



## St. Jeanne de Chantal

**Born:** 28 January 1572 at Dijon, Burgundy, France

**Died:** 13 December 1641 at the Visitationist convent at Moulins, France of natural causes, relics at Annecy, Savoy (in modern France)

**Canonized:** 16 July 1767 by Pope Clement XIII

**Patronage:** against in-law problems, against the death of parents, forgotten people, parents separated from children, widows.

Also known as Jane Frances of Chantel, Jane Frances Fremiot de Chantal

Additional Memorials 18 August (United States), 12 December (from 1970 to 2001), 21 August (the date of the founding of her Order; from 1769 to 1969)

Born to the nobility, the daughter of the president of the Parliament of Burgundy who raised her alone after the death of her mother when Jeanne was 18 months old. Married in 1592 at age twenty to Baron de Chantal. Mother of four. Widowed at 28 when the Baron was killed in a hunting accident and died in her arms. Taking a personal vow of chastity, she was forced to live with her father-in-law, which was a period of misery for her. She spent her free time in prayer, and received a vision of the man who would become her spiritual director. In Lent, 1604, she met Saint Francis de Sales, and recognized him as the man in her vision. She became a spiritual student and close friend of Saint Francis, and the two carried on a lengthy correspondence for years. On Trinity Sunday, 6 June 1610 she founded the Order of the Visitation of Our Lady at Annecy, France. The Order was designed for widows and lay women who did not wish the full life of the orders, and Jeanne oversaw the founding of 69 convents. Jeanne spent the rest of her days overseeing the Order, and acting as spiritual advisor to any who desired her wisdom. Visitationist nuns today live a contemplative life, work for women with poor health and widows, and sometimes run schools.