

total silence.

After a long life of merit, he died in the monastery of Val Castro, which he founded in Marquisate of Ancona, alone, as he had foretold twenty years in advance. His death occurred on June 19, about the year 1027, in an advanced and abundantly fruitful old age.

Romuald's feast day was not included in the Tridentine Calendar. It was added in 1594 for celebration on June 19, the day of his death-- his birth to heaven -- but in the following year it was transferred by Pope Clement VIII to February 7th, the anniversary of the transfer of his relics to Fabriano in 1481. In 1969, the feast was returned to the anniversary of his death. Some Catholics (Latin Rite --February 7), faithful, continue to observe one or the other of the 1595-1969 calendars.

Saint Romuald's Brief Rule for Camaldolese Monks:

Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish. The path you must follow is in the Psalms-- never leave it.

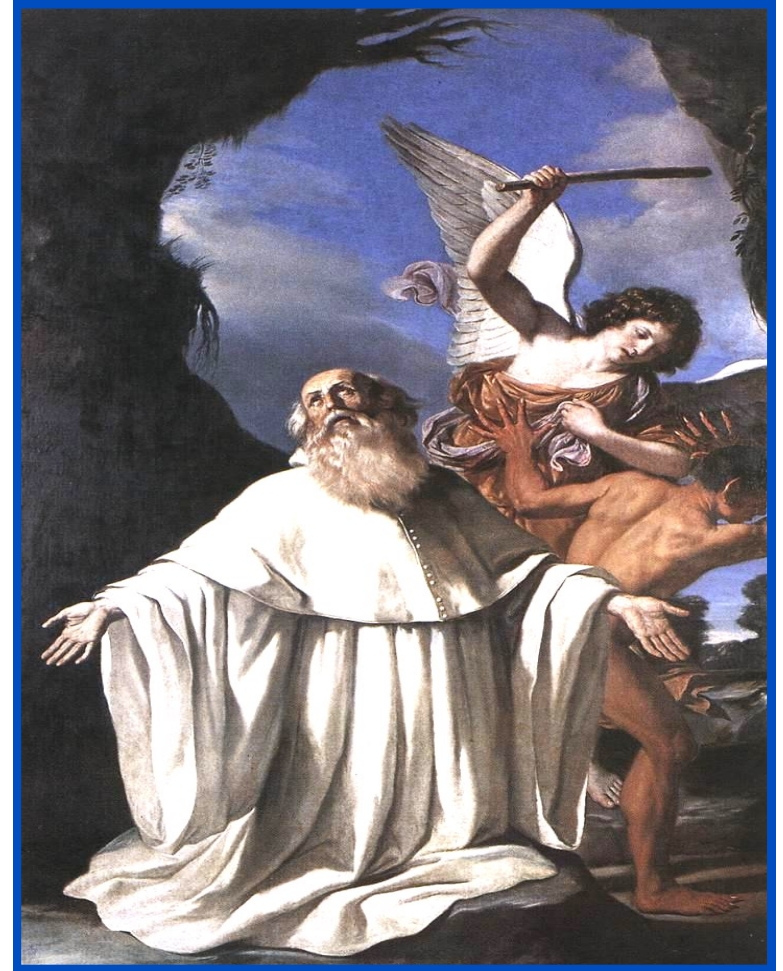
And if your mind wanders as you read, do not give up; hurry back and apply your mind to the words once more.

*(excerpted from: www.catholic.org; [//magnificat.ca](http://magnificat.ca))

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Saint Romuald

Feast Day: February 7



**Realize above all that you are in God's presence,
and stand there with the attitude of one
who stands before the emperor.
by Saint Romuald**

Saint Romuald

*Saint Romuald was born at Ravenna about the year 956. In spite of an infinite desire for virtue and sanctity, his early life was wasted in the service of the world and its pleasures. Then one day, obliged by his father Sergius, to be present at a duel fought by him, he beheld him slay his adversary. The crime made an impression upon the young man of twenty years of age and Romuald was determined to expiate it by doing penance for his father for forty days. For this purpose he retired to a Benedictine monastery of Saint Apollinare, near Ravenna. This penance led to his entry into religious life as a Benedictine monk.

After seven years at the monastery, Romuald went to live as a hermit near Venice, under the guidance of a holy man who had him recite the Psalter from memory every day. When he stumbled, the hermit struck his left ear with a rod. Romuald suffered with patience, but one day, noting that he was losing his hearing in that ear, asked the old man to strike him on his right ear. This episode supposes great progress in virtue. The two religious were joined by Peter Urseolus, Duke of Venice, who desired to do penance also, and together they led a most austere life in the midst of assaults from the evil spirits.

In the beginning of his spiritual life Romuald was strongly assailed by numerous temptations, which he conquered by vigilance and prayer. More than one attempt was made on his life, but Divine Providence enabled him to escape from the danger. Like many servants of God, he also became the victim of calumny, which he bore in patience and

silence. In his old age, he increased his austerities instead of diminishing them.

Saint Romuald, whose aim was to restore the primitive rule to the Order of Saint Benedict, succeeded in founding some one hundred monasteries in both Italy and France, and he filled the solitudes with hermitages. The principal monastery was that at Camaldoli, a wild, deserted region, where he built a church, surrounded by a number of separate cells for the solitaries who lived under his rule. His disciples were thus known as Camaldolese.

For five years the fervent founder was tormented by furious attacks by the demon. He repulsed him, saying, "O enemy! Driven out of heaven, you come to the desert? Depart, ugly serpent, already you have what is due you." The shamed adversary would leave him.

His father, Sergius, was moved by the examples of his son, and entered religious life near Ravenna. There he, too, was attacked by hell and thought of abandoning his design. Romuald went to visit him and showed him the error of the devil's ruses. His father died in the monastery, in the odor of sanctity.

Among his first disciples were Saints Adalbert and Boniface, apostles of Russia, and Saints John and Benedict of Poland, martyrs for the faith. He was an intimate friend of the Emperor Saint Henry, and was revered and consulted by many great men of his time. He once passed seven years in solitude and