

and prayed that the waters return the child. The well water rose to ground level, floating the child to safety.

In 1479, Saint John predicted his own death, which occurred on June 11, 1479, in Salamanca at the Convent of the Augustinian hermits. It is said that John's death was hastened by poisoning brought about by a woman in Salamanca whose paramour he had reformed.

By his fearless preaching, John effected profound change in the social life of Salamanca; for this he won the popular acclamation of apostle of Salamanca. Soon after his death, miracles and pilgrimages occurred at his tomb. His relics are found in Spain, Belgium and Peru.

On October 16, 1690 Pope Alexander VIII entered his name in the lists of canonized saints. In 1729, Pope Benedict XIII inscribed his liturgical feast day in the Roman Calendar for June 12, since June 11, the anniversary of his death was occupied by the feast of Saint Bartholomew. In the 1969 revision of the Roman liturgical celebration was left to local calendars because of the limited importance attributed to him on a universal level. In the Roman Martyrology, the official list of saints of the catholic Church, his feast day is June 11 the date of his birth to heaven.

Saint John's life written by John of Seville towards the end of the fifteenth century with additions in 1605 and 1619, is the one used by the Bollandists in "Acta SS.", June III, 112. In art, Saint John is represented holding a chalice and Holy host surrounded by rays of light.

\*(excerpted from: [//saints.sqpn.com](http://saints.sqpn.com); [www.dailycatholic.org](http://www.dailycatholic.org); [//en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org); [www.thelastmartyrdom.com](http://www.thelastmartyrdom.com))

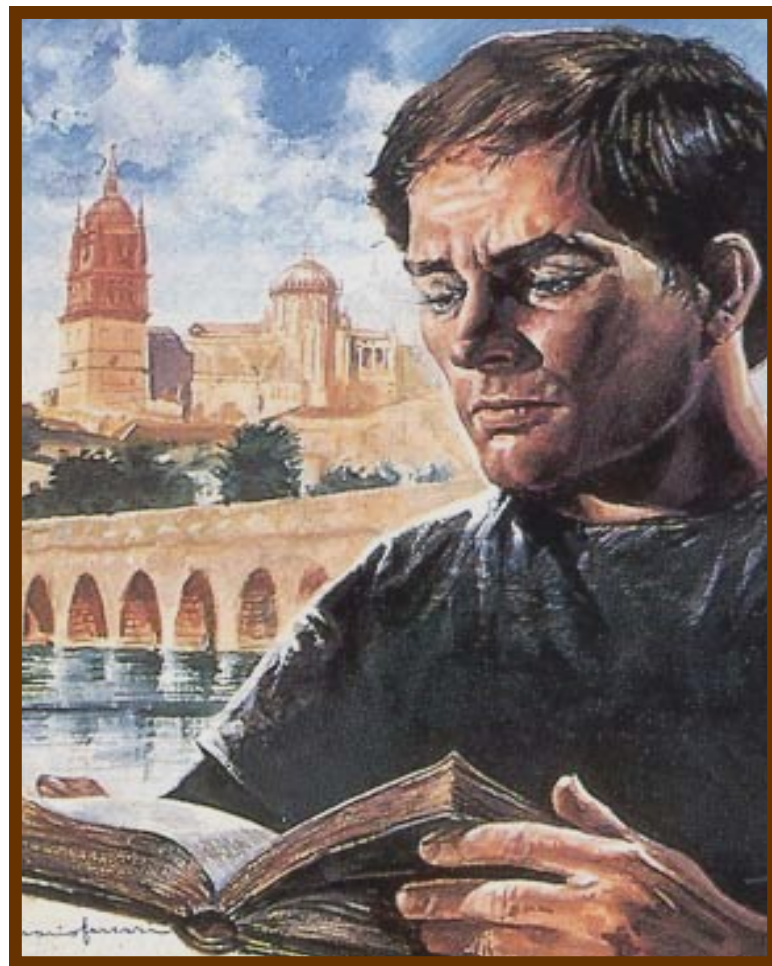


Saint John saving a small child who fell into a well in Salamanca

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## Saint John of San Facundo

Feast Day: June 12



All men desire peace,  
but only those enjoy it,  
who like Saint John,  
are completely dead to themselves,  
and bear all things with love for Christ.

## Saint John of San Facundo

\*Saint John of San Facundo was born in the year 1419, at Sahagún (or San Facundo) in the Province of Leon, Spain in the Kingdom of Castile. He was the oldest of seven children of John de Castrillo and Sancia Martinez, both pious and respected parents. He was educated by the Benedictines at the great Fagondez abbey of his native Sahagún. After receiving ecclesiastical tonsure, according to the custom of the times, his father procured for him the benefice of the neighboring parish of Dornillos. The bishop of Burgos (Monsignor Alfonso de Cartagena from 1435-1456) and the abbot of Sahagún gave him four other benefices by the time he was twenty years old. The bishop had him educated at his own residence, ordained him a priest in the year 1445, and made him a canon at the Cathedral of Burgos. All these benefits were obtained for him by his father whose family was influential and because the religious leaders recognized a promise of greatness in John.

Moved by Divine grace and out of respect for the laws of the Church, John resigned all and retained only the chaplaincy of Saint Agatha, where he said Mass, preached and catechized the ignorant. He had converted his life to one of evangelical poverty and mortification.

With the Bishop's consent, he obtained permission to enter the University of Salamanca, where for four years he applied himself to the study of theology. During this time he exercised the sacred ministry at the chapel of the College of Saint Bartholomew (in the parish of Saint Sebastian) and held that position for nine years. He devoted himself to the care of souls. At that time, Salamanca was deeply divided and crime-ridden, which gave John ample opportunity to preach reconciliation and conversion. He followed up his preaching with individual counseling in the confessional. John had a remarkable gift of reading souls, which drew still more to his confessional. He was rigid in refusing or deferring absolution to habitual sinners and ecclesiastics who did not live in accordance with the spirit of their profession. In many ways, Saint John was like a fellow Religious who lived five hundred years later, Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, who also had the uncanny ability to discern the secrets of conscience.

John's fervor in offering the Mass edified all who assisted. In fact, it is related that he was privileged to see the bodily form of Jesus at the moment of consecration so great was his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

The grace God poured into his soul during his prayers and communions overflowed into his preaching-especially against vice in high places. Sermons against sinful living conditions, and in support of the rights and dignity of workers brought him the opposition of some of the local leaders. A duke at Alba de Tormes hired assassins to stop him, but they recognized John's holiness, and would not touch him, confessed to him, and asked forgiveness. The duke later fell ill, and was healed by John's prayer's. Some women of Salamanca, embittered by the saint's strong sermon against extravagance in dress, openly insulted him in the streets and pelted him with stones until they were stopped by a patrol of guards. In his sermons Saint John, like Saint John the Baptist, fearlessly preached the Word of God and scourged the crimes and vices of the day, by which the rich and noble were offended.

After a grave illness in 1463, he requested entry into the Order of Hermits of Saint Augustine at the Church of Saint Peter, in Salamanca. He was solemnly professed on August 28, 1464. Soon after he undertook the office of Novice Master, while continuing his public preaching. His work for reconciliation bore fruit: a pact of peace was signed by hostile parties in 1476. About that time he was elected prior by his community. He conducted the Religious under his rule more by example than by his words.

Miracles were attributed to Father John's intervention, before and after his death. One occurred in Salamanca when a small child fell into a well. The locals made every effort, but could not effect a rescue. They sent for Father John who went to the scene, laid his waistband on the stone wall of the well,