

BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI (of the Mother of God)

Religious and priest

Memorial

Blessed Dominic Barberi was born in Viterbo, Italy on 22 May 1792. At 22 years of age, after repeated heavenly inspirations, God called him to the religious life and ministry. He left farming work, abandoned all other plans for his future, and entered the Passionist Congregation. There he developed his extraordinary qualities of mind and heart. Ordained priest, he devoted himself to teaching, to the ministry of the word, to spiritual direction and the composition of numerous writings of philosophical, theological, pastoral and ascetic nature. In 1840, he established the first Passionist community outside of Italy in Ere, Belgium. He subsequently went to England where in 1842 he inaugurated the monastery of Aston Hall, near Stone.

Blessed Dominic consecrated and offered his life for the unity of the Church -- the mission to which he had been called by God and to which he devoted himself with great love and with many initiatives from the time of his youth. He longed for the return of the "separated brethren" to the Catholic Church -- an expression coined by him. He made a heroic vow to renounce all material and spiritual consolation and offered himself to the Lord for the conversion of England.

He anticipated by 150 years the ecumenical movement based on love, dialogue, respect for conscience and mutual discernment. His interpersonal relations were intellectually profound, doctrinally impeccable and humanly friendly, respectful and caring, engaging in a dialogue that was Christian and consequently, fruitful. Through him, the Anglican world breathed the fresh air of a new springtime. Through his works, many Anglicans, including distinguished individuals, returned to the Catholic Church. Blessed Dominic received the profession of faith of the future Cardinal and now Saint John Henry Newman, esteemed by all as "the Pope of the Protestants, their great spokesman, one of the most learned men of England". Newman admired Blessed Dominic as a simple and inspiring priest, learned and holy. He stated that he was Dominic's "convert and penitent".

Domenic died in Reading, near London, England on 27 August 1849. His grave in Sutton, St. Helens, England has become a place of pilgrimage for the English people. Pope Paul VI declared him "Blessed" on 27 October 1963 during Vatican II offering him as an example of commitment to ecumenism and joyfully proclaiming him an Apostle of unity.

Entrance Antiphon

Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The Lord called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. He made me a sharp-edged sword. (Is 49:1-2)

COLLECT

**Lord,
you sent Blessed Dominic
to seek out the lost sheep of your flock
by preaching your truth and witnessing to your love.
May we follow his example
and build up the unity of your Church
as a sign of faith and love.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever.**

**PRAYER OVER
THE OFFERINGS**

Lord our God,
may all your children, made
one in faith,
offer this sacrifice of
peace with the same spirit
of love as Blessed
Dominic,
your apostle of unity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

**I have made myself all things to all men in order to save
at least some of them.**

(1 Cor 9:22)

or:

**Because the loaf of bread is one, we, many though we are,
are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf
and the one cup. (Cf. 1 Cor 10:17)**

**PRAYER AFTER
COMMUNION**

Lord,
we have received from your table
your gifts of unity and peace.
Through the intercession of Blessed Dominic,
heal the wounds of division among Christians
and bring all who stray
into the unity of the Church
so that there may be one flock and one
shepherd. Through Christ our Lord.