

Blessed Jane of Aza, Mother of Saint Dominic

August 2

Mother of Saint Dominic and Blessed Mannes, Bl. Jane is thought to have come from both noble and saintly blood, possibly being related to both St. Louis the King of France and St. Ferdinand of Spain. She married an upstanding Christian man and gave birth to three men who all became priests, including Bl. Mannes, one of the first Dominicans. After her first two sons were born, she went to the Monastery of Silos and prayed a novena to St. Dominic of Silos. Toward the end of the novena, he appeared to her and told her that she would conceive a son who would be a light of the Church and a terror of heretics.



According to tradition, Jane had a dream before her son's conception in which she saw a hound racing through the world igniting everything with a flaming torch. Troubled by this dream, she went to pray at the Benedictine abbey of San Domingo de Silos, located in a pleasant valley about twenty miles north of Caleruega. This dream was indeed prophetic. Dominic did ignite the world with sacred truth through preaching and teaching born from a life of dedicated prayer, love for the Word of God, and a burning desire to gain souls for Christ. It is widely believed that Dominic's keen sensitivity to the sufferings of others, which he displayed from childhood on, was acquired from his mother, who, although from a noble family, was known for her compassion toward the poor and needy. From her Dominic also acquired the habit of prayer.