

DOMINICAN SAINTS AND BLESSEDS OF JUNE

JUNE 2

**Blessed Sadoc,
FRIAR AND PRIEST,
and Companions, MARTYRS**

According to tradition Blessed Sadoc received the habit from Saint Dominic himself and at the General Chapter of Bologna in 1221 was chosen to accompany Master Paul of Hungary, who had been commissioned to establish a province in Hungary. Later Blessed Sadoc moved on to Poland where he preached the gospel for nearly forty years. In 1260 he and eight members of the Dominican community at Sandomierz were martyred by the Tartars as they were singing the *Salve Regina* at Compline. The custom of singing the *Salve Regina* at the deathbed of Dominicans stems from this incident.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, in the midst of fierce attacks of the foe Blessed Sadoc and his companions greeted the Virgin Mary in song and received the longed-for palm of martyrdom. After this exile may your merciful and loving Mother show us to you, who live and reign in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

JUNE 4

**Saint Peter of Verona
FRIAR, PRIEST AND MARTYR
MEMORIAL**

Saint Peter was born at Verona, Italy, around 1205 of Manichean parents. While a student at Bologna, he entered the Order of Preachers, receiving the habit from the hands of Saint Dominic. Full of zeal for the purity of the faith he preached the word of God and brought many people back to the true faith. His concern for the growth of the faith among the laity led him to establish the Confraternity in Praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Association of the Faith. He earnestly promoted community life and served the brethren as prior. Towards the end of his life he received the office of inquisitor, a ministry which he carried out to great effect. On April 6, 1252, while returning from Como to Milan he was set upon by a group of heretics and was fatally stabbed. As he lay dying on the roadway, he wrote on the ground with his own blood his final testament to the Catholic doctrine which he had so staunchly defended in life: *Credo in Unum Deum*.

Prayer

Almighty God, you crowned our brother Peter with martyrdom as he faithfully preached the gospel. Help us to live that faith he professed at the moment of his death. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

or:

Almighty God, you crowned our brother Peter with martyrdom for confessing the true faith with perseverance. Give to us, your people, that same faith that we too may receive the gift of salvation. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God. for ever and ever.

JUNE 8
Blessed Diana and Blessed Cecilia
NUNS AND VIRGINS
OPTIONAL MEMORIAL
For the Nuns of the Order: MEMORIAL

Blessed Diana, a member of the powerful d'Andalo family, was born at Bologna at the beginning of the thirteenth century. Attracted to the Order by the preaching of Blessed Reginald, Diana overcame the strong objections of her family and in 1222 with the help of Blessed Jordan of Saxony founded the Monastery of Saint Agnes where she lived until her death in 1236. There letters which Blessed Jordan wrote to her are a splendid testament to the spirituality of the Dominican family and to the association of brothers and sisters within the Dominican family.

Blessed Cecilia was born at Rome around 1200 of the noble Caesarini family. In 1220 Pope Honorius III asked Saint Dominic to reform several Roman monasteries, among them Santa Mana in Tempulo of which Blessed Cecilia was a member. According to tradition she was the first to express enthusiasm for the project and the first to receive the habit from the hands of Saint Dominic at the new Monastery of Saint Sixtus. In late 1223 or early 1224 she and three other nuns were sent to the Monastery of Saint Agnes in Bologna to help with the new foundation. To her we are indebted for our only description of the physical appearance of Saint Dominic. She died around 1290.

Prayer

Merciful Lord, we welcome in joy the feast of Blessed Diana and Blessed Cecilia. With the help of their prayers may devotion to truth and love for our brothers and sisters fill our hearts and our lives. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God. for ever and ever.

or:

Merciful God, as we rejoice in this feast of our sisters Diana and Cecilia, help us by their example to live together in love and to preach the truth of the gospel. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

JUNE 10
Blessed John Dominic
FRIAR AND BISHOP
OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

Blessed John was born at Florence around 1357 and received the habit at the priory of Santa Maria Novella at the age of seventeen. He assisted Blessed Raymond of Capua with the reform of the Order and became known as the "principal restorer of regular observance in Italy. " Concerned about questions of faith and morality which the humanism of his day posed for the faith, he wrote a treatise on Christian education, the *Lucula noctis*. During the Western Schism he assisted Pope Gregory XII as a counsellor and then as archbishop of Ragusa and cardinal of Saint Sixtus. He played a significant role at the Council of Constance. Pope Martin V sent him on a mission to Bohemia and Hungary to deal with the Hussite heresy and while there he died at Buda on June 10, 1419.

Prayer

God, source of wisdom and love, you made our brother John Dominic strong in goodness to sustain the unity of the Church and to renew the regular life. Lead us always to seek unity and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

JUNE 12

Blessed Stephen Bandelli FRIAR AND PRIEST

Blessed Stephen was born at Castelnuovo in Scrivia, Italy, in 1369 and received the habit at Piacenza. He taught philosophy and theology at the University of Pavia, but was especially known for his preaching and his ability as a confessor. So fiery was his preaching that people acclaimed him another Saint Paul. He died at Saluzzo on June 11, 1450.

Prayer

Eternal Shepherd, to lead your wandering flock back to the way of salvation you made Blessed Stephen an outstanding preacher of the gospel. Helped by the example of his life and in close union with Christ may we labour ardently for the gospel and so receive the promised reward of the kingdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

JUNE 18

Blessed Osanna of Mantua LAY DOMINICAN AND VIRGIN

Blessed Osanna Andreassi was born at Mantua in 1449 and received the habit of the Sisters of Penance of Saint Dominic as a young girl. With great wisdom she blended the practice of good works and the pursuit of secular occupations with a life of contemplation. She enjoyed many extraordinary mystical graces during her life and many came to her for advice and consolation. She died on June 18, 1505.

Prayer

O God, giver of all good things, you led Blessed Osanna to prefer the unsearchable riches of Christ above all else and to so teach others. By following her example and teaching may we grow in knowledge of you and faithfully live according to the light of the gospel. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

JUNE 20

Blessed Margaret Ebner NUN AND VIRGIN

Blessed Margaret Ebner was born in 1291 at Donauworth in Bavaria and made her profession at the Dominican Monastery of Maria Medingen in 1306. By her own account her true conversion to God began in 1311 when she was twenty years old. Soon after she became seriously ill and was bedridden for nearly thirteen years. These years of suffering and prayer brought her to the heights of contemplative union with God. She became one of the more prominent of the Rhineland mystics, known to both John Tauler and Henry Suso. She left an account of her mystical experiences in her **Spiritual Journal** (*Revelationes*) and wrote a treatise on the Lord's Prayer. She died on June 20, 1351.

Prayer

O God, source of all goodness, you enkindled within Blessed Margaret the fire of the Holy Spirit and drew her into the secrets of your divine love. By the help of her prayers and filled with that same Spirit may we come to you by the paths of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

JUNE 23

Blessed Innocent V FRIAR AND POPE

Peter of Tarentaise was born in Savoy around 1224 and as a young man entered the Order at Lyons. He was sent to study at Paris where he took the master's degree and was given a chair at the university. Together with Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Albert the Great, and two other Dominicans he was commissioned by the General Chapter of 1259 to draw up the first plan of studies for the Order. In 1272 he was named archbishop of Lyons and created Cardinal Bishop of Ostia. He was one of the outstanding figures at the Council of Lyons where he laboured for the restoration of unity between the churches of East and West. In 1276 Peter was elected Pope and took the name Innocent. He died within five months of his election on June 22, 1276.

Prayer

God of truth, you bestowed on Blessed Innocent the gifts of knowledge and prudence and made him a promoter of peace and unity. By the help of his prayers may we cherish what is of heaven and in perfect unity follow what is right. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.