

May 15

St. Isidore

c. 1070–1130 • Spain

Isidore was a farmer who worked on the land of a wealthy man named Juan de Vargas. Isidore knew that his farm work was important. He had a deep love for the land and for animals. But he knew that God was even more important than his work. After all, God created the earth and all the animals that live on it! Isidore would often pause in the middle of his work to pray. He also would go to Mass in the mornings.

Because Isidore went to Mass each morning, he was late to his work in the fields. The other farm laborers became angry at him. They thought he was being lazy and not doing his fair share of work. The farmers reported to their master that Isidore was always late. Juan de Vargas decided to see for himself if what the farmers said about Isidore was true.

Early one morning the master went out to the fields. He watched as Isidore left behind his ox and plow to go to Mass. But what he saw next struck him with amazement.

An angel took up Isidore's plow and started doing the farmer's work for him! Even though Isidore went to Mass, the farm work was still miraculously getting done.

Juan de Vargas realized that Isidore was a holy man, and he allowed Isidore to go to Mass and pray as often as he liked. He knew that his farm would be blessed by God if Isidore worked on it.

Isidore was married to a holy woman, Maria Toribia. Together, they served God. Even though they were poor, Isidore would bring beggars and others even poorer than they were to their home for dinner. Maria would feed everyone stew.

One day, Isidore brought so many people home that Maria ran out of stew. When she told her husband, he asked her to check her pot again. She checked the pot, and more stew had appeared! She was able to feed everyone enough so that they all had their fill.

Even though the couple was so blessed by God, they also had their suffering. Their only child tragically died. Both Isidore and Maria decided that they must offer up their sorrow to God and dedicate their lives to Him with prayer and serving others.

Isidore died a holy death after a life filled with prayer and work. St. Isidore, please help me to dedicate my work to God!

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