

Saint Bonaventure Wednesday 15 July



About Saint Bonaventura - 1218 - 1274

Bonaventure was born at Bagnoregio in Etruria in about 1218. He became a Franciscan friar in 1243 and studied philosophy and theology at the University of Paris. He became a famous teacher and philosopher. He was a friend and colleague of St Thomas Aquinas.

During Bonaventura's lifetime the Franciscan friars were still a new and revolutionary force in the Church, and their way of embracing poverty, coupled with their rejection of institutional structures, raised suspicion and opposition from many.

Bonaventure was elected general of the order in 1255, and he ruled it with wisdom and prudence, which allowed him to heal many divisions within the Order. He is regarded as the second founder of the Order.

He declined the see of York in 1265 but was made cardinal bishop of Albano in 1273 and died a year later in 1274 at the Council of Lyons, at which the Greek and Latin churches were (briefly) reconciled.

Bonaventure is remembered as teacher and for his extensive biblical and mystical writings as well as for his holiness, gentleness and compassion.

He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V.

What can we learn from Saint Bonaventura's life?

Bonaventure was an academic, who wrote extensively on philosophy and theology, thereby **making a permanent mark on intellectual history. However, he was a "down-to-earth" man who was humble.** He always insisted that simple and uneducated people could have a clearer knowledge of God than the wise. The lesson we can learn here is that we must be open to **people's gifts and talents and finding out what they are. So often we may not take the time to get to know people and we could be missing a golden opportunity to make a new friendship and tap into what the Lord has blessed someone with. We like people to afford us a chance to get to know us and so we must do that for others as well. As the saying goes: "never judge a book by its cover."**

Humility is a wonderful virtue that we should let blossom in our lives.

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Quote: "Christ is both the way and the door."

(From the Journey of the Mind to God by Saint Bonaventure)

Collect

Grant, almighty God,
that we may glory in the Feast of the blessed Apostle Thomas,
so that we may always be sustained by his intercession
and, believing, may have life in the name of Jesus Christ your Son,
whom Thomas acknowledged as the Lord.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 23:8-12

The greatest among you must be your servant

Jesus said to his disciples,
'You must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi,
since you have only one master, and you are all brothers.
You must call no one on earth your father,
since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven.
Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers,
for you have only one Teacher, the Christ.
The greatest among you must be your servant.
Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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Antiphon

Cf. Lk 12: 42

Behold a faithful and prudent steward
to give them their allowance of food at the proper time.

Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Bonaventure

1. Saint Bonaventure showed us how
to live wisely and prudently,
never seeking honour or might,
and guiding men to unity.

2. He wrote so many things to teach
people about God here on earth.
He saw that in God's loving eyes
the simple people had their worth.

3. O Lord, we thank you for this Saint,
for that he was able to heal
all those who were under his care,
showing his love for you was real.

4. O Lord, You love each one of us
the same not loving more or less.
May we love and serve our neighbour
like Bonaventure with kindness.

88.88 LM

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Music Links to the Scripture Readings

The Summons

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Hymn for the Feast of Saint Thomas

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Music Links to the Scripture Readings

[We Walk by Faith](#) - Marty Haugen

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