

**Hello and welcome to Decisions, Being the best version of yourself.
Today we have a special guest, Saint Philip Neri**

Hello Saint Neri, Thank you for being with us today to share your story. How are you doing today?

Saint Neri, we would like to start off by asking you some questions that will help us to better understand your life, your works and your commitment to God.

When and where were you born? I was born July 21, 1515 in France.

Who were your parents? My Parents were Francesco Di Neri and Lucrezia de Mosciano

What type of work did your parents do? My Father was a lawyer.

Do you have any early childhood stories you would like to share with us?

I love humor and I am known for my humor. I was a boy that loved to have fun, so much fun that it almost cost me my life. One time, seeing a donkey loaded with fruit for market, I had barely formed the thought of jumping on the donkey's back before I had done it. The donkey, surprised, lost his footing. The donkey, the fruit, and I tumbled into the cellar with me winding up on the bottom! Miraculously I was unhurt.

what type of work did you do before becoming a saint?

Well, When I was 18, my father sent me to work with my uncle, a successful business man. He thought I would learn and be successful myself. I had a religious conversion and no longer cared for things of this world. I relocated to Rome in 1533. In Rome, I became a tutor for 2 boys. After 2 years I started to study for myself. I started to Help the sick and the poor, that is where I got my name "Apostle of Rome." In 1538, I started traveling around the city looking for opportunities to have conversations with people about God. In 1548, with one of my colleagues, we founded Confraternity of the Most Holy Trinity of Pilgrims and Convalescents and we helped thousands of poor individuals that came to Rome. In 1551 I was ordained a Deacon and then on May 23, 1551 I was ordained a priest. My biggest pleasure was hearing confessions. In 1556 we instituted the Oratory, meetings in a hall where there were prayer, hymns, reading from scripture, lecture and discussion. This grew fast and the participants started mission work throughout Rome. In 1564 I was to oversee a new church built in Rome. They built an large oratory next to the new church so we could have a better place to assemble. I continued to do this work until my death.

That is remarkable, Thank you for all that you have done!

Now lets talk about your death, beatification and canonization.

When did your earthly life end?

After a lengthy illness, I my earthly life ended, May 25, 1595 at the age of 85.

What are you the patron saint of? Because of my love of humor, I am the patron saint of Joy.

When were you beatified and by who?

I was beatified by Paul V in 1615.

when were you canonized and by who?

I was canonized by Gregory the XV in 1622.

When is your Feast Day?

My memorial feast day is celebrated on May 26th each year.

Where is your body laid to rest?

My body is in the Chiesa Nuova "New Church" in Rome.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to come visit with us and share your beautiful story. Is there anything you would like to leave us with today?

Yes, We take we take ourselves far too seriously most of the time. Help us to add humor to our perspective -- remembering always that humor is a gift from God. Amen.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentleman, Saint Philip Neri.