

JUNE 2011 FEAST DAYS

Friday, June 3 — Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs



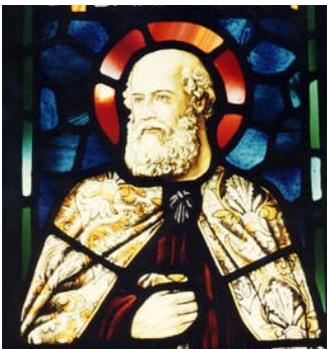
The 22 martyrs of Uganda died on June 3, 1886, and were canonized in 1964. Charles Lwanga and his companions had become Christians through the Catholic missions of the Missionaries of Africa. About 100 persons died during the persecution of the cruel and immoral King Mwanga, who was determined to stamp out Christianity in his country.

Sunday, June 5 — Ascension of the Lord



This feast commemorates the commissioning of the disciples to baptize in the name of Jesus, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. We, too, are witnesses, and are called in the same way to preach the Good News.

Saturday, June 11 — Saint Barnabas



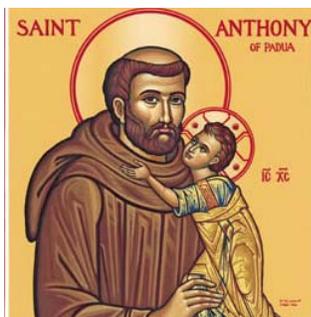
Barnabas, a Jew from Cyprus, came to Jerusalem where he joined the early Christian community. The apostles changed his name from Joseph to Barnabas, which means “man of encouragement.” According to the Acts of the Apostles, he was a good man, full of faith and the Holy Spirit. For many years, he was Paul’s partner in evangelizing the Gentiles. Tradition has it that he was stoned to death in his native Cyprus about the year 61.

Sunday, June 12 — Pentecost



All of us have been baptized into one and the same Spirit. That same Spirit, the Advocate, was given as gift to the disciples to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord, “to renew the face of the earth.”

Monday, June 13 — Saint Anthony of Padua, Doctor of the Church



Although Anthony (1195-1231) came from Portugal, the city of Padua in Italy claims him as its own. He was famous for his preaching, theological abilities and power as an intercessor, both in his lifetime and since his death. He died at the age of 36. He was so revered and beloved that he was canonized within the year. He is best known for his help in finding lost objects.

Sunday, June 19 — Most Holy Trinity



Like the Trinity, may we be united in peace and love through the Spirit, through whom we offer God praise and glory.

Sunday, June 19 — Father's Day



On this Most Holy Trinity Sunday, let us pray for our fathers, both living and deceased.

Tuesday, June 21 — Saint Aloysius Gonzaga



Aloysius Gonzaga was born in Lombardy in 1568 of royal ancestry. In 1585, against great resistance, he gave up his rights as eldest son and joined the Jesuits. When the plague broke out in Rome in 1591, he offered himself to serve the sick and dying in the hospital. He caught the plague, recovered but weakened, and died three months later. He was canonized in 1726 and designated the patron of youth.

Friday, June 24 — Nativity of John the Baptist



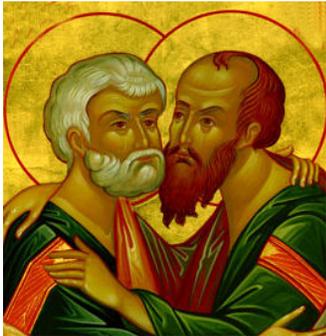
The birth of John the Baptist was one of the earliest feasts to be named to a particular day on the church calendar. The date of June 24 was chosen because it is six months before the birth of Christ. With its proximity to the summer solstice, it signifies the waning of light, while the birth of Jesus near the winter solstice marks the coming of the light.

Sunday, June 26 — Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



Just as God fed the Israelites with manna from heaven, we feed on the best of wheat, the bread of angels, food for the pilgrim journey. At every Eucharist, Jesus gives thanks and breaks bread with us all. At that moment, the sacred breaks forth into human life and existence takes on a deeper meaning because the presence of God becomes recognizable—through blessing bread and then sharing it.

Wednesday, June 29 — Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles



The two apostles, both martyred in Rome according to tradition, have been honored from the earliest days. Peter became the “Prince of the Apostles” and Paul the “Apostle to the Gentiles.” On this date we also remember the anniversary of the approval of the *Rule of Life* of the Society of Mary on June 29, 1983.

The Eucharist is offered for the intention of the Holy Father. A special remembrance of deceased popes occurs during a Eucharist the following week.