

Saint Bonaventure

1217-1274

Saint Bonaventura was born in 1217 in Bagnoregio. After a cure obtained through the intercession of Saint Francis of Assisi, he decided to enter the Franciscan Order.

Acclaimed by all for his great intelligence, he dedicated himself to the study of theology. Nicknamed *Doctor Seraphicus*, he taught at the University of Paris and was a friend of St. Thomas Aquinas. He became bishop and cardinal, and after his death was canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church. He is considered one of the most important biographers of St. Francis of Assisi. One of the virtues that most shined in Bonaventure was his great humility. A little

worthy to receive such a great gift. An Angel then appeared to him and placed a consecrated Host in his mouth. This episode is a lesson for all those who do not consider themselves worthy to receive the Eucharist and deprive themselves of it, not realizing that this is precisely what the devil most desires. The Eucharist is a remedy and not a reward: it is spiritual nourishment that sustains us on the journey of life.



episode will shed a beautiful light on this virtue of his. When the pontifical legates arrived to confer the cardinal's hat on him, Bonaventure was washing dishes. He preferred to first finish this humble task, as any other simple friar would have done, demonstrating that he did not put any stock in human honors. He considered himself the most unworthy of sinners, so much so that he felt he did not deserve to breathe the air or walk the earth. But the devil, who always tries to do all he can to harm our souls, made him experience tremendous scruples. Overwhelmed with awe for the Jesus Christ we receive in the Eucharist and with a feeling of his own vileness, he no longer dared to receive Communion. Despite this, every day he burned more and more with desire to receive the Eucharist, and the Lord did not delay answering him. During a Mass he was devoutly attending, he remained seated at his place because he did not consider himself