Hungarian Saints

Saint Adalbert (939 – 997)

He assumed the name of the Archbishop Adalbert (his name had been Wojtech), under whom he studied at Magdeburg. He became Bishop of Prague. After, he betook himself to Rome, and when released by Pope John XV from his Episcopal obligations, withdrew to a monastery and occupied himself in the most humble duties of the house.

Recalled by his people, who received him with great demonstrations of joy, he was nevertheless expelled a second time and returned to Rome. In those years, the people of Hungary were just then turning towards Christianity. Adalbert went among them as a missionary, and baptized Géza of Hungary and his son Stephen in the city of Esztergom. He afterwards evangelized the Poles, and was made Archbishop of Gnesen. But he again relinquished his see, and set out to preach in Prussia. Success attended his efforts at first, but his strong manner in commanding them to abandon paganism irritated some Russians, and at the instigation of one of the pagan priests he was killed. This was in the year 997. Boleslaus I buried Adalbert's body at Gniezno, Poland, whence it was transported in 1039 to Prague.

Adalbert was canonized in 999.

His feast is celebrated April 23.

St. Adalbert was later made the patron saint of Bohemia, Poland, Hungary and Prussia.