

April 11

Blessed Angelo Chivasso

Good day, good people. May the Lord give you peace!

Our guest today amazes us by both his intellectual brilliance and zeal for the Gospel life. Blessed Angelo Chivasso was raised in a loving and devout family. He attended the University of Bologna and distinguished himself as a Doctor of Theology, and both Canon and Civil law. Indeed, he had a powerful mind. Because of his extraordinary talents he was appointed to both the Council and Senate of the Duchy of Montferrat.



Even with all of this recognition, he was not satisfied. At the age of 33 he resigned all of his positions and traveled to Genoa to join the Franciscan Order. There he found his happiness and his vocation flourished. His preaching was effective and he was renowned for his kindness and generosity to the poor. Even so, the various leaders continued to enlist his service. Duke Charles of Savoy as well as Popes Sixtus and Innocent employed his support. Of course, the friars, too, engaged Angelo in leadership at the highest levels of the Order. After a long and noble life, Angelo died peacefully in the 84th year of his life.

Nothing was hidden under a bushel basket in Angelo's life. He put all of his outstanding gifts at the service of others. While he had a number of very impressive titles, nothing was easy for him. He listened and responded. Even when things were tedious and difficult he did not resist or shy away from the challenge. What an example he is for us. We, too, can be worn down by the ridiculous obstructionists who seems to be ever present. We can take our cue from Angelo, keep our perspective on the larger picture and move through and beyond the "naysayers" who annoy and distract us.

Let us pray.

God of all times and seasons, we thank you today for the prophetic witness of Blessed Angelo of Chivasso. His inspiration reaches across the ages to animate us and renew us, even today. May we learn from him and follow in his path of kindness, generosity and service. Let us activate our gifts for love of you and the service of your holy people. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Angelo of Chivasso is a friend of God we welcome today.