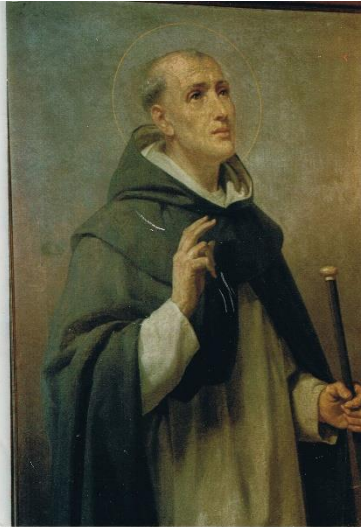


The Cause For Canonization of Blessed John Of Vercelli

BEATO GIOVANNI GARBELLA

FOUNDER OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY A SAINT FOR OUR TIME



Blessed John was born around 1205 in Mosso Santa Maria near Vercelli in Italy. He died on November 30, 1283 and was beatified on September 7, 1903 by Pope Pius X who is now a Saint. The BJV Committee is making progress on his Sainthood. His feast day is celebrated on December 1st.

For a little background on Blessed John, he studied canon and civil law and was teaching at the University of Paris by the age of 21, and in 1229, he opened a school in Vercelli. Prior to any thoughts of being a preacher, John and several other professors directed their students not to go and listen to Blessed Jordon of Saxony (the Master General of the Dominican Order) when he was preaching in Vercelli. They were afraid of losing more famous professors and brilliant students to the ranks of the preaching friars. After hearing of the defection of professor

Walter of Germany, and eleven other professors, however John was so touched by God's Grace that he immediately set off alone to the convent like one crazed. He was sent to begin his preparation for the priesthood at the convent of St. Nicholas in Bologna.

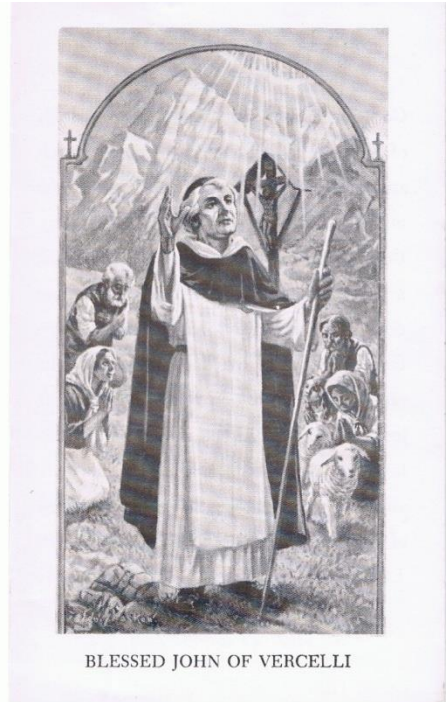
After 15 years he became the Prior of the convent in Vercelli and became renowned as a preacher throughout the area. He was sent to Venice to reconcile that city-state with its former enemies, and succeeded so well, that for the rest of his life the Popes made use of his sanctity, prudence and diplomacy to establish peace between warring rulers and states. In 1251 Pope Innocent IV appointed him legate apostolic to Lombardy and Inquisitor. In 1255 the Master General appointed him Vicar of Hungary where the Church suffered greatly from the Tartars of Russia. Upon his return to Italy he was elected Prior of Bologna then in 1257 as Provincial of Lombardy of 600 Friars and of convents in 28 different cities. He had no set convent in which to live. He walked from house to house in his province and preached as he went. Through his supervision the province grew in number of foundations and members.

John feeling the Office of Provincial too heavy a burden for a 60 year old man, wished to be relieved of it. In 1264 the General Chapter accepted his resignation but then proceeded to elect him Master General of the whole order. He visited nearly all the convents in Central and Western Europe.

In 1274 at the Second Council at Lyons, the Dominicans (Blessed John of Vercelli, St. Albert the Great, Peter of Tarantaise (later Blessed Innocent V) and Blessed Humbert) helped with proceedings and made many recommendations that were adopted. Post the Council, Pope Gregory X prepared the brief Nuper in Concilio and addressed Blessed John of Vercelli. The papal brief was a suggestion rather than a command. But to carry out the Pope's intent

John directed that a letter be sent to all Provincials and he personally ordered that an altar of the Holy Name be erected in every Church of the Dominican Order and groups were formed to combat blasphemy and profanity.

Eloquent preachers from the pulpits of a dozen different European Nations urged devotion to the Holy Name of Christ. Special altars dedicated to the Holy Name were created in churches everywhere. Special shrines for the devotion were built and great processions composed of thousands of people, their devotional banners, waving to the breezes, walked the streets of the great cities and along the roads of the countryside for no other purpose than to give public honor to the name of Christ; to make a great public Act of Faith in the Doctrine of His Divinity and by their prayerful meetings to protest against blasphemy, perjury, cursing, profanity and obscene speech.



BLESSED JOHN OF VERCELLI

At the General Chapter of Parish in 1279 John who had revered the doctrines of St. Thomas Aquinas, had the Chapter pass an act to suppress and punish writing or preaching detrimental to Thomas' personal character and teachings. John kept peace in the Order and preserved Thomism for the Church and the Order

1283 was Blessed John's last Chapter Meeting in Montpellier and there he died in the Dominican Convent. He was very weak from all his travels as Master General. He walked all of Europe three times in his lifetime.

A SAINT FOR OUR TIME

WE ONLY NEED ONE MIRACLE TO MAKE BLESSED JOHN A SAINT. YOU CAN HELP IN THIS CAUSE:

- ❖ PRAY FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED JOHN DAILY AND AT ALL HOLY NAME MEETINGS.
- ❖ CELEBRATE HOLY HOUR DEVOTIONS AND ANNUAL MASSES FOR THE CANONIZATION CAUSE.
- ❖ PRAY THE NOVENA OF BLESSED JOHN. CONSIDER A CIRCULATING NOVENA AMONG MEMBERS.
- ❖ USE BJV PRAYER PETITION FORMS FOR YOUR INTENTIONS. LOCAL PRESIDENTS HAVE PETITIONS
- ❖ PRAY AND PETITION BLESSED JOHN FOR HEALING



B. JOHANNES DE VERCELLIS

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