



Saints adoring Jesus Resurrected", by Fra Angelico – Detail of the Fiesole Panel, San Marco Museum, Florence (Italy)

Bl. Nicholas of Paglia, Friar and Priest

1197-1256

February 16

Blessed Nicholas was born at Giovinazzo, near Bari, Italy, in 1197. While pursuing studies at Bologna, he was drawn to the Order by a sermon of Saint Dominic who personally gave him the habit and made him one of his travelling companions. He was well-known for his preaching (known to convert Jewish people to the Christian faith) and compiled a concordance of Sacred Scripture. He was present (1233) at the translation of Dominic's body. Prudent, charitable, and compassionate, especially to fellow religious, as superior he preached fraternal charity and joy and asked for willing, loving obedience.

Nicholas earned great fame as a preacher. On one occasion, when he was preaching in the cathedral of Brescia, two irreverent young men began disturbing the congregation and soon made such a commotion that Nicholas could not make himself heard. Nicholas left the cathedral to a neighboring hill and there called to the birds to come to listen to him. Like the birds in the similar story of Saint Francis, flocks of feathered creatures fluttered down at his feet and listened attentively while he preached. At the end of the sermon they flew away singing.

After a lifetime of preaching and miracles, Nicholas, forewarned of his death by a visit from a brother who had been dead many years, went happily to receive the reward of the faithful. Miracles continued to occur at his tomb and through his intercession. Among these was the miracle by which life was given to a baby born dead. His parents had promised to name the baby Nicholas if the favor were granted, and to their great joy their child lived.

His relics repose under the high altar in Perugia. He is pictured, once by Fra Angelico (with rods (authority), a book (learning), and church models (founder)). He was regarded as a miracle worker and died at Perugia in 1256.

He was beatified in 26 March 1828 at Saint Peter's Basilica, by Pope Leo XII.

Let us pray:

Mercifully infuse into us, O God, the spirit of Blessed Nicholas, Thy Confessor, that, as Thou didst adorn him with singular grace to preach Thy word and procure the neighbor's salvation, so Thou wouldst grant us, through his prayers, ever to remain faithful to the same holy vocation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.