

January - St. Peregrine



Peregrine Laziosi is an Italian saint of the Order of Servants of Mary (Servites). He is the patron saint for cancer, aids, and any incurable diseases. He was canonized by Pope Benedict X111 in1726.

He was born in Forli in1260 and died at the age of 80 years in 1345.

Peregrine was the only son in an affluent family. As a teen he was rebellious and joined the anti-Papal faction. When Pope Martin sent a delegation to Forli to reconcile the community, the delegates led by Phillip Benizi, were insulted and pelted with stones. When Peregrine struck Phillip on the face, he was greeted with a smile from Phillip. This moment had a profound effect on Peregrine who fell on his knees and asked for forgiveness.

He prayed at the Chapel of Our Lady and received a vision of The Virgin handing him the habits of the Servites. She asked him to join their monastery in Sienna. There he was ordained a priest.

He returned to Forli to find a new Servites house. He became well known for his preaching and holiness as well as his devotion to the sick and poor. People called him the 'Angel of Good Counsel' , so grateful were they for his advice. He imposed penances on himself to repent for his offences.

At age 60 he developed a cancerous growth in his right leg. As it was inoperable, his leg had to be amputated. The night before the operation, Peregrine prayed before the fresco of the Crucifixion. In a deep trance, he saw Jesus descend from the cross and touch his leg which was now completely healed.

This miracle only increased the people's regard for him, and he preached with even greater fervour.

At his death, many people honoured him, and many were healed through his intercession.

St. Peregrine pray for the sick.