

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

*Saint John Marie Vianney*

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Feast day: August 4

### Biography



St. John Vianney, Priest (Patron of priests)

Universally known as the "Cure of Ars," St. John Mary Vianney was ordained a priest in 1815. Three years later he was made parish priest of Ars, a remote French hamlet, where his reputation as a confessor and director of souls made him known throughout the Christian world. His life was one of extreme mortification.

Accustomed to the most severe austerities, beleaguered by swarms of penitents, and besieged by the devil, this great mystic manifested an imperturbable patience. He was a wonderworker loved by the crowds, but he retained a childlike simplicity, and he remains to this day the living image of the priest after the heart of Christ.

He heard confessions of people from all over the world for the sixteen hours each day. His life was filled with works of charity and love. It is recorded that even the staunchest of sinners were converted at his mere word. He died August 4, 1859, and was canonized May 31, 1925.

### Notable Virtue: Patience

#### Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity." #1832

#### Scripture:

"Good is the Lord to one who waits for Him, to the soul that seeks Him." (Lamentations 3:25)

"With all humility and gentleness, and with patience, support each other in love." (Ephesians 4:2)

#### In Brief:

Patience helps one to endure problems, pains and difficulties without complaint.

#### What is this virtue?

Patience is the virtue that helps one to endure problems, pains and difficulties without complaint. It allows one to wait peacefully until an expected event comes to be. It helps us to keep control over our emotions when something disagreeable happens. A patient person responds to situations calmly. Patience allows other virtues to work in our lives.

Biographical information from [http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=399](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=399)

### **Why do we need it?**

Patience allows us to accept God's will for us even when it means we must suffer through a long illness, or the loss of a prized possession or failing an exam. It helps us to become aware of the opportunity for grace that each difficulty presents. Accepting each difficulty with this in mind, helps us to maintain our self control. It changes what would have been an act of impatience into one that provides grace.

Patience helps us to see the benefit of enduring annoyances and difficulties. For example, a child can put up with explaining the rules of a game to another child because he or she wants them both to have a good time.

We should also think about the infinite patience God has with us. He is so patient and understanding with our weaknesses and falls. God said, "Love one another as I have loved you"... that is, be patient in whatever you suffer from the weaknesses and falls of others as I am patient with your weaknesses and falls.

### **PRACTICES TO FOSTER THE GROWTH OF THIS VIRTUE:**

- Learn something that will take time to master: playing the guitar, learning a language, learning to type, model building.
- Be last in line or last to be served.
- Take a few minutes each day to be quiet without noise, distraction or activity.
- Visit the Blessed Sacrament.
- Pray to understand God's will for you.
- Work a challenging puzzle. Persevere until every piece is in place.
- Teach someone something new.
- Play with a sibling, friend or neighbor who is much younger than you.
- Think about the story of Moses. List five ways patience is shown in the story: (patience of Israelites for a savior, the waiting of Moses on Pharaoh, patience for Moses return from Mt. Sinai, patience of Moses with the people, patience as they wandered for 40 years.) (Source: Little Flowers)
- Write a skit that shows someone being impatient and then rewrite it to show someone waiting patiently. Act out your skits. (Source: Little Flowers)

### **Additional Resources:**

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 55, 227, 736, 854, 1821, 1832, 2613
- Children's Bible stories:
  - The Passion of Our Lord enduring suffering without complaint because it was God's will.
  - Old Testament story of Elizabeth waiting for the blessing of a child. Luke 1:5-25
  - The story of Moses
- *Loyola Kids Book of Saints* by Amy Welborn
- *Book of Saints Vol. 1* by Fr. Lawrence Lovasik
- *Character Building: A Guide for Parents and Teachers* by David Isaacs