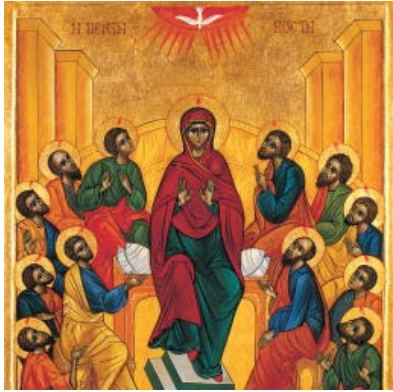


## SEPTEMBER 2009 FEAST DAYS

### Saturday, September 5 — Mary, Queen of Apostles



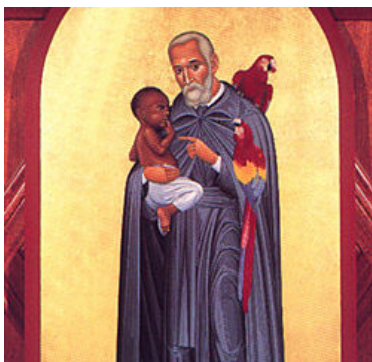
Blessed William Chaminade considered the retreat of 1818 as foundational. At the end of that retreat on Sept. 5, seven men made the first public profession of vows in the new Institute of Mary.

### Tuesday, September 8 — The Nativity of Mary



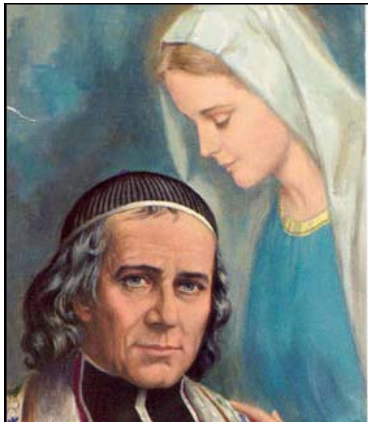
This feast originated in the Eastern Church and was commemorated in the West as early as the fifth century. No one is certain where Mary was born, but two traditions have survived from ancient times, one naming Nazareth and the other, Jerusalem. An occasion for praise and thanksgiving, the feast celebrates Mary's personal sanctity and vocation as the mother of Jesus.

### Wednesday, September 9 — Saint Peter Claver



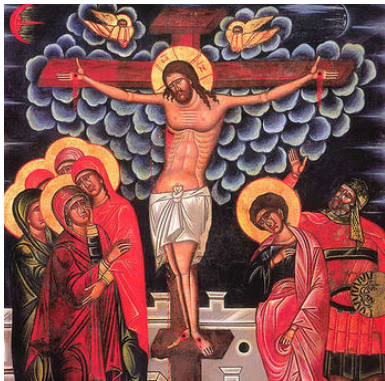
Born near Barcelona, Spain, in 1580, Peter Claver joined the Jesuits in 1600. He was sent to Cartagena (now Colombia) in South America. It was then the center of the slave trade, and Peter tended to newly arrived Africans with food, water and medicine. For nearly forty years, he ministered tirelessly to the slaves and pleaded with their owners to treat them humanely. In 1654, ill and neglected by his religious brothers, Peter Claver died. This celebration is now an obligatory memorial in the United States.

## Saturday, September 12 — The Most Holy Name of Mary



This feast honoring the name of Mary was instituted by Pope Innocent XI in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. God the Father is glorified by the exalted role in salvation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thus, her name is one of honor, a holy name, a maternal name and a name responsive to the needs of the Church. It is the patronal feast of the Society of Mary.

## Monday, September 14 — The Triumph of the Cross



This liturgical feast has been celebrated since early times. In the fourth century, two churches in Jerusalem were dedicated to the cross on this day and the occasion was commemorated annually. Dedicated in 335, they were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The present church of the Holy Sepulcher, one of the original churches, was built by the Crusaders in 1149.



On this day, we mark the death of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous in 1836. She helped Blessed Chaminade establish the Sodality of the Madeleine in Bordeaux and participated in the foundation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Miséricorde.

## Tuesday, September 15 — Our Lady of Sorrows



Formerly known as the “Seven Sorrows of Mary,” this feast was instituted in 1668 by the Servite Friars out of their devotion to Mary. In 1814, Pius VII extended the feast to the whole Western Church.

## Friday, September 18 — Blesseds Carlos Eraña, Fidel Fuidio and Jesús Hita



This day commemorates our three Marianist brothers who were martyred for their faith in 1936 during the religious persecution in Spain. They were beatified by Pope John Paul II on Oct. 1, 1995.

## Monday, September 21 — Saint Matthew, Apostle



Mark and Luke record that Levi (Matthew) was sitting in the tax office when Jesus called him. Being a Jewish tax collector for the Romans meant that Matthew was considered impure and socially unacceptable by the Jewish community. Yet Jesus invited him to follow. After Pentecost, Matthew worked in a church made up mostly of Jews who believed that Jesus was the Savior. The gospel bearing his name was composed around A.D. 85 and was written for Jewish-Christians. Tradition holds that after the Resurrection, Matthew preached in Ethiopia, where he was martyred.

## Wednesday, September 23 — Saint Pio of Pietrelcina



“Padre Pio” was born in 1887 in the small Italian village of Pietrelcina. A Capuchin priest who had received the stigmata, he lived for more than 50 years at the friary of San Giovanni Rotondo, devoted to a life of ministry through sacramental reconciliation and celebration of the Eucharist, and helping countless people who sought his counsel. He died on Sept. 23, 1968, at age 81 and was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

## Tuesday, September 29 — Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels



Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are three of the seven archangels who stand before God and are venerated in both Jewish and Christian traditions. These biblical messengers signify God’s transcendence and loving care: Michael (meaning *who is like God*), Gabriel (meaning *God’s strength*) and Raphael (meaning *God’s remedy*).