

Juan Grande Roman

1546-1600

Another soul familiar with frequent angelic intercession is Brother Juan Grande. He was born in Carmona (Spain) in 1546 and after a brief eremitical (hermit) experience, he decided to dedicate himself to helping his neighbor. He took himself to Jerez where he began his ministry to prisoners.

He immediately focused his attention on the sanitary conditions and was assigned to the infirmary for the sick who had been refused by hospitals. Soon some disciples joined him and in 1574 he decided to organize his own fraternity similar to that at Granada by Saint John of God. Clothed in the habit

the grass. Thanking the Lord, he began to eat it and as he was eating he noticed a young man. He inquired if he was the one who left the loaf at the edge of the grass. "No, but it is for you, eat! There's water here also if you are thirsty." The young man then gave him a pitcher filled with



of the Order of Hospitallers, he met with success in the Andalusian city of Jerez of the Frontier. There in 1589 he was given the responsibility of organizing the network of hospitals in the city. He died on June 3, 1600 ministering to those prisoners condemned to hang.

During the final months of his life, he undertook the care of the plague victims when Andalusia was struck by the epidemic. Once after he had visited the sick and was returning to his community at Jerez of the Frontier, he was walking with great difficulty through a deserted countryside. He came across a warm and steaming loaf of bread on

fresh water. They spoke for awhile and the stranger disappeared.

In 1600, when the plague struck Seville, Juan Grande was returning to Jerez with his companion, Juan Batista Baeza, after nursing and healing the sick. Exhausted and hungry, the two religious saw a hut with an open door; they entered. On the table there were two loaves of bread and a pitcher of cold water and, in a corner, a bale of hay and a measure of oats.

After they had eaten and were strengthened, they renewed their journey with their mule which also had eaten. They took a few steps and the hut disappeared!