints' lives, we may notice that the one thing they have in common—regardless of their age or circumstances—was their overwhelming desire to spread the word of God. They become, in a sense, the model of the missionary disciple. Each unique in their own way, with their own story formed by their time, they fixed their minds and hearts on God.



THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS RICH WITH CELEBRATIONS OF THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS:

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| 1 October | Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus (memorial)—patron of foreign missions | 16 October | Saint Hedwig Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque |
| 2 October | The Holy Guardian Angels (memorial) | 17 October | Saint Ignatius of Antioch (memorial) |
| 4 October | St Francis of Assisi (memorial) | 18 October | St Luke, evangelist (feast) |
| 7 October | Our Lady of the Rosary (memorial) | 19 October | Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues Saint Paul of the Cross |
| 9 October | Saints Denis and companions Saint John Leonardi | 22 October | Saint John Paul II |
| 11 October | St John XXIII | 23 October | Saint John of Capistrano |
| 14 October | Saint Callistus I | 24 October | Saint Anthony Mary Claret |
| 15 October | Saint Teresa of Jesus (memorial) | 28 October | Saints Simon and Jude (feast) |