

Claude De La Colombiere

Saint Name: Saint Claude de la Colombiere

Dates: February 2, 1641 – February 15, 1682

Location: France

Feast Day: February 15



Claude De La Colombiere was born February 2, 1641, in the city of Saint Symphorien-d'Ozon, an ancient province of Dauphine, France. He was the third child of the noble Bertrand de la Colombiere and Margaret Coindat. At the age of 17, Claude entered the Society of Jesus at Avignon where he completed his lower and higher studies. Once completed, he remained for an additional five years to teach grammar and literature at the same school. In 1666, Claude was sent to study theology at the College de Clermont in Paris and assigned to tutor the children of Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Royal Minister of Finances. After completing his studies and tutorage Claude was ordained a priest, assigned to join the preaching team of the Jesuit community, where he gained widespread fame as an orator and educator in Paris. In 1675, Fr. Claude was appointed the rector at Paray-le-Monial and the spiritual director of the nuns of the Visitation Sisters. This is where he met Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque and learned of her vision of her monastery – His Sacred Heart. Fr. Claude became a zealous apostle of His Sacred Heart, regarding it as the means to revitalize the Faith. In 1676, Fr. Colombiere was sent to England as preacher to the Duchess of York, wife of the future King James II and succeeded in converting the Duke of York as well as other Protestants. Because of the intense hostility toward Catholics, he was arrested and thrown into prison. Thanks to his position at the Royal Court and to the protection of Louis XIV, King of France, his death sentence was lifted, but he returned to France in poor health. He died on February 15, 1682, the result of a severe hemorrhage.

Saint Claude De La Colombiere was beatified June 16, 1929 by Pope Pius XI and canonized on May 31, 1992 by Pope John Paul II. His feast day is celebrated February 15