

the Order of Minims, then to that of the Secular Third Order and finally to that of the Cloistered Nuns. Their rules were definitely approved by Pope Julius II on July 28, 1506.

After Francis death on April 2, 1507, the fame of this wonder worker spread through out Europe thanks to the three branches of his order (friars, nuns, third order) and contributed to his beatification (July 7, 1513) and his canonization (May 1, 1519). From a liturgical point of view, his feast day is celebrated on April 2. He was declared patron saint of Italian seaman by Pope Pius XII on March 27, 1943, and of several kingdoms like France, Spain, Naples and Bohemia. He is particularly invoked by childless couples. He is one of the best known Christian saints and a lot of people are named after him.

** (excerpted from: www.sanfrancesodapaola.com)

*****The Raccolta**

123. Devotion of the thirteen Fridays.

Pope Clement XII, in the Brief *Coelestium munerum* of Dec. 2, 1738 granted:

1. A **plenary indulgence** to all who upon any of the 13 Fridays prior to the saints feast day of April 2, visits a Minims church, commonly called the Paolotti and goes to confession and receives communion.
2. A **partial indulgence on all other Fridays**. But if there are no churches as noted in No. 1 above, or if the church is more than one mile from your home, Clement XII, by a brief *Nuper editae* of March 20, 1739 gave a **plenary indulgence** under the usual conditions, if anyone visited any other church whatsoever dedicated to God in honor of St. Francis. Or any existing church where his picture hangs, and if none of these conditions can be complied with, then a **visit to their own parish church**.

*** (excerpted from: franciscan-sfo.org)

*****Prayer to St. Francis of Paola**

O most holy Saint Francis, God gives wisdom to the simple and makes the merest child wise. Pray that He grants me this reward He promises to the humble through your intercession. Help me always to make a good examination of conscience and confession. Amen.

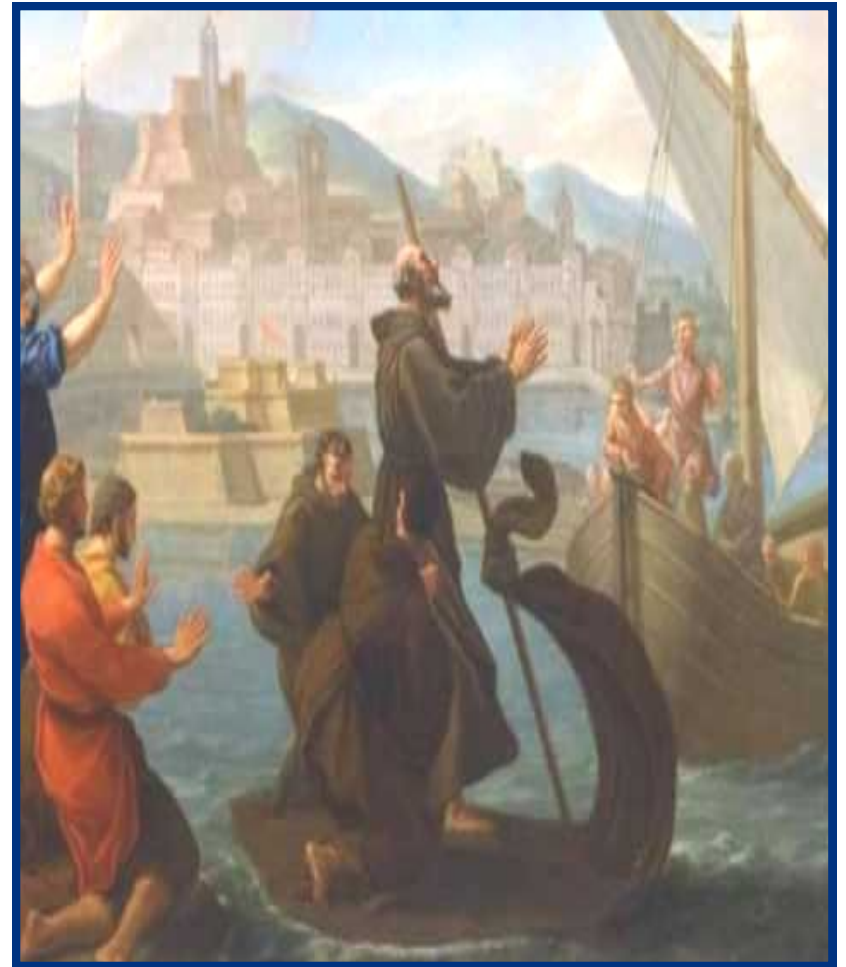
*** (excerpted from: catholicculture.org)

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Saint Francis of Paola

Hermit

Feast Day April 2nd



Patron Saint of Italian Seaman

also

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Saint Francis of Paola

*St. Francis was born in the tiny village of Paola, Italy. It is located near the Tyrrhenian Sea, in Calabria, and is midway between Naples and Reggio, Italy. His parents, Giacomo and Vienna d'Alessio, were remarkable for the holiness of their lives. Remaining childless for some years after their marriage they had recourse to prayer, especially commending themselves to the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi. Three children were eventually born to them, the eldest of whom was Francis.

*(excerpted from: www.marypages.com)

**Francis was born on March 27, 1416 and died on Good Friday, April 2, 1507. His parents attributed his birth to the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi. This is the reason why they named him Francis and they promised to make him wear the votive habit of the Franciscans for a year. At the age of fifteen Francis went to the monastery of the Friar Minors Conventuals in St. Marco Argentano (Cosenza) to fulfill the vow made by his parents. Here Francis showed his disposition to prayer. After a year, Francis left the monastery seeking to know other kinds of religious life-styles. He went on a pilgrimage with his parents to Assisi. On the way they visited Rome. Francis was deeply troubled by what he saw in Rome. According to his anonymous first biographer, Francis rebuked a cardinal because of his luxurious clothes with these words, "Our Lord did not dress like that". This episode shows that the young man was maturing the idea of an ecclesiastical life-style based on poverty.

Shortly afterwards, Francis attracted many followers wishing to share his severe life-style. His movement was approved by the Archbishop of Cosenza and he was allowed to build a chapel in 1452. In 1467 Pope Paul II made inquiries into Francis's severe life-style. An inquiry was made by a delegate from the Holy See, and the Pope was assured of Francis's loyalty to the Holy See. A church was started on July 7, 1467, and four cardinals granted indulgences, under the usual conditions, to the pilgrims who visited the church or contributed financially to its building.

Francis became a religious and social guide in Paola by conquering the hearts of the people who went to him to talk about

different kinds of questions. He was also the only bulwark against the abuses of the Aragonese court and as a man who was able to support simple and poor people by speaking on their behalf. The saint could inspire people to a deep devotion and faith by exhorting them to pray and do God's will.

From the beginning, Francis was a famous wonder worker on behalf of the poor and oppressed. He used common objects to work miracles so that everyone understood that it was God who really restored health or solved problems. An example given of his methodology occurred when a young man of Paola had a wound in his arm which would not heal and he went to Francis for a healing. Francis picked an herb from the ground at random and told the man "Make it boil, put it on your arm and you will heal". The man doubted, saying it was only a common herb, Francis replied "It is the faith which works miracles". A story is told that in 1464, after Francis and his friends were refused passage by a boatman while trying to cross the Straits of Messina to Sicily, he put out his cloak, laid it on the water, tied one end to his staff as a sail, and sailed across the strait with his companions.

Thanks to the Neapolitan merchants, Francis's fame reached the court of the French King Louis XI. The King was dying and he asked Pope Sixtus IV to send Francis to minister to him. The Pope wishing to sign a treaty with France to abolish the Pragmatic Sanction of Bourges granted the Kings request. The King had not led a pious life and was looking for a miracle to cure him. Instead the saint helped the King to prepare well to die a holy death. The King had a change of heart, accepted God's will and died quietly in the arms of Francis. Before he died, Francis helped to restore peace between France and Spain by convincing King Louis to return some land which was the cause of the trouble. He also restored peace between France and Brittany by advising a marriage between the two ruling families. This marked the beginning of the "diplomatic chapter" in Francis life. He lived in France for nearly 25 years where he was chosen as a spiritual guide by some Benedictines, Franciscans and hermits, who left their religious orders to follow him. This made his Calabrian congregation international and led to the foundation of