

same service to several other cities in Italy.

The holy man was exceedingly severe towards himself. He never divested himself of his rough hair-shirt. Almost daily he scourged himself most mercilessly. In partaking of nourishment, he was so temperate, that his life might justly be called a continual fast. He spent most of his nights in devout exercises, taking but a short rest upon straw. He never spoke except to honor God or benefit man. He was indefatigable in his exertions for the salvation of souls. He had many other visions besides having the Blessed Virgin placing the Child Jesus in his arms in the Church of St. Mary Major on one Christmas Eve. He also possessed the gift of prophecy, and miraculously cured a great many sick. A priest of his Order, whose foot was to be amputated due to gangrene, was healed when Cajetan asked for St. Francis of Assisi to intercede on his behalf.

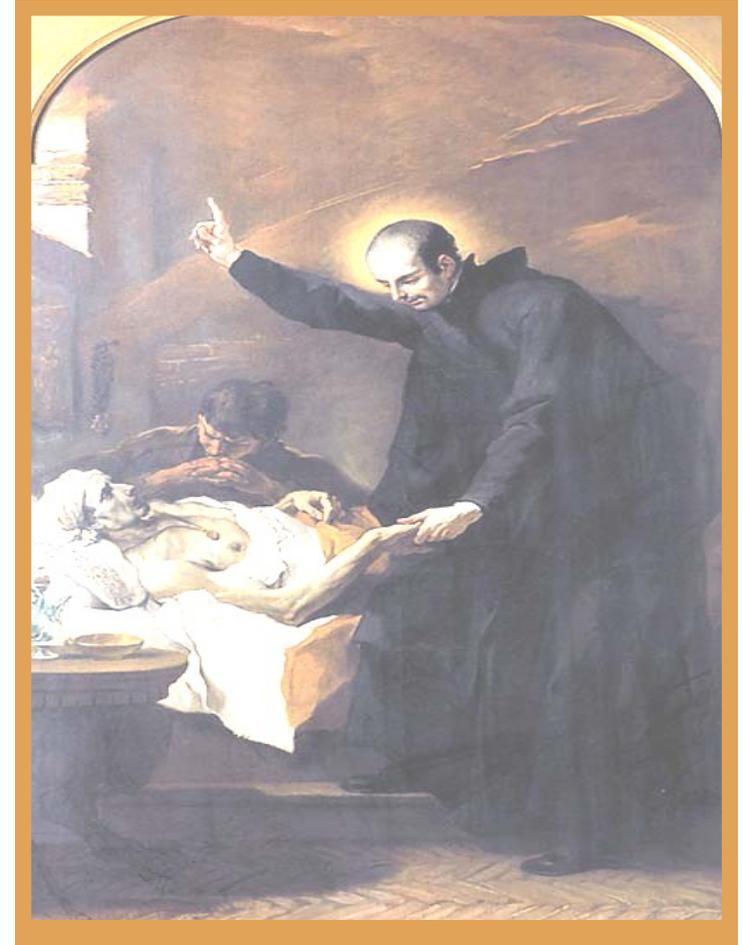
Being assured by the Savior of his salvation, the Divine Mother was his protection until his death. He was told that he would die as a penitent and he would not allow his body any comfort in his last hours. He laid in his penitential robes upon ashes on the ground. He received the last Sacraments and rendered his soul to God in 1547. After his death, God honored him by working many miracles through his intercession. Some of his last words on his deathbed were: "There is no road leading to Heaven but that of innocence or repentance. He who has departed from the first, must take the second; else he is eternally lost." *(excerpted from: www.jesus-passion.com; [//catholicharboroffaithandmorals.com](http://catholicharboroffaithandmorals.com))



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Saint Cajetan

Feast Day: August 7



REFLECTION:

**Imitate St. Cajetan's devotion to our Blessed Lady
by invoking her aid before every work.**

Saint Cajetan

*Saint Cajetan, founder of the Theatine Order, was born in 1487, at Vicenza, in Lombardy, of noble and pious parents. Immediately after his baptism, his mother consecrated him to the Blessed Virgin, humbly begging her to guard him and take his spiritual welfare under her motherly protection. His entire after life proved how effectual his mother's prayers had been. He was never, even in his most tender years, like other children; his greatest pleasure consisted in praying, building small altars, giving alms to the poor, and being most perfect in his obedience to his parents. His whole conduct was such, that even in childhood, he was called a saint. He afterwards went to the University, and always made it his greatest care to preserve his innocence unspotted among so many temptations. Having received, at Padua, the degree of civil and canon laws, he repaired to Rome, where he was ordained a priest, and preferred by Pope Julius II, to a high ecclesiastical position.

After the death of the Pope, he resigned his dignity and returned to Vicenza desiring to work more effectually for the salvation of souls. He disgusted his relatives by joining the Confraternity of St. Jerome, whose members were drawn from the lowest classes; while he spent his fortune in building hospitals, and devoted himself to nursing the plague-stricken. His principal aim was to save souls. The sick, he persuaded by kind and gentle exhortations; and others he moved to virtue by his earnest sermons. The popular saying was, that Cajetan looked like a seraph when standing before the altar, and like an Apostle when in the pulpit. His devotion when he said Mass, was equaled by his fervor and zeal while preaching. Whenever he had the opportunity, he tried to win a soul for the Almighty. After some time, he went again to Rome, where, inspired by God, and with the co-operation of three other pious and learned men, he founded an

Order to renew the lives of the clergy who desired to live an apostolic life, to reform the negligence of the clergy, and the corrupt morals of the people of the world; to restore the observance of pious conduct in the temples dedicated to the worship of the Most High; to labor in opposition to the heretics; assist the sick and dying, and, in a word, to promote the welfare of men to the best of their ability. This community was known as Regular Clerks, or Theatines.

St. Cajetan was the first to introduce the Forty Hours' Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as an antidote to the heresy of Calvin. He had a most tender love for our blessed Lady, and his piety was rewarded; for one Christmas eve, she placed the Infant Jesus in his arms. He imposed a special obligation on the members of his Order in regard to the vow of poverty; they were not only forbidden to have annual revenues, but even to ask alms. They had to leave the whole care of their subsistence to God, and wait patiently for what Providence would send them. Hard as this seemed to be, still many were found willing to bear such abject poverty.

From Venice, he was then ordered by the Pope to Naples, to found a new house for his Order. Several of Luther's disciples came from Germany to Naples and began to teach the teachings of Luther under the name of "Evangelical liberty." When St. Cajetan was informed of this, and had, moreover, seen the Evil One standing in the pulpit beside Bernardin Ochino, one of Luther's disciples, whispering into his ear every word that he preached, he notified the ecclesiastical authorities of these facts, and preached against the new heresy. The inhabitants of the city were preserved in the true faith. The Saint rendered the