

BLESSED BAPTIST OF MANTUA.

AMONG the blessed Carmelites whom we honor in March, Baptist of Mantua claims our special attention. He was of Spanish extraction, but was born in Mantua, Italy, about 1448. Fully comprehending the dangers that might beset him in the turmoil of the world, he determined on seeking refuge in the seclusion of a monastery; and entered the Order of Carmelites in his native town of Mantua. So earnest was he in the fulfilment of his religious duties, that not many years had elapsed before he was thought fit to be proposed to others as an example worthy of imitation. Being yet comparatively young, he became the superior of the Mantuan Carmelites, and so well did he know how to blend kindness with severity in the discharge of his office that he gained the affection of all his brethren. For six successive times he was elected by unanimous choice to fill the office of Prior. So great was his reputation in the Order that in 1513 he was chosen Prior-General of the entire Carmelite Order, in which capacity he died.

He excelled in the virtues of prudence, and charity, and great patience in suffering, as also in the observance of religious discipline. Not only did he excel in the science of the saints, but likewise held a prominent place in the intellectual world of his day. Amongst Christian poets, he certainly ranks with the highest. Many even have not hesitated to place him by the side of that other great Mantuan, Virgil. In Mantua a statue was erected, representing an angel in the act of crowning the successful competitor for the poet's laurels, but hesitating whether to place the wreath on the brow of Virgil, or of the humble Carmelite.

What better evidence could we have of the esteem in which his poetic genius was held? Blessed Baptist died at Mantua, on Maunday Thursday of 1516 in the

68th year of his life. After his death people began to venerate his holy remains, and many miracles were wrought at his tomb. This veneration was in late years confirmed by the present gloriously reigning Pontiff, Pope Leo XIII. A. F. B., O. C. C.

SOME touching examples of the devotion of St. Francis of Sales to St. Joseph have of late appeared in the *Annals of St. Joseph*. Among other things the writer says:—"Another mark of his tender devotion to St. Joseph is related by Father Peter Bernard, S. J. Having already promised to preach in the church of the Jesuits upon the feast of St. Joseph, he was requested by the Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons to preach on the same day in the church of the Carmelites to which he replied: Although, when I bring forth twins by one day's labor, I shall not come off well, yet, for the love of St. Joseph, I will do it. However, he performed it in the afternoon with great success, and for an hour and a half employed his eloquence in expressing his feeling devotion to St. Joseph."

Do you recite the Angelus daily? If not, you are a poor sort of a Catholic. When you say this beautiful prayer you commemorate the mystery of the Annunciation and make an act of faith. The custom of ringing the Angelus bell is an old one. Pope Urban instituted it in 1095. All who recite the Angelus gain each time a hundred days' Indulgence.

There is nothing more profitable and more consoling to the mind than to frequently remember the Blessed Virgin.—*St. Teresa*.

Let us seek grace, and let us seek it through the intercession of Mary; for she is the mother of Jesus, and her petition cannot fail to be heard.—*St. Bonaventure*.