



Saint Joseph of Cupertino (The Reluctant Saint and the Flying Friar)

By

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SAINT JOSEPH CUPERTINO

CONVENTUAL MINOR FRIAR

HELPER IN EXAMINATIONS

OSIMO (ANCONA) ITALY

Introduction

- Born in 1603 at Cupertino, in the diocese of Nardo in the Kingdom of Naples, Italy
- Joined the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor Conventual
- Priest and Brother
- Lived a life of Holiness which is forged through humility, voluntary mortification and obedience
- He was known as the Reluctant Saint and the Flying Friar

Early Beginnings

- Lived his childhood and adolescence in simplicity and innocence
- Mother considered him a nuisance and treated him harshly, but she asked and begged him to join the Franciscan Order
- He was a slow learner and absent-minded
- He also had a bad temper
- He failed in the trade of shoemaking
- No Franciscan Order wanted to accept him

Franciscan Order of Friars Minor Capuchin

- Stayed for 8 months and was sent away because he could not do anything right
- He dropped piles of dishes and kept forgetting to do what he was told
- His mother was not happy for him back at home again
- He was 18 years old at this time

Franciscan Order of Friars Minor Conventual

- He was accepted as a servant taking care of horses at the stables
- Loved his job being with the horses and sleeping at the stables
- Did his job well at the stables (more careful and successful at his work)
- Began to change
- Grew in humility and gentleness
- Started praying more and did voluntary acts of penance

Life as a Franciscan Friars Minor Conventual

- He was able to enter the Franciscan Order and study for the priesthood
- Good and holy Friar but had a hard time with studies
- In his seminary exams, the examiner happened to ask him to explain the only thing he knew well (St. Luke, 15th Chapter; Parable of the Lost Sheep; Parable of the Lost Coin, and Parable of the Lost Son); he passed it and was ordained a deacon and became a priest
- His devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary was exceptional

Ecstacies and Levitations

- Over 70 times, people saw him rise from the ground while offering mass or praying
- Went into Ecstasy and caught up talking with God
- He became so famous for the miracles and was finally kept hidden from the public, but he was happy to be able to be alone with Jesus
- People flocked to him in droves seeking help and advice in the confessional

Beatification and Canonization

- Endured severe trials and terrible temptations throughout his life
- Died on September 18, 1663
- Beatified on 1753
- Canonized on 1767
- Patron Saint of the Astronauts

Summary

- St. Joseph of Cupertino was born in 1603 at Cupertino, in the diocese of Nardo in the Kingdom of Naples. After spending his childhood and adolescence in simplicity and innocence, he finally joined the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor Conventual. After his ordination to the holy priesthood, he gave himself up entirely to a life of devotion to the Lord and his church. His deep devotional life led him to the kind of holiness which is forged through humility, voluntary mortification, and obedience. He was consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and promoted devotion to her among all classes of people as wonderful path to a deeper Christian life and love for Jesus Christ. He was beatified on 1753 and canonized on 1767 and was called the Reluctant Saint and the Flying Friar.

Prayer of St. Joseph of Cupertino

- O Great St. Joseph of Cupertino who while on earth did obtain from God the grace to be asked at your examination only the questions you knew, obtain for me a like favour in the examination for which I am now preparing.
In return, I promise to make you know and cause you to be involved. I will also imitate your life of prayer and devotion
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Joseph of Cupertino, Pray for us.
Amen.

Reluctant Saint (Trailer and The Movie)

- <https://watch.formed.org/the-reluctant-saint-the-story-of-st-joseph-cupertino/videos/the-reluctant-saint-trailer>
- <https://watch.formed.org/the-reluctant-saint-the-story-of-st-joseph-cupertino/videos/the-reluctant-saint-the-story-of-st-joseph-cupertino-1>