

*Did you know . . .*

### **New Saints to be Canonized**

This Sunday, Pope Francis will canonize 7 people, the two most prominent being Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero.

The others are Bl. Francesco Spinelli (Italy), diocesan priest and Founder of the Institute of the Sister Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament;; Bl. Vincenzo Romano (Italy), diocesan priest from Torre del Greco; Bl. Maria Caterina Kasper (Germany), Foundress of the Institute of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ; Bl. Nazario Ignazia March Mesa (Spain), Foundress of the Congregation of the Misioneras Cruzadas de la Iglesia Sisters; and Bl. Nunzio Sulprizio (Italy).

Bl. Nunzio Sulprizio, was born in Pescosansonesco, Italy on April 13, 1817 and died in Naples, Italy on May 5, 1836. It is fitting that Bl. Nunzio who died at age 19, will be canonized during the Synod whose theme is “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment”, and along with Pope Paul VI who beatified him on December 1, 1963.

Nunzio lost both his parents while he was a child and was brought up by an uncle who exploited him, didn't allow him to go to school and made him work in his blacksmith shop. Regardless of the temperature, Nunzio was forced to carry heavy weights over great distances. He found his refuge before the Tabernacle where he kept Jesus company.

He developed gangrene in one leg and was sent to a hospital for people with incurable diseases in Naples. The pain created great suffering for him, yet he always remained positive, saying things like:

*Jesus suffered so much for us and by his merits we await eternal life. If we suffer a little bit, we will taste the joy of paradise. Jesus suffered a lot for me. Why should I not suffer for Him? I would die in order to convert even one sinner. When asked who was taking care of him, he would respond: “God’s Providence”.*

When he was better, he dedicated himself to helping other patients, but he died from bone cancer in May, 1836.

At his beatification, Pope Paul VI said in part: *“Nunzio Sulprizio will tell you that the period of youth should not be considered the age of free passions, of inevitable falls, of invincible crises, of decadent pessimism, of harmful selfishness. Rather, he will tell you how being young is a grace... St. Philip used to repeat: Blessed are you, young people, who have the time to do good.”* [Next week: Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Romero]

**Judy Pearson**

