Francis de Sales
1567–1622
Feast Day—January 24

Born in the Duchy of Savoy (now France), Francis studied at Annecy, Paris and Padua, and was ordained in 1593. He spent four years reconverting Catholics who had become Calvinists, writing many tracts to explain basic tenets of the faith. In 1602 he became bishop of Geneva, which he reorganized and reformed. He also famously preached in Paris and wrote two devotional books that are still widely read. A 20-year friendship with St. Jane Frances de Chantal led to their founding the Order of the Visitation. Canonized in 1665 and declared a doctor of the church in 1877, Francis is the patron saint of journalists, authors and the deaf.

“Doctor of divine love, Francis de Sales did not rest until the faithful accepted God’s love, to live fully in it, turning their hearts to God and uniting themselves with him (cf. *Traité de l’amour de Dieu: Oeuvres complètes*, IV, p. 40 ff.). This is how, under his direction, many Christians walked on the path of holiness; he showed them that all are called to live an intense spiritual life, whatever their situation and profession.”

— St. John Paul II, November 22, 2003