

Saint Raymond Nonnatus

∞ 1200-1240 ∞

Saint Raymond is known with the nickname of Nonnatus (“not born”), because he had been extracted (via a caesarean section) from the womb of his already deceased mother.

He came into the world in the town of Portell, in Spain, in 1200. While still quite young he entered the Order of Mercy and became a great redeemer of slaves in the lands of the Moors. In a mission that was carried out in Algiers, he offered himself as a hostage in exchange for several prisoners who were laity. In that circumstance he underwent the perforation of his lips which were closed with a lock to impede him from speaking to the Christian slaves and

in 1240. The biographers tell us that when he had arrived at the point of death, he ardently desired to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as the Viaticum. Unfortunately he could not find an available priest. Not knowing what to do he began to beg the Lord, that he would not be left to die without the Viaticum. Suddenly several Angels appeared in his room. One of these Angels dressed in the vestments of a priest with a pyx in his hand that contained a



from preaching the Word of God also to the Muslims.

Ransomed by his fellow brothers, Pope Gregory IX appointed him to be a Cardinal. He died in the castle of Cardona,

Consecrated Host, went up to Saint Raymond and gave him Holy Communion. The Angels disappeared immediately afterwards.