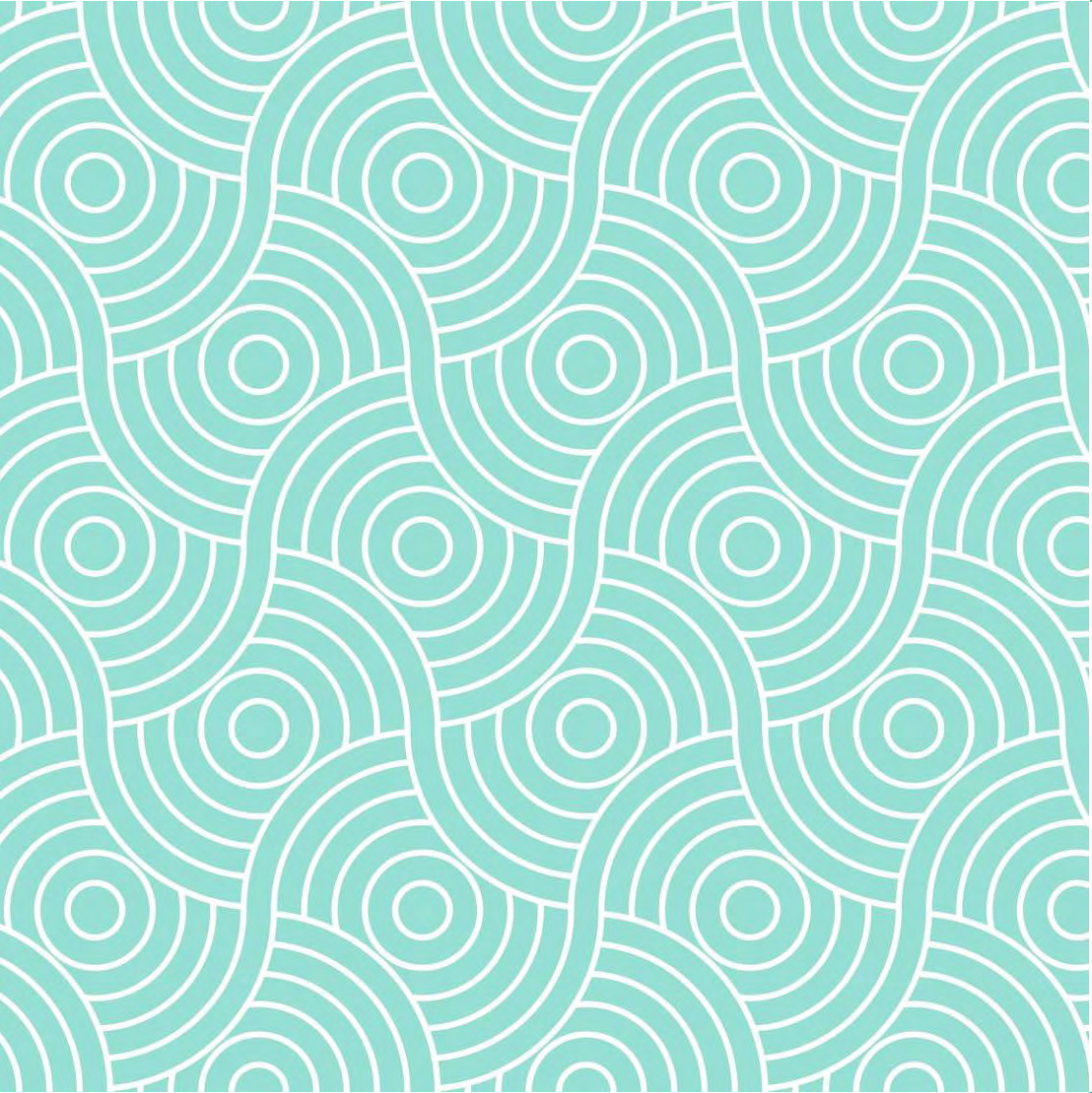


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A Brief Survey of Saints in Switzerland

Ruth Griffiths, February 2021 (based on articles from Wikipedia)



Beatus of Lungern

Beatus of Lungern, known also by the honorific **Apostle of Switzerland** or as **Beatus of Beatenberg** or **Beatus of Thun**, was probably a legendary monk and hermit of early Christianity, and is revered as a saint. Though his legend states that he died in the 2nd century, it is likely that his story has been conflated with other saints of the same name, especially Beatus of Vendôme, and an Abbot Beatus who received a charter in 810 from Charlemagne to confirm that Honau Abbey would be administered by Irish monks.

Beatus of Lungern

While legend claims that he was the son of a Scottish king, other legends place his birth in Ireland. Beatus was a convert, baptized in England by Saint Barnabas. He was allegedly ordained a priest in Rome by Saint Peter the Apostle, whereupon he was sent with a companion named Achates to evangelize the tribe of the Helvetii. The two set up a camp in Argovia near the Jura Mountains, where they converted many of the locals.

Beatus then ventured south to the mountains above Lake Thun, taking up a hermitage in what is now known as *St. Beatus Caves*, near the village of Beatenberg, probably in the ninth century. Tradition states that this cave is where he fought a dragon. Saint Beatus' grave is located between the monastery and the cave entrance. He died at an old age in 112 CE.



Theodore of Octodurum

Saint Theodore of Octodurum (also of *Sion*, of *Grammont*; German *Theodor von Sitten*, locally *Joder*; also known as **Theodulus**, French *Théodule*, Latin *Theodolus Sedunensis* etc.; 4th century) is the first known [bishop of Octodurum](#), [Alpes Poeninae](#) province (present-day [Martigny](#), [Valais](#), [Switzerland](#)). He is the patron saint of [Valais](#) and of the [Walser](#). His feast day is 16 or 26 August.

He is known to have participated in the [Council of Aquileia](#) in 381, his presence being preserved on the attendance list as *Theodorus Episcopus Octodorensis*. He was also one of the signatories of a letter addressed by the [Synod of Milan](#) to [Pope Siricius](#) early in 390, informing him of their condemnation of the monk [Jovinian](#) and his followers. He is said to have discovered the tomb of [Saint Maurice](#), at which place he established the [Abbey of St. Maurice, Agaunum](#). [Aloys Lütolf](#) placed the beginning of his episcopate in the 340s, which would amount to a reign of more than forty years. At first he would not have had a fixed seat and in some sources is known as "bishop of the Helvetians".

Theodore of Octodurum - 2

The relics of Theodore, transferred to Sion probably in the 6th century, were lost during the French occupation of 1798. There are also accounts of his relics being moved to Bischofszell and by Ulrich of Augsburg to Ottobeuren. His attribute is a devil bearing a bell. This represents a legend that the pope gifted a church bell to the saint, who forced the devil to carry the bell across Theodul Pass (formerly *Matterjoch*, the naming of the pass after the saint is a 17th-century tradition). According to legend, metal particles from this original bell of Sitten (Sion) were used in the casting of later bells.



Saint Maurice and the Saints of the Theban legion

According to Eucherius of Lyon, ca. 443–450, in a letter to Bishop Salvius, the Legion was the garrison of the city of Thebes in Egypt. The Legion were quartered in the East until the emperor Maximian ordered them to march to Gaul, to assist him against the rebels of Burgundy. The Theban Legion was commanded in its march by Saint Maurice (Mauritius), Candidus, Innocent, and Exuperius, all of whom are venerated as saints. At Saint-Maurice, Switzerland, then called Agaunum, the orders were given— since the Legion had refused to sacrifice to the Emperor— to "decimate" it by putting to death a tenth of its men. This act was repeated twice before the entire legion was put to death. St Maurice died in 287 AD.



Saint Maurice - 2

“We often hear, do we not, a particular locality or city is held in high honour because of one single martyr who died there, and quite rightly, because in each case the saint gave his precious soul to the most high God. How much more should this sacred place, Agaunum, be revered, where so many thousands of martyrs have been slain, with the sword, for the sake of Christ?” *Eucherius*



St Victor of Solothurn

Saint **Victor of Solothurn** is a martyr and saint of the Catholic Church. He was soldier of the Theban Legion led by Mauritius and died in Solothurn.

History

Having lived among the Christians in Thebes, members of the Legion refused Maximian's orders to worship the gods of Rome. Victor was killed at Solothurn during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. He and Ursus of Solothurn are patron saints of the Cathedral of St. Ursus and St. Victor in Solothurn, Switzerland. His feast day is 30 September.