

BIOGRAPHY

Peter, called Celestine from the name he took as Pope, was born of good Catholic parents in Isernia in the Abruzzi. He had scarcely entered adolescence when, in order to guard his soul from the enticements of the world, he withdrew into solicitude. There he strengthened his mind with contemplation and brought his body into servitude, wearing an iron chain next to his skin.

He founded the Congregation later known as Celestines, under the Rule of St. Benedict. But, like a lamp set on its stand, he could not be hid: without his presence or his knowledge, he was chosen to fill the Chair of Peter in the Roman Church. The Church had long been widowed of its Pastor, and this unexpected choice filled all men with amazement and with sudden joy. But when Peter had been elevated to the Papacy, he found that, disturbed by its many cares, he could hardly carry out his accustomed meditations, and of his own free will he resigned.

Then he resumed his former way of life until death came. Precious in the Sight of the Lord, his death was made still more glorious by a shining cross which hung in the air before the door of his cell. He was famous for many miracles, performed both in his lifetime and after his death. Having duly examined these, Pope Clement V enrolled him among the Saints eleven years after his death.

ST. PETER CELESTINE POPE & CONFESSOR

FEAST DAY:
19 MAY

COLLECT

O God, Who didst exalt Blessed Peter Celestine to the Supreme Pontificate, yet didst teach him to account it as little in comparison with humility of heart: mercifully grant that following his example, we may despise all the things of this world and so deserve the rewards which Thou hast promised to the lowly. 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 CELESTINE

O holy Peter Celestine, who out of humility didst renounce the Supreme Pontificate for the humble life, grant to us the grace to follow thee in quiet and meditative obedience to the Will of God. Help us to detach ourselves from the things of this world, which are transitory, and desire to obtain heavenly things which are eternal. Amen