

Blessed Nicholas Factor

1520-1583

Born in Valencia, Spain, in 1520.
In 1537, he enters the Franciscan Order
and is ordained a priest in 1544.

He was active especially as a preacher and confessor. He would subject himself to very great penances. His food was almost always bread and water. He often fell into ecstasy and had the gift of prophesy. Among the witnesses who testified at the process for his beatification were Saint Paschal Baylon and Saint Louis Bertrand. The world of the Angels was particularly familiar to him. Not only was he favored with frequent apparitions of his Guardian Angel, but all the heavenly spirits of the angelic choirs would also come to assist him during the celebration of Holy Mass. More than once, when he was preparing to celebrate the Holy Mass, the faithful saw the Archangels in their splendor respectfully handing him the chasuble and stole. Once, when he was preaching at Argentera on the feast of Saint Michael, a young boy, 17 years of age, saw him surrounded by a court of Angels who, escorting the Virgin Mary, were projecting beams of light on him. When he would mention the Patriarch Saint Francis in his homily, these heavenly spirits would bow before the statue of the Saint that was in front of his seat. Finally, after the homily, they would arrange themselves around the main altar, prostrate themselves before the celebrant and remain there until Communion time. Shortly before dying, three religious heard choirs of magnificent voices coming from the window of the infirmary of Blessed Nicholas's room. Intrigued, they



entered and realized that these songs came from the bed on which Father Nicolas was lying. He told them: "My brothers, be calm and keep the secret." Shortly after, he flew to Heaven.