

St. Norbert: Man of God, Man of Faith

"Faith was the outstanding virtue of Norbert's life."
(Office of Readings for June 6, Feast of St. Norbert)

Fear of Faith 2012 - 2013



-- St. Norbert, Bishop --
Apostle of the Eucharist,
Minister of peace & concord,
Patron of expectant mothers &
infertile married couples,
Patron of Bohemia

WHY IS ST. NORBERT CALLED...

Apostle of the Eucharist

Everything in the life of St. Norbert and his first disciples highlights the central place of the Eucharist. Contrary to contemporary custom, he celebrated Mass every day, and it was after offering the holy sacrifice that he loved to preach, when his heart overflowed with the love he had drawn from contact with Christ. Many of St. Norbert's great miracles took place in the context of the Mass. He often told his brothers: "It is at the altar that we show our faith and our love for God." It was St. Norbert and his followers who restored orthodox belief and Eucharistic devotion to the city of Antwerp (Belgium) after it had fallen into a Eucharistic heresy. In short, the Eucharist, the heart of liturgical prayer, occupied such a place at Prémontré and in the life of St. Norbert that later tradition made him "Apostle of the Eucharist."

Minister of Peace & Concord

During his lifetime St. Norbert was called a "minister of peace" because he had a special charism for resolving even the bitterest, bloodiest feuds. His zeal for justice and personal holiness made him an ideal mediator for any conflict, with such success in his efforts to foster harmony between the Apostolic See and the German empire that Pope Innocent II thanked him profusely in a letter in which he called Norbert a "devoted son" and Lothair made him chancellor of the realm.

Patron of Expectant Mothers & Infertile Married Couples

A pious woman once approached St. Norbert asking whether she and her husband ought to separate and enter monasteries because they lived in an infertile marriage. St. Norbert prophesied that they would be blessed with children, the first of whom would be dedicated to God. This child, Nicholas, did indeed become a Norbertine at Premontre. St. Norbert is traditionally invoked for a good childbirth. The Norbertine Canonesses at Doksany (Czech Republic) in modern times promote this devotion to St. Norbert as patron of infertile couples or endangered pregnancies, and report hundreds of families now blessed with children, the sisters having well over 3,000 spiritual children as of 2012.

Patron of Bohemia

The transfer of St. Norbert's relics from Magdeburg (Germany) to Prague (Bohemia, now Czech Republic) was an occasion of great national celebration and many conversions to the Faith. He was declared patron of the country in 1627.

St. Norbert, pray for us!

The Norbertine Canonesses of the
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✠ ✠ ✠ COMING SOON ✠ ✠ ✠

St. Norbert Statues

Custom-made antique resin statues of Saint Norbert,
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