

August 2026

VIA FIDELIS: THE FAITHFUL WAY

UNDERSTAND THE FAITH

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UNDERSTAND THE FAITH | MONTHLY ACTIVITY



August | Apologetics

Look on an apologetics (defending the faith) websites, such as Catholic Answers, to be able to respond to questions you are commonly asked about our faith!



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CHRISTIAN LIVING

Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church
1716-1717; 1725-1726; 1954-1962; 1980; 2055-2057

- The natural law is written on everyone's heart and is a form of human participation in God's wisdom and goodness; it gives humanity an original moral sense to discern good and bad
- Yet, because of sin, the perception of the natural law is clouded
- Because of this God has given his "revealed" law
- The summary of the moral truths of the old law, the first stage of revealed law, can be found in the *Decalogue*, or Ten Commandments, which point to both love of God and love of neighbor
- The word "beatitude" points to the eternal happiness toward which all humanity is called
- In the Gospel, Jesus shows his followers the way to participation in divine life
- This way, in imitation of Christ himself, is the love of truth and goodness
- The Beatitudes, which are central to Jesus' preaching, are in continuity with and in fulfillment of God's promises throughout salvation history
- Jesus' interpretation of the law (Torah) is centered on love
- Jesus places the love of God as the greatest commandment (see Dt 6:4)
- He then places love of neighbor alongside it (see Lev 19:18)
- These form a single, twofold command of love that encapsulate the law and prophets



Feasts & Solemnities

AUGUST 6: TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

The feast of the Transfiguration commemorates the dedication of basilicas on Mount Tabor, where Jesus was "transfigured" — or changed in appearance — before Peter, James and John. He was seen conversing with Moses and Elijah (see Mt 17:1-9; Mk 9:2-10; Lk 9:28-36). The event gives us a glimpse into Jesus' identity and mission. The liturgical feast was established in the fifth century and was set exactly 40 days before the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (Sept. 14), highlighting the link between the Transfiguration and the cross.

AUGUST 14: ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST AND MARTYR

St. Maximilian Kolbe was martyred during World War II at the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz. The Franciscan priest offered himself in the place of fellow prisoner Franciszek Gajowniczek. Well before his martyrdom, Father Kolbe founded the Militia Immaculatae, a group dedicated to spreading the Gospel through Marian devotion. This date commemorates the day he was executed, a day before the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

AUGUST 15: ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

While the belief that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven has been held by Christians for centuries, it was formally declared an infallible dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XII on Nov. 1, 1950.

AUGUST 22: QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

When Pius XII introduced this memorial to the liturgical calendar in 1954, it was celebrated on May 31 to end the month typically devoted to Mary. Paul VI moved it to Aug. 22 to highlight the "octave," or eighth day after the feast of the Assumption.

AUGUST 24: ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

St. Bartholomew is only mentioned in the Synoptic Gospels within the list of the 12 Apostles. He is typically identified with "Nathanael" in John's Gospel. Traditionally, he is believed to have been martyred in Armenia.

AUGUST 27: ST. MONICA

St. Monica famously prayed for the conversion of her son, Augustine. Eventually these prayers were answered and her son became one of the most influential writers in Christian history. Many parents today turn to Monica's intercession as they pray for their children to return.

AUGUST 28: ST. AUGUSTINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

St. Augustine was one of the most prolific writers of his and of all time. His works are philosophical and theological classics. His ability to connect faith and reason makes him one of the most important theologians in the history of the Church.

AUGUST 28: PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist's martyrdom by beheading is recounted in Scripture (see Mk 6:17-29). By his brutal death — as ordered by Herod Antipas — John, whose mission was to announce the coming of the Messiah, also points to the Messiah's death. An ancient tradition holds that this day commemorates the day John's head was found.