

BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Stanislaus Papczyński

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: September 17

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IN BRIEF

Saint Stanislaus Papczyński

Polish priest, founder of the Marian Clerics of the Immaculate Conception, apostle of prayer for the dead.

Feast day	September 17
Born	May 18, 1631, Podegrodzie, Poland
Died	September 17, 1701, Góra Kalwaria, Poland
Canonized	June 5, 2016, by Pope Francis
Era	18th century

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Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Stanislaus Papczyński

Saint Stanislaus Papczyński, in religion Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary, was a Polish priest of the 17th century, born in 1631 and died in 1701. A preacher and teacher with the Piarists, he left that order to found the first men's congregation born in Poland, the Marian Clerics of the Immaculate Conception, known today as the Marian Fathers. They were devoted to honoring the Immaculate Virgin, praying for the souls in purgatory and serving the poorest. Canonized by Pope Francis in 2016, he is celebrated on September 17.

Who was Saint Stanislaus Papczyński?

Jan Papczyński was born on May 18, 1631, at Podegrodzie, in southern Poland near Nowy Sącz, into a peasant family. As a child he found learning difficult, then turned out to be a brilliant student.

He studied in several colleges, including Jesuit ones, and came to know the Clerics Regular of the Pious Schools, the Piarists, who devoted themselves to educating children. He joined them in 1654, at twenty-three, and took the name Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary.

Ordained a priest in 1661, he taught rhetoric in the order's colleges, especially in Warsaw, and published a handbook of eloquence that went through several editions. He became a sought-after preacher and confessor. Prominent people in Warsaw came to him, among them the apostolic nuncio Antonio Pignatelli, the future Pope Innocent XII.

Key dates in the life of Saint Stanislaus Papczyński

- **May 18, 1631**: Born at Podegrodzie, in Lesser Poland.

- **1654**: Enters the Piarists.
- **1661**: Ordained a priest.
- **1670**: Leaves the Piarists with the permission of the Holy See.
- **1673**: Beginning of the first Marian community, in the forest of Korabiew.
- **1679**: The bishop of Poznań approves the congregation.
- **1699**: Approval by the Holy See.
- **September 17, 1701**: Dies at Góra Kalwaria, near Warsaw.
- **1992**: Declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II.
- **September 16, 2007**: Beatified at Licheń.
- **June 5, 2016**: Canonized by Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Square.

A new vocation

After sixteen years with the Piarists, Stanislaus went through a hard period marked by tensions in his community. He came to discern a call to found a new institute.

In 1670 he obtained release from his vows and immediately made an "oblation" of himself to God and to the Immaculate Virgin. He committed himself to founding a congregation of clerics devoted to her Immaculate Conception, at a time when this truth had not yet been defined as a dogma (it would be in 1854).

From the forest of Korabiew to Góra Kalwaria

In 1673 he joined a small group of hermits in the forest of Korabiew, west of Warsaw, and began the first Marian community there. Life was poor and austere.

In 1679 the bishop of Poznań approved the foundation, and the young community found supporters among the great figures of the kingdom. A second house opened at Góra Kalwaria, the "New Jerusalem," a place of

pilgrimage laid out around a Way of the Cross.

Praying for the dead and serving the poor

The congregation Stanislaus founded had three great missions. First, to honor and make known the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Second, to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for soldiers killed in battle and victims of epidemics, whom no one thought to commend to God. Stanislaus had been deeply shaken by a spiritual experience in which he perceived the suffering of these forgotten dead.

Third, to help country pastors by preaching and teaching the catechism to simple people, who were often left without religious instruction.

Stanislaus had to struggle for a long time to have his congregation recognized in Rome. In 1699 he finally obtained the approval of the Holy See: the Marians adopted the Rule of the Ten Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and became an order with solemn vows. He died two years later, on September 17, 1701, at Góra Kalwaria, where he was buried in the Church of the Cenacle.

A living legacy

Stanislaus left many spiritual writings, including *The Mystical Temple of God*, a work written for lay people to help them make their souls a dwelling place for God.

The Marians of the Immaculate Conception, nearly extinct at the beginning of the 20th century, were renewed by Blessed George Matulaitis and spread around the world. Today they are known especially for spreading the message of Divine Mercy received by Saint Faustina. English-speaking Catholics know them through the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, which the Marian Fathers care for.

He was beatified in 2007 at the shrine of Licheń, then canonized on June 5, 2016, together with the Swedish-born Saint Elizabeth Hesselblad.

Why is Saint Stanislaus Papczyński invoked for the dead?

Stanislaus is the saint of the forgotten dead. He wanted an entire community to pray for those no one remembers, and he joined that prayer to service of the poorest among the living. He has no official patronage, but he is naturally invoked for the souls in purgatory, for grieving families and during November, the month of the dead.

His life also shows that a path can change direction without losing its faithfulness: he left an order he loved to answer a new call. He can be prayed to by those going through a crisis of vocation, and by all who wish to grow in love for the Immaculate Virgin.

Symbols and how to recognize Saint Stanislaus Papczyński in art

He is usually shown as a priest in the white habit of the Marians, holding a crucifix. Some images also show him with the Immaculate Virgin, to whom he consecrated his life.

Where to pray to Saint Stanislaus Papczyński

- **Góra Kalwaria** (Poland): the Church of the Cenacle of the Marian Fathers, which holds his tomb.
- **Licheń** (Poland): the Marian shrine entrusted to the Marians, where he was beatified.
- **Stockbridge** (Massachusetts, USA): the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, cared for by his spiritual sons.

- **Everywhere**: in the communities of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

To pray with him, see the prayer to Saint Stanislaus Papczyński.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Stanislaus Papczyński for the Faithful Departed

Saint Stanislaus Papczyński was canonized only in 2016, and there is no widely known traditional prayer to him in English. Saintspedia offers below an original prayer inspired by his charism: love for the Immaculate Virgin, prayer for the forgotten dead and service of the poor. This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia.

Apostle of the souls in purgatory

Stanislaus wanted his congregation to pray every day for the souls in purgatory, especially for fallen soldiers and victims of epidemics, whom no one commended to God. He joined this prayer to a great devotion to the Immaculate Conception and to a concern for teaching the simple people of the countryside.

Prayer to Saint Stanislaus Papczyński for the Faithful Departed

Saint Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary, you consecrated your life to the Immaculate Virgin. Pray for me.

You did not forget the dead whom no one remembers. Teach me to pray faithfully for the departed: for my own loved ones who have died, and for those who have no one to pray for them.

Comfort grieving families, and give them the hope of the resurrection.

You left a familiar path to follow a new call. Support those who doubt their vocation, and help them discern the will of God.

You served the poor of the countryside. Open my heart to those who lack bread and those who lack faith.

I entrust to you my intention (name it in silence). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray this prayer

- On his feast day, **September 17**, the day of his death in 1701.
- In **November**, the month of the faithful departed, and especially on All Souls' Day, November 2.
- After a death in the family, or on the anniversary of a loved one's death.
- On **December 8**, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.
- When you, or someone you love, are going through a crisis of vocation.

A short prayer for the forgotten dead

> *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

This traditional Catholic prayer for the dead, in the spirit of Saint Stanislaus, can be said each day for those whom no one remembers.

To know him better, read the life of Saint Stanislaus Papczyński, or pray the novena to Saint Stanislaus Papczyński.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Stanislaus Papczyński

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, inspired by the life of Saint Stanislaus Papczyński (1631-1701), founder of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. It is not an official liturgical text. To end it on his feast day, September 17, begin on September 9. It is also well suited to the first nine days of November, the month of the faithful departed, or to the days before December 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Stanislaus was a peasant's son who became a teacher and preacher, then left everything to found a new community devoted to Mary Immaculate, to the souls in purgatory and to the poor. These nine days follow his path and his three great loves.

You may wish to write down, before you begin, the names of your own dead: parents, grandparents, friends, and also those you never knew but who died alone, in war, in disasters or in epidemics. Bring this list to your prayer each day. In this way, the novena becomes what Stanislaus wanted his whole life to be: an act of charity toward those who can no longer help themselves.

How to pray this novena

Each day, place your intention before God, read the meditation, say the prayer of the day and the closing prayer, then an Our Father, a Hail Mary and the "Eternal rest" for the dead. The "Today" suggestion is a simple act to live the day's theme.

Day 1: A slow beginning

As a child, Jan Papczyński found learning very hard, before becoming a brilliant student. God does not measure us by quick success. He is patient with our slowness.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, help children and young people who struggle at school, and give patience to those who teach them. Amen.

Today: Encourage someone who is struggling to learn something new.

Day 2: A teacher and preacher

With the Piarists, Stanislaus taught rhetoric and became a sought-after preacher and confessor. He put his gifts at the service of the Word of God.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, help me to use my gifts for God and for others, not for my own glory. Amen.

Today: Use one of your talents to help someone, without being asked.

Day 3: Through a time of trial

After sixteen years in his order, Stanislaus went through a painful time of tensions and misunderstandings. He did not let bitterness take hold; he kept seeking God's will.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, support all who suffer from conflict in their community or workplace. Amen.

Today: Pray sincerely for someone with whom you are in conflict.

Day 4: Following a new call

In 1670 Stanislaus left the Piarists and offered himself entirely to God and to the Immaculate Virgin. Faithfulness sometimes means having the courage to change direction.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, help those who are discerning their vocation, and give them light and courage. Amen.

Today: Pray for someone facing an important life decision.

Day 5: Consecrated to Mary Immaculate

Stanislaus dedicated his whole congregation to the Immaculate Conception, long before it was defined as a dogma in 1854. In Mary preserved from sin, he saw what God's grace can do.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, teach me to love Mary Immaculate, and to let grace make me pure. Amen.

Today: Pray: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you."

Day 6: Poverty in the forest

The first Marian community began in 1673 in the forest of Korabiew, in great poverty. God often begins his works with very little.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, free me from attachment to comfort, and teach me to trust in God's providence. Amen.

Today: Give up one small comfort and give what you save to the poor.

Day 7: Remembering the forgotten dead

Stanislaus was overwhelmed by the thought of soldiers and plague victims whom no one remembered in prayer. He wanted a whole community to pray for them. Our prayer can still reach those who have no one.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, I pray with you for all the forgotten dead. May the Lord welcome them into his light. Amen.

Today: Offer a Mass, a Rosary or a visit to a cemetery for the souls in purgatory.

Day 8: Teaching the simple

The Marians went out to help country priests, preaching and teaching the catechism to people left without religious instruction. Ignorance of the faith is a real poverty.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, bless catechists and all who hand on the faith, especially to the poor. Amen.

Today: Share something of your faith simply with someone who is searching.

Day 9: Perseverance to the end

Stanislaus waited until 1699 for Rome's approval of his congregation, and he died two years later at Góra Kalwaria. He persevered for decades without seeing the full fruit of his work, which later spread around the world and today spreads the message of Divine Mercy.

Prayer: Saint Stanislaus, give me perseverance when my efforts seem fruitless, and trust that God will finish what he has begun. Amen.

Today: Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or at least the words "Jesus, I trust in you."

Closing prayer for each day

> *Lord God, you called Saint Stanislaus Papczyński to honor the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, to pray for the souls of the faithful departed and to serve the poor. Through his prayers, grant eternal rest to all the dead, especially those no one remembers, comfort to those who grieve, and light to those seeking their vocation. Hear the intention I place before you (name your intention). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Our Father, Hail Mary. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Saint Stanislaus Papczyński, pray for us.

CREDITS

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