

St Ignatius of Antioch

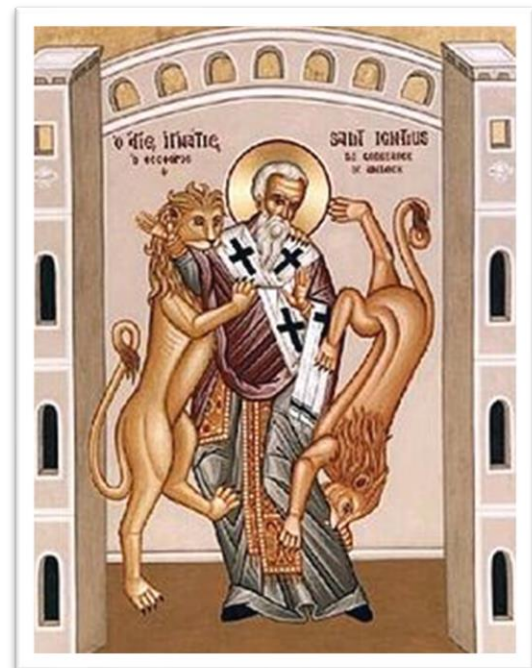
Ignatius of Antioch was a bishop and martyr who lived in the first century and had direct contact with the apostles of Jesus. He was arrested by the Roman authorities during the persecution of Emperor Trajan and sentenced to death by wild beasts in the Colosseum.

Miracles wrought by St. Ignatius after his decease.

In the Processes for the Canonization of St. Ignatius, commenced by the Authority of the Ordinaries first, and afterwards by that of the See Apostolick, more than 200 Miracles are related, wrought by the Merits and Intercession of St. Ignatius after his decease;

Miracles of St Ignatius

1. When the Body of St. Ignatius lay exposed upon the Bier, for the performance of his Funeral Rites, one Bernadina, a Roman, had a vehement desire to bring a Daughter of hers, who had been long troubled with the Hemorrhoids, so grievously, that no art of Physick could cure her, to kiss the Hands of his dead Body, assuring her self the recovery of her Daughter by that touch; but the Daughter, transported oftentimes by the press of People, not being able for the throng to approach near the Body, her Mother laid hold of a piece of his Garment, and had no sooner applied it to her Daughters Body but she was quit of her Disease.
2. Father Nicholas Bobadilla, having been long sick of an Ague, was recovered by lying in the Bed of St. Ignatius.
3. At Manresa, a certain Lady of Quality feeling no living motion of her Child in her Womb, for the space of three hours before she was brought to Bed, at last was delivered of a dead Child; the unfortunate success of which, being much lamented by the standers by, the rather because the Child had not been Christened; the Midwife about half an hour after the delivery of the Woman, implored with confidence the help of St. Ignatius, and had scarce begun her Prayers, but the Child, before pale and black, returned now to Life. St. Ignatius being besought for the Life of a little dead Infant of an Indian Woman, restored the Child to Life.
4. He restored many blind Men their Sight, deaf Men their Hearing, lame Men their Limbs, cured Men stricken with the Palsie, others given over by



the Physicians and lying at death's door, he restored perfectly to their Health. He appeared to many after his decease, either delivering them from grievous tentations, or freeing them from their Diseases or other dangers, or giving them good Counsel, or foretelling things to come, or comforting such as served him with divine Consolations; and in his Journey to Heaven, at the very instant of his decease at Rome (as afterwards appeared by computation of Hours) he appeared in Glory to that Noble and Religious Lady Margareta de Lilus, commending the Society to her, as a principal Benefactress of the College of Bolonia.

5. Many Devils have been cast out of possessed Persons, and out of Houses which they haunted by the Relicts of the Holy Father, or by hanging up his Picture.

6. The Oil of the Lamp which burns before his Body, hath wrought many strange Cures.
7. He hath eased many Women who have called upon him in the extremity of their Child-bearing Labours, and bestowed Children upon barren Women. At Carpentras a certain Woman being delivered of a Child without motion, and of the Complexion of a Blackmoor, so that it was doubtfull what course was to be taken in this prodigious accident, whether the Child ought to be Christened or no, or whether it were to be deferred till some motion were discovered in it; at last, by the persuasion of a certain Canon, they implored the aid of St. Ignatius, by which the Child was suddenly not recovered only, but so recovered that his Countenance became cheerful and fair.
8. He cured divers of the Pleurisie.
9. He protected many Men from the fury of their Enemies; others, being fallen head-long from some dangerous precipice, were defended from all hurt by invoking his Name.
10. In the Town of Gumarent a certain Woman having lost the use of her Sight and Hearing, and received the Holy Oil and other Rites of the Church, lay utterly out of her senses; and whilst some about her, out of Devotion, were endeavouring to put her in mind of her last words, a certain Woman, who in courtesie came to visit her, called to remembrance, that a little piece of the Girdle St. Ignatius used in his life time, having lately been sent to her by a Son of hers of the Society; which she with great Confidence, and Reverence towards God, presently applied to the sick Woman; which done, she began to recover her senses by degrees, to breath, to stretch out her Hands, and make signs for Meat, to the Admiration of the Physicians, for the suddenness of the Cure. All

which things were afterwards confirmed by the Attestation of sworn Witnesses.

11. At Cagliari a certain elder Brother snatching up a Knife at dinner time, hurt his younger Brother in the Eye; and at the same time the Daughter of a certain Gentlewoman, carving at the Table, was sorely hurt in like manner, in one of her Eyes; both which calling upon the Aid of Saint Ignatius, were delivered from danger, beyond expectation.
12. Another Woman had been so weakened, for the space of four Months, with continual Pains, that she was utterly deprived of the use of her Feet; but the Feast of St. Ignatius drawing near, she, desirous to partake of the common Jollity that day expressed in our Church, was not frustrated of her desire; for her Pain ceasing, and her Feet being restored to their wonted Strength, she came thither with Joy, to have a share in the Devotion.
13. In the same place, upon the Eve of St. Ignatius, the Artillery playing round, a little Infant who could not speak, and who had never heard the Name of St. Ignatius, cried out, to the Admiration of all standers by, To morrow is the day of B. Ignatius. But they who were present, hearing a thing so full of Wonder, for Experiment sake, demanded again of the Child, what was to be done to morrow, who answered as before.
14. At Majorca dwelt a certain Woman, who through the Contraction of her Sinews, was become so Lame, that she could not go without Crutches; the whole Town therefore being filled with the noises of Trumpets, Voices, and other Musical Instruments, Almighty God inspired her with a desire of Visiting our Church; who put her self in readiness to go, not with standing the dissuasions of her Sister, who feared she might miscarry by the press of People, she nevertheless gave no ear to her Dissuasions, but put her self upon the way, and was suddenly Cured, and recovered strength in her Feet; and throwing away her Crutches, without any help betook her self to the Church, where in Thanks-giving she caused a Mass of the B. Sacrament to be said.
15. Another Woman, who some years past had received her Sight by the means of this B. Father, lying now again desperately sick, and being given over by four Physicians, not forgetfull by whom she had received Light before, now again reposed all her Hopes and Confidence in the same

Physician: One Night therefore she called out upon one of the Women, who were accustomed to Watch with her Make haste, quoth she, come hither with speed and behold this Glorious Splendor! O if thou hadst come sooner, thou shouldst have beheld my St. Ignatius visiting me! for I am now Recovered, and perfectly well. And the Event confirmed it to be true; for the Physicians themselves could not deny, but that she was Cured by some Secret Power.

16. At Monte in Gallicia a great Fire raging for many days together, and consuming a certain Wood, gathered still new forces, dispersing and spreading it self far and near, there being no humane means to stop or restrain it, to which the Wind rising upon a sudden, drove the Flames towards the Barns and bordering Town, so that the Fire was now advanced within three or four Paces of the Corn and Houses; a certain person therefore, taking the Picture of St. Ignatius, which he had about him, and falling to his Prayers, threw it into the midst of the Flames, there where the Fire raged most, and threatned greatest Ruine, and immediately the fury and rage of it ceased, the Flames which flew highest descended and vanished, and the whole Fire returned upon a sudden from whence it began: And, which is worth Admiration, a certain Woman, who had observed the throwing in of the Picture, leaping into the midst of the smoaking Brands, raked away the Ashes with her Fingers, and being unhurt, brought away the Picture from the midst of the burning Coals.

17. At Friburg a little Child of three years of age by chance had broken his Arme, the Mother of whom fearing the displeasure of her Husband, being then absent, invoceth the help of St. Ignatius, but she had scarce ended her Prayers, when, to her infinite contentment, she found her Child before her Eyes, whole and without hurt.

18. St. Ignatius being invoked, wrought a present Cure upon divers who had been sorely wounded, whose Cure would otherwise have exacted a long time. Many Men by the presence of St. Ignatius his Picture, or by the presence, or by the application or touch of his Relicks, have cured the Plague when it raged most sorely and consumed Multitudes.

19. A certain Nobleman at Placa perceiving the Sky to be overcast with thick Clouds, and fearing a great spoil of his Corn, lying yet open in the Field,

made a Vow to St. Ignatius for the preventing of the Tempest, so that when all the adjoining Territories swell'd with flouds of Rain, not a drop had touched or fallen upon his Fields.

20.2 At Naples one Vincentio Pagano having prepared certain artificial Fires for the Celebration of the Feast of St. Ignatius, had dangerously through his own folly scorched his Hand, upon which accident certain Women of his acquaintance began to flock about him, applying to his burnt Hand a Note or Superscription of St. Ignatius his Hand-writing, the touch of which presently eased his pain, and the raging of the burnt part, which usually ceaseth not till a certain day, was out of hand appeased.

21. At Catanzaro a certain pious Woman, having a Son by one Gasper Mariscano, (her Husband,) out of her Devotion to St. Ignatius, had a desire to have him Christened by the name of Ignatius, howbeit her Husband (in regard the Relicks of Irenaeus were preserved in that City) had rather the Child should have been called Irenaeus; but in Conclusion, after much debate about the business, they concluded the Child should be named Ignatius Irenaeus; but this contention occasioned many differences betwixt the Man and Wife, for the Wife ever after called her Child Ignatius, and gave a strict command to them of her Houshold to do the like; and Gasper on the other side, commanded them to call him Irenaeus: The difference had continued thus betwixt them almost three months, when arguing the business one morning, they both grew somewhat hot, till the Father, at last, in jest, Well, quoth he, let the strife be put to the arbitrement of the Child it self; to which the Mother was contented to agree; whereupon the Father, in merriment, demanded of his Child, at that time but three months old, by what name he would have himself called; when, behold! the Child miraculously received the use of his Tongue, distinctly pronouncing the name of Ignatius; which Voice so took his Father with admiration of the Miracle, that from thence forward he gave order his Child should be called Ignatius, dedicating him to the Service of St. Ignatius.

22. In the Territory of Peru in the West-Indies, one Christopher Martinez de Peredes, for the space of four years together, was forced through the lameness of his Feet to make use of one Crutch in the beginning, and afterwards of two; who hearing, upon the Feast of St. Ignatius, the Triumph of the People, And shall I, quoth he, upon this day, when all Men are in jollity, remain as it were an unbidden Guest? shall I alone remain

destitute? which words he had scarce uttered, when his Feet recovered forces, and he found himself so strong, that early the next morning, without any other help, he betook himself to the College.

23. One Benedicto Lopez, Prefect of the silver Mines, pursuing a certain Ethiopian Fugitive, was set upon by five others at unawares, who stabbing and butchering him in sundry places dragged him from his Horse in a most barbarous manner: In which his extremities he implored the aid of St. Ignatius, who presently presented himself to him in these exigents, and laying hold of his Cloak, bore off, with both hands, the Blows of his Enemies, so that at last (his Enemies being departed, and the B. Father vanished) he found himself safe, and without hurt, saving that his Hat and other Garments were pierced.

24. A certain Lady at Avignon had a Son much afflicted with a violent continual Fever, who besides the Disease it self, with the violence of it had one of his Hands disjoyned, and in a deformed manner turned the wrong side outward, so that in the opinion of the Physicians he was in danger of the loss of his Hand, if not of his Life with it; which lamentable case a certain Religious Woman, allied to the sick Youth, compassionating, vowed three Masses, and as many Wax Candles to St. Ignatius, for the health of her Kinsman; which done, the Youth immediately recovered, and for a more infallible confirmation of the Miracle, his Hand was replaced in the right place.

25. At Barcelona one Elizabeth Rebelles, a Religious Woman, being in some high place busie about her work, upon a sudden unfortunately tumbled headlong to the ground, and received so sore a blow, that her Thigh-bone, which is the solidest Bone of the Body, was utterly broken; the Physician and Chirurgion were immediately called, who for more than forty days together, with what diligence was possible, applied all the Remedies their Arts afforded, howbeit to little purpose; in conclusion, the sick Woman was brought to those terms, that in all Mens judgments she was past recovery, and as it was conceived, could not last longer than that day; yet notwithstanding, as soon as a Relick of St. Ignatius was applied to her heart, she presently recovered.

26. One Hierome Humphrey, a Boy of ten years of age, upon one of his Eyebrows, near the Temples, had received a mortal wound, which occasioned an inflammation in his Eye, and cast him into a Fever; for which the Chirurgion had him in a cure a month, not being able to help him, for the wound did not only not heal, but grew so wide, that it received a tent of a finger long, and voided so much filth as amazed the Chirurgion: The Mother of the Child made a Vow to St. Ignatius,

commending her Child to him; and behold! when (another Chirurgion in the mean time having been called, for the better consulting about the Cure) the bands of the sore were unfolded, they found the wound perfectly healed, closed up, and sound.

27. One Ferdinando Pertel having fallen into a Tertian Ague, which afterward proved to be a double Tertian, and at last a pestilent Fever, with a kind of raving and fearfull horror of his Senses, was forsaken by the Physicians, and lay in his last Extremity; being prepared with all the Rites of the Church, and invoking St. Ignatius, whose Picture he held in his hand, he began suddenly to recover, and was cured of his Disease.

28. One Anne Barzellona, a Wom of sixty years of age, having for about the space of two years been so miserably stricken with the Palsie, that she was unfit for any labour, and unable without Crutches to go up and down stairs, and with her Crutches also seemed rather to creep than go; which when the application of Remedies would not help, and she besides was taken with an Apoplexy in her other side, so that she became impotent, and was confined to her Bed; finding her self thus void of all humane help, by the assistance of her Crutches and one Margaret her Sister, she betook her self to a Chapel of St. Ignatius, two hours travelling distant from her Lodging, where making a Vow in honour of St. Ignatius, immediately she began to find her self better, and was able to bow her Knee, which before was grown stiff; and having ended her Devotions, arose full of contentment, and returned a joyfull Woman nimbly to her Lodging.

29. A Bone and Superscription of St. Ignatius being applied to the Eyes of a certain Widow of Majorca, called Iane Clara Noguera, who was Blind, restored her to sight.