

Lunette C16

BLESSED ENRICO, KING OF CYPRUS

INSCRIPTION:

THE BEATIFIED HENRY, KING OF CYPRUS, MADE A MINOR FOR LOVE OF CHRIST. HE WORE THE HABIT OF THE ORDER, IN WHICH HE LIVED WITH ADMIRABLE PURITY, KEEPING HIS VIRGINITY EVEN IN MARRIAGE. HE DIED IN THE YEAR 1432 AND IS BURIED IN NICOSIA IN THE CHURCH OF THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS, WHERE MANY MIRACLES HAVE TAKEN PLACE. LAUS DEO.

Henry II, King of Jerusalem and Cyprus, was a man of great piety and chastity, honesty, humility, and patience, committed to reigning by practicing every virtue. Even though he was married, he refused to renounce his virginity. After many years of reign, he ceded the crown to his nephew and took the Franciscan habit.

He died in 1432 and was buried in Nicosia. Many graces were obtained by his faithful through his intercession, so much so that his tomb became a continuous destination for pilgrimages.

The elegance of his clothing and the refined environment emphasize the wealth in which he lived, highlighting the renunciation in the name of poverty. Under the royal cloak, Henry kept the habit

The alcove is open but is behind them, ignored by the couple who have consecrated themselves to chastity. Before them, with the Crucifix, there is an hourglass, a symbol of the vanitas of the unstoppable passage of time, inviting moderation through the meditation of memento mori. On the table, there are books, typically representing the New Testament. A little angel drops two garlands of flowers on the heads of the king and queen. The flowers, fruits, and green vegetation are metaphors for life being renewed, and therefore bring vitality and energy.

Frà Giuseppe concludes the chapter of the saints and blessed of noble origin who abandoned their wealth to live the Franciscan life heroically, until death.

