

Brazil, South America



Brazil is the largest catholic country in the world. There are about 123 million Catholics just in Brazil! The Catholic roots of the country run very deep and can be seen in the their traditions and culture. For example, an annual procession dedicated to Mary which takes place in the Amazon can have as many as 2 million people attending!



Facts about Brazil

OFFICIAL NAME: Federal Republic of Brazil

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Democratic federal republic

CAPITAL: Brasilia

POPULATION: 183,888,841

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Portuguese

MONEY: Real

AREA: 3,286,470 square miles (8,511,965 square kilometers)

MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES:

Serra do Mar, Serra do Espinhaço

MAJOR RIVERS: Amazon, São Francisco, Paraná, Tocantin

There are some part of Brazil that are very very poor. "Flavelas" are very poor areas on the outskirts of the big cities where many people live in very poor conditions.



Our Lady of Aparecida:

This small image of Mary was found in the ocean by fisherman who asked Mary to help them find fish.



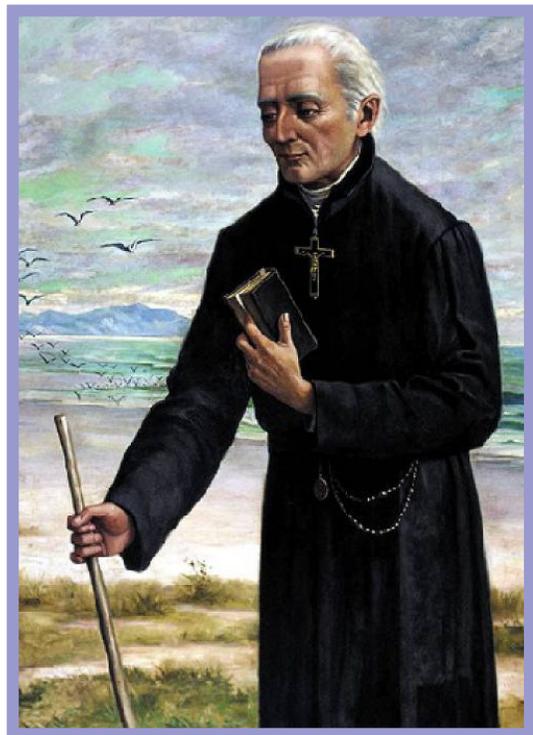
Once they placed their trust in her help, they caught more fish than they ever imagined! This was just first of the many miracles attributed to Our Lady of Aparecida. She has been declared the Queen and Patron of Brazil and there is a major basilica dedicated to her in Brazil.



Missionary Saint to Brazil



José (Joseph) de Anchieta was born at San Crisobal de la Laguna, capital of Tenerife of the Canary Islands (Spain) on March 19, 1534. He was a very bright student and left for college when he was 17. Shortly after he arrived at college, he recognized that God was calling him to become a Jesuit priest. He became a Jesuit at 17 years old. He was a very good example of a virtuous Christian especially by his prayer, humility and obedience. He was sent to a mission in Brazil when he was 19 years old.



He had a gift for languages, and he was able to quickly learn both Portuguese (the language of Brazil) and Tupi (the language of the Natives). In Brazil he dedicated himself to God's work by teaching Latin to his fellow Jesuits, working with orphaned Portuguese children brought from São Vincente, and instructing the Indian children from the surrounding region. He held his classes twice daily, teaching the native children to sing hymns and recite prayers both in Tupi and Portuguese.

Just like the Apostles, José (Joseph) de Anchieta was sent by Jesus to far away lands to spread His Gospel. José joyfully carried out his work. His goal was "to honor God and to save souls."

How you can follow the example of St. Jose de Anchieta:

- Do everything in order to honor God and help Him save souls
- Teach prayers to others- maybe your friends or siblings
- Pray for the people in Brazil
- Practice the virtues of obedience and humility.



The Pontifical Mission Societies of Washington DC

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