

of the suffering as comfortable as possible, under the circumstances of their lives. He would pull all kinds of little tricks to get them a little something extra in the way of sweets, or daily morsels.

Although poorly educated, his counsel was sought for by people of every station in life, and he was on terms of closest friendship with personages of eminent sanctity. He was a mystic and contemplative, and he had frequent ecstatic visions. He would spend the night before the altar in prayer. At the same time, he sought to downplay any glory that might come from this piety.

Pascal was beatified on 29 October 1618 by Pope Paul V. He was canonized on 16 October 1690 by Pope Alexander VIII. His cultus has flourished particularly in his native land and in Southern Italy, and is widely diffused in Southern and Central America, through the Spanish Conquests. In his Apostolic letter, *Providentissimus Deus*, Leo XIII declared Saint Pascal the especial heavenly protector of all Eucharistic Congresses and Associations. His feast is kept on 17 May. The saint is usually depicted in adoration before a vision of the Host. He is also the patron saint of cooks, as well as for the Philippines, the diocese of Segorbe-Castellón de la Piana, Spain and of shepherds. *(excerpted from: www.bobandpennylord.com; // saints.sqpn.com; www.newadvent.org; // en.wikipedia.org)



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Saint Pascal Baylon

"Seraph of the Eucharist"

Feast Day: May 17



Saint Paschal, Patron of All Eucharistic Societies, pray for us, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

Saint Pascal Baylon

*Saint Pascal Baylon was born at Torre-Hermosa, in the Kingdom of Aragon, 24 May, 1540, on the Feast of Pentecost, which in Spain is called "the Pasch of the Holy Ghost", whence the name Pascal; he died on 15 May, 1592, also on the Feast of Pentecost at Villa Reale, Spain of natural causes. His parents Martin Baylon and Elizabeth Jubera, were virtuous peasants. As a child, Pascal began to display signs of that surpassing devotion towards the Holy Eucharist, which forms the salient feature of his character.

From his seventh to his twenty-fourth year, he led the life of a shepherd, and, he would carry a book with him and beg passerby's to teach him the alphabet and to read, and as he toiled in the fields, he would read religious books. Also during the whole of that time he exercised a salutary influence upon his companions. In around 1564, he was then received as a lay brother amongst the Reformed Franciscan Order founded by Saint Peter of Alcantara, a Spanish Franciscan (Alcantarine Reform).

In the cloister, Pascal's life of contemplation and self-sacrifice fulfilled the promise of his early years. His charity to the poor and afflicted, and his unfailing courtesy were remarkable. He chose to live in poor monasteries because, he said, "I was born poor and am resolved to die in poverty and penance." He lived a life of poverty and prayer, even praying while working, for the rest of his life.

On one occasion, in the course of a journey through France, he triumphantly defended the dogma of the Real Presence against the blasphemies of a Calvinist preacher, and

in consequence, narrowly escaped death at the hands of a Huguenot mob.

Saint Paschal Baylon, helped Saint Teresa of Avila put into action, her reform of the Carmelite Order in Spain, which became the Discalced Carmelites. He was also a stickler for propriety. No one was above the rules of the Church. An example of this happened when he was the doorkeeper. Very often, the doorkeeper was the first impression one had of the community. Some woman came to ask the father guardian of the monastery to hear their confessions. Pascal told his superior, who then ordered him to tell the women that he was not there, but had gone out.

The saint said to his superior that he could not do that; instead he replied: "I will tell them that you are engaged in important matters." The superior corrected him saying: "No, tell them that I am not at home." Pascal rose to his full height and spoke very low but definite: "Forgive me, Father, I must not say that, for that would not be the truth and would be a venial sin." Then he returned to his post at the door. It is not stated exactly, but it is believed that the father guardian came down and heard the women's confessions.

Pascal had a great love for the poor, the indigent and downtrodden. He did whatever he could, whenever he could to have special treats to give to them. For himself, he asked virtually nothing, but believed it was his responsibility to make the lives