

Serving Those Who Serve

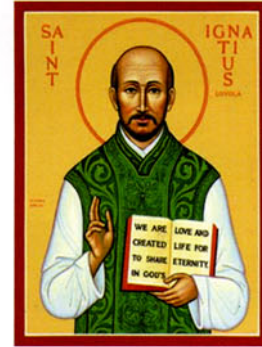
RELICS OF MILITARY PATRON SAINTS ON LOAN FOR VENERATION AT THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
PATRON OF SAILORS



ST. THERESE OF LISEUX
PATRON OF PILOTS AND AIR CREWS



ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA
PATRON OF SOLDIERS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RELICS

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA: PATRON SAINT OF SAILORS

Saint Anthony of Padua ("The Hammer of Heretics") entered the Augustinian Order against the wishes of his wealthy family and eventually became attracted to the simple Gospel lifestyle and missionary efforts of the Franciscans. After being accepted into the Franciscan Order, Saint Anthony embarked upon a journey to Morocco to serve as a missionary. However, he fell so ill during this voyage that he had no choice but to return home. Shipwrecked upon the coast of Sicily, he made his way to Assisi. Assigned to a rural hospice due to his sickly appearance, he led the life of a hermit until Providence intervened and he was asked to deliver a sermon at an ordination. From that point onward, he became known as one of the most powerful and eloquent preachers of the 13th century.

SAINT THERESE OF LISEUX: PATRON SAINT OF AVIATORS

Saint Therese of Lisieux ("The Little Flower") was cured of an illness at the age of eight when a statue of the Blessed Virgin smiled upon her. From that point onward, she knew that it was her destiny to serve God. Initially rejected in her efforts to join the Carmelite Order due to her youth, Saint Therese made a personal appeal to Pope Leo XIII during a pilgrimage to Rome that eventually resulted in her admission into the Carmelite Order at the age of fifteen. After being selected for missionary work in Hanoi, Therese became ill with a pulmonary haemoptysis. Yet, she bore all of her afflictions resolutely and without complaint. Yet, she bore all of her afflictions resolutely and without complaint and for that reason, St. Therese has become one of the most admired saints.

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA: PATRON SAINT OF SOLDIERS

Saint Ignatius of Loyola ("Founder of the Jesuits") undertook service in the army at an early age. Wounded in both legs during fighting outside the small town of Pamplona, Saint Ignatius read a number of religious works during his convalescence that led him to desire a life of self-denying labor in the service of God. With six companions, he founded the Society of Jesus to enter upon hospital and missionary work in the Holy Land or as the Pope might direct. After gaining recognition from Pope Paul III, Saint Ignatius was chosen as the first Superior General of the Order.

NOTE: All of the reliquaries that have been provided by the International Crusade for Holy Relics USA as part of this dedication ceremony are classified as first class relics in that they contain actual remains of the saints.

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