



St Bonaventure

St. Bonaventure was a 13th century Franciscan. He was a man of prayer known for his embrace of simplicity and poverty. When he was made a cardinal in 1273 he refused to wear the traditional red hat of a cardinal. Instead he left it hanging on a bush!

As a child he was called John. When he became seriously ill with a bowel illness. His mother prayed for the intercession of St. Francis. While praying, she saw a vision of her son in the future, and she called out “O Buona Ventura” – “O Good Fortune” – and thus he was called Bonaventure.

He wrote several important theological works on the spiritual life. He was a friend of St. Thomas Aquinas. He died suddenly on July 15, 1274. There was a suspicion that he was poisoned.

His feast day is July 15.

