

List of Roman Catholic cleric–scientists

Many Roman Catholic clerics throughout history have made significant contributions to science. These cleric-scientists include such illustrious names as Nicolaus Copernicus, Gregor Mendel, Georges Lemaître, Albertus Magnus, Roger Bacon, Pierre Gassendi, Roger Joseph Boscovich, Marin Mersenne, Francesco Maria Grimaldi, Nicole Oresme, Jean Buridan, Robert Grosseteste, Christopher Clavius, Nicolas Steno, Athanasius Kircher, Giovanni Battista Riccioli, William of Ockham, and many others. Hundreds of others have made important contributions to science from the Middle Ages through the present day.

The Church has also produced thousands of lay scientists and mathematicians, many of whom were the intellectual giants of their day. These scientists include Galileo Galilei, Rene Descartes, Louis Pasteur, Blaise Pascal, André-Marie Ampère, Charles-Augustin de Coulomb, Pierre de Fermat, Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, Alessandro Volta, Augustin-Louis Cauchy, Pierre Duhem, Jean-Baptiste Dumas, Georgius Agricola and countless others.

The Jesuits in particular have made numerous significant contributions to the development of science. For example, the Jesuits have dedicated significant study to earthquakes, and seismology has come to be known as "the Jesuit science."^[1] This, however, is only one of many significant contributions. The Jesuits have been described as "the single most important contributor to experimental physics in the seventeenth century."^[2] According to Jonathan Wright in his book *God's Soldiers*, by the eighteenth century the Jesuits had

contributed to the development of pendulum clocks, pantographs, barometers, reflecting telescopes and microscopes, to scientific fields as various as magnetism, optics and electricity. They observed, in some cases before anyone else, the colored bands on Jupiter's surface, the Andromeda nebula and Saturn's rings. They theorized about the circulation of the blood (independently of Harvey), the theoretical possibility of flight, the way the moon effected the tides, and the wave-like nature of light. Star maps of the southern hemisphere, symbolic logic, flood-control measures on the Po and Adige rivers, introducing plus and minus signs into Italian mathematics – all were typical Jesuit achievements, and scientists as influential as Fermat, Huygens, Leibniz and Newton were not alone in counting Jesuits among their most prized correspondents.^[3]

The contributions of Roman Catholic clerics to the study of astronomy are also remarkable. J.L. Heilbron in his book *The Sun in the Church: Cathedrals as Solar Observatories* writes that "The Roman Catholic Church gave more financial aid and support to the study of astronomy for over six centuries, from the recovery of ancient learning during the late Middle Ages into the Enlightenment, than any other, and, probably, all other, institutions."^[4] The fact that thirty-five craters on the moon are named for Jesuit scientists and mathematicians^[5] shows the Church's commitment to astronomy.

The Church's commitment to scientific studies continues to this day. The Pontifical Academy of Sciences was founded in 1936 by Pope Pius XI. Its aim is to promote the progress of the mathematical, physical and natural sciences and the study of related epistemological problems. The academy holds a membership roster of the most respected names in 20th century science, many of them Nobel laureates. Also worth noting is the Vatican Observatory, which is an astronomical research and educational institution supported by the Holy See.

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Nicolaus Copernicus

Roger Bacon's circular diagrams relating to the scientific study of optics

Monsignor Georges Lemaître, priest and scientist

Gregor Mendel, Augustinian monk and geneticist

Sacrobosco's De sphaera mundi

Marin Mersenne

Pierre Gassendi

William of Ockham

Illustration from Steno's 1667 paper comparing the teeth of a shark head with a fossil tooth

Nicole Oresme

Albertus Magnus

Christopher Clavius

First page of Boscovich's *Theoria Philosophiæ Naturalis*

Map of the Far East by Matteo Ricci in 1602

Nicolas of Cusa

Statue of Roger Bacon in the Oxford University Museum

Nicolas Steno

machina meteorologic invented by Václav Prokop Diviš worked like lightning rod

Athanasius Kircher

Medieval depiction of a spherical earth

Roger Boscovich

Robert Grosseteste Lorenzo Albacete (1941) Physicist and theologian

José de Acosta (1539–1600) – Jesuit missionary and naturalist who wrote one of the very first detailed and realistic descriptions of the new world

François d'Aguilon (1567–1617) – Belgian Jesuit mathematician, physicist, and architect.

Albert of Saxony (philosopher) (c. 1320–1390) – German bishop known for his contributions to logic and physics; with Buridan he helped develop the theory that was a precursor to the modern theory of inertia

Albertus Magnus (c. 1206–1280) – "One of the most famous precursors of modern science in the High Middle Ages." [6] Patron saint of natural sciences; Works in physics, logic, metaphysics, biology, and psychology.

Giulio Alenio SJ - Italian theologian, astronomer and mathematician. He was sent to the Far East as a missionary and adopted a chinese name and customs. He wrote 25 books including a cosmography and a Life of Jesus in Chinese.

José María Algué (1856–1930) – Meteorologist who invented the barocyclonometer

José Antonio de Alzate y Ramírez (1737–1799) – Scientist, historian, cartographer, meteorologist; wrote more than thirty treatises on a variety of scientific subjects

Francesco Castracane degli Antelminelli (1817–1899) – Botanist who was one of the first to introduce microphotography into the study of biology

Giovanni Antonelli (1818–1872) – Director of the Ximenian Observatory of Florence; collaborated on the design of a prototype of the internal combustion engine

Nicolò Arrighetti (1709–1767) – Wrote treatises on light, heat, and electricity.

Giuseppe Asclepi (1706–1776) – Astronomer and physician; director of the Collegio Romano observatory; The lunar crater Asclepi is named after him.

Roger Bacon (c. 1214–1294) – Significant contributions to mathematics and optics; forerunner of modern scientific method.

Bernardino Baldi (1533–1617) – Mathematician and writer
Eugenio Barsanti (1821–1864) – Possible inventor of the internal combustion engine
Bartholomeus Amicus (1562–1649) – Wrote on philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, and the concept of vacuum and its relationship with God.
Daniello Bartoli (1608–1685) – Bartoli and fellow Jesuit astronomer Niccolò Zucchi are credited as probably having been the first to see the equatorial belts on the planet Jupiter
Joseph Bayma (1816–1892) – Known for work in stereochemistry and mathematics
Giacopo Belgrado (1704–1789) – Experimental works in physics, professor of mathematics and physics, and court mathematician
Mario Bettinus (1582–1657) – Jesuit philosopher, mathematician and astronomer; lunar crater Bettinus named after him
Giuseppe Biancani (1566–1624) – Jesuit astronomer, mathematician, and selenographer, after whom the crater Blancanus on the Moon is named
Jacques de Billy (1602–1679) – Produced a number of results in number theory which have been named after him; published several astronomical tables; The crater Billy on the Moon is named after him.
Paolo Boccone (1633–1704) – Cistercian botanist who contributed to the fields of medicine and toxicology
Bernard Bolzano (1781–1848) – Mathematician and logician; other interests included metaphysics, ideas, sensation, and truth.
Anselmus de Boodt (1550–1632) – One of the founders of mineralogy
Theodoric Borgognoni (1205–1298) – Medieval Surgeon who made important contributions to antiseptic practice and anaesthetics
Christopher Borrus (1583–1632) – Mathematician and astronomy who made observations on the magnetic variation of the compass
Roger Joseph Boscovich (1711–1787) – formulation of modern atomic theory, important contributions to astronomy
Joachim Bouvet (1656–1730) – Jesuit sinologist and cartographer who did his work in China
Michał Boym (c. 1612–1659) – One of the first westerners to travel within the Chinese mainland, and the author of numerous works on Asian fauna, flora and geography.
Thomas Bradwardine (c. 1290–1349) – Mathematician who contributed to mean speed theorem; one of the Oxford Calculators
Henri Breuil (1877–1961) – Archaeologist, anthropologist, ethnologist and geologist.
Jan Brożek (1585–1652) – Polish polymath, mathematician, astronomer, and physician; the most prominent Polish mathematician of the 17th century
Louis-Ovide Brunet (1826–1876) – One of the founding fathers of Canadian botany
Francesco Faà di Bruno (c. 1825–1888) – Mathematician beatified by Pope John Paul II
Giordano Bruno (1548–1600) – Dominican philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer who believed in the infinity of the universe; burned at the stake for other heretical views.
Ismaël Bullialdus (1605–1694) – Astronomer and member of the Royal Society; the Bullialdus crater is named in his honor
Jean Buridan (c. 1300 – after 1358) – Early ideas of momentum and inertial motion; sowed the seeds of the Copernican revolution in Europe
Roberto Busa SJ (1913-2011) - He wrote a lemmatization of the complete works of St. Thomas Aquinas (Index Thomisticus) which was later digitalized by IBM and ultimately developed in the creation of HTML
Niccolò Cabeo (1586–1650) – Jesuit mathematician; the crater Cabeus is named in his honor
Nicholas Callan (1799–1846) – Best known for his work on the induction coil
Jean Baptiste Carnoy (1836–1899) – Founder of the science of cytology

Giovanni di Casali (died c. 1375) – Provided a graphical analysis of the motion of accelerated bodies
Paolo Casati (1617–1707) – Jesuit mathematician who wrote on astronomy and vacuums; The crater Casatus on the Moon is named after him.

Laurent Cassegrain (1629–1693) – Probable namesake of the Cassegrain telescope; The crater Cassegrain on the Moon is named after him

Benedetto Castelli (1578–1643) – Benedictine mathematician; long-time friend and supporter of Galileo Galilei, who was his teacher; wrote an important work on fluids in motion

Bonaventura Cavalieri (1598–1647) – He is known for his work on the problems of optics and motion, work on the precursors of infinitesimal calculus, and the introduction of logarithms to Italy. Cavalieri's principle in geometry partially anticipated integral calculus; the lunar crater Cavalerius is named in his honor

Antonio José Cavanilles (1745–1804) – A leading Spanish taxonomic botanist of the 18th century

Francesco Cetti (1726–1778) – Jesuit zoologist and mathematician

Tommaso Ceva (1648–1737) – Jesuit mathematician and professor who wrote treatises on geometry, gravity, and arithmetic

Christopher Clavius (1538–1612) – Respected Jesuit Astronomer and mathematician who headed the commission that yielded the Gregorian calendar; wrote influential astronomical textbook.

Guy Consolmagno (1952–) – Jesuit astronomer and planetary scientist

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543) –Renaissance astronomer famous for his heliocentric cosmology that set in motion the Copernican Revolution

Vincenzo Coronelli (1650–1718) – Franciscan cosmographer, cartographer, encyclopedist, and globe-maker

George Coyne (1933–) – Jesuit astronomer and former director of the Vatican Observatory

James Cullen (mathematician) (1867–1933) – Jesuit mathematician who published what is now known as Cullen numbers in number theory

James Curley (astronomer) (1796–1889) – First director of Georgetown Observatory; determined the latitude and longitude of Washington D.C.

Albert Curtz (1600–1671) – Jesuit astronomer who expanded on the works of Tycho Brahe and contributed to early understanding of the moon; The crater Curtius on the Moon is named after him.

Johann Baptist Cysat (1587–1657) – Jesuit mathematician and astronomer, after whom the lunar crater Cysatus is named; published the first printed European book concerning Japan; one of the first to make use of the newly developed telescope; most important work was on comets

Jean-Baptiste Chappe d'Auteroche (1722-1769) - Astronomer best known for his observations of the transits of Venus

Ignazio Danti (1536–1586) – Dominican mathematician, astronomer, cosmographer, and cartographer

Armand David (1826–1900) – Zoologist and botanist who did important work in both areas in China

Charles-Michel de l'Épée (1712–1789) – Known as the "father of the deaf" and established the world's first free school for the deaf

Francesco Denza (1834–1894) – Meteorologist, astronomer, and director of Vatican Observatory

Václav Prokop Diviš (1698–1765) – Studied the lightning rod independent of Franklin; constructed the first electrified musical instrument in history

Johann Dzierzon (1811–1906) – Pioneering apiarist who discovered the phenomenon of parthenogenesis among bees, and designed the first successful movable-frame beehive; has been described as the "father of modern apiculture"

Honoré Fabri (1607–1688) – Jesuit mathematician and physicist

Jean-Charles de la Faille (1597–1652) – Jesuit mathematician who determined the center of gravity of the sector of a circle for the first time

Gabriele Falloppio (1523–1562) – One of the most important anatomists and physicians of the sixteenth century. The Fallopian tubes, which extend from the uterus to the ovaries, are named for him.

Gyula Fényi (1845–1927) – Jesuit astronomer and director of the Haynald Observatory; noted for his observations of the sun; The crater Fényi on the Moon is named after him

Louis Feuillée (1660–1732) – Explorer, astronomer, geographer, and botanist

Placidus Fixlmillner (1721–1791) – Benedictine priest and one of the first astronomers to compute the orbit of Uranus

Paolo Frisi (1728–1784) – Mathematician and astronomer who did significant work in hydraulics

José Gabriel Funes (1963–) – Jesuit astronomer and current director of the Vatican Observatory

Joseph Galien (1699 – c. 1762) – Dominican professor who wrote on aeronautics, hailstorms, and airships

Jean Gallois (1632–1707) – French scholar and member of Academie des sciences

Pierre Gassendi (1592–1655) – French astronomer and mathematician who published the first data on the transit of Mercury; best known intellectual project attempted to reconcile Epicurean atomism with Christianity

Agostino Gemelli (1878–1959) – Franciscan physician and psychologist; founded Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan

Johannes von Gmunden (c. 1380–1442) – Mathematician and astronomer who compiled astronomical tables; Asteroid 15955 Johannesgmunden named in his honor

Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora (1645–1700) – Polymath, mathematician, astronomer, and cartographer; drew the first map of all of New Spain

Andrew Gordon (Benedictine) (1712–1751) – Benedictine monk, physicist, and inventor who made the first electric motor

Christoph Grienberger (1561–1636) – Jesuit astronomer after whom the crater Gruemberger on the Moon is named; verified Galileo's discovery of Jupiter's moons.

Francesco Maria Grimaldi (1618–1663) – Discovered the diffraction of light, and indeed coined the term "diffraction"; investigated the free fall of objects; built and used instruments to measure geological features on the moon

Robert Grosseteste (c. 1175 – 1253) – One of the most knowledgeable men of the Middle Ages; has been called "the first man to write down a complete set of steps for performing a scientific experiment." [7]

Paul Guldin (1577–1643) – Jesuit mathematician and astronomer who discovered the Guldinus theorem to determine the surface and the volume of a solid of revolution

Bartolomeu de Gusmão (1685–1724) – Known for his early work on lighter-than-air airship design

Johann Georg Hagen (1847–1930) – Director of the Georgetown and Vatican Observatories; The crater Hagen on the Moon is named after him.

Nicholas Halma (1755–1828) – French mathematician and translator

Jean-Baptiste du Hamel (1624–1706) – French natural philosopher and secretary of the Academie Royale des Sciences

René Just Haüy (1743–1822) – Father of crystallography

Maximilian Hell (1720–1792) – Jesuit astronomer and director of the Vienna Observatory; the crater Hell on the Moon is named after him.

Michał Heller (1936–) – Templeton Prize winner and prolific writer on numerous scientific topics

Lorenz Hengler (1806–1858) – Often credited as the inventor of the horizontal pendulum

Hermann of Reichenau (1013–1054) – Historian, music theorist, astronomer, and mathematician

Pierre Marie Heude (1836–1902) – Jesuit missionary and zoologist who studied the natural history of Eastern Asia

Franz von Paula Hladnik (1773–1844) – Botanist who discovered several new kinds of plants, and certain genera have been named after him

Giovanni Battista Hodierna (1597–1660) – Astronomer who catalogued nebulous objects and developed an early microscope

Victor-Alphonse Huard (1853–1929) – Naturalist, educator, writer, and promoter of the natural sciences

Maximus von Imhof (1758–1817) – German Augustinian physicist and director of the Munich Academy of Sciences

Giovanni Inghirami (1779–1851) – Italian astronomer; there is a valley on the moon named after him as well as a crater

François Jacquier (1711–1788) – Franciscan mathematician and physicist; at his death he was connected with nearly all the great scientific and literary societies of Europe

Stanley Jaki (1924–2009) – Benedictine priest and prolific writer who wrote on the relationship between science and theology

Ányos Jedlik (1800–1895) – Benedictine engineer, physicist, and inventor; considered by Hungarians and Slovaks to be the unsung father of the dynamo and electric motor

Georg Joseph Kamel (1661–1706) – Jesuit missionary and botanist who established the first pharmacy in the Philippines

Otto Kippes (1905–1994) – Acknowledged for his work in asteroid orbit calculations; the main belt asteroid 1780 Kippes was named in his honour

Athanasius Kircher (1602–1680) – The father of Egyptology; "Master of a hundred arts"; wrote an encyclopedia of China; one of the first people to observe microbes through a microscope

Wenceslas Pantaleon Kirwitzer (1588–1626) – Jesuit astronomer and missionary who published observations of comets

Jan Krzysztof Kluk (1739–1796) – Naturalist agronomist and entomologist who wrote a multi-volume work on Polish animal life

Sebastian Kneipp (1821–1897) – One of the founders of the Naturopathic medicine movement

Marian Wolfgang Koller (1792–1866) – Professor who wrote on astronomy, physics, and meteorology

Franz Xaver Kugler (1862–1929) – Jesuit chemist, mathematician, and Assyriologist who is most noted for his studies of cuneiform tablets and Babylonian astronomy

Nicolas Louis de Lacaille (1713–1762) – French astronomer noted for cataloguing stars, nebulous objects, and constellations

Eugene Lafont (1837–1908) – Jesuit physicist, astronomer, and founder of the first Scientific Society in India

Antoine de Laloubère (1600–1664) – The first mathematician to study the properties of the helix

Bernard Lamy (1640–1715) – Philosopher and mathematician who wrote on the parallelogram of forces

Pierre André Latreille (1762–1833) – Entomologist whose works describing insects assigned many of the insect taxa still in use today

Georges Lemaître (1894–1966) – Father of the Big Bang Theory

Thomas Linacre (c. 1460–1524) – Humanist translator and physician

Francis Line (1595–1675) – Magnetic clock and sundial maker who disagreed with some of the findings of Newton and Boyle

Juan Caramuel y Lobkowitz (1606–1682) – Prolific writer on a variety of scientific subjects; a earlier writer on probability

Jean Mabillon (1632–1707) – Benedictine monk and scholar, considered the founder of palaeography and diplomatics

James B. Macelwane (1883–1956) – "The best-known Jesuit seismologist" and "one of the most honored practitioners of the science of all time"; wrote the first textbook on seismology in America.

Paul McNally (1890–1955) – Jesuit astronomer and director of Georgetown Observatory; the crater McNally on the Moon is named after him.

Pierre Macq (1930–) – Physicist who was awarded the Francqui Prize on Exact Sciences for his work on experimental nuclear physics

Manuel Magri (1851–1907) – Jesuit ethnographer, archaeologist and writer; one of Malta's pioneers in archaeology

Emmanuel Maignan (1601–1676) – Physicist and professor of medicine who published works on gnomonics and perspective

Charles Malapert (1581–1630) – Jesuit writer, astronomer, and proponent of Aristotelian cosmology; also known for observations of sunspots and of the lunar surface, and the crater Malapert on the Moon is named after him

Nicolas Malebranche (1638–1715) – Philosopher who studied physics, optics, and the laws of motion; disseminated the ideas of Descartes and Leibniz

Marcin of Urzędów (c. 1500–1573) – Physician, pharmacist, and botanist

Joseph Maréchal (1878–1944) – Jesuit philosopher and psychologist

Marie-Victorin (1885–1944) – Botanist best known as the father of the Jardin botanique de Montréal

Edme Mariotte (c. 1620–1684) – Physicist who recognized Boyle's Law and wrote about the nature of color

Francesco Maurolico (1494–1575) – Made contributions to the fields of geometry, optics, conics, mechanics, music, and astronomy; gave the first known proof by mathematical induction

Christian Mayer (astronomer) (1719–1783) – Jesuit astronomer most noted for pioneering the study of binary stars

Gregor Mendel (1822–1884) – Augustinian monk and father of genetics

Pietro Mengoli (1626–1686) – Mathematician who first posed the famous Basel Problem

Giuseppe Mercalli (1850–1914) – Volcanologist and director of the Vesuvius Observatory; best remembered today for his Mercalli scale for measuring earthquakes which is still in use

Marin Mersenne (1588–1648) – Philosopher, mathematician, and music theorist who is often referred to as the "father of acoustics"

Paul of Middelburg (1446–1534) – Wrote important works on the reform of the Calendar

Maciej Miechowita (1457–1523) – Wrote the first accurate geographical and ethnographical description of Eastern Europe; also wrote two medical treatises

François-Napoléon-Marie Moigno (1804–1884) – Jesuit physicist and mathematician; was an expositor of science and translator rather than an original investigator

Juan Ignacio Molina (1740–1829) – Jesuit naturalist, historian, botanist, ornithologist and geographer

Louis Moréri (1643–1680) – 17th century encyclopaedist

Théodore Moret (1602–1667) – Jesuit mathematician and author of the first mathematical dissertations ever defended in Prague; the lunar crater Moretus is named after him.

Landell de Moura (1861–1928) – Inventor who was the first to accomplish the transmission of the human voice by a wireless machine

Gabriel Mouton (1618–1694) – Mathematician, astronomer, and early proponent of the metric system

Jozef Murgaš (1864–1929) – Contributed to wireless telegraphy and help develop mobile communications and wireless transmission of information and human voice

José Celestino Mutis (1732–1808) – Botanist and mathematician who led the Royal Botanical Expedition of the New World

Jean François Nicéron (1613–1646) – Mathematician who studied geometrical optics

Nicholas of Cusa (1401–1464) – Cardinal, philosopher, jurist, mathematician, and astronomer; one of the great geniuses and polymaths of the 15th century

Julius Nieuwland (1878–1936) – Holy Cross priest, known for his contributions to acetylene research and its use as the basis for one type of synthetic rubber, which eventually led to the invention of neoprene by DuPont

Jean-Antoine Nollet (1700–1770) – Physicist who discovered the phenomenon of osmosis in natural membranes.

Hugo Obermaier (1877–1946) – Distinguished prehistorian and anthropologist who is known for his

work on the diffusion of mankind in Europe during the Ice Age, and in connection with north Spanish cave art

William of Ockham (c. 1288 – c. 1348) – Franciscan Scholastic who wrote significant works on logic, physics, and theology; known for Ockham's Razor

Nicole Oresme (c. 1323–1382) – One of the most famous and influential philosophers of the later Middle Ages; economist, mathematician, physicist, astronomer, philosopher, theologian and Bishop of Lisieux, and competent translator; one of the most original thinkers of the 14th century

Barnaba Oriani (1752–1832) – Geodesist, astronomer and scientist; greatest achievement was his detailed research of the planet Uranus; known for Oriani's theorem

Luca Pacioli (c. 1446–1517) – Often regarded as the Father of Accounting; published several works on mathematics

Ignace-Gaston Pardies (1636–1673) – Physicist known for his correspondence with Newton and Descartes

Franciscus Patricius (1529–1597) – Cosmic theorist, philosopher, and Renaissance scholar

John Peckham (1230–1292) – Archbishop of Canterbury and early practitioner of experimental science

Nicolas Claude Fabri de Peiresc (1580–1637) – Astronomer who discovered the Orion Nebula; lunar crater Peirescius named in his honor

Stephen Joseph Perry (1833–1889) – Jesuit astronomer and Fellow of the Royal Society; made frequent observations of Jupiter's satellites, of stellar occultations, of comets, of meteorites, of sun spots, and faculae

Giambattista Planciani (1784–1862) – Jesuit mathematician and physicist

Giuseppe Piazzi (1746–1826) – Theatine mathematician and astronomer who discovered Ceres, today known as the largest member of the asteroid belt; also did important work cataloguing stars

Jean Picard (1620–1682) – First person to measure the size of the Earth to a reasonable degree of accuracy; also developed what became the standard method for measuring the right ascension of a celestial object; The PICARD mission, an orbiting solar observatory, is named in his honor

Edward Pigot (1858–1929) – Jesuit seismologist and astronomer

Alexandre Guy Pingré (1711–1796) – French astronomer and naval geographer; the crater Pingré on the Moon is named after him, as is the asteroid 12719 Pingré

Jean Baptiste François Pitra (1812–1889) – Benedictine cardinal, archaeologist and theologian who noteworthy for his great archaeological discoveries

Charles Plumier (1646–1704) – Considered one of the most important botanical explorers of his time

Marcin Odlanicki Poczobutt (1728–1810) – Jesuit astronomer and mathematician; granted the title of the King's Astronomer; the crater Poczobutt on the Moon is named after him.

Léon Abel Provancher (1820–1892) – Naturalist devoted to the study and description of the fauna and flora of Canada; his pioneer work won for him the appellation of the "Father of Natural History in Canada"

Louis Receveur (1757–1788) – Franciscan naturalist and astronomer; described as being as close as one could get to being an ecologist in the 18th century

Franz Reinzer (1661–1708) – Wrote an in-depth meteorological, astrological, and political compendium covering topics such as comets, meteors, lightning, winds, fossils, metals, bodies of water, and subterranean treasures and secrets of the earth

Louis Rendu (1789–1859) – Bishop who wrote an important book on the mechanisms of glacial motion; the Rendu Glacier, Alaska, U.S. and Mount Rendu, Antarctica are named for him

Vincenzo Riccati (1707–1775) – Italian mathematician and physicist

Matteo Ricci (1552–1610) – One of the founding fathers of the Jesuit China Mission; co-author of the first European-Chinese dictionary

Giovanni Battista Riccioli (1598–1671) – Astronomer who authored *Almagestum novum*, an influential encyclopedia of astronomy; The first person to measure the rate of acceleration of a freely

falling body; created a selenograph with Father Grimaldi that now adorns the entrance at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C.

Richard of Wallingford (1292-1336) - Renowned clockmaker and one of the initiators of Western Trigonometry

Johannes Ruysch (c. 1460–1533) – Explorer, cartographer, and astronomer who created the second oldest known printed representation of the New World

Giovanni Girolamo Saccheri (1667–1733) – Jesuit mathematician and geometer

Johannes de Sacrobosco (c. 1195 – c. 1256) – Irish monk and astronomer who wrote the authoritative medieval astronomy text *Tractatus de Sphaera*; his *Algorismus* was the first text to introduce Hindu-Arabic numerals and procedures into the European university curriculum; the lunar crater Sacrobosco is named after him

Gregoire de Saint-Vincent (1584–1667) – Jesuit mathematician who made important contributions to the study of the hyperbola

Alphonse Antonio de Sarasa (1618–1667) – Jesuit mathematician who contributed to the understanding of logarithms

Christoph Scheiner (c. 1573–1650) – Jesuit physicist, astronomer, and inventor of the pantograph; wrote on a wide range of scientific subjects

George Schoener (1864–1941) – Became known in the United States as the "Padre of the Roses" for his experiments in rose breeding

Gaspar Schott (1608–1666) – Jesuit physicist, astronomer, and natural philosopher who is most widely known for his works on hydraulic and mechanical instruments

Franz Paula von Schrank (1747–1835) – Botanist, entomologist, and prolific writer

Berthold Schwarz (c. 14th century) – Franciscan friar and reputed inventor of gunpowder and firearms

Anton Maria Schyrleus of Rheita (1604–1660) – Astronomer and optician who built Kepler's telescope

George Mary Searle (1839–1918) – Paulist astronomer and professor who discovered six galaxies

Angelo Secchi (1818–1878) – Pioneer in astronomical spectroscopy, and was one of the first scientists to state authoritatively that the Sun is a star

Alessandro Serpieri (1823–1885) – Astronomer and seismologist who studied shooting stars, and was the first to introduce the concept of the seismic radiant

Gerolamo Sersale (1584–1654) – Jesuit astronomer and selenographer; his map of the moon can be seen in the Naval Observatory of San Fernando; the lunar crater Sirsalis is named after him

Benedict Sestini (1816–1890) – Jesuit astronomer, mathematician and architect; studied sunspots and eclipses; wrote textbooks on a variety of mathematical subjects

René François Walter de Sluse (1622–1685) – Mathematician with a family of curves named after him

Lazzaro Spallanzani (1729–1799) – Biologist and physiologist who made important contributions to the experimental study of bodily functions, animal reproduction, and essentially discovered echolocation; his research of biogenesis paved the way for the investigations of Louis Pasteur

Valentin Stansel (1621–1705) – Jesuit astronomer who made important observations of comets

Johan Stein (1871–1951) – Jesuit astronomer and director of the Vatican Observatory, which he modernized and relocated to Castel Gandolfo; the crater Stein on the far side of the Moon is named after him

Nicolas Steno (1638–1686) – Often called the father of geology and stratigraphy ("Steno's principles"); beatified by Pope John Paul II

Thomas Streit Fr. Tom is a researcher of Lymphatic Filariasis, a devastating parasitical infection causing horrific limb deformity (Elephantiasis), at the University of Notre Dame's Center for Rare and Neglected Diseases. He oversees the Center's eradication efforts of Lymphatic Filariasis in Haiti and is particularly focused on understanding the transmission process and the implementation of prevention strategies.

Pope Sylvester II (c. 946–1003) – Prolific scholar who endorsed and promoted Arabic knowledge of arithmetic, mathematics, and astronomy in Europe, reintroducing the abacus and armillary sphere which had been lost to Europe since the end of the Greco-Roman era

Alexius Sylvius Polonus (1593 – c. 1653) – Jesuit astronomer who studied sunspots and published a work on calendariography

Ignacije Szentmartony (1718–1793) – Jesuit cartographer, mathematician, and astronomer who became a member of the expedition that worked on the rearrangement of the frontiers among colonies in South America

André Tacquet (1612–1660) – Jesuit mathematician whose work laid the groundwork for the eventual discovery of calculus

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881–1955) – Jesuit paleontologist and geologist who took part in the discovery of Peking Man

Francesco Lana de Terzi (c. 1631–1687) – Referred to as the Father of Aeronautics for his pioneering efforts; he also developed a blind writing alphabet prior to Braille.

Theodoric of Freiberg (c. 1250 – c. 1310) – Dominican theologian and physicist who gave the first correct geometrical analysis of the rainbow

Joseph Tiefenthaler (1710–1785) – One of the earliest European geographers to write about India

Giuseppe Toaldo (1719–1797) – Physicist who studied atmospheric electricity and did important work with lightning rods; the asteroid 23685 Toaldo is named for him.

José Torrubia (c. 1700–1768) – Linguist, scientist, collector of fossils and books, and writer on historical, political and religious subjects

Franz de Paula Triesnecker (1745–1817) – Jesuit astronomer and director of the Vienna Observatory; published a number of treatises on astronomy and geography; the crater Triesnecker on the Moon is named after him.

Basil Valentine (c. 15th century) – Alchemist whom author James J. Walsh calls the father of modern chemistry[8]

Luca Valerio (1552–1618) – Jesuit mathematician who developed ways to find volumes and centers of gravity of solid bodies

Pierre Varignon (1654–1722) – Mathematician whose principle contributions were to statics and mechanics; created a mechanical explanation of gravitation

Giovanni Battista Venturi (1746–1822) - Discovered the Venturi effect

Fausto Veranzio (c. 1551–1617) – Bishop, polymath, inventor, and lexicographer

Ferdinand Verbiest (1623–1688) – Jesuit astronomer and mathematician; designed what some claim to be the first ever self-propelled vehicle – many claim this as the world's first automobile

Francesco de Vico (1805–1848) – Jesuit astronomer who discovered or co-discovered a number of comets; also made observations of Saturn and the gaps in its rings; the lunar crater De Vico and the asteroid 20103 de Vico are named after him

Vincent of Beauvais (c.1190–c.1264) – Wrote the most influential encyclopedia of the Middle Ages

János Vitéz (archbishop) (c.1405–1472) – Archbishop, astronomer, and mathematician

Martin Waldseemüller (c. 1470–1520) – German cartographer who, along with Matthias Ringmann, is credited with the first recorded usage of the word America

Godefroy Wendelin (1580–1667) – Astronomer who recognized that Kepler's third law applied to the satellites of Jupiter; the lunar crater Vendelinus is named in his honor

Johannes Werner (1468–1522) – Mathematician, astronomer, and geographer

Witelo (c. 1230 – after 1280, before 1314) – Physicist, natural philosopher, and mathematician; lunar crater Vitello named in his honor; his *Perspectiva* powerfully influenced later scientists, in particular Johannes Kepler

Julian Tenison Woods (1832–1889) – Passionist geologist and mineralogist

Theodor Wulf (1868–1946) – Jesuit physicist who was one of the first experimenters to detect excess

atmospheric radiation

Franz Xaver von Wulfen (1728-1805) - Jesuit botanist, mineralogist, and alpinist

John Zahm (1851–1921) – Holy Cross Priest and South American explorer

Giuseppe Zamboni (1776–1846) – Physicist who invented the Zamboni pile, an early electric battery similar to the Voltaic pile

Francesco Zantedeschi (1797–1873) – Among the first to recognize the marked absorption by the atmosphere of red, yellow, and green light; published papers on the production of electric currents in closed circuits by the approach and withdrawal of a magnet, thereby anticipating Michael Faraday's classical experiments of 1831

Niccolò Zucchi (1586–1670) – Attempted to build a reflecting telescope in 1616; may have been the first to see the belts on the planet Jupiter; corresponded with Kepler

Giovanni Battista Zupi (c. 1590–1650) – Jesuit astronomer, mathematician, and first person to discover that the planet Mercury had orbital phases; the crater Zupus on the Moon is named after him