

# Saint Peter of Verona

1205-1252

*Peter* was born in Verona to a family of heretics around the year 1200. At the University of Bologna, he became charmed by the word of the Castilian preacher and decided to enter the Dominican Order. Innumerable were the conversions worked by his untiring activity.

Named Inquisitor for the region of Lombardy (1242) he saw concentrated upon himself the implacable hatred of the heretics: one of their hired killers assassinated him on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 1252 on the road between Como and Milan (near Seveso). Pope Innocent IV canonized him eleven months after his martyrdom. No eulogy can compare itself to that which we find in the

his step or look back when he understood he was to die – before he died, in fact, I revealed his end to him – but, like a true knight without any servile fear, he marched out, right onto the field of battle.”

The life of Saint Peter of Verona was written several years after his death by one of his old apostolic companions,



“Dialogue on Divine Providence” in which Jesus communicates to Saint Catherine of Siena the following words (p. 158): “Look also at Peter, virgin and martyr, who with his blood brought light to the darkness of many heresies: he detested heresy so much that he was ready to lose his life. And while he was alive, his continual attention was that of prayer, preaching, disputing with heretics, and hearing confessions, announcing the truth and propagating the faith without any fear. And not only during his life, but also at the point of death, as his voice was giving out and having run out of ink, he dipped his finger in his blood: but not having paper, this glorious martyr bent over and wrote on the ground his act of faith, ‘I believe in God’. His heart was afire in the furnace of My charity, and this is why he did not slow

Brother Thomas of Lentini, prior and founder of the Monastery of Naples, who gave the habit to Saint Thomas Aquinas. Often numerous crowds of the faithful would come to hear his sermons. One time, when the crowd which had gathered became unusually large, the Saint was obligated to preach outside of the door of the Monastery. The devil was so irritated he assumed the guise of a huge black horse which began to gallop towards the crowd frightening everyone. Witnesses in the process of the Saint wrote that “the Saint, without losing heart, made the sign of the cross and the horse disappeared leaving behind an intense black smoke.”