

Feast day: September 11

Death: 257

St. Ambrose Edward Barlow

St. Jean-Gabriel Perboyre

One of eight children born to Pierre Perboyre and Marie Rigal. At age 16 he followed his brother Louis to the seminary, and joined the Congregation of the Mission of Saint Vincent on Christmas Day 1818. Ordained in Paris on 23 September 1825. Professor of theology. Seminary rector. Assistant director of novices.

His brother died on a mission to China, and John Gabriel was asked to replace him. In March 1835 he sailed for China, and began his mission in Macao in June, 1836. A widespread persecution of Christians began in 1839, the same year England had attacked China.

Father John Gabriel was denounced to the authorities by one of his catachumens, arrested, tried on 16 September 1839, tortured by hanging by his thumbs and flogging with bamboo rods, and condemned to death on 11 September 1840. Martyr. The first saint associated with China.

Born: 6 January 1802 at Le Puech, near Mongesty, Cahors diocese, southern France

Died: lashed to a cross on a hill named the "red mountain", then strangled with a rope on 11 September 1840 at Ou-Tchang-Fou, China

Canonized: 2 June 1996 by Pope John Paul II

St. Elijah Speleota

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Born to the wealthy nobility, the son of Peitro Bozzetta and Leonzia de Leontini. At age 18, to avoid an arranged marriage and answer a call to religious life, Elijah left home to become a pilgrim to Rome, Italy. He became a Basilian monk at Grottaferrata outside Rome, returned briefly to Reggio Calabria, and then he and a fellow monk name Arsenio travelled to Patras, Greece for further study.

While they were away, Muslim Saracens invaded their home region, killing and enslaving Christians. When Elijah returned to Italy, he withdrew from populated areas to lived as a hermit in a cave near Melicuccà, Italy with two fellow monks, Cosma and Vitale; the word Speleota is Greek for "inhabitant of caves".

Word of their wisdom and holiness soon spread, and pilgrims regularly visited the caves for spiritual direction and advice.

Born: 863 in Reggio Calabria, Italy

Died: • 11 September 960 at the Aulon monastery in Calabria, Italy of natural causes• buried in the cave where he had dug his own grave with his hands• on 2 August 1747, Antonio Germano unearthed his bones; the sight of them cured a serious medical ailment with which Antonio suffered

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