



**Servant of God Demetrius A. Gallitzin**

*The Apostle of the Alleghenies*

*Man of Faith*

1770 – 1840

Demetrius Gallitzin was born on December 22, 1770, in the Hague, Netherlands, to Prince Demetrius Gallitzin, Ambassador of Empress Catherine of Russia, and Countess Amalia von Schmettau, daughter of Field Marshall von Schmettau of Prussia. He left his claim to nobility and came to America in 1792. Wishing to serve God as a priest, he became a seminarian at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. On March 18, 1795, Bishop John Carroll ordained Demetrius A. Gallitzin, the first priest to receive all his orders and education in preparation for priesthood in the United States.

He initially came to the Allegheny Mountains on a sick call during the first years of his priesthood. He fell in love with God's people in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. At the persistent request to his Bishop, Father Demetrius Gallitzin was assigned, March 1, 1799, as Pastor to the Catholic settlers in the mountains of Pennsylvania. He hoped to establish a pure Catholic colony in the name of the Church.

For over forty years this evangelizing priest preached the Word of God and celebrated the Sacraments in the name of Jesus Christ. He used all of his personal inheritance to help the people of the Allegheny Mountains. Hundreds were baptized and brought into the Church. Thousands received the Eucharist through his priestly ministry. The sick and the dying received sacramental grace in their final hours through the love of this pioneer priest.

Servant of God Demetrius A. Gallitzin died on May 6, 1840. As testimony to this man of faith, the Catholic faithful in the Allegheny Mountains continue in their third century to profess a deep-rooted belief in the triune God, the Church, and the intercession of Mary, Mother of God. As Father Demetrius Gallitzin modeled a faithful life of service in proclaiming the truth of Christ and the principles of our faith, we join those who have united their prayers with his in seeking God's help.

*The drawing is of the bronze image of Father Gallitzin over his mausoleum in Loretto, Pennsylvania. The original image of Father Gallitzin for the bronze sculpture was created from firsthand descriptions of those who knew Father Gallitzin when he was Pastor of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish.*

### Significant Dates in Life of Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin

- 1770 December 22, Demetrius Gallitzin is born at the Hague, Netherlands. Empress Catherine the Great of Russia is his godmother.
- 1787 Demetrius is converted from the Russian Orthodox Church to Roman Catholicism, taking 'Augustine' as his Confirmation name.
- 1792 August 18, Demetrius sails to the United States from Rotterdam.
- 1792 November 5, Demetrius enters the Sulpician Seminary in Baltimore under the name of Augustine Schmet (Smith).
- 1795 March 18, Bishop John Carroll ordains Demetrius Gallitzin a priest. He is soon assigned to the Conewago Mission in Pennsylvania.
- 1796 (approximately) Early in his priesthood Father Gallitzin answers a sick call to McGuire Settlement in the Allegheny Mountains.
- 1799 March 1, Bishop Carroll assigns Father Demetrius A. Gallitzin as pastor of McGuire Settlement in west central Pennsylvania.
- 1804 Father Gallitzin names the community Loretto, in honor of the Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto in Italy.
- 1811 Bishop Michael Francis Egan of Philadelphia visits Loretto, confirming 198 parishioners.
- 1816 Father Gallitzin publishes his *Defence of Catholic Principles*. Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg; Saint Patrick Parish, Newry; and Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bedford, are established at Father Gallitzin's recommendation to his bishop.
- 1819 Father Gallitzin publishes *An Appeal to the Protestant Public* in reply to *Vindication of the Doctrines of the Reformation*.
- 1820 Father Gallitzin publishes *A Letter to a Protestant Friend on the Holy Scriptures*.
- 1823 Father Gallitzin is appointed Vicar General of western Pennsylvania.
- 1836 Father Gallitzin publishes *The Bible: Truth and Charity*.
- 1840 May 6, The Reverend Demetrius A. Gallitzin dies at Loretto.

*Seventh Printing*

### PRAYER

O God, light of the faithful and shepherd of souls,  
who sent Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin  
to serve God's people in the Allegheny Mountains,  
feeding your sheep by his words and forming them by his example,  
pour out your Spirit to sow seeds of truth in people's hearts  
and to awaken in them obedience to the faith.

May the Gospel continue to be preached and  
the Sacraments bring power and grace to the faithful.  
By the example of this man of faith, Demetrius Gallitzin,  
may your people advance in the path of salvation and love.

Confident of your faithfulness to us, we humbly ask you, our God,  
to grant us the favor of \_\_\_\_\_  
name your intention

May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages,  
and may we feel a more urgent call  
to work for the salvation of every creature.  
We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin,  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Kindly send information about granted favors to:

**The Cause for Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin**  
**The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown**  
**927 South Logan Boulevard**  
**Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648**