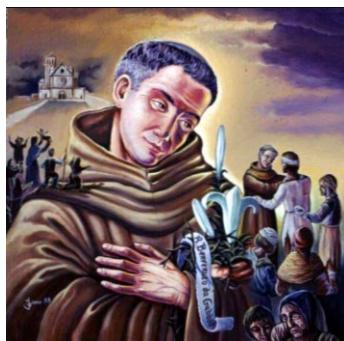


Blessed Benvenute of Gubbio (Italy) (d. 1232)

First Order, Confessor, Franciscan Brother

*Beloved nurse assigned to care for lepers at his own request.¹
Mystic, Jesus descended into his arms in the form of a child.²*



Benvenute was born in the 12th century in Gubbio, Italy, a town north of Assisi. He served as a knight and was known for his valor. Benvenute heard St. Francis speak in Gubbio in 1222 and was so inspired that two days later he presented himself to St. Francis in full military attire and asked for admittance as a Franciscan lay brother. Recognizing him as a true soldier of Christ, St. Francis received Benvenute into the order.

Benvenute showed himself a worthy Franciscan choosing the poorest clothing, food and dwelling. He was perfect in obedience, showing almost no will of his own.

Benvenute was assigned to care for the sick at the leper hospital which he did with great compassion. The Franciscan Book of Saints describes his care for the patients:

There he had, in truth, daily and hourly opportunities to practice heroic charity and self-denial. But Benvenute was always seen to wait upon the patients, even the most repulsive among them, with such cheerful devotion and care as if he were serving his Divine Lord. Otherwise very serious and reserved, he was very sociable when he spoke to the sick and the depressed in order to cheer them up.²

He was contemplative and would spend many hours in prayer. Sometimes he spent whole nights pleading for the conversion of sinners. He had a great devotion to the Eucharist and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. So ardent was his devotion to the Eucharist that Jesus would descend into his arms in the form of a charming child.

“The more complete to purify his soul and increase his merit, God allowed him to be seized with a severe illness...”² With perfect charity, he submitted himself to God’s holy will. Benvenute died ten years after entering the Franciscan Order on June 27, 1232, in Corneto, Italy. He was buried at the parish church in Corneto.

Many miracles occurred at his grave providing evidence of his holiness and attracting pilgrims. This led His Holiness Pope Gregory IX (1227-1241) to give permission for public veneration of Benvenute in Corneto and the surrounding country. This devotion was extended to the whole Franciscan Order in 1697 by His Holiness Pope Innocent XII (1691-1700)³ at which time the concession of mass and office (C.M.O.) was held conferring on Benvenuto the title of Blessed.⁴

His relics were translated to Deliceto, in the Diocese of Bovino, Italy in 1243. (Memorial - June 29).

*“St. Francis considered soldier training
(obedience, self-denial, fearless courage)
good preparation for religious life.”²*

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