



March 13

Blessed Angellus of Pisa

Sometimes some of our company who visit want the rest and peace of “Mary” of Martha and Mary fame. One could understand this with our very accomplished guest today: Blessed Angellus of Pisa. So very much was asked of Angellus in his life. He was received into the Franciscan Order by Saint Francis himself. St. Francis knew him, trusted him and asked him to lead some very big projects. He was placed in charge of the friars’ ministry in Paris. Following this, he returned to Italy and then Saint Francis asked him to start the first foundations in England. This is how the friars came to be in Oxford. All this Angellus accomplished before his death at the age of 38.

Angellus was very clear: ambitious people are always ill at ease. They are forever concerned about receiving the proper respect or whether their dignity or rank are properly recognized. The humble, on the other hand, have no such concerns and therefore live in peace. This is a great reminder to all of us to actively cultivate the spirit of humility within ourselves.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, may we never think more of ourselves than as you see us. May we actively practice the gift of right relationships, never inflating our importance to the exclusion of others. May we always be ready to acknowledge the goodness and righteousness of our brother or sister, even before they acknowledge us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother, who lives with you and the Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Blessed Angellus of Pisa is the friend of God, company we welcome today.