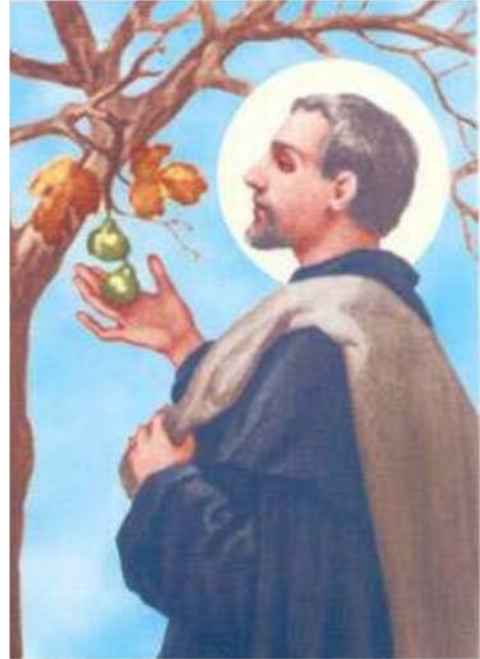


# June 27

## Blessed Thomas of Orvieto

*Humble in begging, happy in giving*

Blessed Thomas was born in Orvieto in Umbria toward the end of the thirteenth or the beginning of the fourteenth century. All his desires and thoughts were concentrated on the journey to heaven and for this reason he decided to dedicate himself completely to God in a religious community. Because of his special devotion to Mary, he chose to enter the Order of Servants of Mary. The virtues most typical of the Servants were resplendent in him: humility, brotherly love, and a spirit of compassion and service. Indeed, we read in the Annals of the Order that to serve both the Virgin and her Servants more constantly, he requested to be received among the lay brothers. For many years he went from door to door seeking alms, showing in his work much gentleness, patience and love.



He loved the poor so much that he joyously gave them not only the extra food which had been offered to the friars' table but also his own portion. Some early writers testify that God rewarded his humble simplicity by working miracles through his intercession. Artistic representations of Blessed Thomas, some of which are truly noteworthy because of their antiquity and artistic value, picture him carrying a knapsack with a fig branch in his hand, offering, in the middle of winter, a bunch of figs to a pregnant woman who had desired them. It seems that the artists wanted to depict both the solicitude of this man of God toward those who had recourse to him as well as the power of his intercession with God which was expressed in miracles.

This humble servant of the Virgin died in Orvieto in 1343 as we read in the work of Fra Michele Poccianti. His body is honoured in the church of the Servants in Orvieto. Because of the many miracles attributed to him, the citizens of that city soon began to venerate him with great devotion. This devotion was confirmed by Pope Clement XIII in 1768.

### PRAYER

God, our Father, graciously you listen to the person who is humble. Grant that with the help of Thomas we may obtain happiness now and always. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**For the Eucharistic and LH see Liturgical Books**