

**St Gertrude of Nivelles**  
**Patron Saint of cats, the fear of mice (suriphobia), travelers, widows, & gardeners**



Gertrude helped build many churches and hospitals, and she took care of travelers and local people in need (widows and orphans). Gertrude was known for her hospitality to both humans and animals. She was very kind to the cats who hung out around her monastery, offering them both food and affection. Gertrude is also associated with cats and mice because she often prayed for the souls of those in purgatory and the artists of the time symbolized the souls of those as mice, which cats like to chase.

**Saint Hubert of Liege Patron Saint of Mad Dogs**

Saint Hubert was the grandson of Charibert, King of Toulouse and the eldest son of Bertrand, Duke of Aquitaine. Hubert was passionately devoted to hunting. While hunting a stag on a Good Friday morning, he received a vision of a crucifix between its antlers. When his wife died soon after this incident, Hubert renounced all his worldly positions, titles and wealth, handed his patrimony, and the care of his son, to his brother, and studied for the priesthood. He was highly revered in the Middle Ages, there were several military orders named in his honor. His association with the hunt led to his patronage of furriers and trappers, and against rabies and bad behavior in dogs, primarily hunting dogs.



**St Isidore of Seville**

**Patron Saint of the Internet**

St Isidore was the Archbishop of Seville ca. 601, succeeding his brother to the position. He was a teacher, founder, and reformer. He was a prolific writer whose works include a dictionary, an encyclopedia, a history of Goths, and a history of the world beginning with creation. He completed the Mozarabic liturgy which is still in use in Toledo, Spain and presided at the Second Council of Seville, and the Fourth Council of Toledo. He also introduced the works of Aristotle to Spain. He was proclaimed Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XIV in 1722, and became the leading candidate for patron of computer users and the Internet in 1999.

**Saint Brendan the Navigator: Patron Saint of Whales**

St Brendan was the brother of Saint Briga. He was educated by Saint Ita of Killeedy and Saint Erc of Kerry and was a friend of Saint Columba and Saint Brendan of Birr, Saint Brigid, and Saint Enda of Arran. He was ordained in 512 and built monastic cells at Ardfert, Shankeel, Aleth, Plouaret, Inchquin Island, and Annaghdown. The legend which led to his patronage of whales is as follows: Brendan and his brothers, figure in Brendan's Voyage, a tale of monks travelling the high seas of the Atlantic, evangelizing to the islands, possibly reaching the Americas in the 6th century. At one point they stop on a small island, celebrate Easter Mass, light a fire – and then learn the island is not in fact an island, but an enormous whale!

**St Rene Goupil Patron Saint of Anesthesiologists**

St Rene Goupil studied medicine, and in 1639 offered to work as a medic for the Jesuit missionaries in America. Thus, he worked as a *donné*, a layman who worked without pay. He worked in a hospital in Quebec, Canada in 1640 and was assistant to Saint Isaac Jogues on his missionary travels. He was Captured and tortured by Iroquois, enemies of the Huron, for making the sign of the cross over a child's head. While they were in captivity, Father Isaac received Rene into the Jesuits as a religious brother. He is the first North American martyr and his death by tomahawk in the head led to his patronage of people who work with or receive anesthesia.

**Saint Genesius of Rome: Patron Saint of Comedians**

How'd He Become a Saint?  
 Hired to work in a play that made fun of Christian Baptism, Genesius suddenly received a word from God and realized the truth of Christianity, converting on stage. Emperor Diocletian then had him arrested and tortured and when he refused to renounce his faith he was beheaded.

**St. Moses the Black** was a gang leader in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. He and his gang spread terror throughout the Nile valley. One day while running from the authorities, he took shelter with some monks in the desert. After observing their lifestyle, he converted Christianity and became a monk himself.

**St. Catherine del Ricci:** patroness of the sick. Devoted to the Passion of the Christ and entered a cloistered community of lay Dominican Sisters. It was said that she was able to bi-locate.

**St. Louise de Marillac:** Foundress of the Daughters of Charity with St. Vincent de Paul. Born out of wedlock. Known as a mystic. Patron of both social workers and people rejected by religious orders.

**Saint Isidore the Farmer** is the patron of field hands, farmers, ranchers, livestock, rain, and Lima, Peru. He lived a chaste life with his wife because they were convinced they were not to have children due to the death of their infant son. Saint Isidore the Farmer was chastised by other farm hands for attending Mass daily and praying often. Many tales are told about St. Isidore the Farmer including one in which his master found angels plowing the fields for him while he was at mass. St. Isidore the Farmer is incorruptible and his feast day is May 15<sup>th</sup>.