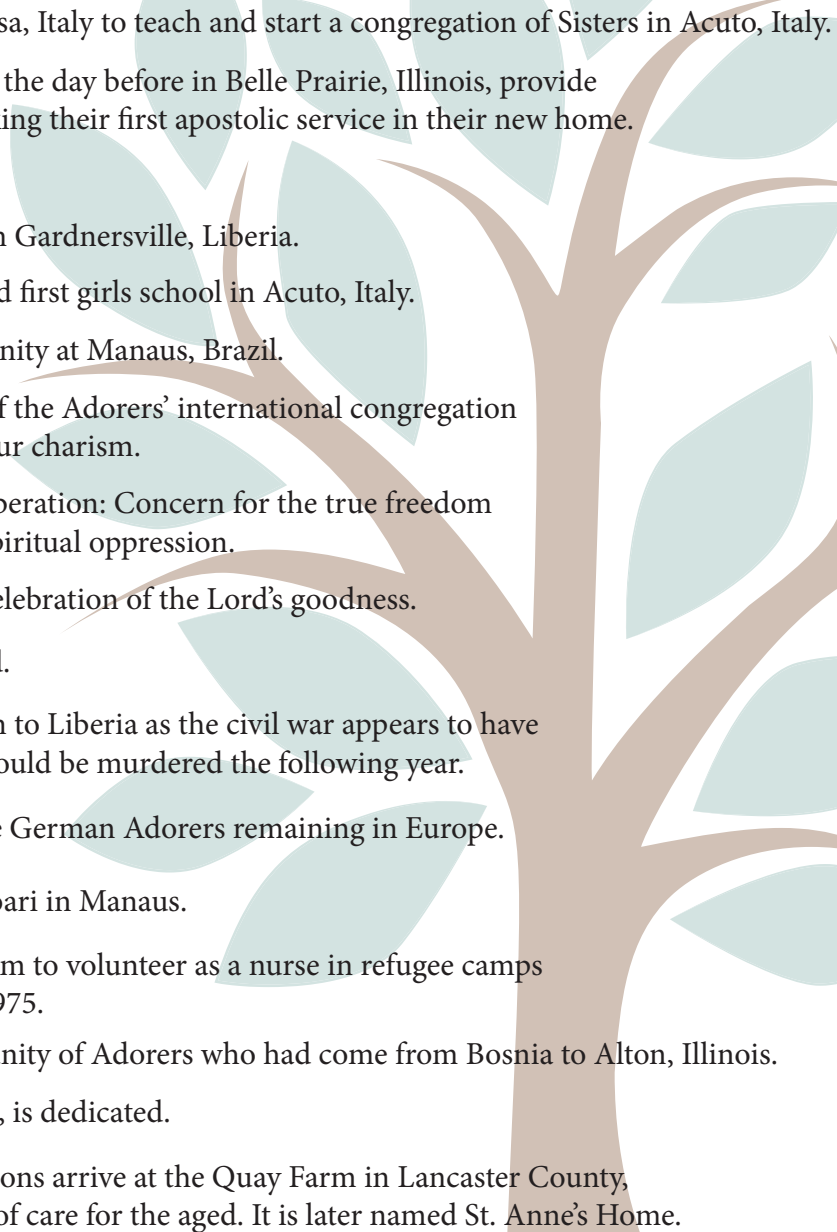



Important Dates in March

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- 1 1834 Maria de Mattias leaves her home in Vallecorsa, Italy to teach and start a congregation of Sisters in Acuto, Italy.
- 1 1870 Sisters from Gurtweil, Germany, who arrived the day before in Belle Prairie, Illinois, provide organ music and singing for a wedding, marking their first apostolic service in their new home.
- 2 1834 Maria de Mattias arrives in Acuto, Italy.
- 2 1986 First aspirants enter community of Adorers in Gardnersville, Liberia.
- 4 1834 Maria de Mattias founds the congregation and first girls school in Acuto, Italy.
- 4 1949 The first novice was received into the community at Manaus, Brazil.
- 4 1982 A three-year celebration marking 150 years of the Adorers' international congregation begins with the Year of Adoration: Study of our charism.
- 4 1983 The celebration continues with the Year of Liberation: Concern for the true freedom of all persons from economic, political and spiritual oppression.
- 4 1984 The celebration concludes with the Year of Celebration of the Lord's goodness.
- 8 1971 The renovation of Ruma's chapel is completed.
- 10 1991 Sisters Joel Kolmer and Shirley Kolmer return to Liberia as the civil war appears to have calmed down. They and three other Sisters would be murdered the following year.
- 11 1873 Hermina Gantert is appointed superior of the German Adorers remaining in Europe.
- 15 1948 Adorers open their first school in Brazil at Coari in Manaus.
- 17 1968 Sister Barbara Ann Muttra departs for Vietnam to volunteer as a nurse in refugee camps until 1971. The Vietnam War would end in 1975.
- 19 1914 The first American postulant enters a community of Adorers who had come from Bosnia to Alton, Illinois.
- 25 1941 The motherhouse in Columbia, Pennsylvania, is dedicated.
- 26 1925 Sister Paulina Schneeberger and her companions arrive at the Quay Farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where they continue the work of care for the aged. It is later named St. Anne's Home.




March 1, 1870 - On the morning after they had arrived in Belle Prairie, Illinois, the pioneer Sisters from Gurtweil, Germany, rendered their first apostolic service in America by playing the organ and singing for a wedding in the town's parish church. A history of the parish written in 1880 recounts: "The loyal farmers gladly drove by wagon to Shawneetown to meet the first nine Sisters. On March 1, 1870, on the occasion of the wedding of Charles Anthony Kaufmann, the German-born Sisters could already enhance the church service by their singing." The bride and groom were blessed with a long married life. They celebrated their 50th anniversary on March 1, 1920.

March 2, 1907 - This day marks the death of the Rev. Karl Rolfus, who along with Mother Ursula Xaveria Behringer, founded, in 1845, the Steinerberg, Switzerland, community of Sisters for the Adoration of the Precious Blood. Within a few months, Mother Theresa Weber would become the first superior of this community. Rolfus guided many young women from Baden, Germany, to the Swiss convent and remained its spiritual director until 1852. Under his direction, in 1847, the community applied to Rome for affiliation with Blessed Maria De Mattias' congregation. Rolfus was imprisoned several times on charges of having poisoned some of the Sisters and appropriating their inheritance. Although he was eventually cleared of these charges, he deemed it unwise to continue as spiritual guide to the community and withdrew.

March 12, 1865 - The Gurtweil, Germany, community was asked by the Superior General of the Precious Blood Congregation to state whether its members would agree to have their Gurtweil administration appointed by Mother Maria de Mattias and the Italian congress in Acuto. This arrangement would come with the advice of the spiritual director in Gurtweil and the two members of that community who were presently in Italy. (Sister Pauline Fesser and Mother Clementine Zerr had gone to Italy to learn the spirit and customs of the Institute.) At first, the Sisters opposed the move out of loyalty to their own superior, Sister Casparine Maise. However, Sister Casparine and Reverend Fraessle explained the unifying purpose of the recommendation, and the Sisters voted to accept the proposal. Consequently, the congress in Acuto appointed Sister Augusta Volk Superior of Temporal Affairs and Sister Clementine Zerr Superior of Spiritual Affairs and Novice Director.

March 15, 1948 - On this day, Adorers from the Wichita, Kansas, Province who were the first in the community to go to Brazil as missionaries, opened their first school at Coari, Brazil. Mother Julitta Elsen, Sister M. Georgia Heimermann, Sister Marciana Heimermann, and Sister Jane Frances Baalman arrived on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1947, in Belem, Brazil, and established a mission center on Christmas Day at Coari. The ministry was inaugurated on January 2. The first Brazilian women aspiring to be Adorers of the Blood of Christ were accepted on the feast of the Precious Blood in 1948. The community in Manaus, the capital and largest city of the Brazilian state of Amazonas, became a province of the Adorers in 1965.



March 26, 1925 - Since the Adorers of the Blood of Christ had two vicariates in the State of Illinois in 1924, their Superior General, Mother Latina Cortese, asked that Mother Paulina Schneeberger transfer her group to the eastern United States. Through the help of the Franciscan Fathers from Steelton, Pennsylvania, the Adorers purchased the Quay Farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. After Adorers sold Nazareth Home in Alton, Illinois, to a community of Franciscan sisters, they moved eastward to the location that became the seat of the Columbia Province. On May 3, the Sisters dedicated the property and changed the name from Quay Farm to Gethsemane. The apostolic works of this small province stretched north and south from New York State to Georgia, and east and west from Pennsylvania to Missouri. The Columbia Province, along with the Ruma Province and the Wichita Province, became one U.S. Region in 2000.

