
Patron of the Pen and Press (I)

It is nearly a month since the feast of Saint Francis de Sales. Every year on the 28th of January, the eve of his feast, these words of commemoration are read from the Roman Martyrology: "The feast of Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Confessor and Doctor of the Church, the special Patron of all Catholic writers who explain, promote or defend Christian doctrine by publishing journals or other writings in the vernacular."

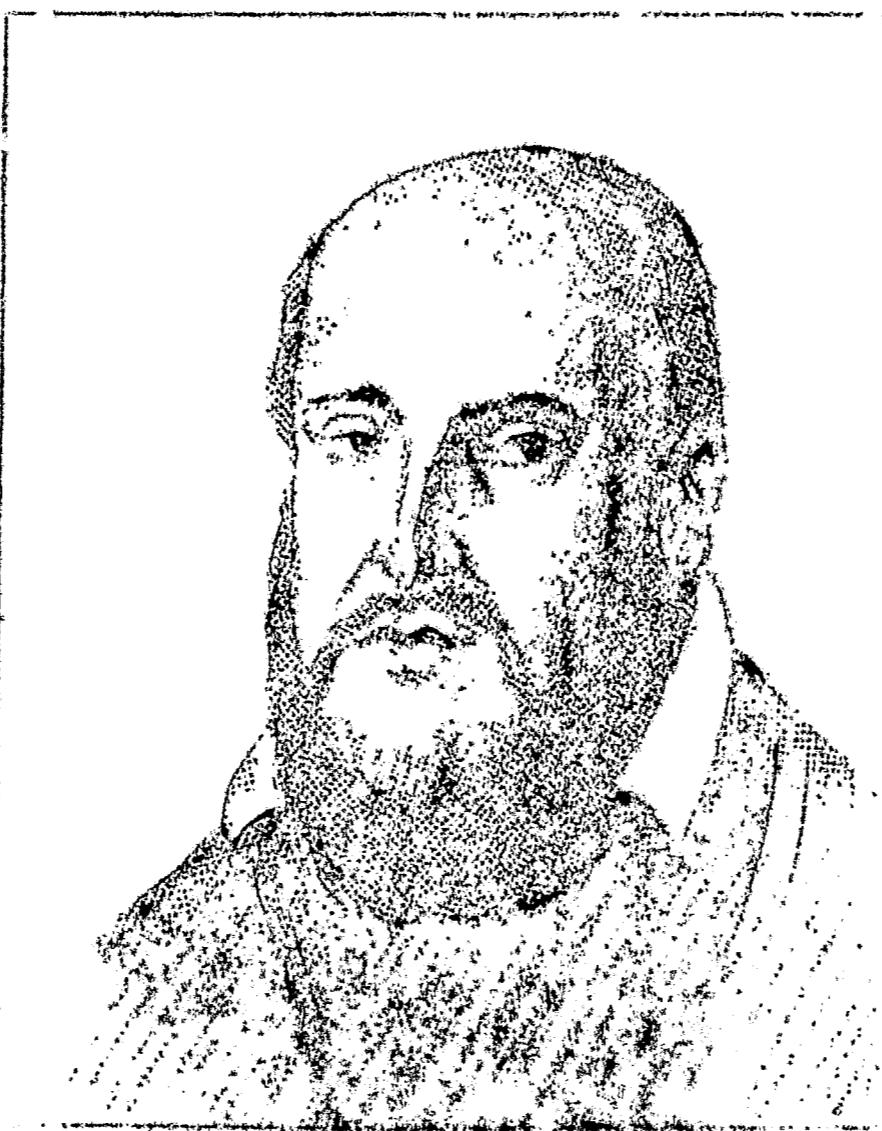
The Bulletin is proud of its heavenly patron and hopes to imitate his good works. It especially desires to save souls thru the famed Salesian technique. *** "What is that?" you will ask.

Well, if anything sums up the manner of Saint Francis de Sales, it is his own excellent proverb; "You can catch more flies with a spoonful of honey than you can with a barrel of vinegar." That one line is almost his autobiography, just as Saint Augustine's self-portrait is contained in the sentence: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord; our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee."

Gentleness, holiness, the art of persuasion, preaching in season and out: these were the weapons of Saint Francis de Sales. Above all, the love of God--of God in Himself and of God existing by grace in the hearts of men, and recognized there by the eyes of faith.

How he went after the Calvinist heretics in the Chablais! How he kept after them though they forced him out of his house into retreat at Annecy. He kept writing his letters, kept making his journeys, kept pouring kindness incessantly into their lives till literally thousands of them finally yielded. Had his tongue not been dipped in the sweetness of Christ,

How many millions of French and Swiss descendants since Francis's time had never been born into the consolations of Our Lord's true Faith! ** This same Christian sweetness, ardor and strength must pervade the Catholic Press of today if American non-Catholics are to be brought back to the only Way, Truth and Life which can save them.



Noblesse oblige! What a quasi-infinite responsibility rests on the Catholic Press of this country! What need our diocesan weeklies, our pamphlets and magazines have of the intercession of Francis de Sales! How they should seek after his spirit!

No permanent good can be gained from a loud, blatant policy or from mob-stirring stories and editorials which result in setting up class against class.....Jews against Christians, Whites against Negroes, Kluxxers against Roman Catholics. Far more wholesome and profitable to Church and country the steady meekness and love of Christ and Saint Francis de Sales! Of course there is room on occasion for the righteous anger that routs the Temple's profaners, but it is hard to associate an habitual roughneck technique with any Catholic paper. Rather, to write about and to live the virile humility and the gentle strength of Our Lord and Saint Francis will produce the desired results. See how the Christians love one another!

Saint Francis must be busy in heaven interceding for America's Catholic Press. Diocesan weeklies the country over are becoming more widely read because they are giving more space to the faithful's interests, especially to youth's. They are printing more pictures, running more features, speeding up the news. Not as before does the ash-man or junk-dealer find the Catholic paper, unwrapped, in the galvanized barrel or the pile of old newsprint. *** PRAY FOR YOUR PRESS!

PRAYERS: (DECEASED) Antonio J. Provost, former professor; father of Ed Murray (Dil); step-mother of Father Gallagher; Miss Antoinette Schnellbach; Frank Finn, friend of Maurice Kelly (Ly); cousin of John Maloney (Dil); uncle of Jim Bellinger (Morr); FOUND: \$\$; keys.