

Dominic of Jesus Mary

† 1630

PURGATORY

Father Dominic of Jesus Mary was born in Calatayud, Spain, on May 16, 1559. In 1574 he entered the friary of the Carmelites of the Ancient Observance in his city and professed there on December 8, 1578. In 1589 he joined the Teresian Reform, in which he made his religious profession in Pastrana on November 22, 1590. He was called to Rome by the Venerable Father Peter of the Mother of God (1604) and joined the Italian Congregation of the Discalced Carmelites where he was entrusted with various responsibilities.

He promoted the religious observance and founded friaries in Rome, Palermo, Genoa, Florence and in the territories of the Catholic Emperor Ferdinand II. He devoted himself without pause to the good of the Church and the souls. He gave a prominent contribution to the founding of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. He was also adviser of princes, cardinals and various Popes from Clement VIII to Urban VIII.

When he was transferred to the friary of Rome, in his cell, as it was customary at the time, he found an authentic skull for meditating on death. One night, from this skull, he heard a voice shouting: *In memoria hominum non sum* (no one remembers me). These words echoed several times and were heard in the

entire dormitory of the friary. Father Dominic was astonished and doubtful, thinking that it was a deception of the devil. He immersed himself in prayer to understand what he had to do. Then he took some blessed water and began to sprinkle the skull, from which came other words: “Water, water, mercy, mercy”. The Carmelite then asked him who he was and what kind of mercy he wanted. The deceased answered telling him that he was a German man who had come to Rome to visit the holy places. He died a long time ago and his body was resting in the cemetery, while his soul was in Purgatory. He had no longer anyone who would offer him supplications, nor anyone who would remember him. Therefore he asked to pray to Jesus on his behalf. Father Dominic promised it and began to pray fervently, doing also penances. After a few days the deceased appeared to him in his cell and thanked him for having been liberated from Purgatory. Father Dominic was very concerned for the fate of the Souls of Purgatory and had promoted the Heroic Act of Charity for their benefit. It consisted in a voluntary offering, that the faithful to God does of all his acceptable works: reparation of offences, damages or similar things, in life, and all the supplications that he may receive after death, for the



benefit of the Souls in Purgatory. This Act was approved by Gregory XV, when, with his Bull *Pastoris Aeterni*, he approved the Consortium of the Brethren, founded by Father Dominic, in which, among the other pious exercises in favor of the deceased, there was one in regard to the offering and consecrating for their supplication the acceptable part of their own works.

