

SOME SAINTS

Saints come in all shapes and sizes, from every corner of the earth. Some have died young, others have lived long lives. Some have been killed for their Christian faith, others have not. Some have been priests or religious, others wives, husbands or unmarried. Some have been very well educated, others could not read or write. Some have travelled far and wide, others have stayed in one place.

All saints:

- *wished to serve God and others.*
- *did not give up trying, even when they made mistakes.*
- *were real people with the usual hopes and difficulties of life to face.*
- *lived joyful lives.*
- *show how anyone can be a saint by their example (see the 'snapshots' below).*

Charles de Foucauld
1858-1916
France/Algeria
Declared Venerable
in 1978



Born into a wealthy family, Charles was a 'wild child'. He was expelled from school, and then went on to join the French army. He had a terrible reputation, loving to shock others by his behaviour. In his own words, he was big-headed, vain, anti-religious and very sinful. He had rejected God, but God hadn't rejected him ...

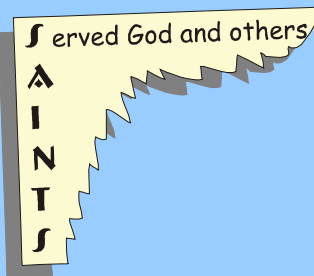
Gemma Galgani
1878-1903
Italy
Died aged 25
Canonised in 1940



She was pretty; she was bright; she was popular. Unfortunately her parents died early. Aged 19 Gemma found herself in charge of a family of 7 brothers and sisters. The family was in debt, the debt collectors taking away anything of value on the day of her father's funeral. How would she cope? With no money, no parents, poor health and younger ones needing care. All she had was a simple, deep life of prayer, and that would be enough ...

To do

- 1 Copy and complete the acrostic below.



Research and write up (part 2)

Choose another saint to research. Include:

- a brief story of their life.
- why they are a good example to others.
- the date of their feast day.
- any other interesting details.

Maximilian Kolbe
1894-1941
Poland
Canonised in 1982



The scene is Auschwitz of 1941. A prisoner has just escaped, and so the Nazis drag out ten prisoners to be executed. One of them, Francis Gajowniszek, begged to be spared because of his family. At this point another prisoner volunteers to take his place, saying: "I am a Catholic Priest." The commandant allowed the substitution. The priest, Fr Kolbe, and nine others were condemned to die in the starvation cell. For two weeks without food or water Fr Kolbe prayed with the men, though at the end there are four left - Fr Kolbe among them. These are finished off with an injection of poison. Fr Kolbe died on his knees in prayer.