

Saint of the Week for Easter Break

Feast Day: April 3

Lived from 1526 – 1589

This week's saint of the week could neither read or write but was gifted with a great love of God and for God's people.

His parents were African-born slaves who were brought from Africa to Messina, Sicily, where they converted to Christianity .

He was freed when he turned 18 years old and was ridiculed for the color of his skin.

He started doing farm work and shared his earnings with the poor.

After joining a group of hermits near Palermo, Italy, he served for a time in the priory kitchen. Because the hermits followed the Rule of St. Francis, Pope Pius IV ordered him to join the First Order of Franciscans.

He was eventually chosen Novice Master and Guardian, positions rarely held by a lay brother in those days. When his term was up, he happily returned to serving in the priory kitchen.

Our saint of the week had a strong devotion to prayer and the guidance of souls. His leadership style was one of humility and charity and earned him a reputation as a very holy servant—one who focused on others rather than self.

Following his death in 1589, Sicily's King ordered a special tomb for this holy friar!



Who am I?