BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Beregisus of Andage

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: October 2

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IN BRIEF

Saint Beregisus of Andage

8th-century priest, chaplain to Pepin of Herstal and founder of the abbey of Andage, the future abbey of Saint-Hubert.

Feast day	October 2
Born	c. 670, Spange, near Emptinne (Namur province, Belgium)
Died	October 2, c. 725, Andage (Saint-Hubert, Luxembourg province, Belgium)
Canonized	immemorial cult
Era	8th century

In this booklet

Life

Prayer to Saint Beregisus for Priests and Founders

Novena to Saint Beregisus of Andage

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Beregisus of Andage

Saint Beregisus (Bérégise or Bergis in French) was an 8th-century priest, born around 670 in present-day Namur province, Belgium. Chaplain to Pepin of Herstal, he founded around the year 700, in the heart of the Ardennes forest, the community of Andage, which would become the abbey of Saint-Hubert. He died there around 725, after guiding it for a quarter of a century. His feast day is October 2.

Who was Saint Beregisus?

Beregisus lived at the time when the mayors of the palace of Austrasia, ancestors of Charlemagne, were taking control of the Frankish kingdom and supporting the evangelization of regions still little Christianized. An educated priest and a trusted man at court, he received the mission to found a place of prayer in the middle of the forest. All we know of him comes from a *Life of Beregisus* written by a monk of Saint-Hubert around 937, some two centuries after his death. This account gives a large place to the marvelous, but the main lines of his work, the founding of Andage with the support of Pepin and his wife Plectrude, are confirmed by the history of the abbey. The Roman Martyrology commemorates him on October 2.

Key dates in the life of Beregisus

- **c. 670**: Born at the place called Spange, near Emptinne (Namur province), into a devout family; his mother's name is Berilla.
- **Youth**: He studies at the school of the abbey of Saint-Trond, then becomes a cleric and a priest.
- **Late 7th century**: He is chaplain and adviser at the court of Pepin of Herstal, mayor of the palace of Austrasia.

- **Early 8th century**: At Pepin's request, he founds a community of clerics on the bank of the Andage stream, in the Ardennes.
- **c. 725**: The gift of a vineyard near Trier shows the influence of his foundation.
- **October 2, c. 725**: He dies in his monastery, after about twenty-five years at its head.
- **Early 9th century**: The community of Andage becomes a Benedictine abbey.
- **825**: The body of Saint Hubert is transferred to Andage, which gradually takes the name of Saint-Hubert.

The priest at Pepin's court

Born near Emptinne, Beregisus received his education at the abbey school of Saint-Trond, one of the great centers of learning in the region. Once a priest, he was called to the court of Pepin of Herstal, great-grandfather of Charlemagne, who often resided in the Liège area. There he was both chaplain, in charge of prayer and the sacraments, and a wise administrator. The Life stresses the trust Pepin placed in him, consulting him on the affairs of his household as well as on spiritual questions.

The parchment with golden letters

The Life tells how the foundation came about. While crossing the Ardennes forest, Plectrude, Pepin's wife, happened upon a parchment covered with golden letters. Troubled, Pepin asked his chaplain to interpret it. Beregisus saw in it a message from heaven: God himself had chosen this place "so that devout men might work there for the good of many souls". Pepin then entrusted Beregisus with the mission of founding a community there. This story belongs to the legends of origins found for many abbeys, but it expresses a deep conviction: a place of prayer is born of a call from God.

The founder of Andage

At the beginning of the 8th century, Beregisus settled with disciples on the bank of the Andage stream, deep in the forest. Pepin and Plectrude generously funded the foundation. Beregisus organized canonical life there: clerics living in common, praying the office together and serving the people of the area. Under his direction, the community prospered. His prestige attracted gifts from the lords of the neighborhood, such as a vineyard in the Trier region given in 725. He died in his monastery around 725, after leading it for a quarter of a century.

From the community of Andage to the abbey of Saint-Hubert

A century after the death of Beregisus, the community became a Benedictine abbey. In 825 it received the body of Saint Hubert, bishop of Liège, brought from Liège; from then on, the abbey and the town that grew up around it took his name. The memory of the founder did not fade, however: the basilica of Saint-Hubert keeps a depiction and a statue of Saint Beregisus, and a chapel is dedicated to him at Emptinne, his native village. He is shown as a priest or abbot, sometimes with the parchment that lies at the origin of the foundation.

What can we learn from Saint Beregisus?

Beregisus put his talents at the service of the powerful without losing sight of what matters most: he turned Pepin's trust into an opportunity to found a place of prayer that has lasted through the centuries. He reminds us that one can serve both the Church and society, and that a founder's work often bears fruit far beyond his own life. You can pray to him for priests, for those who hold public responsibilities, and for communities that are being born or renewed.

To pray with him, see the prayer to Saint Beregisus and the novena to Saint Beregisus.

Where to pray to Saint Beregisus

- **Saint-Hubert** (Luxembourg province, Belgium): the basilica, heir to the abbey he founded, where he is depicted.
- **Emptinne** (municipality of Hamois, Namur province): the chapel of Saint Beregisus, near his birthplace.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Beregisus for Priests and Founders

Saint Beregisus, priest and chaplain to Pepin of Herstal, founded around the year 700 the community of Andage, in the heart of the Ardennes, which would become the abbey of Saint-Hubert. Prayer composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is not an official liturgical text. It entrusts to him priests, those who hold responsibilities and communities that are just beginning.

Prayer to Saint Beregisus

Saint Beregisus,
priest of God and adviser to the powerful,
you knew how to read in events
a call from the Lord.
Teach me to recognize God's signs
in my everyday life.

In the Ardennes forest you founded
a house of prayer for the good of many souls.
Bless priests and communities,
and those who begin a new work.

You who served at court without forgetting heaven,
inspire those who hold authority,
that they may seek the common good.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Beregisus

- On his feast day, October 2.
- For priests and chaplains.
- For those who hold political or economic responsibilities.
- When founding a work, an association or a community.
- When seeking to discern a call from God.

A short invocation

> *Saint Beregisus, founder of Andage,*
> *help us build on the rock of prayer.*
> *Pray for us. Amen.*

To prepare for his feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Beregisus from September 24 to October 2, and read the life of Saint Beregisus.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Beregisus of Andage

Novena composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is inspired by the life of Saint Beregisus, priest and founder of the community of Andage, which became the abbey of Saint-Hubert. It is not an official liturgical text. To finish it on his feast day, October 2, begin on September 24. You can also pray it at any other time of the year.

How to pray this novena

Each day, begin with the Sign of the Cross and entrust your intention to God. Read the meditation, say the prayer of the day, then an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. End with: "Saint Beregisus, pray for us." The act of the day helps you live the novena concretely. The episodes recounted come from a Life written in the 10th century, which mixes history and legend.

Day 1: A believing mother

Beregisus was born around 670 near Emptinne, into a devout family. The name of his mother, Berilla, has been preserved: faith is handed on first at home.

Prayer: Lord, bless the mothers and fathers who pass on the faith to their children.

Act of the day: Pray for your parents, living or departed.

Day 2: The school of Saint-Trond

As a young man, Beregisus studied at the school of the abbey of Saint-Trond. There he learned letters, the Scriptures and the life of prayer.

Prayer: Lord, give me a love of learning and of knowing you better.

Act of the day: Take time to read a book that nourishes your faith.

Day 3: Priest

Beregisus became a priest. He received the mission to celebrate the sacraments and serve the people of God.

Prayer: Lord, sustain the priests of our parishes. Keep them faithful and joyful.

Act of the day: Thank a priest you know, with a word or a prayer.

Day 4: At court

As chaplain to Pepin of Herstal, Beregisus lived among the powerful. He remained a man of prayer and a wise adviser.

Prayer: Lord, inspire those who govern. May they seek justice and the common good.

Act of the day: Pray for the leaders of your town or your country.

Day 5: Reading the signs

According to the Life, Plectrude found in the forest a parchment with golden letters. Beregisus read in it God's call to found a place of prayer.

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes so that I may recognize your calls in what happens to me.

Act of the day: Look back over your day in the evening, seeking where God was present.

Day 6: Going into the forest

Beregisus left the court to settle on the bank of the Andage stream, deep in the forest. He accepted the solitude and effort of a beginning.

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to leave my comfort when you call me.

Act of the day: Take a silent walk in nature, praying as you go.

Day 7: Living together

At Andage, Beregisus organized the common life of his disciples: prayer, sharing and service. A community is built day after day.

Prayer: Lord, bless our families, our parishes and our communities. Keep them in unity.

Act of the day: Make a gesture of reconciliation or service to someone around you.

Day 8: A work greater than its founder

A century after Beregisus, Andage received the body of Saint Hubert and became a great abbey. The founder sowed; others reaped.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to sow without needing to see the harvest myself.

Act of the day: Do good today without expecting results.

Day 9: Dying among his own

Around 725, Beregisus died in the monastery he had founded, among his brothers. He had completed the work God had entrusted to him.

Prayer: Lord, grant me to live and die in your peace. Through the intercession of Saint Beregisus, grant me the grace I ask in this novena, if it is your will.

Act of the day: Pray for the departed members of your family and, if possible, attend Mass.

Closing prayer

Saint Beregisus,
faithful priest and founder of Andage,
you answered God's call
and built a house of prayer in the forest.
Present to the Lord the intention I have entrusted to you.
Help me recognize his signs
and sow good with confidence.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

You can also pray the prayer to Saint Beregisus at any time, and read the life of Saint Beregisus.

Credits and sources

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