

## From the bull of canonization of Saint Peter of Verona of the Order of Preachers.

A cry is heard – the voice of blood poured out. Like a trumpet heralding this illustrious martyr it blares forth. The earth, as though bathed in a blood-like sweat, cannot keep silent. Here are the signs of true faith – that the heavens rejoice and the earth exults because of the great joy that overcomes them. Mother Church is swept along by great rejoicing. And what reason she has for her gladness!

She is right to sing a new song to the Lord, a hymn of endless praise to her God. The Catholic people are justified in clapping their hands and lifting them up to the Most High, shouting and rejoicing with full voice. The Christian assembly can sing to its Lord. From the garden of faith a ripe fruit has been plucked and brought to the table of the King of the ages. From the vine of the Church a new wine has poured into the royal cup. The fertile vine-branch, cut off by the soldier's hand, has borne fruit in abundance because it was closely united to the true vine.

A red rose has sprung up in the garden of the Order of Preachers. In the workshop of the Church a stone has been selected, polished and placed in the walls of the Jerusalem on high. There is great joy in heaven and all the saints rejoice in celebrating so great a feast.

The reason for this festival is blessed Peter of the Order of Preachers. He chose the more sure path of life and gave himself to the service of God. He strove to live in accord with the gospel; this was the aim of everything that he did. He chose the direct and light-filled path, the firm Rule of his Order, to be conducted, directed, led and introduced to that repose which follows upon exertion. With this Rule, preceded by faith and with charity as a companion, for nearly thirty years he went forth to defend the faith which burned in his heart. And so, firmly established on the rock of faith and finally dashed upon the rock suffering, Peter mounts the Rock who is Christ to receive his crown.

He wished to die for the faith and with persistence he would often ask the Lord that he not be permitted to leave this life without having drunk from the cup of suffering. He was struck down by a sacrilegious act while carrying out the ministry of Christ and

he did not cry out, but bore everything with patience. He commended his spirit to God saying: *Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.* Then he began to recite the Creed, preaching it without ceasing, even as he lay dying.

Thus the grain of wheat fell to the earth, was pressed down by the hands of infidels, died and brought forth a fruitful ear. Thus the grape, placed in the winepress, produced wine abundantly. Thus the grain was winnowed and brought into the granaries of the Lord. Thus the aromatic herbs, when broken, spread their perfume. Thus the kingdom of heaven is seized by the violent. Thus the saints obtain the sublime kingdom through faith.