

contributed to make the devotion flourish more than ever. That religious who died in 1631, in odor of Sanctity, was animated with the liveliest piety toward St. Anne, and, through her intercession, obtained miraculous graces whose remarkableness rendered famous throughout Sicily the patronage of its mother's protectress. Among the many traits that we find in his biography, we choose a few examples better calculated, so it seems to us, to strengthen the confidence of the reader and to continue the apostolate of the beloved client of the Saint.

Gregory XV had fallen grievously ill: all the resources of the medical art had been pronounced useless. The Pontiff, condemned by his physicians and reduced to the last extremity, sent in haste for the Venerable Innocent. The servant of God reassured him, and told him that St. Anne had obtained his cure, and that out of gratitude for this favor, he should have every year the memory of his benefactress solemnized by the faithful. The Pontiff, on recovering his health, decreed that her feast would be obligatory.

Innocent predicted the election of Urban VIII, and assured him as well as several illustrious personages that he owed it to St. Anne.

The holy Mother was wont to treat him with saintly familiarity: she often deigned to converse with him in his cell and to fill him with the sweetest consolations.

One day, his brother moans with some stranger surprised him ravished into an ecstasy at the end of a garden, and raised up as high as the trees. The Venerable religious, overwhelmed with confusion, and unable to bear the admiration of which such favor rendered him the object, had recourse to St. Anne and to the Blessed Virgin, and obtained from them to be never again surprised in that state of marvellous communication with God. He later, with pious simplicity avowed this favor to one of his friends.