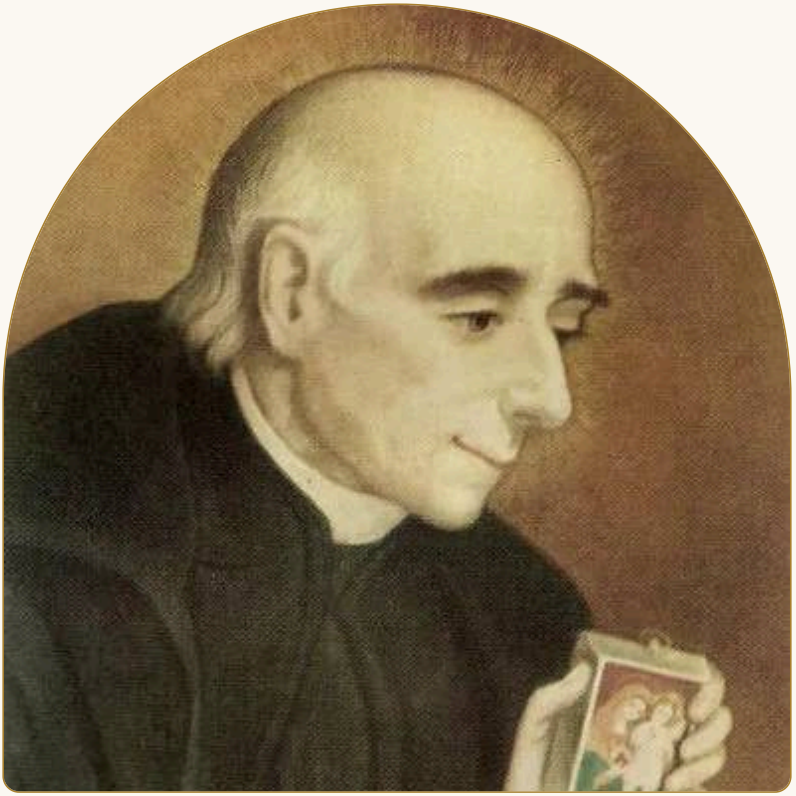


BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Vincent Pallotti

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: January 22

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IN BRIEF

Saint Vincent Pallotti

Roman priest, founder of the Union of Catholic Apostolate and the Pallottines, pioneer of the lay apostolate.

Feast day	January 22
Born	April 21, 1795, Rome, Italy
Died	January 22, 1850, Rome, Italy
Canonized	January 1963, by Pope John XXIII
Era	19th century

In this booklet

Life

Prayer to Saint Vincent Pallotti for the Apostolate

Novena to Saint Vincent Pallotti

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Vincent Pallotti

Saint Vincent Pallotti was a Roman priest, born in Rome on April 21, 1795, who died there on January 22, 1850. A tireless apostle to the poor of his city, a confessor and a preacher, he founded the Union of Catholic Apostolate in 1835, from which the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers and the Pallottine Sisters were born. Convinced that every baptized person, priest or lay, is called to the apostolate, he is regarded as a forerunner of Catholic Action and of the lay apostolate taught by the Second Vatican Council. His feast day is January 22.

Who was Saint Vincent Pallotti?

Vincenzo Pallotti was born in Rome into a family whose father came from Norcia, in Umbria, and whose mother, of the De Rossi family, was Roman. He grew up in the Rome of the popes at a time when the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Empire were shaking Europe and the Church. He began his studies at the school of San Pantaleo, then went on to college. At about sixteen, he felt the desire to become a priest.

His whole life unfolded in Rome. He could have pursued a career as a theologian, but he chose to give himself entirely to the apostolate. His great insight, very new for his time, was that the mission of the Church is not the business of the clergy alone: every Christian, according to his or her vocation, is called to proclaim Christ and to serve others.

Key dates

- **April 21, 1795**: Born in Rome.
- **May 16, 1818**: Ordained a priest.
- **1818**: Earns a doctorate in theology and becomes a professor.

- **1835**: Founds the Pious Society of the Missions, later the Society of the Catholic Apostolate.
- **1836**: Launches the celebration of the Octave of the Epiphany in Rome, open to the Eastern rites.
- **August 14, 1844**: Pope Gregory XVI entrusts the church of San Salvatore in Onda to his community.
- **January 22, 1850**: Dies in Rome at the age of 54.
- **January 22, 1950**: Beatified by Pope Pius XII.
- **January 1963**: Canonized by Pope John XXIII.

A priest at the service of the people of Rome

Ordained on May 16, 1818, Vincent celebrated his first Mass in Frascati, in the church of the Gesù, at the altar of Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners. That same year he received his doctorate in theology and began to teach. Yet he sensed that his calling lay elsewhere. He walked the streets of Rome to visit the poor, the sick, prisoners, craftsmen and struggling families, bringing them material help and also the word of God.

He himself lived poorly and shared the little he had. He spent long hours in the confessional and gave spiritual direction to a great many people from every walk of life. He preached and supported many works of charity. His friend Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, another Roman priest, shared the same missionary zeal, and Vincent was at his side when he died in 1837.

The apostolate of all the baptized

To coordinate works of charity and evangelization, Vincent gathered priests, religious and lay people. In 1835 he founded the Pious Society of the Missions, which became the Society of the Catholic Apostolate. His plan was vast: to rekindle faith and charity in all Catholics, so that the mission of the Church

might reach everywhere, in Rome as in distant lands. He placed this work under the protection of Mary, Queen of Apostles, who had prayed with the disciples in the Upper Room.

From this foundation came the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, whose members are known as Pallottines, the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, also called Pallottine Sisters, and a wide network of associated lay people. Pope Pius XI later saw in Vincent Pallotti a forerunner of Catholic Action, and the Second Vatican Council, in its decree on the apostolate of the laity, brought to light the insight that had been his.

The Octave of the Epiphany and Christian unity

From 1836 onward, Vincent organized an Octave of the Epiphany in Rome every year, celebrated with the participation of the various rites, especially the Eastern Catholic Churches. He wanted to show the universality of the Church and to pray that the Gospel would reach every people. This celebration, which continues today, is also a sign of closeness between the Christian East and West.

His last years and canonization

On August 14, 1844, Pope Gregory XVI entrusted the church of San Salvatore in Onda, near the Tiber, to his community. It was there that Vincent died on January 22, 1850, at 54, after catching a chill. His companions carried on his work. Pope Leo XIII, who already considered him a saint, declared him Venerable in 1887. Pius XII beatified him on January 22, 1950, and Saint John XXIII canonized him in January 1963, during the Second Vatican Council.

Why is Saint Vincent Pallotti invoked?

Vincent Pallotti is not attached to a traditional patronage, but Catholics turn to him for the commitment of lay people in the Church, for the missions and for the unity of Christians. Pallottine communities and lay associates see in him a model for "co-responsibility" in the Church: priests, religious and lay people working together, each according to their vocation, so that the love of God may reach everyone.

His life of prayer, poverty and concrete charity gives this insight its strength. He did not set clergy and laity against each other, but called them to a common mission. To pray with him, see the prayer to Saint Vincent Pallotti and the novena to Saint Vincent Pallotti.

Symbols and how to recognize Saint Vincent Pallotti in art

Saint Vincent Pallotti is usually shown as a nineteenth-century Roman priest in a black cassock, with a thin, gentle face. Devotional images often associate him with Mary, Queen of Apostles, surrounded by the apostles in the Upper Room as the Holy Spirit descends at Pentecost, the image he chose for his work. His body, visible beneath the altar at San Salvatore in Onda, is also a familiar image for pilgrims.

Where to pray to Saint Vincent Pallotti

- **Rome**: the church of San Salvatore in Onda, where he died and where his body rests.
- **Frascati** (Italy): the church of the Gesù, where he celebrated his first Mass.
- **Around the world**: Pallottine communities, present on several continents, including in the United States, Ireland, England and India.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Vincent Pallotti for the Apostolate

The Pallottines pray to their founder with texts of their own spiritual family, and Saint Vincent Pallotti himself left many prayers, but few of them circulate widely in reliable English versions. Saintspedia therefore offers an original prayer inspired by his life: the priest of the poor of Rome, the apostle who wanted to awaken a sense of mission in every baptized person, the son of Mary, Queen of Apostles.

A saint of the apostolate of all

Vincent Pallotti spent his life visiting the poor, hearing confessions and preaching in the streets of Rome. In 1835 he founded the Union of Catholic Apostolate to unite priests, religious and lay people in a single mission. He entrusted this work to the Virgin Mary, praying with the apostles in the Upper Room.

Prayer to Saint Vincent Pallotti

Saint Vincent Pallotti, you reminded the Church that every baptized person is called to be an apostle. Awaken in me the joy and the courage to proclaim Christ where I live and work.

You walked the streets of Rome to visit the poor, the sick and prisoners. Open my eyes to those who need me today.

You united priests, religious and lay people in one mission. Pray that our parishes and communities may work together in mutual esteem and trust.

You prayed for the unity of the Church of East and West. Obtain for us a heart as wide as the world. I also entrust to you my intention: (name it in silence).

With Mary, Queen of Apostles, ask the Holy Spirit for us, so that the love of God may reach every person. Amen.

This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia, free to use for personal and community prayer.

When to pray this prayer

Saint Vincent Pallotti's feast day is January 22, the day of his death in 1850. You can also pray to him during the Octave of the Epiphany, which he had celebrated in Rome, at Pentecost, or when you take on a commitment in your parish, in a lay movement or in the service of the poor. It suits catechists, parish volunteers, missionaries and anyone who wonders how to live their faith in daily life.

To pray with him over nine days, see the novena to Saint Vincent Pallotti. To know him better, read the life of Saint Vincent Pallotti.

A prayer to Mary, Queen of Apostles

Vincent Pallotti placed all his work under the protection of Mary, Queen of Apostles. You can end your prayer with a few simple words in his spirit:

> *Mary, Queen of Apostles, you prayed with the disciples in the Upper Room as they awaited the Holy Spirit. Pray with us and for us, so that the Church may be filled with the same fire, and that each of us may bring Christ to those around us. Amen.*

This short invocation is also an original text by Saintspedia.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Vincent Pallotti

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, inspired by the life of Saint Vincent Pallotti, the Roman priest who founded the Union of Catholic Apostolate. It is not an official liturgical text. To finish it on his feast day, January 22, begin it on January 14. You can also pray it at any time of the year: before a commitment in your parish, for a missionary, for the unity of Christians or for a personal intention.

How to pray this novena

Each day, place your intention before God, read the short meditation, then say the prayer of the day followed by an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. The small act suggested for each day helps you carry the prayer into your life. You can pray it alone, as a family or with a parish group.

Day 1: Called by name

Vincent Pallotti was born in Rome in 1795 and, at about sixteen, felt the desire to become a priest. God calls each of us by name, in the place and time where we live. Our baptism is the first and deepest of these calls.

Prayer: Lord, you called Vincent to your service in the city of Rome. Help me hear your call in my own life and answer it with a generous heart.

Today: Find out the date of your baptism, or thank God for the person who brought you to the font.

Day 2: Every baptized person is an apostle

Vincent's great insight was that the mission of the Church is not the business of priests alone. Every Christian, according to his or her vocation, is sent to proclaim Christ and to serve. No one is too small to be an apostle.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, through the intercession of Saint Vincent Pallotti, wake up in me the joy of being sent. Let my words and actions speak of Christ.

Today: Share, simply and without pressure, something your faith means to you with one person.

Day 3: The poor of the city

Vincent walked the streets of Rome to visit the poor, the sick, prisoners, craftsmen and families in difficulty. He brought them bread and also the word of God. Charity for him was always concrete and personal.

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to the poor who live near me. Through the prayers of Saint Vincent Pallotti, give me a heart that sees and hands that help.

Today: Do one concrete act for someone in need: a visit, a meal, a donation or a phone call.

Day 4: Living simply

Vincent lived poorly and shared the little he had. His poverty was not a burden but a freedom, which left room for God and for others.

Prayer: Jesus, poor and humble, free me from what weighs me down. Teach me, like Saint Vincent, to share joyfully.

Today: Give away one thing you no longer need, or give up a small expense and give the money to the poor.

Day 5: The mercy of God

Vincent spent long hours in the confessional and guided many people from every walk of life. Through him, countless men and women experienced the mercy of God and found the strength to begin again.

Prayer: Merciful Father, through the intercession of Saint Vincent Pallotti, give me a contrite heart and the joy of your forgiveness. Bless all confessors.

Today: Make an examination of conscience, and plan your next confession.

Day 6: Working together

In 1835 Vincent gathered priests, religious and lay people in a single work, which became the Society of the Catholic Apostolate. He did not set them against one another, but asked each to bring his or her gifts to the common mission.

Prayer: Saint Vincent Pallotti, pray for our parishes and communities. May priests, religious and lay people work together in trust and mutual esteem.

Today: Thank a priest, a religious or a lay volunteer who serves your parish.

Day 7: A friend in the mission

Vincent was a friend of Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, another Roman priest burning with the same missionary zeal, and he stood by him at his death in 1837. Holiness grows in friendship, when friends encourage each other toward God.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the friends who lead me to you. Through the prayers of Saint Vincent and Saint Gaspar, make me a faithful friend.

Today: Get in touch with a friend who has helped you in your faith, and pray for him or her.

Day 8: One Church, many peoples

From 1836, Vincent organized each year in Rome an Octave of the Epiphany with the participation of the various rites, especially the Eastern Catholic Churches. He wanted to show the universality of the Church and pray for the Gospel to reach every people.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you prayed that all may be one. Through the intercession of Saint Vincent Pallotti, heal the divisions among Christians and give us a heart as wide as the world.

Today: Pray for Christians of another rite or tradition, or learn something about an Eastern Catholic Church.

Day 9: With Mary, Queen of Apostles

Vincent placed his whole work under the protection of Mary, Queen of Apostles, who prayed with the disciples in the Upper Room as they awaited the Holy Spirit. He died on January 22, 1850, at San Salvatore in Onda, leaving his companions to carry on the mission.

Prayer: Mary, Queen of Apostles, with Saint Vincent Pallotti, ask for us a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be witnesses of Christ wherever we are.

Today: Pray a decade of the Rosary, meditating on the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Closing prayer

Saint Vincent Pallotti, apostle of Rome and friend of the poor, you believed that every baptized person is called to the mission. During these nine days I have walked with you. Present my intention to the Lord, and obtain for me the

grace to serve him with courage and humility in my family, my work and my parish. With Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray that the love of God may reach every person. Amen.

CREDITS

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