Feast of Saint Blasé, bishop and martyr

February 3, is the Feast of Saint Blasé, bishop and martyr. It is tradition on the Feast of Saint Blasé to have your throat blessed and seek Saint Blasé’s intercession. Throat Blessings will be held at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Thursday, February 3, in the Saint Jude Chapel, with Father Michael Cooper, SJ, presiding. Adoration will immediately follow Mass.

According to tradition, Blasé was a doctor before he was ordained a priest. He became the bishop of Sebaste (now in central Turkey). During a period of persecution, he fled to a cave where he lived as a hermit. It is said that he cured and tamed the wild animals there. One day hunters discovered him and took him to the governor, who sentenced him to be tortured and killed.

About four hundred years after his death, many stories began to be told about Blasé and he became a popular saint, especially in France and Germany. One legend says that while Blasé was in prison, a mother brought him her small boy, who was choking on a fishbone stuck in his throat. Blasé prayed over the child and he was healed. Every year on Saint Blasé’s feast, two candles tied with ribbon in the shape of an X are used to bless throats. In the prayer the Church prays that those blessed may be delivered from diseases of the throat and from every other illness. Candles are used because it is said that while Blasé was kept in a dark prison, a woman secretly brought him some candles and food.

Saint Leo University welcomes the Most Reverend Gilio Felicio to the main campus

The Most Reverend Gilio Felicio of the Diocese of Bag , Brazil, will visit the main campus February 7 through 28, to study English and to make a pastoral visit to the Brazilians of the Catholic community in Florida. There will be a Mass and celebration with the Bishop on Saturday, February 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Saint Paul’s Catholic Church, 12708 North Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, Florida.

Bishop Gilio will celebrate the Black History Mass at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 27, in the Student Community Center Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms.

For additional information contact Fr. Stephan Brown, SVD, assistant to the president for university ministry, at (352) 588-8331 or e-mail stephan.brown@saintleo.edu.