

**LIFE OF ST.
FRANCIS SOLANUS,
APOSTLE OF PERU**

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Life of St. Francis Solanus, Apostle of Peru by Clementinus Deymann

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CLEMENTINUS DEYMANN

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APOSTLE OF PERU.

L I F E
OF
ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS,

APOSTLE OF PERU.

BY A
PRIEST OF THE ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS,
Province of the Sacred Heart.

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Clemens
Seymann

Cum Permissu Superiorum.



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P R E F A C E.

REV. Alban Butler thus writes of St. Francis Solanus, whose life is given in the following pages :

“An extraordinary humility, contempt of himself, of worldly vanity and applause, self-denial, obedience, meekness, patience, love of silence, recollection and prayer, both mental and vocal, formed his character.”

“His whole life,” says Alvarez de Paz, “may be regarded as a holy, uninterrupted course of zealous action ; yet it was at the same time a constant and most fervent prayer, abounding in heavenly lights and consolations.”

The assertion of these two writers will be fully demonstrated in the life of the great Saint and Apostle of Peru. We will endeavor to show, imperfectly though it may be, that Solanus was specially chosen by divine Providence, who watched over, and directed him, so that he entered the great field of labor in the New World. We shall also see how faithfully our Saint coöperated with the favors and graces so abundantly showered upon him from above, thereby reaping an abundant harvest for the honor of God and for the salvation of souls. We

should learn from this to have unbounded confidence in God, and to correspond faithfully with the graces bestowed.

We shall in this book follow St. Francis from his birth to his death, seeing, as in a picture, his virtues, miracles and mission in the Church.

The author will consider himself amply rewarded for the labor bestowed upon this work, if the wonders of God, as revealed in, and through his Saints, shall be more widely spread; and if the clergy, both secular and regular, especially those who labor in the missionary field, are incited to persevere faithfully in their glorious work, considering the hardships endured by the first missionaries in the New World.

THE AUTHOR.



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LIFE OF ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS.

CHAPTER I.

Birth and Youth of St. Francis Solanus.

Among the many Saints who adorned the Church during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a conspicuous place should be given to St. Francis Solanus. He was born in Montilla, Priego County, Andalusia, in the Diocese of Cordova, Spain, March 10th, 1549.

His father, Matthew Sanchez, and his mother, Anna Ximenez, of the renowned Ximenez family, were both of noble extraction. They were well known and highly honored, not only on account of their noble birth, but still more for their virtue and piety. The father of our Saint was so highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens that they frequently appointed him head of the Supreme Court, as well as Mayor of the city.

Anna Solanus was worthy to become the mother of a Saint. She had a special devotion to St. Francis of Assisi. Shortly before his birth, she recommended herself and her offspring to the protection of this great Saint. Therefore, with a joyous,

grateful heart she welcomed the birth of her son, the second of the three children with which our Lord blessed her.

As proof of her gratitude, she desired him to be named Francis. His father willingly complied with this request, and the infant was baptized on the day of his birth, at St. James' the parochial Church of Montilla.

We generally see pious parents blessed with dutiful children, while ungodly parents are continually complaining of the misdeeds of their little ones, seeming to forget that the fault is very often all their own. If they do not fear and obey the Lord, how can they expect their children to do so?

After his baptism, the little Francis was taken to his mother, who pressed him to her bosom, receiving him as a little angel, now that he had been purified and regenerated in the waters of baptism, being thereby cleansed from original sin, made a member of the Church of God, and an heir of heaven. She had loved him before as her son, but now still more as a child of God. Most tenderly did she watch over her beloved one, awaiting the earliest dawn of reason to implant in his young mind the fundamental truths of our holy religion.

The teachings and example of such a mother produced a most fruitful harvest. The young Francis soon proved by his whole conduct that although in the world, "he was not of it;" that a high and noble destiny awaited him, since he was one day to be enrolled among the Saints who adorn the Church.