

Beati u Qaddisin...Dicembru

SANT' AMBROGJU, ISQOF u DUTTUR TAL-KNISJA - 7 ta' Dicembru



Juan de Valdés Leal, S. Ambrogio assolve l'imperatore Teodosio, 1673, Collezione privata, Kreuzlingen, Svizzera

Ambrogju mexa' fuq il-passi ta' missieru, prefett ruman fil-Gallia, u ghazel il-karriera ta' magistrat ; ta' tletin sena sab ruhu diga' Konslu ta' Milan, li dawk iz-zminijiet kienet il-kapitali ta' l-Imperu.

U hekk hu fis-7 ta' Dicembru tas-sena 374 meta l-arjani u l-kattolici kienu jikkontestaw id-dritt li jinnomiaw l-isqof il-gdid, mess lilu li jgib l-ordni fil-belt u waqqaf milli jqum inkwiet u disgwid.

Dak li qatt ma wiehed kien jistenna, dak sehh. Meta huwa kellem lill-folla b'tant tjubija izda fl-istess hin b'awtorita', il-poplu ghajjat b'lehen wiehed: "Ambrogju isqof."

Kien ghadu katekumenu, jistenna l-Maghmudija biex isir nistrani. Ma riedx jaccetta izda meta ra u fehem li dik kienet il-volonta ta' Alla biex ikun ta' servizz ghalih, ceda'.

Beda biex qassam gidu lill-fqar u jiddedika lil niffsu ghal istudju ta' l-Iskrittura Mqaddsa. Tghallem jippridka u sar predikatur imfittex hafna. Tant kien predikatur tajjeb li rnexxilu jsahhar lil intelletwati Agostino ta' Tagaste li wara kkonverta bis-sahha tieghu. Minn Ambrogju l-knisja ta' Milan irceviet wirt li ghadha tgawdi sal lum anke f'dak li ghandu x'jaqsam mal-liturgija u muzika.

Ir-rapporti bejnu u bejn l-imperatur kien tajbin hafna, imma kien mehtieg li jiqafli zamm iebes. Fakkar lil kulhadd li l-imperatur huwa parti mill-knisja u mhux fuq il-knisja.

U meta sar jaf li Teodosju il-Kbir ordna ripressjoni qalila u ngusta fit-Tessalonika ma bezghax jitlob mis-sovrani tpattija pubblika. Meta wasal fi tmiem hajtu jinghad li qal li ma ghadux minn xhiex jibza' li jmut billi s-Sinjur hu hanin.

Lill-knisja hallieha tezor kbir ta' taghlim b'mod specjali fil-kamp morali u socjali.

St. Thomas of Villanova

Feast Day: September 22

Born: 1488 :: Died: 1555

Thomas was born at Fuentellana, Castile in Spain. From his kind parents, he learned to be very charitable with the poor. He did well in school and became a teacher of philosophy when he finished his studies.



Then he joined the Augustinian order as a priest. After he became a priest, he was given many important responsibilities. Later, he was made archbishop of the city of Valencia.

His priests tried to convince him to change his old, mended habit (long robe that priests wear) for new and nicer robes. However, St. Thomas told them his old clothes had nothing to do with his duty. He would take good care of the spiritual needs of his people.

Every day he fed hundreds of poor people. When he received a large sum of money to buy furniture for his house, he gave it to a hospital, saying, "What does a poor monk like me want with furniture?" No wonder he was

called the "father of the poor"!

St. Thomas was very gentle with sinners at a time when most people were not. He encouraged rich people to be generous and follow his example too.

Once when he tried to encourage one man to change his sinful ways, the man angrily insulted him and stormed out of the room.

"It was my fault," said the humble archbishop. "I told him a little too roughly." Never would he permit anyone to criticize someone who wasn't there. "He may have had a good reason for doing what he did," the saint would say. "I, for one, believe he did."

Before he died, St. Thomas of Villanova gave to the poor everything he had. He made sure that even his bed was sent to the jail for prisoners to use. St. Thomas died in 1555.