



Lives of the Saints: For Every Day in the Year

Alban Butler

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Butler's Lives of the Saints is the most revered Catholic book after the Bible, the Missal and The Imitation of Christ. A Saint or two for each day of the calendar. Great for a daily meditation; each life is followed by a "lesson" from the life to help us apply the virtues of the Saint to ourselves. Great for the entire family. Includes famous Saints since Fr. Butler's time; all recounted in the same beautiful, reverent spirit that was his.

Lives of the Saints: For Every Day in the Year Details

Date : Published July 1st 1995 by TAN Books (first published 1750)

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Author : Alban Butler

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From Reader Review Lives of the Saints: For Every Day in the Year for online ebook

John Sheehan says

What an amazing Journey in my reading of "Lives of the Saints" by Alban Butler; treasures I will hold in my heart for many years to come teaching me so much about the paved path before me.

I was taken by one story; the story of Alban; a man who came to know Christ by the praises of a fugitive; a story that made the words of 2 Samuel 22:50 come to life proving yet again the power of Gods word!

I love what Alban said after a flogging "I worship and adore the true and living God, who created all things!"

This amazing set of literature gives light to the lovely life of faith that has been paved by amazing men and women such as Alban and the countless others just like him!

"Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, 'Here I am.'" How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, They shout joyfully together; For they will see with their own eyes When the LORD restores Zion. Isaiah 52:6-8

Thank you Lord Jesus for paving my path by the faithful!

Frank Day says

Very Catholic but good history.

John Crawford says

A great read

I haven't read this since my days in Catholic School, Mother Superior made it required reading. God Bless Her. It's kind of dry reading but, well worth it.

Nadine Niedner says

this volume of 4 books are the most treasured in my library after the Holy Bible..i have been reading/studying/admiring these writings everyday since 1983...check out todays minor entry of Saint theodota...what a faithful/strong woman...a true friend to Jesus..major feast of the Archangels/St. Michael as the leader...let us remember to pray the St. Michael prayer everyday, written by Pope St. Leo XIII after the horrifying vision after Holy Mass (Mysterium)...particularly interesting is that time period in England under

the reprobate King Henry VIII ...when so many Catholic-Christians were legally murdered/hung,drawn, and quartered/decapitated, etc....simply because they would not attend Protestant services or deny that the POPE is the head, the ROCK of the original Christian church...and still well, alive and BRAVE after approx 1,979 years after the Crucifixion of the Messiah...why was Jesus crucified other than to atone for our sins/Precious Lamb of God..when was it decided that he should be murdered???after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead...jealousy/Envy one of the 7 capital sins woven with the leader of all 7 sins...PRIDE/stinking pride who puts itself above the Creator and says "i will not kneel for baby Jesus asleep in the hay of a manger...who says "i will not obey the Commandments of God given thru Moses...it says..i will write my own laws and do whatever i want""...until Judgment Day...until Parousia..then it will be too late ..you will see below what you have chosen...9 miles down...and no getting up...ask Salvador Dali about his painting of HELL as revealed by the blessed and BRAVE Fatima children..whereas the "adults" who persecuted them were cowards/liars...Butler,s hagiography is a priceless treasure that is deliberately kept out of American public schools...i'm sure i would have joined the Church much sooner if i was given the KNOWLEDGE contained in Lives of the Saints

Angela says

Atually read a much older, leather bound edition.

Eric says

Butler's Lives of the Saints is the more respected, "academic" history of the lives of saints. Good times here.

Carol B Davis says

Interesting

I found this book to be interesting but not being catholic I was amazed at the number of saints even in one month.

Monica says

"10 January (15 January) St. Paul ,The First Hermit, A.D. 342"- Image is Velasquez 1635 St. Paul with St. Anthony because I could not bother with the Bodleian Library's on-line search capability. I recommend this book to Paul.

J.T. Therrien says

Father Butler's *Lives of the Saints* is an amazing book of devotion, arranged to follow the Catholic Church's calendar of feast days, and so is relevant every day of the year. I enjoyed reading and learning about the daily

saints, Doctors, and martyrs of the Church in concise, well-written, prose.

I highly recommend using *Lives of the Saints* as part of a daily regimen to deepen one's faith by way of being introduced to inspiring examples of faith.

The book, first published in the nineteenth century, also serves as a valuable introduction the early history of the Catholic Church and the fundamental (and sacrificial) roles some of the founders of the church played to ensure the continuation and development of the Church into modern times.

Having read through the book once, I now look forward to being reacquainted with each new day's Saint.

Caveat: I now see that there are different editions of Butler's *Lives of the Saints*. I must admit that my review is based on the on-line version, so I cannot vouch for this particular edition.

Luke Langley says

Lives of the Saints is a collection of biographies of Saints. There are multi volume editions, though I read a single volume "concise" edition. Even with that It took me about 10 years to finish. At first I would only read the saint of that particular day, eventually I wanted to get through it and worked my way steadily from one end to the other. It is always inspiring to read the lives of saints, to hear of ordinary men with extraordinary love for God that draws them into amazing acts of heroism. This particular biographical approach was good in that it was historically and archaeology accurate admitting when stories were legend or concrete fact. The drawbacks are that unless you have a very good grasp of history it can be hard to understand what was going on in the saint's life. The biographies can be very detailed and assume the reader knows the ancient names of european cities, rarely mentioning even the country of origin. Still very good and worthwhile.

Nancy says

For several months from January 1, I was reading one saint a day. I put it aside when I went out of town in April and never got back to it. It is now officially in the unfinished pile, though I may get back to it someday. I found most of the saints, especially the martyrs, depressing, not inspiring and somewhat akin to the religious radicals of today.

Walter says

Butler's "Lives of the Saints" is without doubt the most highly rated collection of the stories of the Saints in the English language. Written in the early 19th Century by Alban Butler, and English convert to Catholicism, this twelve volume collection was a collection of the stories of the lives of all the Saints that existed at that time. The collection is organized by date, so that the reader can read the lives of all of the saints whose feast days fall upon that particular day. This makes this collection easy to use for those who want to deepen their devotion to the Saints. It also treats the entire history of the Church through the eyes of the Saints. When a reader completes all of the articles, he or she has a very good grasp, not just of hagiography, but also of Church history.

Unfortunately in the 21st Century there are obvious problems with this work. For one thing, this work does not treat of any saint who was beatified or canonized since the early 19th Century. But considering that 20th Century Popes have created more Saints than the Popes of all previous centuries combined, this work is desperately in need of updating. The need for updating is further exacerbated by the fact that the Church reformed the liturgical calendar after Vatican II, so that the dates associated with many saints are different today than they were in Butler's time. Secondly, the work suffers from an issue that plagues many 19th Century English spiritual works. It is very sentimental and sappy. Butler has issues with the names of people and places. In some places he refers to the Bishop of Hippo as St. Augustine, but in most places he refers to him as St. Austin. He confounds St. Benedict with St. Bennet. And he uses three different names for St. Canute in the article about him. Butler goes off on enormous tangents in his descriptions, often spending dozens of pages describing a war, a political situation or a heresy that happened during the life of the saint without really affecting the saint directly. These are minor, quirky things, but they make this work difficult for the modern reader.

The bottom line here is that this work is a must for Catholics who want to deepen their devotion to the saints. And in the 21st Century, using this work is easier than ever. It is available on the Kindle, all 12 volumes for only a couple of dollars. No longer does one have to lug around the heavy tomes of this work in order to include Butler's work in one's daily devotions. The volumes are available on GoogleBooks and archive.org for free in PDF versions. I would recommend that every English speaking Catholic acquire these volumes and read them. And it would be even more awesome if someone were to update this work for the 21st Century!

Library Kat says

Butler's Lives of the Patron Saints (Burgundy) [Hardcover]
Michael Walsh
Published 1985
<http://www.amazon.com/Butlers-Lives-P...>

St. Catherine of Alexandria the patron saint of philosophers philosophy or learning and students particularly women Students or Christian apologists, librarians and libraries and young women
According to American Catholic.org(c. 310)
in the book it is unknown

Thomas aquinas, Dr. of the church (AD 1274) patron St. of scholars students academics, colleges and universities apologist, philosophers theologians and booksellers

st John of God (AD 1550) patron saint booksellers bookbinders booktraders in general

Holly Rawlins says

Okay, this is not actually the copy I am reading. My friend Paula gave me her mother's copy of "Lives of Saints" which is big, thick and really gruesome. Here's my favorite quote:

"The record of the Passion of St. Perpetua, St. Felicitas, and their Companions is one the the great treasures of martyr literature...."

The book is on the coffee table, and I read one or two histories at a sitting. I am noticing many virgin martyrs, which counts many of us out. The same does not seem to apply to men, which give you an idea of how long this whole double standard thing has been in place (St. Perpetua died in 203).

I can't really recommend this book, but suggest you give it a look when I see you all at the holidays!

Matt says

So, my one-year plan to read this book succeeded. I didn't end up reading exactly a-saint-a-day, but I read them all. Many of the stories were inspiring and most were interesting. Some were frustrating -- vigorously condemning heresy is not my favorite reason to elevate someone to sainthood -- and some were great (I'm a huge fan of little Benedict the bridge builder). Lots of common trends -- refusing to be a bishop (but later accepting) seems to be a sure step on the path to sainthood, as does (of course) martyrdom, and so does being against the right heresy at the right time (no Arians need apply). Lots of interesting stuff, and I do feel like it improved my spiritual life. In 2008, I'm tackling the big one-year project: the Bible. Here's hoping I finish that one, too.
