saints to know

Florence Nightingale

1820-1910

Feast Day: August 12

At just 17 years old, Florence Nightingale felt God calling her to a life of healing service. Nightingale began to study nursing and became the superintendent of a London hospital shortly after beginning to work there. In 1853, Nightingale served as a nurse for soldiers in the Crimean war. This took her to Turkey where she was the first woman to ever be put in charge of a field hospital. Following the war, Nightingale established a training school and influenced Public Policy around sanitation standards. Her writings and research were revolutionary for her time, and she is known as the founder of modern nursing.

In addition to her achievements in the medical and scientific fields, Nightingale was also a deeply faithful person. She believed in a loving God who wanted to end the suffering of all people. This is what Nightingale dedicated her life to, and her faith led her to help make the salvation of all people possible on earth. In a letter to a friend she wrote, "There will be no heaven for me, nor for anyone else, unless we make it."



A Prayer for Florence Nightingale:

O God, who gave grace to your servant Florence Nightingale to bear your healing love into the shadow of death: Grant to all who heal the same virtues of patience, mercy, and steadfast love, that your saving health may be revealed to all; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.