

CNY Marian Center Saints' Relics

The Marian Center has received first class relics of four Saints – Vincent Ferrer, Catherine of Siena, Anthony of Padua and Andrew Avellino – with grateful thanks to an anonymous benefactor.



The relics will remain in our Chapel for veneration and prayer. Please stop in and pray with them when the Center is open or during the Doctor's office hours by obtaining a key from the office upstairs. In January, we will share the lives of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Vincent Ferrer. Featured this month are St. Andrew Avellino and St. Catherine of Siena.

The relics are Ex. Ossibus, meaning *from the bones*. There are three classes of sacred relics. The first-class is a part of the saint's body. (It is this type which is placed in an altar stone.) The second-class is a piece of the saints clothing or something used by the saint, while the third-class is an object which has been touched to a first-class relic.

St. Andrew Avellino, Priest

A native of Castronuovo, Naples; he was baptized Lancelot. His studies led him to become a priest and canon lawyer. While arguing a case, he caught himself in a lie and resolved to stop practicing law and save souls. Asked to reform a Sant'Arcangelo convent, his efforts were met with physical violence. Lancelot decided to join the Order

of Theatines, placed himself under their rule and changed his name to Andrew. He became master of novices and eventually superior due to his goodness, spiritual fervor and exactness in discipline. Andrew became a close friend and counselor of St. Charles Borromeo. In Piacenza Andrew's preaching converted several noble ladies and encouraged others to enter religious life. On November 10, 1608 he suffered an attack of apoplexy and died that afternoon. As pieces of hair were cut from his head for relics, blood oozed from the skin. For years after his death, the stored vials of blood liquified on the anniversary of his death.

Feastday: November 10

Patronage: Naples, Sicily, invoked against sudden death

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

St. Catherine was born in Siena on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1347, the youngest of 25 children. Her twin died shortly after birth.

Catherine was a merry child and sometimes while going up or down stairs she would pray a Hail Mary on the steps. She received a vision as a child that sealed her call to the religious life. Catherine beheld Our Lord seated in glory with St. Peter, St. Paul and St. John. The Savior smiled at her and extended his hand to bless her. She was His from that moment forward. Her parents fought this new attention to prayer and solitude but after trying to interest her in suitors when she was older, they accepted her decision. Catherine prayed and fasted and eventually became a Dominican Tertiary. On Shrove

Tuesday, 1366, Our Lord appeared to her again with his Blessed Mother and a heavenly host. Our Lady gave Catherine's hand to her son who placed a ring on her finger and espoused her to Himself. He told her that she was now armed with faith to overcome the assaults of the enemy.

This also was the inspiration for her to go out into the community and help the sick and afflicted.

Our Lord began to appear to Catherine more frequently and surrounded her with friends she could lead to spiritual perfection. She was gifted with knowing their thoughts as well as temptations and this became the basis of her early letters.

In Pisa in 1375, she received the stigmata, the five wounds of Christ but asked that they remain invisible to others. In 1376, she met with Pope Gregory XI in Avignon and convinced him to return to Rome. In 1378, The Great Schism was beginning but she would not live to see its end. Her greatest written work was *The Dialogue of St. Catherine*, dictated to her by the Holy Spirit, in which God had taught her to build in her soul a refuge in which she could dwell and nothing, no storm or trial, could disturb her. Catherine died on April 29, 1380.

Feastday: April 29

Patronage: against fire, bodily ills, Europe, Italy, fire prevention, firefighters, illness, miscarriages, nurses, sexual temptations, sickness, Siena Italy

Information from *Butler's Lives of the Saints*, marypages.com, *Lives of the Saints*, and catholiceducation.org