

# WHAT IS A SAINT?

*A saint is an individual whose life and deeds are held in esteem in the Roman Catholic Church, and who is believed to be in heaven.*

## AMERICAN SAINTS

### **ST. ELIZABETH ANN BAYLEY SETON (1774 – 1821)**

Foundress of the American Sisters of Charity, convert to Catholicism, first native-born citizen of the United States to be canonized, once married with family, endured tremendous personal hardships before devoting life to education and charity.

### **ST. JOHN NEUMANN (1811 – 1860)**

Missionary, priest, fourth bishop of Philadelphia, born in Bohemia, responsible for bringing seven religious communities to the Diocese of Philadelphia, devoted much time to hearing confessions, visiting the sick, and teaching the Catechism to children.

### **ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE (1769 – 1852)**

Missionary; during height of civil unrest in France in the 1790s, organized works of charity for the poor, and offered material and spiritual support to priests in prison or hiding, opened convent school in Missouri, served as missionary to Native Americans, often caring for their sick.

### **ST. ISAAC JOGUES (1607 – 1646)**

French missionary, first Catholic priest at Manhattan Island, first to preach the Gospel “a thousand miles to the interior” near Lake Superior, devoted to converting Native Americans, captured and tortured and held in slavery by Native Americans, martyred by Iroquois because they believed he was a sorcerer and cast a spell on their tribe.

### **ST. KATHERINE DREXEL (1858 – 1955)**

Dubbed by journalist as “millionaire nun,” founded Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People now officially called the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, spent nearly twenty million dollars from the income of her parents estate to establish 60 missions to care for the education of Native and African Americans to whom she and her sisters dedicated their lives, focused her work and her love on the nation’s poorest and most oppressed, founded Xavier University in New Orleans.

### **ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI (1850 – 1917)**

Missionary who came to the United States to help Italian immigrants, cared for the poor and sick and those incarcerated in jails, established orphanages, offered education to children and adults, established parish schools in several major cities across United States.

### **ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN (1798 – 1856)**

French missionary, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, established academy, Catholic schools throughout Indiana and Illinois and a legacy of love, mercy and justice.

### **ST. DAMIEN DE VEUSTER (1840 – 1889)**

Missionary, worked on Hawaii’s Big Island for nine years before dedicating himself in 1873 to the Hansen’s disease (leprosy) patients whom the government had quarantined on the island of Molokai transforming the community into one of respect and dignity.