

FEBRUARY 2008 FEAST DAYS

Saturday, February 2 — Presentation of the Lord



This feast commemorates Mary's purification and the presentation of Jesus in the temple. In the Middle Ages, a tradition began of blessing candles and holding a procession of light on this day. As a result it is also known as "Candlemas": Christ our light has come to us.

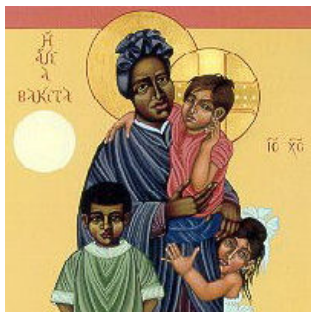
We mark as well the first members of the Bordeaux Sodality who made their first act of consecration on Feb. 2, 1801.

Wednesday, February 6 — Ash Wednesday



We begin the season of Lent with ashes on our foreheads. This strong symbol calls us to an inner journey of transformation. The contemporary spiritual writer, Ronald Rolheiser, says: *Lent is a season for each of us to sit in the ashes, waiting while some silent growth takes place within us, and simply being still so that the ashes can do their work in us.*

Friday, February 8 — St. Josephine Bakhita



Born in Sudan — in the now-troubled Darfur region — St. Josephine was kidnapped, sold, and resold as a slave several times, finally coming to live with the Italian consul in Sudan, who took her to Italy. While there she was attracted to the Catholic Church through the Canossian Sisters and eventually joined them. She ministered in simple things—cooking, sewing, answering the door. She died in 1947 after a long illness and was canonized in 2000. Let us pray in a special way today for our Brothers in Kitale, Kenya, who minister at the Bakhita Center.

Monday, February 11 — Our Lady of Lourdes



This memorial honors the mystery of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since 1992 this memorial has been observed as the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. It is a special time for us to pray, especially for the members of our Marianist Family in health centers.