

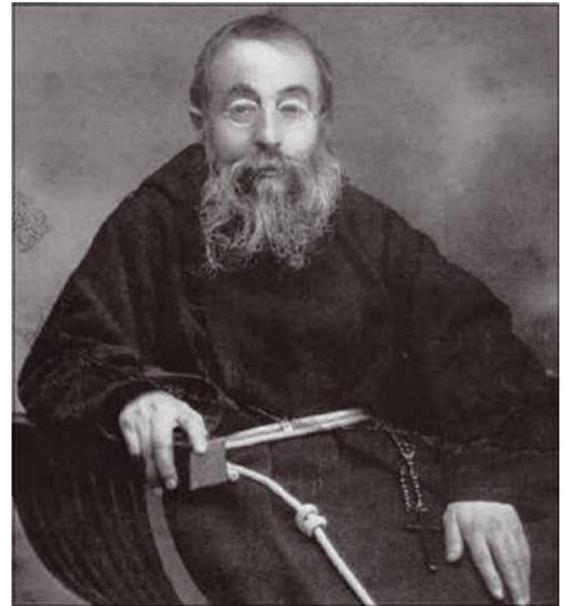
Saint Leopold Mandic, O.F.M. CAP.

1866 - 1942

PARADISE

Teresa Pezzo of Valdiporto in the Province of Verona underwent a delicate surgical procedure on her liver. The operation took place on October 22, 1946 and lasted for three hours. A few days passed between life and death, but Teresa recovered and began her convalescence with her uncle who was the Archpriest of Bovolone. On December 4, however, she experienced severe pain and a high fever. As the pain increased, the woman became weaker and weaker. On December 8, Teresa began a novena to St. Leopold Mandic and placed his relic on the part of her body where she felt the pain. Two days later, around 11:30 P.M. she fell asleep and St. Leopold appeared to her at midnight. He was identical to his portrait without his priestly stole, but much more radiant. Even though it was the middle of the night, the room was bright as day. The Capuchin Friar drew closer to the bed of the sick woman and uttered these words, as Teresa herself recounted: Father Leopold assured me with great kindness not to be afraid because I would be cured. He also told me to wake in the morning to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. He placed his hand on the painful area of my body and then he disappeared. I was so elated that

I instinctively touched the area so painfully swollen and I felt nothing, neither inflammation nor pain of any kind. The Saint had promised her: "I will return on Monday at midnight because I have other matters to tell you. For now, I give you my blessing. He blessed her and he left, saying: "Praised be Jesus Christ!" Teresa was still in disbelief at all she had seen, but her pain and fever had left. Her aunt who was asleep in the same room had only heard Teresa speaking, not St. Leopold. In the morning, Teresa awoke and went to the 8 o'clock Mass in the parish church and she received Holy Communion, spending much time in prayer. She regained her normal appetite and realized that she was completely cured. There was much astonishment in the village since everyone was aware of Teresa's illness. Many even requested that she ask St. Leopold to grant their requests. At midnight on December 16, the Saint returned again to visit Teresa. He was surrounded by such light as to brighten the entire room. Teresa recounted: "He spoke tender and encouraging words to me. He reminded me that when I was 19 years old I had begun a life which since then I abandoned. "You must resume it - he said - and you will then have eternal happiness." I under-



stood these words of Fr. Leopold as a reminder and command, since when I was 19 years old I had sincerely felt an attraction to the religious life, but, either because of ill-health or lack of good will, I had abandoned every thought of it." The Saint then asked her to pray and then replied to all of the requests that the people had made. The replies of the Saint were to be found written on a piece of paper. He decried the fact that they prayed little and not well - which he insisted they do to obtain God's blessing. On the 8th of January, 1948, Teresa joined the Holy Mothers of Laziness [sic]. The physician confirmed that her cure could not be scientifically explained.

