

**March 18**

**St. Salvator Grinonesos of Horta**

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

**Horta is a city on one of  
the islands of the  
Portuguese Azores, the  
place where St. Salvator  
Grinonesos spent a good  
part of his Franciscan life.**



**Truth be told, the real reason he was sent to Horta was because the friars considered him a nuisance. Doves of suffering people visited him seeking his blessing and healing twenty-four seven. The move, however, did not slow the numbers seeking his inspiration. They simply followed him to Horta.**

**Interestingly, he was not ordained nor was he learned. As one of the little people in the history of the saints, perhaps that is why there are few images of him. His lasting imprint and gift was a deep, contemplative faith in the power and language of symbol.**

**Symbols function in our lives. In other words, they work! It is in and through symbols that we access and connect with the mysteries of faith. They help us to make the sacred tangible and present. In the story of St. Salvator Grinonesos, there were those who believed that symbols were superstitious and useless. His life and work among the sick who came to visit him proved just the opposite. Those who came seeking healing were blessed with Sign of the Cross. In and through this act of blessing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, they became conscious of God's saving love. Powerful things happened as a result. All Christians can extend God's blessing using the Sign of the Cross. It continues to be one of the most powerful symbols for sharing the blessing that confirms that the cross has saved us all.**

**Let us pray.**

**All glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**St. Salvator Grinonesos is a friend of God, the company we welcome today.**