

## *Catholic Intercessory Saints For the 2020 Election:*

Through the lives of the saints, as well as those in the process of becoming saints, the Catholic Church offers many diverse examples of how faith can be lived daily. Each of the individuals listed in the pages below can assist Catholic voters in reflecting upon Church teaching and can act as intercessors for those who are seeking God's guidance in the decision-making process.

### **Human Life and Dignity:**

[St. Gianna Beretta Molla](#)—an Italian physician—is the patron saint of unborn children. During her fourth pregnancy, St. Gianna chose not to undergo a procedure for her health that would have resulted in the death of her unborn child. She delivered a healthy baby but died from postoperative complications. Her bold decision to put another life before her own is an example of the extraordinary and courageous action to protect human dignity. *Photo credit: José Luiz Bernardes Ribeiro /CC BY-SA 3.0 (bit.ly/2CNNjWB).*



#### *Other Examples:*

1. [St. Elizabeth](#) is the patron saint of expectant mothers.
2. [St. Gerard Majella](#) is the patron saint of childbirth.
3. [St. John Paul II](#) was a recent pope who served as the head of the Catholic Church from 1978 to 2005. During his battle with Parkinson's, he showed the world how to die with grace.
4. [St. Joseph](#) is the patron saint of dying.
5. [St. Katharine Drexel](#) is the patron saint of racial justice.

### **Religious Liberty:**



[St. Thomas More](#) is the patron saint of lawyers, statesmen, and politicians. St. Thomas More served in a variety of public roles, including as Lord Chancellor to King Henry VIII. He refused to acknowledge the king's divorce or recognize the king as the head of the Church, which led to St. Thomas's execution. St. Thomas More is an example of holding strong to one's convictions in the face of extreme governmental pressure.

#### *Other Examples:*

1. [St. Andrew Dung-Lac](#) was a Vietnamese convert and priest who was martyred.
2. [St. Edith Stein](#) was a convert to the Catholic faith who was killed at Auschwitz.
3. [St. John Fisher](#) was a Catholic cardinal and English martyr.
4. [St. José Luis Sánchez del Ríó](#) was a Mexican martyr during the Cristeros War.
5. [St. Paul Miki](#) was a Jesuit priest and Japanese martyr.

## **Preferential Option for the Poor:**

[St. Vincent de Paul](#) is the patron saint of charities. He founded several hospitals and collected funds for war victims. His life inspired Blessed Frédéric Ozanam to create The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1833, which offers person-to-person services for those in need. Catholics are called to help one another through acts of charity and justice in the public realm.



### **Other Examples:**

1. [St. Cajetan](#) is the patron saint of job seekers.
2. [St. Clare of Assisi](#), the founder of the Poor Clares, gave up the privilege and wealth she was born with to devote herself to a life of poverty and faith.
3. [St. Elizabeth of Hungary](#) is the patron saint of beggars and charities.
4. [St. Óscar Romero](#) was a Salvadoran archbishop and martyr dedicated to the poor.
5. [Blessed Solanus Casey](#) was a Detroit Capuchin father who served the poor and sick.

## **Education:**



[St. Elizabeth Ann Seton](#) is the patron saint of Catholic education and the founder of the first Catholic schools in the country. Following the death of her husband when she was thirty, she supported five children, converted to Catholicism, and became a founding member of the Sisters of Charity. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's example reminds Catholics to remain hopeful throughout difficulties.

### **Other Examples:**

1. [St. Catherine of Siena](#) is considered a mystic and great spiritual writer in the Church.
2. [St. John Baptiste de la Salle](#) is the patron saint of teachers.
3. [St. John Bosco](#) is the patron saint of schoolchildren.
4. [St. Marguerite Bourgeoys](#) was dedicated to the education of immigrants and children in Canada.
5. [St. Thomas Aquinas](#), a well-known teacher of the faith, contributed greatly to the theological writings of the Church.

## **Children and Families:**

[Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin](#) are the first spouses to be canonized as a couple in the modern Church. Throughout their marriage, the pair demonstrated a deep commitment to their faith and fostered a loving family life. They had nine children, including St. Therese of Lisieux. Louis and Zélie offer inspiration for families about finding faith and strength through challenges. *Photo credit: Catholic Church England and Wales / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 (bit.ly/31sK7cc).*



### **Other Examples:**

1. [St. Josephine Bakhita](#) is the patron saint of human trafficking victims.
2. [St. Nicholas](#) is the patron saint of children.
3. [St. Priscilla](#) is the patron saint of good marriages.
4. [St. Rita of Cascia](#) is the patron saint of difficult marriages, parenthood, and widows.

5. [St. Valentine](#) is the patron saint of engaged couples, lovers, and happy marriages.

## Health Care:



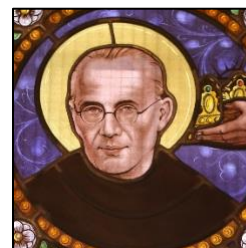
[St. Teresa of Calcutta](#), also commonly referred to as Mother Teresa, was an Albanian woman well-known for dedicating her life to caring for the poorest of the poor. In 1950, St. Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity and created a home for the destitute and the dying in India. An unyielding advocate for all human life, St. Teresa of Calcutta's life affirmed the worth of every person through her care and public service.

### Other Examples:

1. [St. Damien of Molokai](#) provided spiritual and medical care to those with leprosy in Hawaii.
2. [St. Luke](#) is the patron saint of physicians.
3. [St. Marianne Cope](#) cared for those with leprosy, opening a hospital and school for girls in Hawaii.
4. [St. Padre Pio](#) was a Capuchin father and saint devoted to the sick and suffering.
5. [St. Peregrine](#) is the patron saint of cancer victims.

## Restorative Justice:

[St. Maximilian Kolbe](#) is the patron of the imprisoned. The friar operated a religious publishing press, opened monasteries, and during World War II, started a temporary hospital. St. Maximilian Kolbe was taken to Auschwitz and volunteered to die in the place of another man. His sacrifice urge Catholics to ask: what more can one give of his or her own life to support those in need, including victims of crimes and prisoners whose dignity is often ignored?



### Other Examples:

1. [St. Daniel of Padua](#) is the patron saint of prisoners.
2. [St. Dismas](#) is the patron saint of prisoners, especially those who have been condemned.
3. [St. John Cafasso](#) is the patron saint of prisoners and prison chaplains.
4. [St. Maria Goretti](#) is the patron saint of crime victims.
5. [St. Germaine Cousin](#) is the patron saint of abuse victims.

## Immigrants and Refugees:



[St. Frances Xavier Cabrini](#) is the patron saint of immigrants. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, as well as almost seventy institutions after coming to America, including orphanages, hospitals, and schools. In 1909, she became a naturalized citizen of the United States. Her life reminds Catholics of the value of “welcoming the stranger” and engaging with people of different cultures than their own.

### Other Examples:

1. [St. Alban](#) is the patron saint of refugees.
2. [Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini](#) is known as the “Father of Migrants” for the pastoral care he provided to them.

3. [St. Julian](#) is the patron saint of hospitality, especially for travelers.
4. [St. Lorenzo Ruiz](#) is the patron saint of those working overseas and Filipino migrant workers.
5. [St. Toribio Romo](#) is the patron saint of Mexican migrants and border-crossers.

## Care for Creation:

[St. Kateri Tekakwitha](#), the first Native American saint, is known as the patron saint of environment and ecology. She grew closer to God through her encounters with nature, including praying for an hour each day in the woods. St. Kateri respected the connectedness of the environment and of human beings, a lesson that is critical for people of faith and for communities today. *Photo credit: St. Kateri Tekakwitha photo by Dieterkaupp / CC BY-SA 4.0 (bit.ly/3aLekpY).*



### *Other Examples:*

1. [St. Bonaventure](#) wrote about creation and its theological significance.
2. [St. Francis of Assisi](#) is the patron saint of animals and the ecology.
3. [St. Hildegard of Bingen](#) was a skilled botanist and Doctor of the Church who saw the harmony between God's creation and people.
4. [St. Isidore the Farmer](#) is the patron saint of farmers.
5. [St. Martin de Porres](#), the first black saint of the Americas, ran a veterinary hospital.

*Additional background can be found online from the [Catholic News Agency](#), [Catholic Online](#), and [Franciscan Media](#).*