

Important Dates in January

- Jan-Feb 1920 Sisters across the U.S. Region die of the Spanish flu, including seven in one week in Alton, Illinois.
- 1 1984 A year of celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ begins.
- 4 1981 Program for the first 10 Associates begins in Wichita, Kansas.
- 4 1999 Offices for the U.S. Region of Adorers are established in St. Louis, Missouri. The three provinces of Ruma, Columbia and Wichita would become one region the following year.
- 5 1885 The Adorers in Rome take three vows for the first time.
- 6 1973 Two sisters from Ruma, Illinois, arrive in La Paz, Bolivia to serve in the missions.
- 6 1786 Gaspar del Bufalo, founder of the Precious Blood men's community, is born in Italy.
- 7 1985 The History of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, written by Sister Antonietta Maraone, was sent for publishing to the Huggins Printing Company, Bressler, Pennsylvania.
- 15 1971 Adorers begin offering pastoral services to the Puerto Rican community of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- 17 1985 International workshop – “Many Cultures: One Charism” – is held in Ruma, Illinois.
- 18 1871 Laws asserting the supremacy of the state over the church in Germany threaten sisters in Baden.
- 18 1971 First missionaries from Ruma, Illinois, arrive in Robertsville, Liberia.
- 19 1965 Korean women aspiring to become Adorers (aspirants) arrive in Wichita, Kansas.
- 19 1971 Adorer missionaries establish their first house in Grand Cess, Liberia.
- 19 1968 Public ceremony at Ruma about sisters' role in the Sanctuary Movement
- 21 1949 Adorers from the Wichita Province establish a novitiate in Manaus, Brazil.
- 22 1858 Rev. F. X. Behe succeeds his uncle as spiritual director to the Ottmarsheim Sisters.
- 22 1977 Adorers in Wichita establish a separate formation program for women in the Southwest.
- 24 1906 Having caught pneumonia a few days earlier and after signing legal papers for the purchase of land and explaining the finances of the Vicariate to two of her companions, Clementine Zerr died peacefully in Wichita. She is buried at Ruma.
- 28 1878 Pope Pius IX recognizes the Adorers as a legitimate congregation in the church.
- 31 1913 Serafina Cinque, an Adorer missionary who worked along the Amazon with river people, is born in Urucurituba, Amazonas, Brazil. Her cause for canonization is in Rome.

1858 **January 22** After the death of his uncle, Rev. Felix Behe, the Rev. Francis Xavier Behe continued the spiritual direction of the Ottmarsheim Community in Alsace. The younger priest often had accompanied his uncle on visits to the convent and was familiar with the Rule of Maria De Mattias that the sisters were to follow. Rev. Behe wrote to the supervisors in Rome soon after the death of his uncle to clarify a number of points of the Rule. He was especially happy for the opportunity offered by Rev. Kessler for the sisters to engage in apostolic activity in Gurtweil, something that was in accord with the Rule.

1881 **January 18** Baden joined Prussia in the war against France in 1870 and subsequently became incorporated into the German Empire. According to the new federal constitution, each state would determine its own relations with the Catholic Church. Baden, being more anti-Catholic than most other German states, inaugurated repressive measures against religious houses, which affected the Sisters of the Precious Blood at Gurtweil. They continued to serve the needs of the Church in America and Europe, although they were driven from their homeland in Germany in the 1870s.

1885 **January 8** Mother General, Catherine Pavoni, and other members of the General Administration pronounced the three vows according to the mandate of Pope Leo XIII. Thereafter, the other members of the community of Adorers of the Blood of Christ pronounced the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

1885 **January 12** Rev. John Merlini, Superior General of the Precious Blood Congregations and Spiritual Director to Blessed Maria De Mattias, was run over and killed by a carriage after the horse was provoked by an anti-cleric. Although Merlini had been deaf for some time before his death, he continued to hear confessions to the end of his life by the special dispensation of God. St. Gaspar del Bufalo prophesized that Merlini would succeed him.

1906 **January 24** On Saturday, January 20, Mother Clementine contracted pneumonia after spending the better part of the day in the chapel at St. John Academy in Wichita. Her condition grew steadily worse and she received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on Wednesday. After signing the legal papers for the purchase of land that later became the cemetery and explaining the finances of the Vicariate to two of her companions, she died peacefully. The chaplain said that “another saint had gone to heaven.” The Adorers recently published a book of Clementine’s Letters, researched and compiled by historian, writer and archivist Regina Siegfried, ASC.