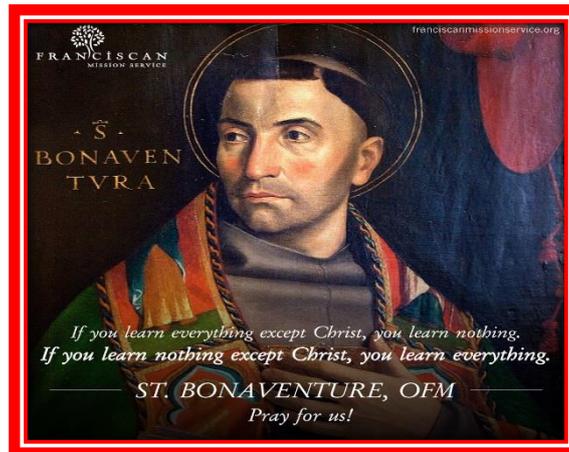


Daily Saints - 15 July



Feast of St. Bonaventure, known as "the seraphic doctor". He is the patron saint against intestinal problems.

He was born at Bagnoregio, in the Lazio region of central Italy, in 1221. He was baptized John di Fidensa, named after his father. His father was a man of some means and was the local physician. His mother was Maria di Ritello. Both his parents were devout, his mother especially so.

He received the name of Bonaventure in consequence of an exclamation of St. Francis of Assisi, when, in response to the pleading of the child's mother, the saint prayed for John's recovery from a dangerous illness, and, foreseeing the future greatness of the little John, cried out "O Buona Ventura"-O good fortune! At the age of twenty-two St. Bonaventure entered the Franciscan Order. Having made his vows, he was sent to Paris to complete his studies under the celebrated doctor Alexander of Hales, an Englishman, and a Franciscan. After the latter's death, he continued his course under his successor, John of Rochelle. In Paris, he became the intimate friend of the great St. Thomas Aquinas. He received the degree of Doctor, together with St. Thomas Aquinas, ceding to his friend against the latter's inclination, the honor of having it first conferred upon him. Like St. Thomas Aquinas, he enjoyed the friendship of the holy King, St. Louis.

At the age of thirty-five, he was chosen General of his Order and restored a perfect calm where peace had been disturbed by internal dissensions. He did much for his Order and composed The Life of St. Francis. He also assisted at the translation of the relics of St. Anthony of Padua. He was nominated Archbishop of York by Pope Clement IV, but he begged not to be forced to accept that dignity. Gregory X obliged him to take upon himself a greater one, that of Cardinal and Bishop of Albano, one of the six suffrage Sees of Rome. Before his death, he abdicated his office of General of the Franciscan Order. He died while he was assisting at the Second Council of Lyons, on July 15, 1274.

One of Bonaventure's most helpful ideas was to show people how to find God by passing through three stages: "**Calm of peace,**" **the first stage,** happens when we are purified of sin. We can do this today by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation

or by telling someone we are sorry and then change our hurtful ways. Bonaventure called **the second stage "splendor of the truth."** In this stage, we live our lives by imitating Jesus. Our path is lit by the light of Jesus showing us the way. **The third and final stage, "sweetness of love,"** comes when we are united with God.

"Your heart is to be an altar of God. It is here that the fire of intense love must burn always. You are to feed it every day with the wood of the cross of Christ and the commemoration of his passion."

"If you do not know your own dignity and condition, you cannot value anything at its proper worth." "Chastity without charity is a lamp without oil." "When we pray, the voice of the heart must be heard more than the proceedings from the mouth." "If you learn everything except Christ, you learn nothing. If you learn nothing except Christ, you learn everything." "Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone, he shares existence, with the plants he shares life, with the animals he shares sensation, and with the angels he shares intelligence. Thus, all things are transformed in Christ since in the fullness of his nature he embraces some part of every creature."

"Therefore he who is not brightened by such splendors of created things is blind; he who does not awake at such clamors is deaf; he who does not praise God on account of all these effects is mute; he who does not turn toward the First Principle on account of such indications is stupid."

"As "pride is the beginning of all sin," (Eccl. x, 15) so humility is the foundation of all virtue. Learn to be really humble and not, as the hypocrite, humble merely in appearance."

"Meditation on Christ in His humanity is corporeal indeed, in fact, but spiritual in mind. By adopting this habit, you will steady your mind, be trained to virtues, and receive the strength of soul. Let the meditation of Christ's life be your one and only aim, your rest, your food, your desire, your study."