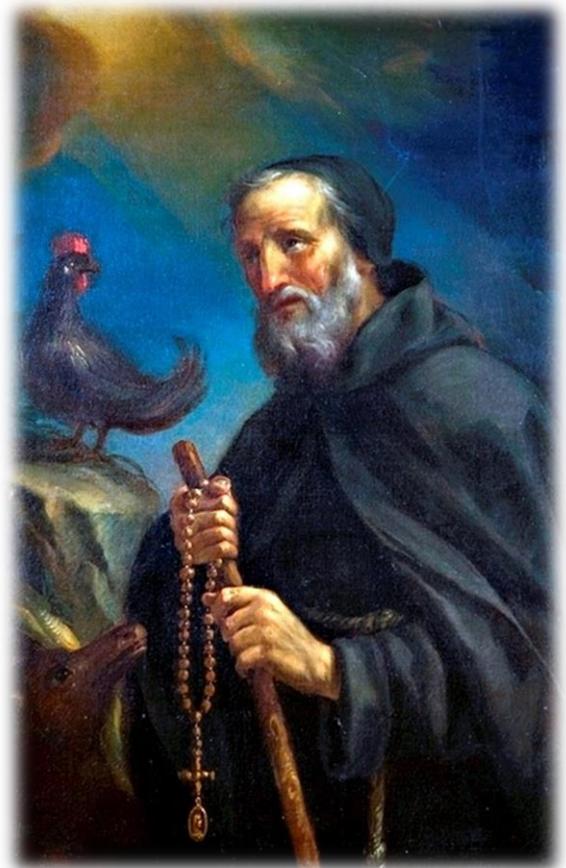


March 16

Blessed Torello of Poppi, Secular

Good day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!

Earlier in these reflections, the company we encountered was said to be an anchorite, a person who experiences such a radical change of heart that there is no possibility for moderation. We see this same type of response to God's providence in the life of Blessed Torello of Poppi. Blessed Torello (Little Bull) was born into a wealthy family. In short, he had the means to live a life of unrestrained pleasure. Today some might say that he had an addictive personality. He was addicted to alcohol, food, sex and the list of negative behaviors does not seem to end. The impression people had of him was that he was amoral. Since his parents died when he was 18, he lacked the moral guidance he needed to choose to live a productive and moderate life.



One day he had what he considered a defining moment and it completely reoriented his life. The specific details of this moment are not important, but the response definitely is of interest. In the life of Blessed Torello, he became convinced that living the life of an anchorite, a hermit, was the only way he could respond to Christ's invitation to live a good and just life. Having Blessed Torello as company on our Lenten journey gives us the opportunity to reflect on the moments that have defined us. Have they pointed us in a direction that has invited positive change or have they led us to a loss of control and the moderation in our desires for the pleasures of life?

Let us pray.

Lord, Blessed Torello of Poppi heard your call for a renewal of heart and mind. His response was immediate. Help me to understand that conversion is about finding our fulfillment in you and not in the pleasures that work against living a life of moderation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessed Torello of Poppi is a friend of God we welcome into our lives today.