

Marian Calendar March

1 – *Holy Mary of the Cross, Crema, Italy (1490)*. Today there is a sanctuary about one mile from Crema on the Bergamo Road, the center a circle with four wings from it in the shape of a cross. At this site in 1490 in the forest, Bartolomeo Petrobelli attempted to murder his wife Caterina. A devout Catholic, Caterina, sustained the sword blows and was left for dead. She told peasants that she prayed to Our Lady who led her to them. They carried her back to Crema, passing the place where she was attacked, where she retrieved her severed hand. The next day she died. Soon after an 11-year-old boy was carried to the site of where Our Lady appeared to Caterina and was immediately cured of chronic foot abscesses. Healings have been reported there since. The Church of the Cross was built there by 1500 and in 1873 Our Lady Della Croce was crowned with a golden crown by order of the Vatican.

2 – *Our Lady of Apparitions, Madrid, Spain (1449)*. Our Lady appeared to 12-year-old Yves for eight days in March. She was told to build a shrine where she would place a cross in the ground. Afraid to tell her family, she kept going to the places where she shepherded the farm animals and saw the apparitions. Asking for a sign so she would be believed, Our Lady placed a sign on her hand unknown to this day. She went to the Church to show the priest and many believed due to this sign. A church was built at the site and many healings have been recorded there. The church was burned in the civil war of 1936 but was rebuilt in the 1940s.

3 – *Queen of the Rosary, Pompeii, Italy (1884)*. Blessed Bartolo Longo experienced a crisis conversion after having been ordained a priest of Satan to work to subvert Catholicism. A vision at the moment of suicide brought about his baptism and devotion to Mary. He devoted his life to teaching the Rosary and helping the poor of Pompeii. He restored the local church and invited the Redemptorist Order to carry out their mission there. Bartolo found a worm-infested icon of Our Lady of the Rosary in Naples for the church. Upon being restored by famed painter Federico Madlarelli and being hung in the restored church, miracle healings began to take place, among them the cure of Fortuna Agrelli in 1884. He gave the church and icon to the papacy before his death in 1926. Pope Paul VI had the icon restored in 1965. Pope John Paul II beatified Longo in 1980.

4 – *Our Lady of Guard, Marseilles, France (1213)*. A storm in the harbor off Marseilles had befallen a fisherman whose boat had taken on water and whose rudder was lost. He looked toward the rock overlooking the city in the distance, and saw a light coming from a woman with outstretched hand standing firmly atop, defying the wind. He prayed devoutly to Our Lady and the storm ceased immediately while his boat moved calmly onto shore. The story of his salvation persisted and She became Our Lady of Guard, the protector of those in desperation and of all mariners. The sailors erected a chapel in 1214. It was replaced by a church in 1544. Today a basilica stands atop the rock, built in 1864. A golden statue of Mother and Child on the western tower can be seen throughout the city.

5 – *Our Lady of Good Help, Montreal, Canada (1657)*. A sanctuary for seamen leaving for the seas was built in 1657 and the wooden structure that replaced it in 1711 remains today. Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame, brought a wooden statue of Our Lady of Good Help from France in 1673, which remained unscathed when found in the embers of the fire in the reliquary of the church in 1754. Now also known as the Sailor's Church, when in 1840 the Bishop of Montreal had a statue of the Blessed Virgin, Star of the Sea, placed atop the church's tower facing the harbor. Saint Marguerite's mortal remains were interred at the foot of the statue in 2005.

6 – *Our Lady of Nazareth, Nazare, Portugal (1150)*. This carved wooden statue of Our Lady and Child Jesus was found in 1150 with an attached message of its origins, describing that it was carved by Saint Joseph in the presence of the Holy Family, while the faces and hands were later painted by Saint Luke the Evangelist. Saved from invasion of the Holy Land in the 5th century it was placed into the hands of Saint Jerome and then Saint Augustine who took it to Africa. The Moor invasion necessitated its removal where it was finally hidden in the cliffs near Nazare in the 700's, along with relics of Saint Bartholomew. Found by shepherds in 1150, it became a place of pilgrimage and miracles over the centuries. New churches have been built at the site to accommodate the masses of pilgrims who come to view the miraculous icon that is still on the high altar today.

7 – *The Blessed Virgin of Monte Berico, Italy (1428)*. Several apparitions of Our Lady to Vincenza Pasini led the plague-ridden villagers to finally agree to build a chapel at the site on the mount where she encountered Her. A river-like spring emerged while digging as promised by the vision, and healings began from the spring waters. The plague ended as well and the apparitions were authorized by the Bishop thereafter. After a century the source was dry, but excavation for a new convent in 1955 uncovered the spring of water again. It is one of the most renowned Marian shrines in Europe and is a minor basilica.

8 – *Our Lady of Tears, Sao Paulo, Brazil (1928)*. Sister Amalia of the Scourged Jesus, a founding sister of the Missionaries of Christ Crucified, developed the stigmata, which ceased before three apparitions of Our Lady occurred in the next two years. Our Lady's messages to her resulted in a version of prayers for the Rosary and medal of Our Lady of Tears being struck which says, "O most sorrowful Virgin, your tears bring down the infernal empire."

9 – *Our Lady of Savigny, France (1112)*. Commemorates the founding of the Abbey of Savigny in honor of the Blessed Virgin in Avranches in Normandy. The monastery was given the land by the French lord and Pope Celestine II protected it under the papacy in 1119 as Benedictine and later Cistercian. It was pillaged by Calvinists in the 16th century, reduced more in the French Revolution, but was restored in 1869 and now serves the parish.

10 – *Blessed Virgin of the Oak, Viterbo, Italy (1417)*. Devotee of the Blessed Virgin, Masto Izzante hired a painter to create an image of Virgin and Child on tile. He placed the tile onto an oak tree at the entrance to his vineyard. For 50 years many who travelled the road in front of the oak paid homage to the shrine. The image was stolen several times and inexplicably found again in its place. In 1467 the plague ravaged the town with townspeople dying in the streets. By inexplicable force, thousands of townspeople ventured to plea for mercy in front of the painting. The plague ceased three days later. Other miraculous stories were recorded and Pope Paul II gave permission to build a small church at the site. Many saints have now paid homage to the Blessed Virgin of the Oak. During the bombing of Viterbo on Jan. 20, 1944, 12 bombers veered from the tree inexplicably leaving shells at its base. In 1986, Pope John Paul II proclaimed Our Lady of the Oak the patroness of the diocese of Viterbo.

11 – *The Miraculous Madonna of Taglia, Italy (1851)*. Sculptor Salvatore Ravelli gave the city a statue of the Blessed Virgin of the Immaculate Heart. Movement of her eyes was detected continually by many witnesses over the years beginning in 1855. Proceedings were initiated by the bishop to gain testimonials to recognize the miracles. In 1856 the statue was crowned by decree. The 150th anniversary was celebrated in 2005.

12 – *Our Lady of Miracles, Saint Maur des Fosses, France (638)*. Located in the Church of Saint Nicholas in a suburb of Paris, this figure was being created by sculptor Rumold when it suddenly was completed. Because of the protective moats, this area became the place of the remains of Saint Maurus when the monks of western France fled from the invading Vikings in 868. The relics caused the Benedictine abbey and church to become a pilgrimage site as Saint Maurus of the Moats (des fosses). The Western European draught of 1137 ended when the monks processed with the relics of Saint Maurus and a violent thunderstorm region-wide erupted at once. Our Lady of Miracles survived the demolition of the abbey in the French Revolution. It continues to be seen in the Church of Saint Nicholas today.

13 – *Our Lady of the Empress, Rome, Italy (593)*. This feast day honors the tradition that Our Lady spoke to Pope Saint Gregory the Great and interceded at his behest on more than one occasion. One of the most remembered is the procession he called for from the pulpit of St. Peter's to process to the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From every direction of Rome the citizens walked, beseeching the Blessed Virgin Mary to stop the plague which was leaving corpses laying in piles in the streets. The pestilence that had seized the city since the floods of 589 ceased that day.

14 – *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Santiago, Chile (1817)*. Our Lady was deemed the patroness of the liberation of Chile from Spanish forces, and victory was attributed to the devotion paid her during the pivotal battle. The statue, of carved head and hands on a clothed framework, purportedly taken into battle, is on display in the Votive Temple of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Pope John Paul II crowned the statue and named the sanctuary a basilica minor during his apostolic visit to Chile in 1987.

15 – *Our Lady of the Underground, Chartres, France (911)*. The city of Chartres was miraculously delivered from the siege of Rollo, the Duke of the Normans. Bishop Gaucelin, the 47th bishop of the city, mounted the ramparts with a relic of Our Lady when the local citizenry were desperately losing to the invasion. The relic was the tunic of the Blessed Virgin kept in the cathedral of Chartres at the time. The Normans, who were the original invading Vikings from the north, fled in fear at the sight. The meadows outside the city at the gate of Drouaise are to this day known as the meadows of the fugitives (des recules).

16 – *Our Lady of the Fountain, Constantinople (460)*. Emperor Leo I, as a common foot soldier, led a blind man to a nearby spring with directions from an unknown voice, where the blind man immediately regained his eyesight. Leo was foretold then by the Blessed Virgin that he would be emperor. As emperor, Leo built a great church there in honor of Our Lady. It was destroyed when Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453. Two more attempts were made to restore the shrine, and in 1955, it was burned to the ground again. The healing waters continue to be a place of pilgrimage.

17 – *Madonna of Ireland, Gyer, Hungary (1654)*. Bishop Lynch of Clonfert, Ireland was forced to leave his country during the days of Oliver Cromwell, intending to return in 10 years. As he traveled Western Europe, he was taken in by Bishop Pusky of Gyer, Hungary. Before his 10-year goal, on his deathbed in Hungary, the Irish Bishop gave his host the only material treasure with which he had fled, a picture of the Madonna of Ireland. Placed on display in his memory in the Cathedral of Gyer, on the eve of Saint Patrick's feast day, a bloody sweat came over the painting for three hours. Towels that absorbed the flow are preserved to this day. A document dated 1697 records the witnessing of the event with more than 100 signatures, including the clergy present. In 1874, Pope Pius IX granted a plenary indulgence for veneration of the image on the feast of Saint Patrick and on the Assumption. A replica was placed onto

the image in 1913 and taken to the Church of St. Steven's in Toledo, Ohio where the Hungarians and Irish treasure the image together.

18 – *Cathedral of Loreto, Italy (1586)*. The miraculous statue of the Madonna is carved of cedar wood, stands 33 inches high, and is adorned with precious metals and gifted gems. The 18th century composer Barroni lost his hearing and invoked the Blessed Virgin for healing at the cathedral. He regained his hearing and was divinely inspired to write the Litany to Our Lady of Loreto. In the 14th century, Pope Urban VI granted a plenary indulgence to pilgrims visiting the cathedral. Rulers of countries, theologians, and clergy have made special pilgrimages to the site over the centuries.

19 – *Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. “Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.” Matthew 1-16, 18-21, 24A

20 – *Our Lady of Messina Sicily, Mons, Belgium (1622)*. This painting was brought from Sicily to Mons, a city southwest of Brussels almost at the French border. It was moved from its small cemetery shrine in Mons to the Church of St. Nicholas due to the number of miracles and healings to which it was attributed. The painting is of the Blessed Virgin with the Child Jesus on her lap who is handing a small bag to a kneeling nun. In 1992 the church name was changed to Our Lady of Messina, and the Sunday before the Annunciation continues to be the feast day with a festival called the Ducasse de Messines.

21 – *Our Lady of Bruges, Flanders, Belgium (1150)*. This is a place of continual pilgrimage to the relic of the Holy Blood brought from Palestine by Thierry of Alsace at the end of the second crusade. The Gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame of Bruges, built in 1225, is also the site of the Madonna Bruges, a marble sculpture of Madonna and Child sculpted by Michelangelo. The statue was hidden in Paris during the French Revolution in 1794, and later returned. In 1944 it was stolen during the German invasion, found in Germany and was returned to Bruges in 1946. After a bomb threat at the Pieta in Rome in 1972, Madonna of Bruges was placed behind bulletproof glass where it is on display today.

22 – *Our Lady of Sorrows, Castelpetroso, Italy (1888)*. The visions of Our Lady to two peasant women occurred in a cave here beginning on this day in 1888. Our Lady appeared as the Seven Sorrows with her heart pierced with seven swords. A spring of water emerged from the site in the cave, of which healings were reported twice early on. As large pilgrimages began, the local clergy began investigation and authentication, under the advice of Pope Leo XIII. In 1995 Pope John Paul II made a pilgrimage to the basilica of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, construction of which began in 1890 and was completed in 1975.

23 – *Virgin of Punta Corral, Argentina (1835)*. Don Pablo Mendez, while herding his cattle in the highlands of Argentina, experienced an apparition of the Blessed Virgin. Marking the spot, he returned with his family and a small stone statue of Our Lady was found at his marked site. A shrine was

completed there in 1891, and each year on the Wednesday of Holy Week, thousands of devotees ascend the hill to the shrine and take the statue in torchlight procession to the village on Good Friday, returning her on Holy Saturday.

24 – *Our Lady of the Thorn, Champagne-Ardenne, France (1400)*. On Annunciation Eve a light attracted some shepherds to a thorn bush, where they found a painted stone statue of the Virgin and Child. Construction of a church of elaborate Gothic architecture was begun in 1406 but not completed until 1527. Pope Pius X named it a basilica minor in 1914. The statue is thought to be much older, and pilgrimages were made to that location as far back as the 1100's.

25 – *Our Lady of All Nations, Amsterdam, Netherlands (1945)*. A series of 56 apparitions over 14 years included a series of prophecies spoken to Ida Peederman, an office worker, as well as an image of Our Lady standing on a globe with a cross behind her and a prayer. Through 2006 the investigations continued regarding the apparitions and the prayer. The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith approved the text of the prayer that was given to Ida with a word change to prevent misunderstanding. Ida died at age 90 in 1996. "...the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, normally assigned to this day, is transferred to Monday, April 4, 2016." (*Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America 2016*).

26 – *Our Lady of Soissons, France (1128)*. In 1128, at this shrine of Our Lady, about 67 miles northeast of Paris, the villagers for six straight days implored the Blessed Virgin to end the plague. The diseased began healing during the intercession, and were told by the Bishop to give thanks at the slipper of Our Lady in the reliquary there. An unbelieving servant of a knight scoffed at the notion that the slipper was still intact after centuries, and his face became disfigured at once, leaving him unable to speak. The abbess prayed over him with the slipper and he was healed. Many healings occurred over the centuries, but the abbey and the large reliquary are now a ruin of two arches, having been destroyed during the French Revolution.

27 – *Apparition of Our Lord to His Mother at the Resurrection*. The record of the presence of Jesus' Mother on the day of His Resurrection has been noted over the centuries as intriguingly silent. However, much traditional documentation has been published that Jesus most assuredly would have shared with His Mother the most glorious day of all time. Pope John Paul II wrote in his address on April 3, 1988 a prayer to The Blessed Virgin Mary "...Christ, whom you bore is risen! Pray for us! You who were present in the deepest possible way in the mystery of Christ, behold. The whole church today looks to you, O Mary. Even though we do not see you among the people about whom the Easter accounts tell, we all look to you. We look to your heart. Could any narrative record the moment of the resurrection of the son in the heart of his Mother? Yet we fix our gaze on you. The whole church shares in your Easter joy; the whole church knows that on this day the Lord has made you "go before" in a singular way the pilgrimage of faith in the paschal mystery. Pray for us! ... Be present along all the paths of the people of God, paths upon which shines the light of Christ. Let this light never leave anyone, this light of the new life which is He himself, the Risen One!..."

28 – *Our Lady of Bocciola, Vacciago, Italy (1543)*. The Blessed Virgin appeared to a Giuli Manfredi, a farm girl who was born mute, as she tended the family's cattle. She was able to speak and shared Our Lady's message with the townspeople. A chapel was built at the site in 1628, and Pope Gregory XVI deemed it a place of sanctuary in 1844.

29 – *Our Lady of Snows, Kallikulam, India (1884)*. Apparitions in 1939 to six youth on a hill near the church have resulted in this site becoming a continual place of pilgrimage from not only the people of India, but those from around the world. Multitudes of healings have been recorded there and the area, almost at the southern tip of India, has become a place of spiritual renewal.

30 – *Our Lady of Bolougne sur Mer, Bolougne, France (636)*. An unmanned boat bearing a statue of Our Lady landed ashore, which was reportedly taken to England by King Henry VIII in the 1500's. The French negotiated for the return of the statue where Bolougne became one of the most important shrines of medieval France. The statue was destroyed during the French Revolution. An exact replica replaced it in 1803, and at the Marian Congress in Bolougne in 1938 a confraternity of Our Lady of Compassion of Boulogne was established for the reconciliation of the Church of England.

31 – *Our Lady of the Holy Cross, Jerusalem at Rome (320)*. The Roman Basilica of Our Lady of the Holy Cross is one of the seven pilgrim churches of Rome. Saint Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, travelled to the Holy Land in 326 to retrieve many of the relics of the Passion. Pieces of the Cross, thorns of the crown, part of the Holy Sepulcher, and wood from the crib of Jesus, as well as a part of Our Lady's veil may still be seen in the basilica. It is at "Jerusalem" because the floor is covered with earth brought back from Jersulaem, so it is built 'on the soil of Jerusalem.'