

*Did you know . . .*

### **St. Rembert, Advocate for the Oppressed**

Rembert (also known as Rimbart) was born near Bruges, Flanders, Belgium and educated at Trondheim, and entered the monastery of Turholt. St. Ansgar handpicked him to assist in the mission to the peoples of northern Germany and Scandinavia. At the time, Rembert was still a deacon, but St. Ansgar reportedly declared that “Rembert is more worthy to be archbishop than I to discharge the office of his deacon.” On the missions, he devoted himself to evangelizing the Slavs and ransoming Christian captives.



After Ansgar’s death in 865, Rembert was unanimously chosen Archbishop of Hanburgh-Bremen, supervising all of the churches of Sweden, Denmark, and Lower Germany, finishing the work of their conversion, while beginning to convert the Scalvi and the Vandals. He struggled against the leaders of the people in Norway who revived the pagan traditions of ancestor worship.

When the Norsemen attacked the Christian converts of Friesland in 884, Rembert sold Church sacred vessels to provide funds to ransom to those who had become enslaved. Yet, he never forgot the poor among his flock, never lost a moment of time from serious duties and prayer and never interrupted the attention of his mind to God in his exterior functions.

For the edification of his people, he wrote a moving biography of Ansgar.

He died on June 11, 888, his feast day, but he is commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on Feb. 4, the day on which he was chosen archbishop.

“Loving Father, through the intercession of  
St. Rembert, let me never refuse to give that  
which frees another from their bonds” Amen.

**Judy Pearson**