

JOHN DOMINIC LUCCHESI (1652-1714)

Venerable, priest

John Dominic was born on May 18, 1652, at Pescaglia (Lucca). He joined the Carmelites of the Mantuan Congregation in the convent of the Selve /Woods/ near Florence on Feb. 1, 1670, and three weeks later was clothed in the habit at Lucca. He was sent to spend his novitiate in the convent of Ferrara, where he remained also after his profession (March 6, 1671) until his priestly ordination (May 30, 1676). He was transferred to Viterbo, and remained there for thirty-eight years until his death, filling the offices of sacristan, master of novices and, for six years, that of sub-prior.

Outside the convent, his constant care was to provide for the poor and the infirm. He was also extraordinary confessor of various monasteries of nuns, whom he helped by means of correspondence as well. He was characterized by a fervent devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament and a singular spirit of abnegation and humility. He taught the novices to reach perfection «by the way of love». His spirit of prayer was outstanding, and often the Lord favored him with the gift of prophecy. As is evident from his letters, souls directed by him were spurred on to sacrifice and union with God by means of spiritual reading, mental prayer and resignation to the divine will.

He died on March 18, 1714; about three years later the informative process was begun at Viterbo and Lucca. The apostolic process began on Feb. 13, 1734. Interrupted in 1737, the cause was taken up again in 1907; but on Nov. 11, 1913, it was «deferred.» The body, buried first in the church of the Order in Viterbo, was transferred to Rome on March 2, 1908, to the church of Transpontina, where it rests at the foot of the altar of SS. Peter and Paul.

The venerable left various letters of spiritual content (fifty of which have been published), some minor works of ascetical content, and some extracts or transcriptions from pious authors.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: The documents relative to the process are found in an authentic copy in: Rome, Archive of the Postulator General of the Carmelites, Post, IV, JL. 1,2,3,6 (informative process of Viterbo of the XVIII cent.), 4 (mss. of the Venerable) 7 (informative process of Viterbo, of 1912); printed copies of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in *Positio super dubio an sit signanda commissio introductionis causae*, Roma 1734; *Positio super fama sanctitatis in genere*, ibid. 1913; v. also, *Decreta causae beatificationis ven. Ioannis Dominici Lucchesii*, in *Analecta Ordinis Carmelitarum*, I (1909-10), pp. 54-58; G. Wessels *Per la causa di beatificazione e canonizzazione del ven. servo di Dio Giovanni Domenico Lucchesi : Articoli proposti per la prova testimoniale*, Rome 1907. The first and principal biographer was G. D. Controni. *Compendio storico della vita del ven. servo di Dio Padre Fra Giovanni Domenico Lucchesi carmelitano della Congregazione di Mantova, con una raccolta di alcune lettere spirituali*, Lucca 1718; v. also: C. de Villiers, *Bibliotheca Carmelitana*, I Orleans 1752, col. 835; G. Fanucchi, *Compendio della vita del ven. Giov. Domenico Lucchesi*, Lucca 1892; M. Luti, *Il ven. Padre Giovanni Domenico Lucchesi carmelitano*, Florence

1929 (on pp. 48 ss., notices of the original processes of Viterbo and Lucca); A. Franco, *Vita ven. Patris Ioannis Dominici Lucchesii*, in *Analecta Ordinis Carmelitarum*, I (1909-10) in installments, from p. 428.

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