

Blessed Dominic Lentini

1770 - 1828

PARADISE

In 1857 a terrible earthquake destroyed many towns in the regions of Campania and Basilicata, producing many dead and wounded. A worker, on behalf of his fellow workers, set off on a journey in the direction of Latronico to ascertain the damages suffered. While he went around the village, a priest came up to him, with a band of shining leather around his waist and a Rosary in his hands. The priest greeted him and after he observed him said: "Do you recognize me?" The worker tried to remember if he had encountered him before, but did not recognize him and responded no. Then the priest said, nevertheless he had met him a long time ago. He asked the worker where he was heading and having gotten the response, Latronico, he reassured him by telling him the earthquake had not produced damages there. The priest continued to speak explaining to him how much evil the workers do working on feast days and invited him to not follow the others on this road. Then he gave him some advice and all of a sudden disappeared. The worker was very surprised and began to go over in his mind all that had happened in the last minutes and all of a sudden he remembered about thirty

years earlier he had encountered the Blessed Dominic Lentini and as a coachman had transported him after the Lenten mission to Latronico.

Blessed Domenic Lentini was born in the city of Lauria, November 20, 1770, from Macario and Rosalia Vitarella, of poor economical conditions. At 14 years old he chose to follow the priestly vocation. June 8, 1784 he was ordained a priest. Inflamed by the Holy Spirit, he came to be called by his contemporaries "an angel of the altar", also caused by his frequent ecstasies. The Blessed dedicated all his strength to confession, evangelization, preaching and catechesis not only in Lauria, but also in surrounding towns.

He nurtured a tender devotion to Jesus Christ Crucified and to the Sorrowful Mother. He had a profound culture, which he put to the disposition of all. For thirty years children and young people filled his poor home into a true and proper catholic school. He taught for free letters and science, observing strict voluntary poverty. In the needy Christ arose, and because of this he gave of all he possessed: clothes, bread and little money. He lived in continuous penitence: frugal foods, bodily mortifications, worn out clothes,



hair shirts and flagellations, very little sleep, and the pavement for his bed. He had the gift of prophecy, of scrutinizing hearts, of miracles. He died February 25, 1828, after an agony lived in complete mystical surrender and abandonment. His body martyred by the flagellations and fastings, the whole time of his funeral, which lasted seven days, his body remained flexible and warm, pouring out live blood and sweet odor. His eyes opened before the Communion Host (Holy Eucharist), in front of his relatives and friends, and the non-believers.

