



The Cathedral of  
**ST. EUGENE**

2323 Montgomery Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
(707) 542-6984

### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector  
Rev. Alan Acevedo, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence  
Deacon Mike Heinzelman  
Deacon Gary Moore  
Deacon Russ Bowden

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:  
[cathedralresponse@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralresponse@gmail.com)

Parish Office Phone	542-6984
Parish Office Fax	542-1621
Religious Education	326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	578-8848
School Office – Sharon Jeffrey	545-7252
Preschool Office – Sharry Caesare	528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	206-5579

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

### WEBSITES

Parish: [www.steugenes.com](http://www.steugenes.com)  
School: [www.steugenesch.org](http://www.steugenesch.org)

### REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

### MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Please contact the office at least 12 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



### MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday: 8:00a.m; 4:30 p.m. & Sp.6:30 p. m.  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

### CONFESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

### PERPETUAL ADORATION

**Perpetual Adoration** is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call Annette (English) at: 542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: 710-5094

**Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament** is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. *During this time of Covid-19, Benediction is not being held.*

### DEVOTIONS

**Recitation of the Rosary** is Monday – Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in the Cathedral

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

### CATHEDRAL SHOPS

**Cathedral Thrift Shop** Hours: Tues & Wed. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

**Cathedral Books & Gifts** Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30-4:30 & Sun 8:30-1:30, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: 542-0250

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

### PARISH CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00, 1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm

#### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 6

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
**Parish Office Closed for Labor Day**

#### TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 7

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
Women of the Word – Brinker Room – 9:30 am  
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

#### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
School Mass – Cathedral – 9:20 am  
Bible Study – PLC (Hope Rm) - 6:00 pm

#### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
Golden Opportunities Luncheon – PLC – 11:30 am

#### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am  
Confession - Cathedral - 3:00 – 4:30 pm  
Mass – Cathedral - 4:30 pm  
Spanish Mass – Cathedral – 6:30 pm

### RCIA CLASSES TO BEGIN

#### ~RCIA CLASSES TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK~

Our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) classes will begin on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held on Sundays, from 10:30 - 11:50 am until mid-May in the Becker Center Youth Room. Please return completed applications, baptismal certificate if applicable, and a \$20 fee, to the Parish Office, or bring those to the first RCIA class Sept. 12. Walk-ins are welcome on Sept. 12 -- applications will be provided at that time.

#### ~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Sandy Torti Wilcox, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Thomas Patrick, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Joan Cosgrove, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Mary Gonzales and Luke Gunnewegh.

### Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

#### ADMINISTRATION

#### For the Week of: 08/22/21

Sunday Donations Received:	\$11,774.
Collection Revenue Received for: Tuition Assistance Program	\$3,006.

#### ~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

To celebrate the impact of art in our spiritual lives, our **Special of the Month** for September is 25% off all art, including wall art and posters. The shop hours are: Wed-Sat from 8:30 am-4:30 pm & Sun 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We are closed Mon./Tues. Call us at 542-0250.

### ST. EUGENE'S THRIFT SHOP

#### ~COLLECTIBLE SALE~

The St. Eugene's Thrift Shop will be having their annual Collectible Sale on **September 17 & 18** in the Msgr. Becker Center. The sale will run from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm on Friday and from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday. All proceeds go to help with the support of our Parish. See you there!

### SECOND COLLECTION

#### ~SEMINARIANS~

This weekend, September 4 & 5, our Second Collection will be for the Education and Support of our Seminarians. Next weekend, September 11 & 12, our Second Collection will be for our Mission Cooperative Program. *See below for more info!*

#### ~MISSION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM~

Every year our Diocese participates in the Mission Cooperative program which allows us to unite with the Mission Church around the world by providing mission awareness throughout our parishes. Your past generous participation is a reflection of that ongoing awareness and concern. Due to the COVID restrictions, we are not supporting the travel required for these missionaries to visit the diocese in 2021, however, the desperate need for the support of our prayers and our financial contributions is greater than ever before. To this end, **we will be taking a special second collection during all Masses next weekend, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**, with all proceeds to be sent to the missionary partners that the Diocese of Santa Rosa has historically supported. Around the world, those who are suffering, need to experience the solidarity of other Christians with our Universal Church in facing the pandemic and the other daily harsh realities that our brothers and sisters constantly face. As life hopefully returns to more of a normal state, we will continue to pray for one another and assist one another. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 4</b>
5:30 am (Sp.)	Fr. Jeffrey Keyes, living
8:00 am	In honor of and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary & the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the living & deceased family members of the Russell & Rinaldi Families
4:30 pm	Sally Costales, living
6:30 (Sp)	Familia Jimenez & Garcia, living & deceased
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 5</b>
7:30 am	Santa Rosa Fijian Catholic Community
9:00 am	William Avilla, deceased
10:30 am	People of St. Eugene's
12:00 pm	Claudia Gomez, living
1:30 pm	Bill Wilkinson, deceased
5:30 pm	Deirdre McCormick & Martin Brian McCormick, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Frank Epperson, Sr., deceased
<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 6</b>
6:45 am	Frank Epperson, Sr., deceased
8:00 am	Emma Wallace, living
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>September 7</b>
6:45 am	Alfredo Michel, deceased
8:00 am	JoAnn Voelker, living
5:30 pm (EF)	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September 8</b>
6:45 am	J. Stanley Russell, Jr., Michael Russell, Sr. & Michael Russell, Jr., deceased
8:00 am	Stephanie Buettner, deceased
9:20 am (School)	Kitzia Leon Luna, living
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>September 9</b>
6:45 am	Zackery Ameller, living
8:00 am	Giampaoli Family, living & deceased
<b>Friday</b>	<b>September 10</b>
6:45 am	Mary Tran, living
8:00 am	Mason Sarmiento, living
12:00 (Hospital)	Frank Epperson, Sr., deceased
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 11</b>
8:00 am	ICF Members, living & deceased
4:30 pm	Meghan McCurry, living
6:30 pm (Sp.)	Familia Jimenez & Garcia, living & deceased

### ~ADORERS NEEDED~

To sign up for an hour with Our Lord, please contact Annette Righetti at: 542-3635 (English) or Ceci (Spanish) at: 571-9673. For the access code to the Chapel, please go to the Parish Office and talk to Maria Sanchez.

## SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

### ~RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS~

On **Saturday, September 25, 2021**, the Diocese of Santa Rosa will present a day of prayer and fellowship for all adults in the Diocese. The event will be held at Cardinal Newman High School, 50 Ursuline Rd., Santa Rosa. The theme is *"Praying Always"*. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the gym with Holy Mass offered by Bishop Robert F. Vasa, who welcomes us to this Congress by saying, "During this Year of St. Joseph, our theme "Praying Always" reminds us that the work of evangelization is both an active and a contemplative work. In fact, the Lord Himself tells us, 'Without Me you can do nothing!' Prayer is a manifestation of our recognition of this truth." Here are just some of the guest speakers and topics: · **Rev. John Plass** - "Adoring My Eucharist Lord" · **Rev. Jeffrey Keyes** - "Lectio Divina" · **Rev. Moses Brown, J.C.L.** - "Catholic Prayers, the Liturgy of the Hours: Praying with Psalms & Sulpician method of prayer" · **Rev. John Marie Bingham, O.P.** - "The Hail Mary: Holy Door & Threshold of Grace" and "The Father Heart of St. Joseph" · **Mother Teresa Christe, M.S.S.R.** - "Common obstacles to prayer & How to overcome them" · **Deacon Dance Farrell** - "Bringing meaningful prayer into hustle & bustle of daily life" This day is designed to bring spiritual nourishment to all adults in the Diocese. We look forward to seeing you. This event is **FREE**. For more information or to register, please contact Carmen Aanenson at the Diocesan Dept. of Religious Education at e-mail address: [dre@srdioocese.org](mailto:dre@srdioocese.org) or call her at: 707-566-3366 You can also go to [www.srdioocese.org/religious-education-congress](http://www.srdioocese.org/religious-education-congress) for more detailed information.

### ~VIRTUAL ST. JOSEPH SUMMIT~

**New Information:** The Catholic World Report (CWR) magazine has taken an in-depth look at the upcoming Virtual St. Joseph Summit being held from Sept. 30 - Oct. 3. Last week, we shared some thoughts from Deacon Steve Greco, about the premium passport. This week, let's take a look at some of the guest speakers that will be presenting. Featured speakers include Father **Donald Calloway** of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Dr. **Scott Hahn**, **Chris Stefanick** of *Real Life Catholic*, filmmaker **James Wahlberg**, Deacon **Harold Burke Sivers**, Father **Robert Spitzer** of EWTN's *Father Spitzer's Universe*, the Avila Institute's **Dan Burke**, **Leah Darrow** and *Chastity Project* founders **Jason** and **Crystalina Evert**. Many prominent U.S. bishops will also serve as presenters, including Cardinal **Timothy Dolan** of New York, Cardinal **Sean O'Malley** of Boston, Archbishop **Salvatore Cordileone** of San Francisco and Archbishop **Joseph Naumann** of Kansas City. Speakers will talk in their areas of interest while tying in the importance of the intercession of St. Joseph. Conference themes include spiritual warfare and healing and the family, with a particular focus on the spirituality of men, who conference organizers believe are called to be spiritual heads in their families. To register for the Summit, go to: [www.Saintjosephsummit.com](http://www.Saintjosephsummit.com)

# MY CATHOLIC FAITH

## SAINTS OF SEPTEMBER

### ~FROM THE PASTOR~

As we begin a new month, let's take some time to learn about some of the great saints who have Feast Days this month.

### ~ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM~

**September 13:** The ambiguity and intrigue surrounding John, the great preacher (his name means "golden-mouthed") from Antioch, are characteristic of the life of any great man in a capital city. Brought to Constantinople after a dozen years of priestly service in Syria, John found himself the reluctant victim of an imperial ruse to make him bishop in the greatest city of the empire. Ascetic, unimposing but dignified, and troubled by stomach ailments from his desert days as a monk, John became a bishop under the cloud of imperial politics. If his body was weak, his tongue was powerful. The content of his sermons, his exegesis of Scripture, were never without a point. Sometimes the point stung the high and mighty. Some sermons lasted up to two hours. His lifestyle at the imperial court was not appreciated by many courtiers. He offered a modest table to episcopal sycophants hanging around for imperial and ecclesiastical favors. John deplored the court protocol that accorded him precedence before the highest state officials. He would not be a kept man. His zeal led him to decisive action. Bishops who bribed their way into office were deposed. Many of his sermons called for concrete steps to share wealth with the poor. The rich did not appreciate hearing from John that private property existed because of Adam's fall from grace any more than married men liked to hear that they were bound to marital fidelity just as much as their wives were. When it came to justice and charity, John acknowledged no double standards. Aloof, energetic, outspoken, especially when he became excited in the pulpit, John was a sure target for criticism and personal trouble. He was accused of gorging himself secretly on rich wines and fine foods. His faithfulness as spiritual director to the rich widow, Olympia, provoked much gossip attempting to prove him a hypocrite where wealth and chastity were concerned. His actions taken against

unworthy bishops in Asia Minor were viewed by other ecclesiastics as a greedy, uncanonical extension of his authority. Theophilus, archbishop of Alexandria, and Empress Eudoxia were determined to discredit John. Theophilus feared the growth in importance of the Bishop of Constantinople and took occasion to charge John with fostering heresy. Theophilus and other angered bishops were supported by Eudoxia. The empress resented his sermons contrasting gospel values with the excesses of imperial court life. Whether intended or not, sermons mentioning the lurid Jezebel and impious Herodias were associated with the empress, who finally did manage to have John exiled. He died in exile in 407. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-chrysostom>

### ~ST. HILDEGARD OF BINGEN~

**September 17:** Abbess, artist, author, composer, mystic, pharmacist, poet, preacher, theologian—where to begin in describing this remarkable woman? Born into a noble family, she was instructed for ten years by the holy woman Blessed Jutta. When Hildegard was 18, she became a Benedictine nun at the Monastery of Saint Disibodenberg. Ordered by her confessor to write down the visions that she had received since the age of three, Hildegard took ten years to write her *Scivias (Know the Ways)*. Pope Eugene III read it, and in 1147, encouraged her to continue writing. Her *Book of the Merits of Life* and *Book of Divine Works* followed. She wrote over 300 letters to people who sought her advice; she also composed short works on medicine and physiology, and sought advice from contemporaries such as Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. Hildegard's visions caused her to see humans as "living sparks" of God's love, coming from God as daylight comes from the sun. Sin destroyed the original harmony of creation; Christ's redeeming death and resurrection opened up new possibilities. Virtuous living reduces the estrangement from God and others that sin causes. Like all mystics, Hildegard saw the harmony of God's creation and the place of women and men in that. This unity was not apparent to many of her contemporaries. Hildegard was no stranger to controversy. The monks near her original foundation protested vigorously when she moved her monastery to Bingen, overlooking the Rhine River. She

confronted Emperor Frederick Barbarossa for supporting at least three antipopes. Hildegard challenged the Cathars, who rejected the Catholic Church claiming to follow a more pure Christianity. Between 1152 and 1162, Hildegard often preached in the Rhineland. Her monastery was placed under interdict because she had permitted the burial of a young man who had been excommunicated. She insisted that he had been reconciled with the Church and had received its sacraments before dying. Hildegard protested bitterly when the local bishop forbade the celebration of or reception of the Eucharist at the Bingen monastery, a sanction that was lifted only a few months before her death. In 2012, Hildegard was canonized and named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-hildegard-of-bingen>

### ~ST. PADRE PIO~

**September 23:** Padre Pio (Stigmatist) was born to Giuseppa and Grazio Forgione, in the small farming town of Pietrelcina, Italy on May 25, 1887. Although the Forgiones were poor in material goods, they were certainly rich in their faith life and in the love of God. Even as a young boy, Francesco had already shown signs of extraordinary gifts of grace. At the age of five, he dedicated his life to God. From his early childhood, he showed a remarkable recollection of spirit and a love for the religious life. His mother described him as a quiet child who, from his earliest years, loved to go to church and to pray. As a young boy, he was able to see and communicate with, not only his guardian angel but also with Jesus and the Virgin Mary. In his simplicity, Francesco assumed everyone had the same experiences. Once a woman who noticed his spiritual demeanor asked him, "When did you consecrate your life to God? Was it at your first Holy Communion?" and he answered, "Always, daughter, always." When Francesco was fifteen years old, he was admitted to the novitiate of the Capuchin Order of the Friars Minor in Morcone, Italy. He was admired by his fellow-students as well as by his Superiors for his exemplary behavior and his deep piety. One of the novices stated, "There was something which distinguished him from the other students. Whenever I saw him, he was always humble, recollected, and silent. What struck me most about Brother Pio was his love of prayer." ...[H]is parishioners were deeply impressed by his piety and one by one they began to come to him, seeking his counsel. For many,

even a few moments in his presence, proved to be a life changing experience. As the years passed, pilgrims began to come to him by the thousands, from every corner of the world, drawn by the spiritual riches which flowed so freely from his extraordinary ministry. To his spiritual children he would say, "It seems to me as if Jesus has no other concern but the sanctification of your soul." God endowed Padre Pio with many extraordinary spiritual gifts and charisms including the gift of healing, bilocation, prophecy, miracles, discernment of spirits, the ability to abstain beyond man's natural powers from both sleep and nourishment, the ability to read hearts, the gift of tongues (the ability to speak and understand languages that he had never studied), the gift of conversions, the grace to see angelic beings in form, and the fragrance which emanated from his wounds and which frequently announced his invisible presence. When a friend once questioned him about these charisms, Padre Pio said, "You know, they are a mystery to me, too." Although he received more than his share of spiritual gifts, he never sought them, never felt worthy of them. He never put the gifts before the Giver. He always remained humble, constantly at the disposal of Almighty God." <https://padrepiodevotions.org/a-short-biography/>

### ~ST. JEROME~

**September 30:** Most of the saints are remembered for some outstanding virtue or devotion which they practiced, but Jerome is frequently remembered for his bad temper! It is true that he had a very bad temper and could use a vitriolic pen, but his love for God and his son Jesus Christ was extraordinarily intense; anyone who taught error was an enemy of God and truth, and Saint Jerome went after him or her with his mighty and sometimes sarcastic pen. He was above all a Scripture scholar, translating most of the Old Testament from the Hebrew. Jerome also wrote commentaries which are a great source of scriptural inspiration for us today. He was an avid student, a thorough scholar, a prodigious letter-writer and a consultant to monk, bishop, and pope. Saint Augustine said of him, "What Jerome is ignorant of, no mortal has ever known." Saint Jerome is particularly important for having made a translation of the Bible which came to be called the Vulgate. ... Jerome died in Bethlehem, and the remains of his body now lie buried in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-jerome>

MI FE CATOLICA

SANTOS EN SEPTIEMBRE

~ DEL PASTOR ~

Al comenzar un nuevo mes, tomemos un tiempo para aprender acerca de algunos de los grandes santos que tienen Días de Fiesta este mes.

~ SAN JUAN CRISOSTOMO ~

13 de Septiembre: La ambigüedad y la intriga que rodea a Juan, el gran predicador (su nombre significa "boca de oro") de Antioquía, son características de la vida de cualquier gran hombre en una ciudad capital. Traído a Constantinopla después de una docena de años de servicio sacerdotal en Siria, Juan se encontró a sí mismo como la víctima reacia de una artimaña imperial para nombrarlo obispo en la ciudad más grande del imperio. Ascético, poco imponente pero digno y preocupado por las dolencias estomacales de sus días en el desierto como monje, Juan se convirtió en obispo bajo la nube de la política imperial. Si su cuerpo era débil, su lengua era poderosa. El contenido de sus sermones, su exégesis de las Escrituras, nunca fue sin sentido. A veces, la punta picaba a los altos y poderosos. Algunos sermones duraron hasta dos horas. Su estilo de vida en la corte imperial no fue apreciado por muchos cortesanos. Ofreció una mesa modesta a los aduladores episcopales que rondaban por favores imperiales y eclesiásticos. Juan deploró el protocolo judicial que le otorgaba precedencia ante los más altos funcionarios estatales. No sería un hombre mantenido. Su celo lo llevó a una acción decisiva. Los obispos que sobornaron para llegar al cargo fueron destituidos. Muchos de sus sermones pedían pasos concretos para compartir la riqueza con los pobres. A los ricos no les agradaba saber de Juan que la propiedad privada existía debido a la caída en desgracia de Adán, más de lo que a los hombres casados les gustaba oír que estaban obligados a la fidelidad conyugal tanto como sus esposas. En lo que respecta a la justicia y la caridad, Juan no reconoció ningún doble moral. Distante, enérgico, franco, especialmente cuando se emocionaba en el púlpito, Juan era un blanco seguro de críticas y problemas personales. Fue acusado de atiborrarse en secreto de vinos ricos y comidas finas. Su fidelidad como director espiritual de la rica viuda, Olimpia, provocó muchos chismes que intentaban demostrar que era un hipócrita en lo que respecta a la riqueza y la castidad. Sus acciones tomadas contra obispos indignos de Asia Menor eran vis-

tos por otros eclesiásticos como una extensión codiciosa y no canónica de su autoridad. Teófilo, arzobispo de Alejandría, y la emperatriz Eudoxia estaban decididos a desacreditar a Juan. Teófilo temía el aumento de la importancia del obispo de Constantinopla y aprovechó la ocasión para acusar a Juan de fomentar la herejía. Teófilo y otros obispos enojados fueron apoyados por Eudoxia. A la emperatriz le molestaban sus sermones que contrastaban los valores del evangelio con los excesos de la vida de la corte imperial. Ya sea intencionalmente o no, los sermones que mencionaban a la espeluznante Jezabel y a la impía Herodías se asociaron con la emperatriz, quien finalmente logró que Juan fuera exiliado. Murió en el exilio en 407. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-chrysostom>

~ SANTA HILDEGARDA DE BINGEN ~

17 de septiembre: Abadesa, artista, autora, compositora, mística, farmacéutica, poeta, predicadora, teóloga, ¿por dónde empezar a describir a esta notable mujer? Nacida en una familia noble, fue instruida durante diez años por la santa mujer Beata Jutta. Cuando Hildegarda tenía 18 años, se convirtió en monja benedictina en el Monasterio de San Disibodenberg. Ordenada por su confesor que escribiera las visiones que había recibido desde los tres años, Hildegard tardó diez años en escribir su *Scivias* (*Conoce los caminos*). El Papa Eugenio III lo leyó y en 1147 la animó a seguir escribiendo. Siguió su *Libro de los Méritos de la Vida y el Libro de las Obras Divinas*. Escribió más de 300 cartas a personas que buscaban su consejo; también compuso obras breves sobre medicina y fisiología, y buscó el consejo de contemporáneos como San Bernardo de Claraval. Las visiones de Hildegard la llevaron a ver a los humanos como "chispas vivientes" del amor de Dios, provenientes de Dios como la luz del día proviene del sol. El pecado destruyó la armonía original de la creación; La muerte y resurrección redentoras de Cristo abrieron nuevas posibilidades. La vida virtuosa reduce el alejamiento de Dios y de los demás que causa el pecado. Como todos los místicos, Hildegard vio la armonía de la creación de Dios y el lugar de mujeres y hombres en ella. Esta unidad no fue evidente para muchos de sus contemporáneos. Hildegarda no era ajena a la controversia. Los monjes cercanos a su fundación original protestaron enérgicamente cuando trasladó su monasterio a Bingen, con vistas al río Rin. Ella se enfrentó al emperador Federico Barbarroja por apoyar al menos a tres antipapas. Hildegarda desafió a los cátaros, quienes

rechazaron a la Iglesia católica alegando seguir un cristianismo más puro. Entre 1152 y 1162, Hildegard predicó a menudo en Renania. Su monasterio fue puesto en entredicho porque había permitido el entierro de un joven que había sido excomulgado. Ella insistió en que se había reconciliado con la Iglesia y había recibido sus sacramentos antes de morir. Hildegarda protestó amargamente cuando el obispo local prohibió la celebración o la recepción de la Eucaristía en el monasterio de Bingen, una sanción que se levantó solo unos meses antes de su muerte. En 2012, Hildegarda fue canonizada y nombrada Doctora de la Iglesia por el Papa Benedicto XVI. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-hildegard-of-bingen>

### ~ SAN PADRE PIO ~

23 de Septiembre: Padre Pio (estigmatista) nació de Giuseppa y Grazio Forgione, en la pequeña ciudad agrícola de Pietrelcina, Italia, el 25 de Mayo de 1887. Aunque los Forgion eran pobres en bienes materiales, ciertamente eran ricos en su vida de fe y en el amor de Dios. Incluso cuando era un niño, Francesco ya había mostrado signos de extraordinarios dones de gracia. A la edad de cinco años, dedicó su vida a Dios. Desde su niñez mostró un notable recuerdo de espíritu y un amor por la vida religiosa. Su madre lo describió como un niño tranquilo que, desde muy joven, le encantaba ir a la iglesia y rezar. Cuando era niño, pudo ver y comunicarse no solo con su ángel de la guarda, sino también con Jesús y la Virgen María. En su sencillez, Francesco asumió que todos tenían las mismas experiencias. Una vez, una mujer que notó su comportamiento espiritual le preguntó: "¿Cuándo consagraste tu vida a Dios? ¿Fue en tu primera comunión? y él respondió: "Siempre, hija, siempre". Cuando Francesco tenía quince años, fue admitido en el noviciado de la Orden Capuchina de los Frailes Menores en Morcone, Italia. Fue admirado tanto por sus compañeros de estudios como por sus Superiores por su comportamiento ejemplar y su profunda piedad. Uno de los novicios declaró: "Había algo que lo distinguía de los otros estudiantes. Siempre que lo veía, siempre era humilde, recogido y silencioso. Lo que más me impactó del hermano Pío fue su amor por la oración ". ... Sus feligreses quedaron profundamente impresionados por su piedad y uno por uno empezaron a acudir a él en busca de su consejo. Para muchos, incluso unos pocos momentos en su presencia, resultó ser una experiencia que cambió la vida. Con el paso de los años, miles de peregrinos empezaron a llegar a él, de todos los rincones del mundo, atraídos por las riquezas espirituales que tan libremente brotaban de su extraor-

dinario ministerio. A sus hijos espirituales les decía: "Me parece que a Jesús no le preocupa más que la santificación de su alma". Dios dotó al Padre Pío con muchos dones y carismas espirituales extraordinarios, incluido el don de curación, bilocación, profecía, milagros, discernimiento de espíritus, la capacidad de abstenerse más allá de los poderes naturales del hombre tanto del sueño como de la nutrición, la capacidad de leer los corazones, el don de lenguas (la capacidad de hablar y comprender idiomas que nunca había estudiado), el don de las conversiones, la gracia de ver seres angelicales en forma, y la fragancia que emanaba de sus heridas y que frecuentemente anunciaba su presencia invisible. Cuando un amigo le preguntó una vez sobre estos carismas, el Padre Pío dijo: "Sabes, también son un misterio para mí". Aunque recibió más dones espirituales de los que le correspondían, nunca los buscó, nunca se sintió digno de ellos. Nunca puso los dones ante el Dador. Siempre se mantuvo humilde, constantemente a disposición del Dios Todopoderoso". <https://padrepiodevotions.org/short-biography/>

### ~SAN JERONIMO~

30 de Septiembre: la mayoría de los santos son recordados por alguna virtud o devoción sobresaliente que practicaron, ¡pero a Jerónimo se le recuerda con frecuencia por su mal genio! Es cierto que tenía muy mal genio y podía usar una pluma vitriólica, pero su amor por Dios y por su hijo Jesucristo era extraordinariamente intenso; cualquiera que enseñara el error era enemigo de Dios y de la verdad, y san Jerónimo fue tras él o ella con su poderosa y a veces sarcástica pluma. Fue sobre todo un estudioso de las Escrituras, que tradujo la mayor parte del Antiguo Testamento del hebreo. Jerónimo también escribió comentarios que son una gran fuente de inspiración bíblica para nosotros hoy. Fue un estudiante ávido, un erudito minucioso, un escritor de cartas prodigioso y consultor de monje, obispo y papa. San Agustín dijo de él: "Lo que Jerónimo ignora, ningún mortal lo ha conocido jamás". San Jerónimo es particularmente importante por haber hecho una traducción de la Biblia que pasó a llamarse Vulgata. ... Jerónimo murió en Belén, y los restos de su cuerpo ahora yacen enterrados en la Basílica de Santa María la Mayor en Roma. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-jerome>

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