

# Blessed Gerard Cagnoli

1267-1342

*Blessed Gerard* was born in Valenza in 1267. After the death of his parents, he decided, at the age of 23, to become a pilgrim and a beggar and to visit shrines. In 1307, he entered the Order of Minor Conventuals at Randazzo in Sicily.

After a holy life, studded with many miracles, he died at Palermo on December 29, 1342. His body is in the Basilica of Saint Francis in Palermo. While still alive, Blessed Gerard performed many miracles. A man of great prayer, he was assisted by the Angels on more than one occasion. His biographers tell us that one day — it was Easter Sunday — the convent cook got sick. So Father Guardian asked Blessed Gerard to substitute for him in preparing the meal. Notwithstanding the fact that he hardly knew where to start, Blessed Gerard, out of obedience, accepted to do so and at once began to pray. Just before meal time, the fire was still not lit, and the Father Guardian burst into the kitchen, scolding him. Blessed Gerard reassured him, saying: “Father, don’t be troubled. The friars will get to eat!” Intrigued by that answer, the superior left the kitchen and watched him through the keyhole. Suddenly, an Angel

arrived under the appearance of a beautiful young man with all kinds of food. The Angel then prepared the refectory table, brought the dishes and disappeared. After the meal, the friars claimed that they had never eaten so well in all their life.

