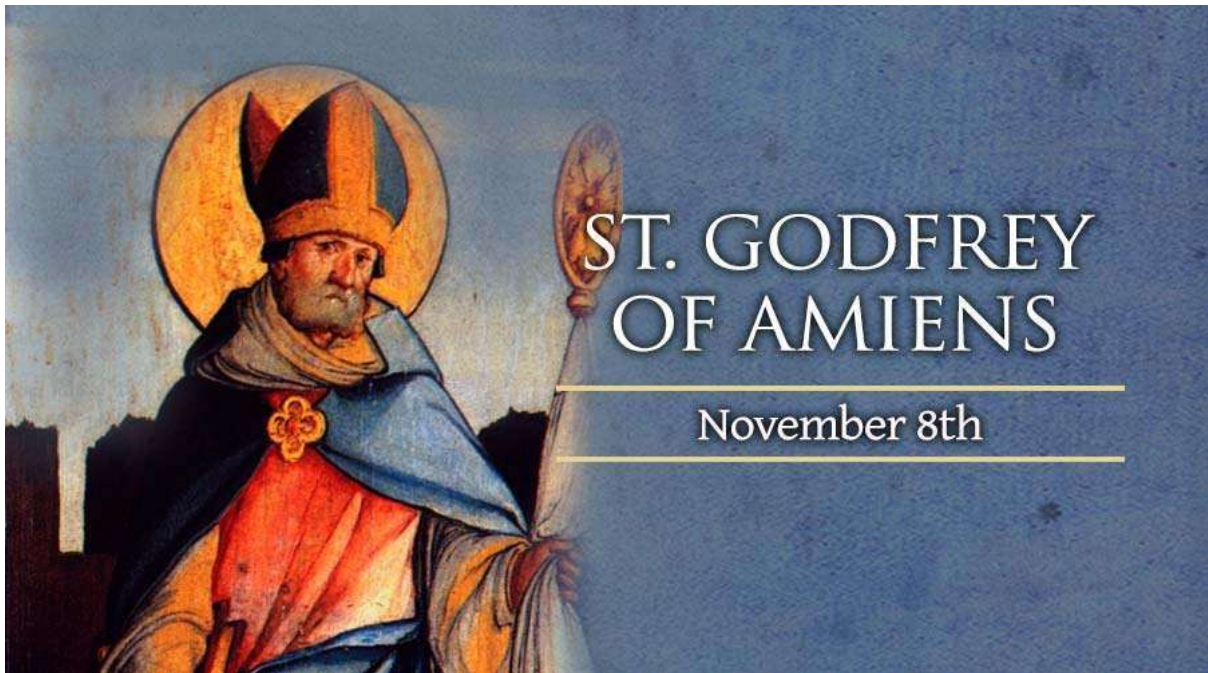# St. Godfrey of Amiens

St. Godfrey was the son of Frodon, a prominent citizen in a small town. He was raised from the age of 5 in the Benedictine abbey of Mont-Saint-Quentin where his godfather Godefroid was abbot. He immediately donned a Benedictine habit and lived as a tiny monk, and took his vows when he came of age. He was ordained a priest by bishop Radbod II of Noyon.

In 1096, he was made Abbot of Nogent-sous-Coucy, in the diocese of Rheims, in the province of Champagne. When he arrived, the place was overrun by weeds, and housed only six nuns and two children. He rebuilt, restored, and revitalized the abbey, bringing people to the Order of St. Benedict, and order to the people. He was offered the abbacy of Saint-Remi, but he refused. He was also offered the bishopric of Reims in 1097, but again he refused, claiming he was unworthy. When he was offered the bishopric of Amiens in 1104, he still considered himself unworthy of the trust. However, King Philip and the Council of Troyes each ordered him to take it, which he did.

St. Godfrey was noted for his rigid austerity with himself, those around him, and in his approach to his mission as bishop. He was an enforcer of clerical celibacy. He was also a fierce lifelong opponent of drunkenness and simony, which led to an attempt on his life. For most of his time as bishop, he wished to resign and retire as a Carthusian monk. In 1114 he moved to a monastery, but a few months later his people demanded his return, and he agreed. He also took part in the Council of Chálons.