

March 17

Blessed Mark of Montegallo

Hello, good people. May the Lord give you peace!

No doubt many are reveling today celebrating the Feast of Saint Patrick. We are welcoming as company a quieter and reserved man: Blessed Mark of Montegallo. Mark was born into a family of privilege. As a young man he distinguished himself as a quiet, holy man and one who was very intelligent, earning a doctor of medicine degree. His intention was to enter religious life, but his father insisted that he marry. After a time, his father died. Mark admitted to his wife that his real desire was to live the religious life.

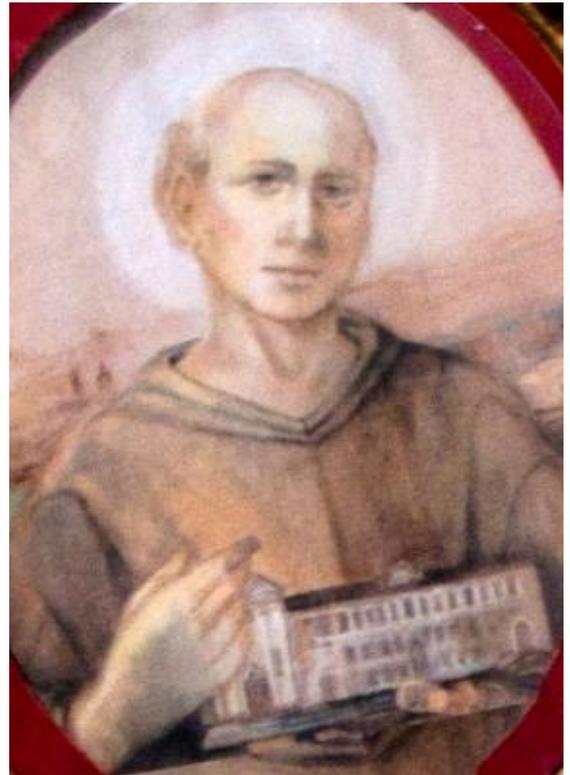
Surprisingly, she admitted the same for herself! They secured an annulment of their marriage and he entered the Franciscan Order and she entered the monastery of the Poor Clares.

After his ordination his preaching exhorted people to respond generously to the invitations of love that God is constantly offering to us. There is no time, no experience to which the love of God is not available to us. This love calls us to live in a spirit of peace. This message had a huge impact on the people of Italy at this time. There were constant warring factions between the various city-states. His preaching was very effective in defraying many of these tensions.

On our planet today there are too many wars to count. The daily blood shed is a tragedy, most of it in vain. Yet, the carnage continues. Let us access the spirit of peace and love that Blessed Mark worked so tirelessly to advance. Let each of us do our part to bring the healing presence of Christ to our world today.

Let us pray.

God of peace, come into our world and lead us into your peaceable Kingdom. Let us guard and protect all that is good and holy and beautiful. Let the



peace and healing begin in my heart and ripple forth to all those with whom I come into contact today. I ask this of you in the name of Jesus. Amen

Blessed Mark of Montegallo is a friend of God, the company we welcome today.