

Lunette B9

BLESSED FILIPPO DAL POGGIO

INSCRIPTION

BLESSED FILIPPO DAL POGGIO FRANCESE, GLORIOUSLY MARTYRED, WAS PROPHESED TO HIS MOTHER BEFORE HIS BIRTH BY SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA WITH THESE WORDS: "YOU WILL HAVE A SON WHO WILL BE A MINOR FRIAR AND A MARTYR, WHO WILL INSPIRE MANY OTHERS TO MARTYRDOM." THIS PROPHECY CAME TRUE. AFTER DONNING HIS RELIGIOUS HABIT, FILIPPO WENT TO PREACH THE CATHOLIC FAITH IN IDUMEA TO THE SARACENS. THEY CUT OFF HIS HANDS INTO AS MANY PIECES AS THERE ARE JOINTS, FLAYED HIM ALIVE UP TO HIS NAVEL, AND CUT OUT HIS TONGUE. DESPITE THESE TORTURES, HE MIRACULOUSLY CONTINUED PREACHING AND INSPIRING A THOUSAND OTHER MARTYRS UNTIL HIS HEAD WAS FINALLY SEVERED IN MARCH 1280.

Brother Filippo dal Poggio, a Frenchman, was born into a noble family. While his mother awaited his birth, she dreaded the experience. Saint Anthony of Padua was preaching in her city at the time, and she sought his comfort. The Saint reassured her, saying she would give birth to a son who would become a Minor Friar and a martyr for the faith, and he would inspire many others to martyrdom. These words brought great comfort to his mother, a woman of profound faith.

As foretold, Filippo entered the Order of Friars Minor and quickly became known as "one of the most skilled servants of God." Following in the footsteps of the holiest friars, he requested permission from his superiors to travel to Palestine. He understood that the Saracens either intimidated Christians with threats or enticed them to renounce their faith with promises of well-being and happiness.

Contrary to this, Filippo encouraged everyone to stand firm in their faith, even if it meant accepting martyrdom. His commitment to defending the lands where Jesus had lived drove him to fight as a captain against the Saracen scimitars.

Filippo died heroically in 1355 after enduring brutal torture, never wavering in his faith. Brother Giuseppe's fresco vividly depicts the gruesome scene of his tongue being cut, with blood splashing in all directions, highlighting the intensity of Filippo's suffering and his unwavering devotion.



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