

WHO WAS ST. PIUS X?

On June 2, 1835, Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto was born at Riese, Province of Treviso, near Venice; on August 20, 1914, he saw the light of heaven (died); and on May 29, 1954, he who had become the two hundred fifty-eighth pope was canonized St. Pius X.

He was the second of ten children and experienced real poverty throughout his childhood. He had to walk 5 miles to school each day. He was ordained a priest on Sept. 18, 1858. For seventeen years he was a parish priest in the churches around Venice. His reputation was of extreme generosity, often giving away his own food and clothing to those in need. He was named a bishop by Pope Leo XIII in 1884, then Cardinal of Venice in 1892. He loved children and one of his favorite activities was teaching children at a local orphanage.

On August 4, 1903, Cardinal Sarto was the 1st pope elected in the 20th century, reigning from 1903-1914. Two of his most outstanding accomplishments as pope were the inauguration of the liturgical renewal and the restoration of frequent communion from childhood. He once said that Holy Communion is "the shortest and safest way to heaven." He also encouraged frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance so that Holy Communion could be received worthily. He also waged an unwavering war against the heresy of Modernism (a theological school of thought which claimed that Catholic dogma itself should be modernized and blended with nineteenth-century philosophies). He also gave great impetus to biblical studies, and brought about the codification of Canon Law. His overriding concern was to "renew all things in Christ" (his motto). He is the only pope of the 20th century with extensive pastoral experience at the parish level, and his pastoral approach can be seen throughout his pontificate. His was a practical, down-to-earth approach to the faith. Above all, his holiness shone forth conspicuously. From St. Pius X we learn again that "the folly of the Cross", simplicity of life, and humility of heart are still the highest wisdom and the indispensable conditions of a perfect Christian life, for they are the very source of all apostolic fruitfulness. His last will and testament bears the striking sentence: "I was born poor, I have lived in poverty, and I wish to die poor." He died on August 20, 1914. He was canonized on May 29, 1954 and his feast day is August 21.



Novena to POPE ST. PIUS X

Pray for us!



Glorious pope of the Eucharist, St. Pius X,
you sought "to restore all things in Christ."
Obtain for me a true love of Jesus so that I may live only for Him.
Help me to acquire a lively fervor
and a sincere will to strive for sanctity of life
and that I may avail myself of the riches of the Holy Eucharist,
which is sacrifice and sacrament.
By your love for Mary, mother and queen,
inflame my heart with tender devotion to her.

Blessed model of the priesthood,
obtain for us holy, dedicated priests,
and increase vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
Dispel confusion, hatred, and anxiety.
Incline our hearts to peace
so that all nations will place themselves under the reign of Christ.
Amen.

St. Pius X, pray for me.
(Here mention your request)