



Saint of the Week

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

13th century
Feast day—February 17



In 1233, seven Florentine laymen—two married, two widowed, three single—all well-known merchants and members of a Marian confraternity, abandoned homes, jobs, and wealth for a life of poverty, prayer, and penance at Monte Senario, where they built a chapel and hermitage. Within a few years, they formed the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, or Servites, a mendicant order that received formal papal approval in 1304. The seven founders, jointly canonized in 1888, are: Bonfilius, Bonajuncta, Amadeus, Hugh, Manettus, Sostene, and Alexis. Alexis, who out of modesty refused ordination, served the order in various ways as a lay brother; he outlived the other founders and reportedly died at age 110.

Prayer

The following prayer is one of the many USCCB prayers for vocations. Pray today for lay ministers in your community.

Loving and Generous God,
it is You who call us by name
and ask us to follow You.
Help us to grow in the Love
and Service of our Church
as we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage
of Your Spirit
to shape its future

Grant us faith-filled leaders
who will embrace Christ's Mission
of love and justice.

Bless the church of [N.]
by raising up dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve Your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better
and open our hearts
to hear Your call.

We ask this through our Lord.
Amen.



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