

"SUPERHEROES OF GOD"

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**Divine Word Missionary** 

**PART 11** 

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## Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat

May 25

ENDOWED by God with great natural beauty and many talents, Madeleine responded to the call for the Christian education of youth.

Born in France in 1779, she met Father Joseph Varin who wanted to found a congregation of women devoted to the Sacred Heart and dedicated to the education of girls. In 1800, Madeleine entered religious life and one year later established the first school of her new congregation of nuns, the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Though she was only twenty-three, Madeleine was appointed superior and held that office for sixty-three years. Her society established convents and schools in twelve countries throughout the world, including the United States.

Madeleine exhorted her religious at all times to seek the glory of the Heart of Jesus in laboring for the sanctification of souls.

She died on May 25, 1865, at the age of eightysix and was canonized in 1925. The good that her congregation has accomplished throughout the years speaks eloquently of her love for her Lord.



## Saint John of Sahagún

## June 11

In many ways the life of a Christian calls for courage. Like Saint John we can expect to be treated with scorn if we speak out in favor of justice.

John was born in Sahagún, Spain, in the fifteenth century. He was educated by Benedictine monks and was ordained in 1445. After extended study at the University of Salamanca, he became renowned as a preacher and spiritual director.

Later, he joined the Augustinians and became prior of their monastery at Salamanca. John maintained its celebrated discipline by example rather than by authority.

John staunchly defended the rights of workers. And he had a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. He experienced visions and was famous for miracles. It was said that he had the gift of knowing the state of people's souls.

Because he preached against corruption in high places, John received threats against his life. But he was fearless and he caused a great change for the better in the lives of the people of Salamanca. This saintly priest died in 1479.