

THE AGE OF DISCOVERY



The Medallion is a stylized compass symbolizing the age of discovery, when Europeans were discovering new worlds in Asia and America, and missionaries were going out to all the world. The window depicts figures of the period who struggled with unity and meaning in the Roman Catholic Church.

St. Thomas More (1478–1535) (June 22), Lord Chancellor of England under Henry VIII, is depicted in his Chancellor’s robes. He is the patron saint of lawyers and judges. He wrote *Utopia* and a treatise defending the seven sacraments. A great intellectual, he vigorously defended the unity of the Church. He opposed his friend Henry when he declared himself to be head of the church in England. He was beheaded for that opposition, and was thus a martyr for the unity of the Catholic Church.

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556) (July 31) was founder of the Jesuits, the great missionary and teaching order. Born to a noble Basque family in Spain, he joined the army as a knight, and while recovering from a war injury, he read biographies of the saints and was converted. He developed the 30-day retreat and *Spiritual Exercises*. He studied in Paris to be a priest, where his group of followers ultimately became the Jesuits. At the time of his death, the Jesuits had grown to a thousand members all over the world. He is shown teaching from his *Spiritual Exercises*.

St. Francis Xavier (1506–1552) (December 3), one of the first Jesuits, was Portuguese and became one of the greatest missionaries of the church, bringing the faith to parts of India and Japan. He is shown in front of Japan’s Mt. Fuji. He wanted to go to China, but died before he could. He is buried in Goa, India, and was declared patron of the missions in 1927, along with St. Therese of Lisieux.

St. Theresa of Avila (1515–1582) (October 15) was a cloistered Carmelite nun whose writings constitute some of the great documents of mystical prayer and thought. Famously blunt with God in prayer, she is shown standing in water to recall a time she was thrown from her horse into a river and said to God: “If this is how you treat your friends, that is why you have so few of them.”

St. Vincent de Paul (1580–1660) (September 27) and **St. Louise de Marillac** (1591–1660) (March 15). St. Vincent was a chaplain to French nobility. He had a conversion experience when he had to attend to the sick bed of a dying farmer. St. Vincent trained the clergy and founded the Vincentians. He said: “I am for God and the poor.” St. Louise, a wealthy noble woman, founded the “Daughters of Charity” to bring help to the poor of France. This order is sometimes called “God’s Geese” because of the large white hats they wore as nurses to prevent being shot at on the battlefield.