

## VEN. INNOCENZO DA CHIUSA SCLAFANI

He was born on 1 November 1557 in Chiusa, today Chiusa Sciafani in the province of Palermo, to Salvatore Caldarera and Antonia Violino Costa. He was baptized with the name of Vincenzo Sante.

In 1569, at the age of only twenty-two, he entered the convent of the reformed minor friars of Cammarata, and after passing the novitiate he was admitted to the profession of faith on 8 December 1580. He distinguished himself in his devotion to St. Anna, who he confidentially called the his little old lady, and thanks to her intercession he obtained many prodigies, so much so that he deserved the nickname of Fra Innocenzo di S. Anna.

He was often visited by the faithful, who tried to draw valuable advice from his word. In fact, he was also called Innocent of the Councils, and Pope Clement VIII himself called him to Rome to consult him. He remained in Rome for a long time and the pope successors Paul V, Gregory XV and Urban VIII still resorted to him and even the archduke Leopold of Austria who, out of gratitude for the benefits received, had a church and a convent dedicated to St. Anna, under the care of the minor friars.

He was also, for a certain period, in the monastery of Fontecolombo. To the convent of the Friars Minor of Chiusa, his hometown, he donated the effigy of the Holy Face, which is celebrated every year, today in the parish church of San Nicolò.

Friar Innocent died in Rome on December 15, 1631, while Bernardino de Sensis, general minister of the Franciscan order, was present, and the veneration of people was such that Pope Urban VIII had to derogate from the law of enclosure to allow access to the convent of S. Pietro in Montorio to visit the body. In 1642 his mortal remains were transferred to the church of San Francesco a Ripa and placed in a marble monument commissioned by the Duke of Acquasparta. The decree introducing his beatification process was issued on September 31, 1690.

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