

March 9

St. Catherine of Bologna

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

Part of the joy of welcoming company to our homes is the human curiosity they present. The woman we welcome today is most curious. St. Catherine of Bologna was raised in the Court of Ferrara. There she distinguished herself in reading, writing, music, art and Latin. Yet, with all of this recognition, Catherine wanted to spend her time in prayer and service.

Catherine knew of the Second Order founded by Saint Francis and Saint Clare, the Order known as Poor Clares. Catherine and a few of her friends founded a Poor Clare Monastery in Ferrara. Later, she would return to Bologna and found a monastery there as well.

Prayer and simplicity of life marked Catherine's life days. She could be found in the laundry, working in the bakery and in the fields tending to the animals. Nothing was beyond her "pay scale."

Catherine reiterates one of the classic lessons of holiness: It is not what we do, it is who we love. In spite of her vast talents and intellect, she longed to love only Christ. In the clutter of our lives, may we be refocused on the truth of this for our lives, too.

Let us pray.

God ever merciful, we thank you for the talents and intellect with which you have blessed us. May we never let these qualities distract from you, the ultimate source of our love. May we use Saint Catherine and her writings and example to show us the way to you. All this we ask of you through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Catherine of Bologna is a friend of God, the company we welcome today

