

dismissed any without an alms, for which purpose he once miraculously multiplied bread.

He was taken ill while singing high mass on Christmas-night, in the year 1372. His fever increasing, he gave up his happy soul to God, with a surprising joy and tranquility, on the 6th of January, 1373 (the feast of the Epiphany), being seventy-one years old, and being a bishop for twelve years. Miracles were so multiplied thereafter that Pope Eugenius IV permitted a public cult immediately. The state of Florence has often sensibly experienced his powerful intercession and he was canonized by Urban VIII, in 1629. His festival was transferred to the 4th of February. Clement XII, being of this family, in conjunction with his nephew, the marquis of Corsini, adorned the chapel of the Carmelite friars' church in Florence, in which the saint's body is kept. He also built and endowed a magnificent independent chapel in the great church of Saint John Lateran, under the name of this his patron, in which the corpse of that pope is interred.

He is often represented holding his crosier, with a wolf and a lamb at his feet, or hovering over a battlefield on a cloud or a white steed-- this in memory of his miraculous intervention in a battle the Florentine people won by his assistance.

*(excerpted from: www.bartleby.com; //magnificat.ca)

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Saint Andrew Corsini

Feast Day: February 4



S. Andreas Corsini

*Speciandum ac praecipuum pontificio orna-
tum habitus, per lucidum oculum, ad orationem
ascendens; alio, candida in veste,
illius ac totius gestantem manibus.*

Saint Andrew Corsini

*Saint Andrew was born in Florence in 1302 of the illustrious Corsini family. He was called Andrew from the apostle of that name, on whose festival he was born. This child was the fruit of the prayers of his pious parents, who consecrated him by vow to God before his birth. Despite the care his parents took to instill good principles into him, he spent the first part of his youth in vice and extravagance. His devout mother Peregrina never ceased weeping and praying for his conversion. One day she said to Andrew: "I see you are the wolf I saw in my sleep;" giving him to understand, that when with child of him, she had dreamed she was brought to bed of a wolf, which running into a church was turned into a lamb. She also told Andrew that his father had devoted him to the service of God, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin and that his birth was not for the world but for the service of God, and he should be leading a very different kind of life than what he was leading.

This discourse made a strong impression on Andrew's heart and he immediately went to the church of the Carmelite friars and began praying to the Blessed Mother. He was touched by God and embraced the religious state of life and professed in that convent. He was readily admitted in the year 1318, and after a noviciate of a year and some months he made his solemn profession.

He began a life of great mortification. The progress he made in learning, particularly in the holy scriptures and in divinity, was very great. He was ordained a priest in 1328. After some time employed in preaching at Florence, he was sent to Paris, where he studied for three years, and took

some degrees. He prosecuted his studies some time at Avignon, with his uncle, Cardinal Corsini; and in 1332, returning to Florence, was chosen prior of that convent by a provincial chapter. God honored his extraordinary virtue with the gifts of prophecy and miracles; and the astonishing fruits of his example and zealous preaching made him be looked upon as a second apostle of his country. Among other miracles and conquests of hardened souls, was the conversion of his cousin John Corsini, an infamous gamester; and the miraculous cure of an ulcer in his neck.

In 1360, he was consecrated Bishop of Fiesole, a town three miles from Florence. He added to his daily austerities the wearing of a hair-shirt and an iron girdle. He daily said the seven penitential psalms and the litany of the saints, and gave himself a severe discipline while he recited the litany. His bed was of vine-branches strewed on the floor. He also practiced many other austerities.

Andrew gained a great reputation as a peacemaker between rival political factions and for his love of the poor. He was also named papal nuncio to Bologna, where he pacified dissenting factions and won the hearts of the nobility with whom he was associating. He was accustomed every Thursday to wash with singular charity and humility, the feet of the poor. One excused himself saying that his feet were full of ulcers and corruption. The saint insisted upon washing them and they were immediately healed. He kept a list of the names of all the poor, and furnished them all with allowances. He never