

Saint John of God

∞ 1495-1550 ∞

Founder in Granada of the Order of the Do-Good Brothers (Brothers Hospitallers) that specialized in the cure of the sick. He benefited from the very beginning of his mission from the help of the Archangel Raphael who appeared to him in order to announce:

“John, I am the Archangel Raphael, sent by God to assist you in your charitable work. The Lord has given me the custody of your person and of all those who along with you will serve the Lord. I will take a faithful account of your actions and of the benefits that will happen to you. I have a mission to protect all those who assist your works of charity.” Under such a promise, he could only prosper, and the Angel was continuously occupied. One time, when John

Because he was so surprised at that sight, the Archangel appeared to him and said: “My brother, it is for all of us as if we belong to one same Order, that is why I showed myself to them dressed like you. In your Order there are some men who are similar to the Angels. Take this bread which Heaven sends you!”

The conversion of Saint John goes back to 1539, the day of the feast of Saint Sebastian



Gomez Moreno,
Saint John of God saves
the sick from the fire



was making his way along the streets of Granada he saw a poor man lying in a doorway in a pitiful state. It was necessary to take him to the hospital, but how could he hoist him on his shoulders without some help? Immediately the Archangel Raphael appeared to him, took the poor little man and placed him on St. John’s shoulders and he was thus able to reach the hospice.

On another occasion, there was no more bread with which to feed the sick and John decided to go out and seek help. He began to walk through the streets with the hope of finding a benefactor, but it was in vain. During his absence, a beautiful adolescent dressed just like Saint John entered the infirmary, bringing a basket full of fresh bread, which he donated to the sick. When the Saint returned empty-handed, he was desolate at the thought that his sick would not have had anything to eat, but instead he found them all content and blessedly sleeping.

the Martyr. On that very day Blessed John of Avila was preaching in the city. Upon hearing him preach, John was then so little understood in his own decision to dedicate himself to God that he ended up being confined as an insane man in the royal hospital of Granada.

Later that year, in 1539, having left the hospital, he decided to begin his work destined to be the help of the poor, of the sick, and of the marginalized in general, those for whom the available beds in the hospitals were always insufficient. It is only in 1546 that there is news of the earliest companions of John: Antonio Martin and Pietro Velasco. Saint John died in Granada on the 8th of March in 1550 at the age of 55 years old. His followers arrived in Italy and established themselves in Rome in 1584 on the Island of Tiburtina where there already existed an ancient hospital and they are still there today.