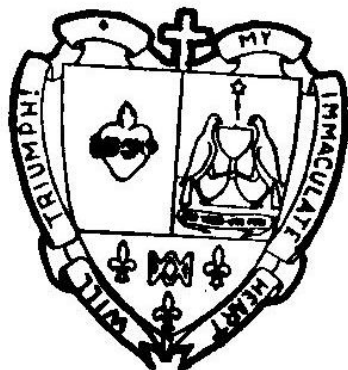


*The
Rosary
of
Our Lord*

composed by

**Blessed Michael Pini
Camaldolese Hermit**



NIHIL OBSTAT

James H. Culleton

Censor Librorum

IMPRIMATUR

✠ A. J. Willinger, C.Ss.R., D.D.

Bishop of Monterey-Fresno

March 21, 1965

The
ROSARY
of
OUR LORD

composed by

Blessed Michael Pini
Camaldolese Hermit

Translation made at the
Immaculate Heart Hermitage
New Camaldoli
Big Sur, California

from the Italian text of

La Corona del Signore
Tipografia S. Lega Eucaristia
Milano



S
T

R
O
M
U
A
L
D



THE SACRED HERMITAGE OF CAMALDOLI

Like Mount Carmel for Elias, the cave of Subiaco for St. Benedict, La Verna for St. Francis of Assisi and Manresa for St. Ignatius, the Sacred Hermitage of Camaldoli is a hallowed spot where God manifested Himself, in his solitude, to St. Romuald, founder of organized eremitical life. The Sacred Hermitage is situated in the heart of the Appenines, not far from Florence in Italy. The site was donated to St. Romuald in 1012 by Count Maldolo. It was here that Blessed Maldolo had seen a vision like Jacob's: A ladder on which white robed monks ascended to heaven and descended — a symbol of the apostolate by prayer to be kept up by the sons of St. Romuald. Even after the lapse of a near millenium this shrine is still a centre of great devotion and inspiration to the Catholic world. Encircling the church erected by the holy founder and dedicated to the mystery of the Transfiguration, are many, isolated cells with a little garden for each, wherein the hermits live a life of prayer, penance and solitude. Seven times a day, starting with the first hours of the night, they assemble in the church to adore their Creator and to sing His praises. Throughout these nine centuries and more, many saints have sanctified the Hermitage, among whom is numbered the recluse, Michael Pini of Florence.



SUMMARY OF THE LIFE OF BLESSED MICHAEL PINI, HERMIT RECLUSE OF CAMALDOLI

Michael Pini was born in Florence about 1440 of very devout parents. For many years he held the position of cupbearer at the court of Lorenzo de Medici. The latter had such great esteem for him on account of his virtues, that seeing he was attracted to the religious life and hoping to keep him by his side, he had him ordained priest. He was given an ecclesiastical benefice, but mindful of the words of the Gospel: "Do not lay up treasure for yourselves on earth . . ." (Matt. 6.19), he distributed the income of it to the poor and in this way stored up treasures in heaven, where thieves cannot

break in and steal them. The wise young man did not abandon his desire; on the contrary, as he accompanied the Prince on a visit to the Sacred Hermitage of Camaldoli, through the grace of God, he was seized by such a great love for the sanctity of that place and the solitude it afforded, that he suddenly resolved to stay there and take the habit of St. Romuald. That was indeed what he did.

He began to advance in virtue with such fervor that after sometime he was granted a more solitary life, staying by himself in a cell, secluded from all the others at first for one year and then for the rest of his life, according to the ancient custom of the Camaldolese. In this seclusion the hermit, renouncing himself through the grace of the Holy Spirit, attained to the highest degree of perfection. He chastised his body by fasting, instruments of penance and discipline. He was assiduous at prayer which he prolonged for hours in preparation to the Divine Office. Great were the fruits of this divine converse with God and many the graces he obtained for himself and for his neighbor. The joy of it brightened his face during the sacrifice of the Mass.

Often in the silence of his cell, he meditated on the petitions of the Our Father asking himself continually how the faithful could best obtain spiritual benefits from it. While he zealously studied this matter, he perceived through divine inspiration that devout people would profit much from this prayer if in honor of Our Lord Jesus Christ, they would recite a rosary of thirty-three Our Fathers. Then the saintly hermit made one with his own hands and gave it to his Superior. When they presented it to Pope Leo X., not only did they obtain his approbation, but the Holy Father rejoicing over the pious gift, enriched it with various indulgences in his Bull of Feb. 18, 1516.

Meanwhile, the blessed man advanced more and more in the love of God and striving to practice every means of mortification, bore with incredible patience the molestations of the devil who even visibly attacked him. For this reason God wished to adorn him with the gifts of miracles, prophecy and of the interpretation