

He had just finished writing his last work, *The Degree of Perfection*, when finally the eternal day began to dawn. "Are you preparing a bed of feathers for me?" he said. "No, my Lord was stretched on a hard and painful tree." Laid upon straw, he exclaimed in rapture, "Good Jesus, behold, I come." He died on 8 January, 1456.

His beatification was ratified by Clement VII in 1524, and he was canonized in 1690 by Pope Alexander VIII. Innocent XII appointed 5 September for the celebration of his feast.

The saint's ascetical writings have often been published. First in Brescia in 1506, then in Paris in 1524, later in Basle in 1560 and elsewhere after that.

### Reflection

Ask Saint Lawrence Justinian to obtain for you a sense of the perfections of God, that you too may have recourse to Him in all your needs and be at rest.

\*(excerpted from: [www.magnificat.ca](http://www.magnificat.ca); [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org))



Saint Lawrence distributing alms.

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## ***Saint Lawrence Justinian***

**Feast Day: September 5**



**First Patriarch of Venice, Italy  
(1381-1455)**

## ***Saint Lawrence Justinian***

\*Lawrence was born in 1381 and was a descendant of the Giustiniani, a Venetian patrician family which numbered several saints among its members. Lawrence's pious mother sowed the seeds of a devout religious life in the boy's youth. In 1400 when he was about nineteen years old, he entered the monastery of the Canons Regular of Saint Augustine on the Island of Alga near Venice, where his uncle was a priest.

In spite of his youth, he excited admiration by his poverty, mortifications, and fervor in prayer. He never drank outside of meals, and when urged to do so replied: "If we cannot endure a little heat on earth, how will we bear that of Purgatory?" He underwent two painful operations without saying any word except the holy name of Jesus.

At that time, the convent was changed into a congregation of secular canons living in community. After his ordination in 1406, Lawrence was chosen prior of the community, and shortly after that general of the congregation. He gave them their constitution, and was so zealous in spreading the same that he was looked upon as the founder. Saint Lawrence strengthened his brethren by saying, "Humility keeps silent and does not become inflated in prosperity, whereas in adversity it is elevated, magnanimous, full of joy and an invincible courage. Few know what this virtue is; it is possessed only by those to whom God has given it by infusion, as a reward for their

persevering efforts and their spirit of prayer." He encouraged frequent Communion, saying that the person who does not strive to become united with Him as frequently as possible has very little love for Jesus Christ.

His reputation for saintliness as well as his zeal for souls attracted the notice of Pope Eugene IV, and on 12 May, 1433, he was raised to the Bishopric of Castello. The new prelate restored churches, established new parishes in Venice, aided the foundation of convents, and reformed the life of the canons. But above all, he was noted for his Christian charity and his unbounded liberality. His cathedral, which became a model for all of Christendom, was never closed to the poor, yet he himself lived like a poor monk, and, all the money he could raise, he bestowed upon the poor.

He was greatly respected both in Italy and elsewhere by the dignitaries of both Church and State. He tried to foster the religious life by his sermons as well as by his writings. The Diocese of Castello belonged to the Patriarchate of Grado. On 8 October, 1451, Nicholas V united the See of Castello with the Patriarchate of Grado, and the see of the patriarch was transferred to Venice, and Lawrence was named the first Patriarch of Venice, and exercised his office until his death somewhat more than four years later.