

it is said that ever afterwards he could not restrain his tears whenever the name of Saint Thomas was mentioned.

Something of his old vigor and spirit returned in 1277, when it was announced that Stephen Tempier and others wished to condemn the writings of Saint Thomas, on the plea that they were too favorable to the unbelieving philosophers, and he journeyed to Paris to defend the memory of his disciple.

Some time after 1278 (in which year he drew up his testament) he suffered a lapse of memory; his strong mind gradually became clouded; his body, weakened by vigils, austerities, and manifold labors, sank under the weight of years. He was beatified by Pope Gregory XV in 1622; his feast is celebrated on the 15th of November. The Bishops of Germany, assembled at Fulda in September, 1872, sent to the Holy See a petition for his canonization; he was finally canonized in 1931.

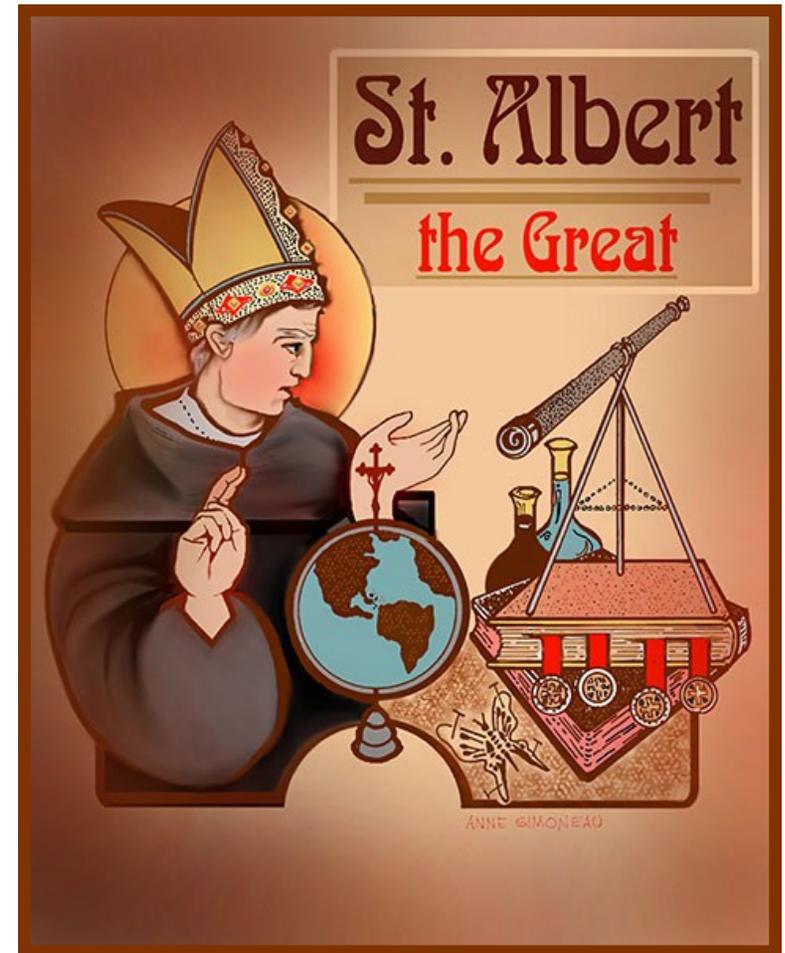
The influence exerted by Albert on the scholars of his own day and on those of subsequent ages was naturally great. His fame is due in part to the fact that he was the forerunner, the guide of Saint Thomas Aquinas, but he was great in his own name, his claim to distinction being recognized by his contemporaries and by posterity. Above his many duties as a religious, he found time to compose a veritable encyclopedia, containing scientific treatises on almost every subject, and displaying an insight into nature and a knowledge of theology which surprised his contemporaries and still excites the admiration of learned men in our own times. He was, in truth, a *Doctor Universalis*. Of him it is justly said: *Nil tetigit quod non ornavit*; and there is no exaggeration in the praises of the modern critic who wrote that Albert was undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary men of his age.

*(excerpted from: www.newadvet.org)

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Saint Albert the Great

Feast Day: November 15



Saint Albert proved to the world that the Church is not opposed to the study of nature, that faith and science may go hand in hand.

Saint Albert the Great

*Known as Albert the Great; scientist, philosopher and theologian, born c. 1206; died at Cologne, 15 November 1280. He is called "the Great" and "Doctor Universalis" (Universal Doctor), in recognition of his extraordinary genius and extensive knowledge, for he was proficient in every branch of learning cultivated in his day, and surpassed all his contemporaries, except perhaps Roger Bacon (1214-94), in the knowledge of nature. Ulrich Engelbert, a contemporary, calls him the wonder and the miracle of his age: "Vir in omni scientia adeo divinus, ut nostri temporis stupor et miraculum congrue vocari possit" (De summo bono, tr. III, iv).

Albert, eldest son of the Count of Bollstädt, was born at Lauingen, Swabia, in the year 1205 or 1206, though many historians give it as 1193. Nothing certain is known of his primary or preparatory education, which was received under the paternal roof or in a school of the neighborhood. As a youth, he was sent to pursue his studies at the University of Padua; that city being chosen either because his uncle resided there, or because Padua was famous for its culture of the liberal arts, for which the young Swabian had a special predilection. The date of this journey to Padua cannot be accurately determined.

In the year 1223, he joined the Order of Saint Dominic, being attracted by the preaching of Blessed Jordan of Saxony, second Master General of the Order. Historians do not tell us whether Albert's studies were continued at Padua, Bologna, Paris, or Cologne. After completing his studies, he taught theology at Hildesheim, Freiburg (Breisgau), Ratisbon, Strasburg, and Cologne.

Albert was in the convent of Cologne, interpreting Peter Lombard's "Book of the Sentences", when, in 1245, he was ordered to repair Paris. There he received the Doctor's degree in the university which, above all others, was celebrated as a school of theology. It was during this period of teaching at Cologne and Paris, that he counted amongst his hearers Saint Thomas Aquinas, then a silent, thoughtful youth, whose genius he recognized and whose future he foretold. The disciple accompanied his master to Paris in 1245, and returned with him, in 1248, to the new *Studium Generale* of Cologne, in which Albert

was appointed Regent, whilst Thomas became second professor and *Magister Studentium* (Master of Students).

In 1254,, Albert was elected Provincial of his Order in Germany. He journeyed to Rome in 1256, to defend the Mendicant Orders against the attacks of William of Saint Amour, whose book, "De novissimis temporum periculis", was condemned by Pope Alexander IV, on October 5, 1256. During his sojourn in Rome, Albert filled the office of Master of the Sacred Palace (instituted in the time of Saint Dominic), and preached on the Gospel of Saint John and the Canonical Epistles. He resigned the office of Provincial in 1257 in order to devote himself to study and to teaching.

At the General Chapter of the Dominicans held at Valenciennes in 1250, with Saint Thomas Aquinas and Peter of Tarentasia (afterwards Pope Innocent V), he drew up rules for the direction of studies and for determining the system of graduation, in the Order. In the year 1260, he was appointed Bishop of Ratisbon. Humbert de Romanis, Master General of the Dominicans, being loath to lose the services of the great Master, endeavored to prevent the nomination, but was unsuccessful. Albert governed the diocese until 1262, when, upon the acceptance of his resignation, he voluntarily resumed the duties of a professor in the *Studium* at Cologne.

In the year 1270, he sent a memoir to Paris to aid Saint Thomas in combating Siger de Brabant and the Averroists. This was his second treatise against the Arabian commentator, the first having been written in 1256, under the title "De Unitate Intellectus Contra Averroem".

He was called by Pope Gregory X to attend the Council of Lyons (1274) in the deliberations of which he took an active part. The announcement of the death of Saint Thomas Aquinas at Fossa Nuova, as he was proceeding to the Council, was a heavy blow to Albert, and he declared that "The Light of the Church" had been extinguished. It was but natural that he should have grown to love his distinguished, saintly pupil, and