

# LIFE OF ST. PETER THOMAS, OF THE ORDER OF CARMELITES :

DEVOTED SERVANT OF MARY—TITULAR PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE—LEGATE  
OF THE CRUSADE OF 1365.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF L'ABBE A. PARRAUD.

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## CHAPTER I.

THE CHILD OF PERIGORD—BIRTH OF PETER—POVERTY OF THE FAMILY—HE IS  
INDEBTED TO CHARITY FOR SUSTENANCE AS WELL AS FOR THE EDUCATION  
SO DEAR TO HIS HEART—1305-1325.



UNDER the skies of Occitania, in the province of Guyenne, and that portion of Perigord which is known as Sarladais, is to be found the parish of Saller. Included at the present day in the department of la Dordogne, the mountainous district of Sarlat, and the Canton of Belves, it forms a part of the diocese of Perigueux.

Profane history would scarcely know the name even of this peaceful village. Its writers, whose dear delight is in the detail of battles and revolutions—those scourges of mankind—would pass it by unheeded. But then it is gilded with a glory of which they know but little—the glory whose golden luster is bequeathed by the saints of God to the spots which witnessed their birth.

There is a little hamlet at Saller, in the quarter of Lebreil, almost hidden amid the thick foliage of the surrounding forest trees, and there, just as the fourteenth century had dawned upon the world, was born a child of pre-

dilection—a child destined at some future time to enact a glorious part in the Church of God—a child whose name would one day yield forth sweetest fragrance in that vast garden whose fairest flowers are the canonized saints of that holy mother. The silence and obscurity which overshadow his birth permit us merely to designate the year 1305 as that of the auspicious event, but we can point out neither the month nor the day when it occurred, nor are we absolutely certain that we possess the correct rendering of our saint's name.

In the ecclesiastical annals, when reference is made to the subject of this life, French authors call him "Blessed Peter Thomas," thus leaving it an open question as to whether the *second* is a family name, or whether the *two* appellations were given at the baptism of the babe.

Perhaps divine Providence, in devoting him exclusively to the apostolic ministry, cared only to have his baptismal names handed down, thus giving the world glimpses of him in a supernatural light alone.

Be that as it may, we know that his father's position in life was a very