



# Book of Saints

**“SUPERHEROES OF GOD”**

By **REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.**

Divine Word Missionary

## PART 5

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# Saint Philip Neri

May 26

**P**HILIP was born in Florence in 1515. His family was poor. He went to Rome to act as a teacher for two boys. He began to visit the hospitals of the city, taking a great interest in the sick and the poor.

Philip was ordained a priest and founded the Congregation of the Priests of the Oratory. With his priests he helped the boys of Rome when they were in trouble. He found places for them to study and to play. He showed great zeal in helping sinners through the Sacrament of Penance.

Philip encouraged frequent Confession and Communion. Young and old, attracted by his cheerful holiness, came in large numbers to hear his words of wisdom.

For sixty-two years Philip gave advice and a good example to all classes of people in Rome and tried to fill their hearts with the love of God.

Philip died at the age of 80 in 1595.

# Saint Leo the Great

November 10

**L**EO was born in Tuscany in Italy. He reigned as Pope from 440 to 461. At this time Attila, called the Scourge of God, with his hordes of Huns invaded Italy and marched toward Rome.

Moved with pity for his suffering people, Leo went out to meet him. His pleading persuaded the invader to leave Rome.

Later, when Genseric, another invader, entered Rome, Leo's holiness and eloquence again saved the city.

Heresies attacked the Church. Leo called the Council of Chalcedon and condemned them.

The holy Pope built many churches. He left many letters and writings of great historical value. For this reason, but especially for his holiness, he is called "the Great." He is honored as a Doctor of the Church.

Leo died on April 11, 461.

