

29.—St. Francis of Sales, Bishop of Geneva.—His youth was truly admirable. When scarcely eighteen years of age, he habitually walked in the presence of God, stripped himself of all his goods to relieve the poor, practised great corporal mortifications, and preserved his chastity intact amidst the disorders of the Universities in which he made his studies. Violently tempted to discouragement and despair, he found peace before an image of Mary.—1622.

30.—St. Martina, V. and M.—226.

NOTE.—On the second Sunday after Epiphany, Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.—1721.

FEBRUARY.

Consecrated to the Dolours of Mary.

1.—St. Bridget, Abbess,—Patroness of Ireland. While yet very young, through love for Jesus whom she had already chosen as her divine Spouse, she bestowed every thing at her disposal on His suffering members, the poor. At the age of twenty, she made her solemn monastic vows; her heroic example was followed by several other young ladies, and then was laid the foundation of the first female monastery in Ireland. After more than half a century devoted to the most sublime virtues, she departed this life to receive her well-merited reward.—523.

St. Ignatius, M., Bishop of Antioch. The Fathers of the Church regard him as being the child that our divine Lord proposed as a model to His disciples.—107.

2.—PURIFICATION OF THE M. B. V., AND PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE.—496.

5.—St. Agatha, V. and M.—To preserve her chastity, she underwent the greatest torments and even death itself.—251.