

their last refreshment in this life."

Saint Giles is included in the list of the fourteen "Auxiliary Saints" or "Holy Helpers." These are a group of saints invoked because they have been efficacious in assisting in trials and sufferings. Each saint has a separate feast or memorial day. The group was collectively venerated on August 8<sup>th</sup>, until the 1969 reform of the Roman calendar, when the feast was dropped.

### **Twelve Holy Brothers**

Honoratus martyred with Arontius, Fortunatus and Sabinian (c 303), commemorated as the twelve Holy Brothers during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. The others were Felix, Januarius, Septimus, Repositus, Sator, Vitalis, Donatus, and a second Felix. Probably not related they are known as the twelve brothers (in the faith). Four were beheaded in Potenza, Italy on August 27. Three were beheaded at Vanossa on August 28. The others were beheaded at Sentiana on September 1.

\*(excerpted from: [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org))

## **Saint Giles and Twelve Holy Brothers**

**Feast Day: September 1**



**Saint Giles**



**Twelve Holy Brothers**

***Saint Giles  
and  
Twelve Holy Brothers***

\*God's great work is the creation and redemption of the world wrought through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The one essential work in which we are all called to participate is God's transforming love.

According to the 1962 Missal of Blessed John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, September 1<sup>st</sup> is the feast day of Saint Giles who was an abbot of the seventh century. He probably lived in the neighborhood of Beziers on the coast of the Mediterranean.

The little monastery of Saint Peter, where his body rested, became one of the most popular shrines in Christendom and gave rise to a town. The cult of Saint Giles, which was general in France, where there are upwards of one hundred and fifty churches dedicated to him, soon spread throughout the west.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, we also commemorate the Twelve Holy Brothers, martyrs. They were a group of twelve martyrs whose bodies, discovered in various places in Italy, were translated to Benevento towards the middle of the eight century.

**Saint Giles**

According to tradition, Saint Giles was born in Athens, Greece, and was of noble extraction. After his parents died, he fled from his fatherland to avoid followers and fame. He went to France, and in a cave in a forest near the mouth of the Rhone (a major river in France noted for its wine), he was able to lead the life of a hermit.

Legend notes a hind came everyday to his cell and furnished him with milk. One day the King's hunters chased the hind and discovered Saint Giles and his secret hermitage. The hunters shot at the hind, but missed and hit Giles' leg with an arrow, which kept him crippled the rest of his life. He then consented to King Theodoric's request of building a monastery (known later as "Saint Gilles du Gard") and he became its first abbot. He died some eight years later towards 712.

In Normandy, France, women having difficulty becoming pregnant would pray to him. In England, churches named for Saint Giles were built so that cripples could reach them easily. He is also considered the chief patron of the poor. This is evidenced from the custom that on their passage to Tyburn for execution, convicts were allowed to stop at Saint Giles' Hospital where they were presented with a bowl of ale called Saint Giles' Bowl, "thereof to drink at their pleasure, as