

July 15, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

MEMORIAL OF ST. BONAVENTURE, FRANCISCAN, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Reflection

Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, born in 1221 in central Italy, joined the Franciscans in 1238 while he was a student at the University of Paris. After two years, Bonaventure was elected to serve as Minister-General of the Friars Minor. Although St. Francis had died only 12 years before Bonaventure's entrance, the order was beginning to change due to factions in the community: some wanted to adhere strictly to Francis' spirit of poverty and others tried to follow a more relaxed way of life. As Minister-General, Bonaventure was able to steer the order down an acceptable middle course to heal the divisions that existed. In 1257, Bonaventure completed his doctorate in theology and wrote the Major Legend of Saint Francis, among many other books. In 1259, Bonaventure retired to the hermitage in Mount Alverna, where he came to understand the spiritual journey of St. Francis and wrote *The Soul's Journey into God*. The spiritual experience of Francis and Clare of Assisi was centered on the poor and crucified Christ. Bonaventure's profound writings include *The*

Tree of Life quoted below.

Bonaventure died in 1274. He was canonized in 1482 and was named Doctor of the Church in 1588.



San Damiano Cross
Photo by Alicia Rodriguez

For Prayer

A PRAYER TO JESUS

*Believing, hoping and loving
With my whole heart, with my whole mind
And with my whole strength,
May I be carried to you, beloved Jesus,*

*As to the goal of all things,
Because you alone are sufficient,
You alone are good and pleasing
To those who seek you and love your name.
For you, my good Jesus,
Are the redeemer of the lost,
The savior of the redeemed,
The hope of exiles,
The strength of laborers,
The sweet solace of anguished spirits,
The crown and dignity of the triumphant,
The unique reward and joy of all the citizens of heaven,
The renowned offspring of the supreme God
And the sublime fruit of the virginal womb,
The abundant fountain of all graces,
Of whose fullness we have all received.*

ST. BONAVENTURE

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