

Bezel A1

SAINT BONAVENTURA OF BAGNOREA

INSCRIPTION

THE SERAPHIC SAINT BONAVENTURA, CONSIDERING HIMSELF UNWORTHY OF THE EUCHARISTIC COMMUNION, DID NOT CELEBRATE FOR MANY DAYS. HOWEVER, THE MOST HIGH, WHO OFTEN LOOKS UPON THE HUMBLE TO EXALT THEM, GRANTED HIM A UNIQUE PREROGATIVE. ONE DAY, WHILE ATTENDING MASS, THE SERAPH LONGED FOR THE SACRIFICE OF THE MASS AND RECEIVED THE BODY OF CHRIST BY ANGELIC HAND. HE DIED IN THE YEAR 1274 AT THE AGE OF 53.

Bonaventure considered himself a great sinner, to the extent that he felt unworthy of the joy of celebrating Mass. He experienced unspeakable suffering due to his profound desire to partake in Communion. The Lord intervened. One day, during Mass, while Buonaventura remained kneeling as the others received Communion, an angel appeared and placed a consecrated host on his tongue. Another episode illustrates his humility.

IT IS TOLD THAT...

One day, papal legates arrived at the convent where Bonaventure lived to inform him that the Pope had decided to confer upon him the dignity of cardinal. Bonaventure, who was washing dishes at the time, continued his work and had his red hat hung on the branches of a tree. He commented, "The offices of a friar minor are healthier and safer than those of great dignities, which are heavy and full of dangers."

At the foot of the kneeler, Brother Giuseppe depicted the biretta, which is not permitted during the celebration of Mass, indicated by the chalice on the altar and a host in the priest's hands. The humility of the habits of the two Franciscans contrasts with the refined elegance of the angel's clothes, the attire of the two nobles, and the rich lace of the liturgical garments. A beam of light enters from above and illuminates the saint, a recurring element that signifies the presence of the Most High. The two nobles are distracted and notice nothing, while everyone else is deeply involved.

Bonaventure's importance is evident not only from the number of frescoes (there are three) but also from the prominent places they occupy. In our cloister and in that of Galatina, Bonaventure's story is depicted in the first lunette. In the convent, his image adorns the first cell. In the Franciscan tree of cardinals, he is depicted on the trunk, aligned with the axis of the Immaculate Conception.



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