

BIOGRAPHY

Born of noble parents at Alcantara in Spain, Peter entered the Order of Friars Minor when he was sixteen. He showed himself a model of all virtues, especially poverty and chastity, and brought numberless men from vice to repentance, by preaching the word of God. Eager to restore the original observance of St Francis, he built a very small and very poor monastery near Pedroso. The way of life there was of the strictest, and from this auspicious beginning it spread in a remarkable way. He was a help to St Teresa in promoting the Carmelite reform, having approved the spirit in which she begun it. Teresa often referred to him as a saint even while he was still living; and we learn from her, that he was famous for the grace of contemplation and miracles, and was imbued with the gift of prophecy and of the discernment of spirits. Finally he went to heaven in his sixty-third year, and blessed Teresa saw him in vision, shining with wonderful glory.



ST. PETER OF ALCANTARA CONFESSOR

FEAST DAY:
19 OCTOBER (1962)
18 OCTOBER (1969)

COLLECT

○ God, Who didst vouchsafe to ennoble blessed Peter, Thy Confessor, by the gift of marvellous penance and highest contemplation: grant, we beseech Thee, that by his merits pleading for us, we may so mortify our bodies as the more easily to appreciate the things of Heaven. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who Liveth and Reigneth with Thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen

PRAYER TO ST. PETER

O holy St. Peter, who didst mortify thyself in order to more glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and didst, by the Inspiration of the Holy Ghost, reform the Order of St. Francis: pity thy poor brethren who still fight for their salvation, and grant them thy prayers before Christ our Saviour, that fortified with thy intercession, we too may do penance worthy of Almighty God, and appease His Punishments which our sins have caused. Amen