

head with such violence, that the holy man fell half dead. Rising to his feet he recited the first article of the Symbol of the Apostles, and offering his blood as a sacrifice to God, he dipped his fingers in it and wrote on the ground the words: "Credo in Deum". The murderer then pierced his heart. Dominic was carried to Meda, where he died five days afterwards.

Peter's body was carried to Milan and laid in the church of Saint Eustorgio, where a magnificent mausoleum was erected to his memory. Many miracles are attributed to Peter both when he was alive and after his martyrdom. He was canonized on March 9, 1253 by Pope Innocent IV with a feast day of April 6. From 1586, the feast day was changed to April 29 so that it would not conflict with the Easter Triduum.

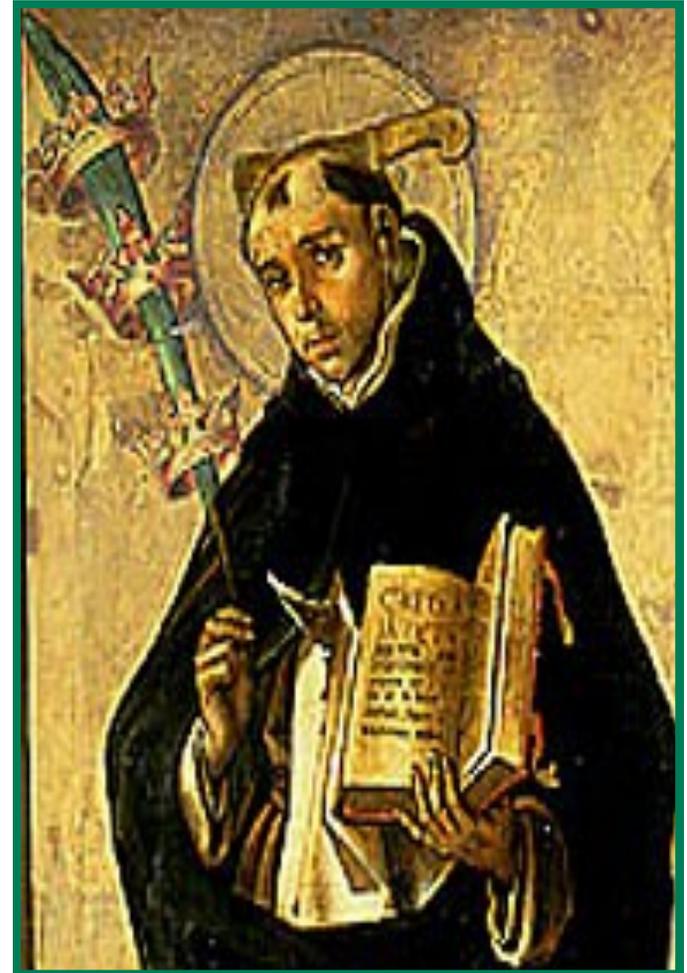
Carino, the assassin, later repented and confessed his crime. He converted to orthodoxy and eventually became a lay brother in the Dominican convent of Forli. He is the subject of a local cult as Blessed Carino of Balsamo.

*(excerpted from: www.newadvent.org; www.catholic.org)

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Saint Peter of Verona

Feast Day: April 29



MARTYR AND DEFENDER OF THE FAITH.

Saint Peter of Verona

*Saint Peter of Verona was born in the city of Verona, Italy in 1206; he died near Milan on April 6, 1252. His parents were adherents of the Manichæan heresy, which still survived in northern Italy in the thirteenth century. Sent to a Catholic school, and later to the University of Bologna, where he is said to have maintained his orthodoxy and at the age of fifteen, met Saint Dominic. Peter joined the Order of the Friars Preachers (Dominicans) and became a celebrated preacher.

From the 1230's on, Peter preached against heresy which had many adherents in thirteenth-century Northern Italy. Catharism was a form of dualism, also called Manichaeism, and rejected the authority of the Pope and many Christian teachings.

Such were his virtues, severity of life and doctrine, talent for preaching, and zeal for the orthodox Catholic Faith, that Pope Gregory IX in the year 1234 appointed Peter as inquisitor of Northern Italy. His preaching attracted large crowds, but as inquisitor he made many enemies.

His evangelizing eventually led him to preach to nearly the whole of Italy, preaching in Rome, Florence, Bologna, Genoa and Como. As the crowds grew so did the number of conversions. He never failed to denounce the vices and errors of Catholics who confessed the Faith by words, but in deeds denied it. The Manichæans did all they could to compel the inquisitor to cease preaching against their errors and propaganda. Persecutions, calumnies, threats, nothing was left untried.

When all else failed, a group of Milanese Cathars conspired to kill him. They hired an assassin, one Carino of Balsamo. Carino's accomplice was Manfredo Clituro of Giussano. On April 6, 1252, when Peter was returning from Como to Milan, the two assassins followed Peter to a lonely spot near Barlassina, and there killed him and mortally wounded his companion, a fellow friar named Dominic.

The assassin struck him with an axe on the