Oration “Catherinam Senensem” of Pope Pius II (29 June 1461, Rome). Edited and translated by Michael von Cotta-Schönberg. 5th version. (Orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II; 62)

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(Orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II; 62)
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5th version

2019
Abstract

On 29 October 1461, Pope Pius II canonized Catherine of Siena during a ceremony held in the Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome. On this occasion, the pope gave an oration, the “Catherinam Senensem”, in which he defined the concepts of holiness and canonization, and spoke of the life and miracles of the saint. The pope was careful to point out that it is not the pope (or the Church) who creates saints, but the saints themselves, with the help of God. The Church only declares that they are saints, being with God in Heaven, and allows the faithful to pray to them and ask for their intercession with God.

Keywords

Enea Silvio Piccolomini; Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini; Pope Pius II; Papa Pio II; Saint Catherine of Siena; Saint Catherina of Siena; Santa Caterina di Siena; Concept of Holiness; Saints; Canonizations; Canonization of Catherine of Siena; Miracles; Asceticism; Renaissance orations; Renaissance oratory; Renaissance rhetorics; 15th century; 1461

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Foreword

In 2007, I undertook a project of publishing the Latin texts with English translations of the orations of Enea Silvio Piccolomini / Pope Pius II. Altogether 80\(^1\) orations (including papal responses to ambassadorial addresses) are extant today, though more may still be held, unrecognized, in libraries and archives.

At a later stage the project was expanded to include ambassadors’ orations to the pope, of which about 40 are presently known.

I do not, actually, plan to publish further versions of the present volume, but I do reserve the option in case I – during my future studies - come across other manuscripts containing interesting versions of the oration or if important new research data on the subject matter are published, making it appropriate to modify or expand the present text. It will therefore always be useful to check if a later version than the one the reader may have previously found via the Internet is available.

I shall much appreciate to be notified by readers who discover errors and problems in the text and translation or unrecognized quotations.

12 September 2019
MCS

\(^1\) 81 orations, if the “Cum animadverto” is counted as a Piccolomini-oration, see oration “Quam laetus” [18], Appendix
### Table of volumes in *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*. 12 vols. Edited and translated by Michael von Cotta-Schönberg

1. Introduction
2. 1436-1444 (Orations 1-5)
3. 1445-1449 (Orations 6-13)
4. 1450-1453 (Orations 14-20)
5. 1454-1455 (Orations 21-25)
6. 1455-1457 (Orations 26-28)
7. 1458-1459 (Orations 29-42)
8. 1459-1459 (Orations 43-51)
9. 1459-1461 (Orations 52-63)
10. 1462-1464 (Orations 64-77)
11. 1454, 1459 (Orations 78-80). Orthographical profiles. Indices
12. Appendix: Ambassadors’ orations to Pope Pius II
Table of contents

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Context
2. Themes
3. Date, place, audience, and format
4. Text
   4.1. Manuscripts
   4.2. Editions
   4.3. Present edition
5. Sources
6. Bibliography
7. Sigla and abbreviations

II. TEXT AND TRANSLATION

0. Introduction [1]
1. Concept of Holiness [2-4]
   1.1. Holy in the sense of “sacred” and “religious” [2]
   1.2. Holy in the sense of “inviolable” [3]
   1.3. Holy in the sense of “pertaining to the divine” [4]
2. Concept of canonization [5-10]
3. Life and miracles of Catherine of Siena [11-15]
   3.1. Life and character [11-12]
   3.2. Asceticism [13]
   3.3. Role in the return of the papacy to Rome [14]
   3.4. Miracles [15]
4. Canonization of Catherine of Siena [16-18]

Appendix 1: Papal bull “Virgo Catharina” of 29 June 1461 on canonization of Catherine of Siena

Appendix 2: Three hymns composed for the office of Saint Catherine of Siena by Pope Pius II
I. INTRODUCTION
1. Context

Like many of his predecessors, Pius II systematically promoted the interests of his family, and — in Pius’ case — also those of his home city, Siena. He appointed many Sienese to official positions in the Papal States and at the Curia, and in 1460, he bestowed the papal “Golden Rose” on the city government of Siena, granted it the city of Radicofani, and raised Siena from a diocese to an archdiocese.

In 1461, the time had come to grant the city another saint, Catherine of Siena, besides Bernardino da Siena who had been canonized by Pius’ predecessor, Nicolaus V, in 1450. As canonizations at that time were much less frequent than in later periods, the canonization of two saints from Siena in eleven years was quite remarkable, as Pius himself says in the oration.

Catherine of Siena was actually quite worthy of being proclaimed a saint. Indeed, her canonization was a popular measure since she was already considered a saint in parts of Europe, and her role in the restoration of the papacy was generally believed to have been quite important. Her canonization had been prepared by former popes, and Pius himself had already discussed it at the Congress of Mantua where it met with some resistance from the Franciscans who preferred the canonization of one of their own, friar Giovanni da Capistrano.

Pius does not mention it in his oration, but Catherine of Siena had actually been a great believer in the idea of a crusade, and in that sense her canonization might indirectly promote the crusade project so dear to Pius.

In his Commentarii, Pius wrote about the event and the oration:

*Meanwhile the pope had been asked by his fellow citizens to enroll the blessed Catherine of Siena among the holy virgins of Christ; he called a meeting of the bishops then in Rome,*

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1 CO, V, 24; Boulting, p. 336; Giunta; Mitchell, pp. 238-239; Paparelli, pp. 259-264; Pastor, II, pp. 202-204; Reinhardt, pp. 301-303; Stolf, p. 377; Voigt, IV, pp. 561-571
2 Voigt, IV, pp. 561-571
3 Giunta, pp. 57-59
4 Pastor, II, pp. 202-204
5 Giunta, pp. 60-63
6 Giunta, pp. 63-64
7 Zimolo, p. 57, n. 3; Voigt, IV, pp. 599-606; Boulting, p. 336; Paparelli, pp. 259-264
8 Castellini
9 Already a month after the coronation of the new Sienese pope, the Sienese ambassadors were instructed to raise the matter with the pope, see Giunta p. 63
where three cardinals who had investigated her life and miracles reported all that they had learned. When the assembly was asked its opinion, they unanimously approved her canonization. Pius had a stage erected in Saint Peter’s Basilica: here, after celebrating mass, he delivered a sermon on the merits of the maid.\(^1\) This we will not insert here, since it is included in the volume of his collected speeches. When he had finished, he decreed that Catherine be enrolled with the usual ceremonies in the catalogue of sainted virgins, and he established an annual feast day in her honour. He granted a seven-year indulgence to all who visited the tomb where her bones are kept. The cardinals, bishops, and other prelates present all voiced their approval. He himself dictated the bull of canonization which is included in the volume of his collected letters.\(^2\)

Pius’ contemporary biographer Campano just wrote that, with splendid ceremony,\(^3\) he entered the name Catherine of Siena, who was said to have performed many miracles, in the list of holy virgins.\(^4\)

### 2. Themes

The four major themes of the oration are

- The concept of holiness
- The concept of canonization
- The life and miracles of Catherine of Siena, and
- The canonization of Catherine of Siena

Concerning the **concept of holiness**, Pius distinguishes between three subconcepts:

- holiness in the senses of “religious”
- holiness in the sense of “inviolable” (e.g. ambassadors), and
- holiness in the sense of “divine”

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\(^1\) The event was depicted by Pintoricchio in one of the frescoes in the Libreria Piccolominea in the Cathedral of Siena
\(^2\) CO, V, 24 (Meserve, III, pp. 131-133)
\(^3\) Giunta, p. 64
\(^4\) Zimolo, p. 57: *Caterinam Senensem, cuius multa extare miracula ferebantur, in divarum retulit numerum, apparatu aeque magnifico*
Concerning the concept of canonization, Pius carefully explains that the canonization is not an act by which the Church makes somebody a holy saint, but a declaration that the Church believes somebody to be a holy saint, having already entered Heaven, and allows worship of the saint in the form of veneration (cultus duliae), but not of worship which is reserved to God (cultus latriæ). The Church also allows the faithful to pray to the saints for their intercession with God. This is quite important, since the veneration of saints and prayers for their intercession give people hope for divine assistance, and therefore they form the basis for a whole system of religious beliefs and practices and for a large economy or industry of holiness, viz. pilgrimages, sale of relics, and offerings to the saints and the churches where they are buried. There was also a political dimension of sainthood when a royal or princely family wanted to improve its reputation and legitimacy through the canonization of one its members. Canonizing saints and regulating their veneration are therefore significant elements and symbols of papal power.

Pius also explains why it is the Roman See that has the sole right to canonize people. If it was up to the people or local authorities to decide who was a saint or not, it was likely that quite unworthy persons might gain the status of saints – as had indeed happened a number of times.

Concerning the life and miracles of Saint Catherine, Pius is not sparing in his praise. He does not dwell overly on the miracles, though.

As might be expected, however, he describes in some detail Catherine’s contribution to the return of the papacy from Avignon to Rome. It had not been forgotten by the papacy, and indeed her achievement in this respect had been of the utmost importance to the development of the papacy. In the context of an ongoing war of succession in the Kingdom of Naples, where Pope Pius II and the Duke of Milan had made an alliance to keep the French out of Italy (and implicitly to prevent the return of the papacy to Avignon after the election of a French pope), the pope’s insistence on Saint Catherine’s role in the return of the popes from Avignon to Rome was highly politically significant.

Concerning the canonization of Saint Catherine, Pius carefully points out that all the usual criteria of sainthood are present in this case and that the canonization is requested by the faithful and approved by the hierarchy. He may have felt this declaration to have been necessary in view of his rather uninhibited expressions of local, Sienese patriotism in connection with the canonization, even in the papal canonization bull.
3. Date, place, audience, and format

The oration “Catherinam Senensem” was given on 29 June 1461 in Saint Peter’s Church in Rome.

The audience consisted of cardinals, prelates and curials, and a large congregation of the faithful from many places, including Siena, obviously.

The format was an oration/sermon from the throne.

4. Text

4.1. Manuscripts

The text is contained in a number of manuscripts, among them the following:

- **Bruxelles / Bibliothèque Royale**
  Ms. 15564-67, ff. 85r-91r *(R)* **

- **Lucca / Biblioteca Capitolare Feliniana**
  544, ff. 135r-138v *(G)* *

- **Mantova / Biblioteca Comunale**
  100, ff. 268r-274r

- **Milano / Biblioteca Ambrosiana**
  l 97 inf, ff. 172v-176v

- **Roma / Archivio Segreto Vaticano**
  Arm. II 3, ff. 6r-16v
  Arm. XXXII 1, ff. 138r-145r *(H)* **

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1 For the textual transmission of Pius II's, see *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 1, ch. 5
2 Manuscripts for which an orthographical profile is given in *Collected orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 11, are marked with an asterisk
Borghese I, 121-122, ff. 32v-38r **

- **Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana**
  Barb. Lat. 82, ff. 263r ff.
  Barb. Lat. 1499, ff. 162r-170r
  Chis. J.VI.211, ff. 179r-182r (D) *
  Chis. J.VIII.284, ff. 135v-138v (A) *
  Chis. J.VIII.286, ff. 273r-279r (C) *
  Ross. lat. 771 (X 51)
  Vat. Lat. 1788, ff. 191v-195r (B) *
  Vat. Lat. 5667, ff. 55v-61r (L) * **
  Vat. Lat. 12255, ff. 38r-43v **
  Vat. Lat. 12256, ff. 48r-55r **

- **Roma / Biblioteca Casanatense**
  4310, ff. 139r-144v **

- **Roma / Biblioteca Centrale Vittorio Emmanuele**
  Vittorio Emmanuele 492, ff. 200v-206v (T) **

The oration was included in the Collected Orations of Pius II compiled in 1462, represented by the manuscripts A, B, C, D, G.¹ Later, in 1464, it was also included in Cardinal Nephew’s Anthology of Pius II’s major orations,² contained in the manuscripts listed above with a double asterisk.

4.2. **Editions**

The oration was published by Mansi:


  *[On the basis of the manuscript in Lucca]*

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¹ See *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 1, sect. 5.1.3.
² See *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 1, sect. 5.1.6.
4.3. Present edition

For principles of edition (incl. orthography) and translation, see *Collected Orations of Pope Pius II*, vol. 1, ch. 9-10.

*Text:*

The edition is based on the manuscripts listed above with the siglum, with the Chisianus J.VIII.284 as the lead manuscript.

*Pagination:*

Pagination follows the lead manuscript.

*Textual apparatus:*

The variants common to the manuscripts H, L, R, T, i.e. the manuscripts with the Cardinal Nephew’s Anthology of Pius II’s major orations from 1464, are given in bold types.

5. Sources

In this oration, 23 direct and indirect quotations from various sources have been identified, of which 16 from the Bible and 6 from classical sources.

- Biblical: 16
- Classical: 6
- Patristic and medieval: 1
- Contemporary: 0
- All: 25

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1 On Piccolomini’s use of sources in general, see *Collected orations of Pope Pius II*, ch. 8.
Biblical sources: 16

Old Testament: 13

- Exodus: 1
- Leviticus: 1
- Canticle: 1
- 1. Kings: 1
- 1. Esdras: 1
- Proverbs: 1
- Psalms: 7

New Testament: 3

- Matthew: 1
- Apocalypse: 1
- Romans: 1

Classical sources: 6

- Cicero: 1¹
- Macrobius: 1
- Statius: 1²
- Vergilius: 3³

Patristic and medieval sources: 1

- Decretum Gratiani: 1

Contemporary sources: 0

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¹ Pro Archia
² Thebais
³ Aeneis
6. Bibliography


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Pius II: Commentarii rerum memorabilium quae suis temporibus contigerunt [1464]

- Commentarii rerum memorabilium que svis temporibus contigervnt. Ed. by A van Heck. 2 vols. Città del Vaticano, 1984 (Studi e testi; 312-313)


Pius II: Orations. [1436-1464]

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References to the Annales are usually given in this form: (e.g.) Rainaldus, ad ann. 1459, nr. 67 (without reference to a specific edition)

Reinhardt, Volker: *Pius II. Piccolomini – Der Papst, mit dem die Renaissance begann.* München, 2013


7. Sigla and abbreviations

A = Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana / Chis. J.VIII. 284
B = Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana / Vat. Lat. 1788
C = Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana / Chis. J.VIII. 286
D = Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana / Chis. J.VI. 211
G = Lucca / Bibl. Cap. Feliniana / 544
H = Roma / Archivio Segreto Vaticano / Arm. XXXII 1
L = Roma / Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana / Vat. Lat. 5667
R = Bruxelles / Bibliothèque Royale / Ms. 15564-67
T = Roma / Biblioteca Centrale Vittorio Emmanuele / Vittorio Emmanuele 492
Abbreviations

**CO** = Pius II: *Commentarii rerum memorabilium quae suis temporibus contigerunt* [1464]


**MA** = Pius II: *Orationes politicae et ecclesiasticae*. Ed. Giovanni Domenico Mansi. 3 vols. Lucca: Benedini, 1755-1759

**MPL** = Migne, Jacques-Paul: *Patrologia latina*. 217 vols. 1841-1865

**RTA** = Deutsche Reichstagsakten


II. TEXT AND TRANSLATION
Oratio Pii II Pontificis Maximi habita Romae in basilica Sancti Petri pro canonizatione beatae Catherinae Senensis

[1] {135v} Catherinam Senensem in catalogum² hodie sanctarum³ Christi⁴ virginum relaturi dignum existimamus, venerabiles⁵ fratres ac filii dilectissimi⁶, quid sibi velit sanctitatis vocabulum, cur sanctorum canonizatio sit introducta, et an virgo ipsa hujus honoris digna sit, paucis aperire, ut his satisfiat, qui haec suspensis animis expectant, quales adesse non paucos⁷ (136r) arbitramur.

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1 Oratio ... Senensis : Pii II Pontificis Maximi oratio habita in canonizatione beatae Catherinae Senensis D, G; Canonizatio Beatae Caterinae Senensis per Pium II. Pontificem Maximum facta H; no title L, T
2 cathalagum H; cathalogum A, B, C, D, H, L, R, T
3 sanctoni H
4 omit. T
5 omit. C
6 venerabiles ... dilectissimi omit. H
7 adesse non paucos : non paucos adesse G
Oration of Pius II, Supreme Pontiff, given in the Basilica of Saint Peter’s in Rome, at the occasion of the canonization of Saint Catherine of Siena

0. Introduction

[1] Venerable brethren and beloved sons, today We shall enter the name of Catherine of Siena into the catalogue of Holy Virgins of Christ. For the benefit of the many eagerly expectant people We see here today, We shall briefly explain the meaning of the word “holiness”,¹ the reasons why the canonization of saints was introduced, and why the virgin Catherine is worthy of this honour.

¹ “Sanctitas”
De sanctitatis significatione primum dicemus. *Sanctum idem esse*, quod sacrum et religiosum Trebatius jureconsultus diffinivit, cui et sacra eloquia abunde consonant. Nam quod est in Esdra: *Vos sancti estis Deo, et vasa sancta*; et in Libris Regum: *Non habeo panes laicos ad manum, sed panem tantum sanctum*; et in Psalmis: *Extollite manus vestra in sancta*, ad sacrum et religiosum refertur. Et ad hunc intellectum poeta locutus est: *Tuque, o sanctissima vates*; sacram enim Sibyllam vocat. In quo sensu nulli dubium est, quin Romanus pontifex et episcopi reliqui sanctificare vel homines vel res alias possint, qui sacerdotes idcirco dicuntur, quia sacra dant resque sanctificant, ut est illud Exodi: *Facies vestem sanctam Aaron fratri tuo in gloriem et decorem.*

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1 est H, R  
2 pane L, T  
3 laycas H  
4 tamen D, G; tum R  
5 omit. D, G  
6 ipsi H, L, T  
7 qui L, R, T  
8 omit. D, G
1. Concept of “holiness”

1.1. “Holy” in the sense of “sacred” and “religious”

[2] First We shall speak about the meaning of the word “Holiness”. The lawyer Trebatius¹ gave this definition: *Holy is the same as sacred and religious*,² and Holy Scripture wholly agrees with him for we read in Esdras: *You are the holy ones of the Lord and the holy vessels*;³ and in the Book of Kings: *I have no common bread at hand, but only holy bread*;⁴ and in the Psalms: *lift up your hands to the holy places*,⁵ where “holy” means “sacred and religious”.⁶ The poet⁷ speaks in the same sense when he says: *And you, most holy prophetess*,⁸ calling the Sibyl holy. Taken in this sense, there is no doubt that the Roman Pontiff and other bishops can make men and things holy. Indeed, they are called priests⁹ because they “give sacred things”¹⁰ and “make things holy”,¹¹ as it is said in Exodus: *thou shalt make a holy vesture for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty*.¹²

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¹ Trebatius Testa, Gajus (fl. 1st century BCE): jurist of ancient Rome and protégé of Cicero. His writings included *de religionibus* and *de iure civili*, but these books are lost. He was, however, frequently cited by later jurists.
² Macrobius: *Saturnalia*, 3.3.5. Piccolomini had already used this quotation in his *De gestis concilii Basiliensis Commentarii* from 1440: *Sanctum enim (ut Macrobius Trebatium referenti placet) interdum idem est quod sacrum, idemque quod religiosum*
³ 1. Esdras 8, 28
⁴ 1. Kings, 21, 4
⁵ Psalms, 133, 2
⁶ “sacrum et religiosum”
⁷ Vergilius Maro, Publius [Virgil] (70-19 BCE): Roman poet
⁸ Vergilius: *Aeneis*, 6.65
⁹ “Sacerdotes”
¹⁰ “sacram autem nomen habet compositum ex Graeco et Latino quod est sacrum dans; 2) sacerdotes vocantur quia sacram dant.” From Isidore: *Etymologiae*, VII, ch. 12
¹¹ “res sanctificant”
¹² Exodus, 28, 2


¹ pontifex R  
² consueuer H  
³ omit. G  
⁴ et pressius : expressius H  
⁵ id H, L, R, T  
⁶ aliquo modo : aliquando H  
⁷ sicuti G  
⁸ conjux corr. ex. conjunx L; conjux H, R, T  
⁹ morti T  
¹⁰ et G  
¹¹ instuis L; instituis T  
¹² quoddam H  
¹³ quisque C
1.2. “Holy” in the sense of “inviolable”

[3] In a second sense of the word, we call that holy⁰ which ought not to be destroyed or violated. It is in this sense that we call laws and envoys holy: *name sacred to peoples throughout the centuries.*² But to issue laws and to appoint envoys is done not only by popes, but also by kings and peoples.


1.3. “Holy” in the sense of “pertaining to the divine”

[4] In a third, deeper and more honourable sense of the word, we use the word “holy” as meaning that which is unsullied, pure, and immutable, and somehow approaches the divine, as we read in Leviticus: *Be holy because I am holy,*³ and in Wisdom: *Thy saints had a very great light,*⁴ and in Proverbs: *I have known the science of saints;*⁵ and this: *Thou wilt not give thy holy one to see corruption.*⁶ And in Maro:*⁷ And you, oh most holy spouse, happy were you in death,*⁸ and again: *I will descend to you, a soul holy and innocent of that reproach.*⁹ And, according to Cicero,¹⁰ Ennius¹¹ rightly calls poets “holy,” for inspired by the divine spirit they sing of great things.¹²

We declare that in this sense of the word “holy” neither We nor any other mortal man can make anybody else holy. For every man has his own will, and nobody is good or holy without wanting to be.

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¹ “sanctum”  
² Statius: *Thebais*, 2.486  
³ Leviticus, 11, 44  
⁴ Wisdom, 18, 1  
⁵ Proverbs, 30, 3: *Non didici sapientiam, et non novi scientiam sanctorum*  
⁶ Psalms, 15, 10; Acts, 2, 27; 13, 15  
⁷ Virgil  
⁸ Vergilius: *Aeneis*, 11.158-159  
⁹ Vergilius: *Aeneis*, 12.648  
¹⁰ Cicero, Marcus Tullius (106-43 BCE): Roman statesman and author  
¹¹ Ennius, Quintus (ca. 239-ca. 169 BCE): Roman writer, often considered the father of Roman poetry  
¹² Cicero: *Pro Archia poeta*, 17-19
Cum tamen sancti canonizantur, sanctitatis vocabulum ad beatitudinem refertur, et
immutabilitatem, et quandam quoddammodo\(^1\) divinitatem, quas res nemo praestare potest nisi
solus Deus\(^2\). Mortalis autem immortalem aut miser felicem aut homo Deum efficere quis potest?
Sua quemque innocencia et sua virtus beat\(^3\), non tamen absque adjutorio\(^4\) Dei, in cujus gratia
morientes humanae opis\(^5\)\(^6\) non egent, dicente scriptura: \textit{Beati mortui, qui in Domino moriuntur}.
Et: \textit{Non derelinquet dominus sanctos suos}. Quod si humana opera esset\(^7\) opus ad beatitudinem
consequendam, multi suo stipendio privarentur, cum fallax sit mortale judicium. At Deus omnia
videns, omnia intelligens, summa justititia praeditus, pius et misericors, nullum patitur suo
praemio fraudari. \textit{Mirabilis (136v) Deus in sanctis suis}, quos ab initio rerum elegit, et scripsit in
libro vitae, quando vult et ubi vult, ad se vocat, perfectaque illos beatitudine impartitur\(^8\), nec
nosto indiget ministerio. Nec sanctorum felicitas nostra laude crescit, aut vituperio minuitur;
absque ullo metu summo et incommutabili bono fruuntur. Gloria haec est omnibus sanctis ejus.

Quidquid illis a nobis praestatur, nostra causa praestatur. Namque cum pii et religiosi sumus,
cum Deum cultu latriae et sanctos ejus cultu duliae veneramur, peccata nostra redimimus\(^9\).
Cumque propter iniquitates nostras summ Dei pulsare aures saepenumero vereamur\(^10\), ad
sanctos ipsos recurrimus, qui nostris infirmitatibus intercedendo subveniant. Sed cavendum fuit,
ne dum patrocinium quaerimus, offensionem incurramus, eis intercessoribus\(^11\) utentes, quos
Deus odierit\(^12\). Irritat enim divinitas, non placatur, cum propitiator minus idoneus adhibetur.
Quibus ex rebus provide statuit antiquitas, eos tantummodo sanctos a Christifidelibus colendos
esse decernens, qui magno et alto sanctae\(^13\) sedis apostolicae judicio probati receptique essent.

\(^{1}\) quoddammodo H
\(^{2}\) omit. R
\(^{3}\) habeat H, L, T
\(^{4}\) auditorio D
\(^{5}\) operis L, T
\(^{6}\) humanae opis : humani operis H
\(^{7}\) esse H
\(^{8}\) impertitur T
\(^{9}\) reddimimus R
\(^{10}\) veneramur R
\(^{11}\) intercessionibus R
\(^{12}\) oderit G
\(^{13}\) omit. H
2. **Concept of canonization**

[5] As regards the canonization of saints,¹ the word “holy” refers to beatitude and immutability and some kind of divinity,² things that only God can give. For who else can make a mortal immortal, an unhappy happy, or a man God? All men are made blessed by their own innocence and virtue, but not without the help of God. Those who die in His grace do not need human assistance, as Scripture says: *Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord.*³ And: *The Lord will not forsake his saints.*⁴ If human assistance was needed to attain the state of beatitude, many would be deprived of their reward since human judgment is fallacious. But God sees all, he understands all, he is supremely just, pious, and merciful, and He will not suffer anybody to be deprived of his reward. *God is wonderful in his saints,*⁵ whom he has chosen from the beginning and written into the book of life. He calls them to Him when and where He wishes to, and He grants them perfect beatitude without needing our service for that. The felicity of the saints is not increased by our praise, nor is it diminished by our blame: they are enjoying their supreme and unchangeable boon without any fear. Such is the glory of all saints.

[6] What we give them, we give for our own sake.⁶ For when we are pious and religious, when we adore God and venerate the saints, we redeem our own sins. And if we, as often happens, fear to address⁷ God directly because of our iniquities, we have recourse to the saints [asking them] to intercede for our infirmities. But when we ask for protection, we must take care not to commit an offense by using intercessors⁸ who are not pleasing to God. For the divinity becomes displeased and is not happy if we use unsuitable propitiators. Therefore, in Antiquity it was decided that only such saints might be venerated by Christians who had been approved and accepted by the great and high judgment of the Apostolic See.

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¹ "sancti"
² I.e. the third sense of the word, see above
³ Apocalypse, 14, 13
⁴ Psalms, 36, 28
⁵ Psalms, 67, 36
⁶ Cf. oration “Si quis me roget”, sect. 1: If anybody asks me, Reverend Fathers, why our forefathers introduced commemorations of holy men, I can answer easily: they did not do so for the sake of the holy men themselves so that they would receive praise for a well-lived life, but for our sake so that we will follow their examples. For why would they need our praise when they have been received by the Great God and are enjoying the supreme and ineffable splendour of divinity? And why would they want the praise of mortal men when they are living with Christ and are continuously praised by the voices of angels? No, they are blessed, and we are not able to give them anything or take anything away from them. This passage is from 1438, i.e. 23 years before the “Catherinam Senensem”. Pius also used the theme in the introduction to his Commentarii, written about a year afterwards: *The perfect happiness of the blessed [the saints] is neither increased by the praise of mortals nor diminished by their scorn,* CO, Preface (Meserve, I, p. 3)
⁷ “pulsare aures” : i.e. knock on God’s ears
⁸ “intercessores”

1 deceptique essent add. H; receptique essent add. L; receptique essent add. T
2 tantum B
3 colendos deos : deos colendos G
4 senatumque H, L, T
5 omit. H, L, T
6 sibi add. suprascr. H
7 deis H
8 et add. H
9 nomen H
10 et H
Similar caution was used by the gentiles: although they were blind and did not know the true light, nobody could choose for himself which gods to worship: divine worship depended on higher authority. In Rome, it was the Senate which had the power to decide this. For Tertullian writes that when Emperor Tiberius had been informed by Pilate about the miracles of Christ, he wanted to grant him divine honours. But the Senate was against it purely because Pilate had written to the emperor, not to the Senate. But the true God did not want to numbered among false Gods, and He who is the One God, and even a jealous God, did not want to be worshipped together with many gods. The Senate, spurning Christ, accepted Simon Magus instead and decreed a statue in his honour as if he was a god. The Romans worshipped many gods, but they believed Jupiter to be the one king of all, not the Jupiter of Crete, son of Saturn, but some eternal and incomprehensible divinity. If We understand the gentiles correctly, those men whom they considered as gods were such as we call saints. Indeed Holy Scripture sometimes call angels or men gods, as in: \textit{God hath stood in the congregation of gods: and being in the midst of them he judgeth gods}.\footnote{Psalms, 81, 1: \textit{Deus stetit in synagoga deorum; in medio autem deos [Pius' text has “deus”] dijudicat}} And again: \textit{You are gods and all of you the sons of the most High}}.\footnote{Psalms, 81, 6: \textit{Dii estis, et filii Excelsi omnes}}
[8] Quod si apud caecam gentilitatem nefas fuit deos sibi quemquam\textsuperscript{1} pro sua voluntate deligere, ne falsa illorum religio confunderetur, quanto id magis de sanctis inter Christianos debet esse prohibitum, quos nihil absque ordine facere decet? Scimus, quia magister noster Christus est Dei filius et sapientia patris ab aeterno ordinata. Nec illud ignoramus Pauli, qui\textsuperscript{2} omnia ordinata esse dicit, quae sunt a Deo. Quod si ecclesia Dei opus est, ut est profecto,\textsuperscript{3} extra ecclesiam omnes agunt, qui ordinem intervertunt, quales sunt, qui Romano pontifici\textsuperscript{3} non oboediunt; et cum debeant esse membra, ea\textsuperscript{4} sibi arrogant, quae sunt capitis. Ecclesiam quippe super apostolica petra Christus fundavit et ordinavit. Ubi ordo, ibi caput et membra; et illud imperat, ista parent. Est enim ecclesia sicut castrorum acies ordinata et verus Christi exercitus, in quo ducis\textsuperscript{5} imperio cuncta per ordinem geruntur. Qua regnum Dei patet, ibi\textsuperscript{6} ordo est et concordia. In inferno autem nullus ordo, sed sempiternus horror inhabitat, qui Luciferi sedes est, et omnium carcer, qui Romanae adversantur ecclesiae\textsuperscript{7}.

\textsuperscript{1} quemcumque H
\textsuperscript{2} quia C
\textsuperscript{3} pontifice G
\textsuperscript{4} omit. H, L, T
\textsuperscript{5} duas T
\textsuperscript{6} ubi H
\textsuperscript{7} adversantur ecclesiae : ecclesiae adversantur G
If the blind gentiles considered it wrong to choose gods after one’s own desire (so that their false religion would not become disordered), should such practice in relation to saints not be even more forbidden to Christians, among whom all must done according to order. We know that our master, Jesus Christ, is the Son of God and the Wisdom of the father, ordained from eternity. And we heed these words of Paul: all that is, is ordained of God. But if the Church is the work of God - as indeed it is - then all who act outside the Church overturn order, as they do who disobey the Roman Pontiff. And whereas they ought to be members, they usurp the right of the head. Christ founded and ordained his Church on the apostolic rock. Where there is order, there is both head and members. The head commands, and the members obey. For the Church is as an army set in array, the true army of Christ, where all is done in an orderly fashion on the general’s command. Where the Kingdom of God is, there, too, is order and harmony. In Hell there is no order, but only eternal horror, the seat of Lucifer, and the prison of all who oppose the Roman Church.

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1 Romans, 13, 1: there is no power but from God: and those that are, are ordained of God (non est enim potestas nisi a Deo: quae autem sunt, a Deo ordinata sunt)
2 Canticle, 6, 9
[9] Nostri vero antecessores idonei dispensatores ministeriorum Dei omnia secundum ordinem statuerunt. Ilī cum animadvertērunt defunctorum memoriae modo imaginēs, modo statuas, modo etiam fana dicari et sacra peragi, verītī ne plebes deciperentur aut daemonibus aut damnatis animabus litantes, eos tantum pro sanctis colendos esse mandavere, quos Romana primaque sedes recepisset, quae non levi rumore aut opinione vana, sed maturo consilio et longa digestione sanctorum canonizationes admittit, nec sanctum aut beatum aut immortalem effecit quem canonizat, sed sanctificatum a Deo, immortalem factum, ac beatitate donatum esse declarat.


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1 hii R
2 Veneti B
3 demoniis H
4 efficit D, G, H, R, T
5 cum H, L, R, T
6 vos R
7 deberi H; deum L, R, T
8 omit. R
9 in hac solemnitate ... adducere quae ut omit. H, L, T
[9] But as proper dispensers of the ministries of God, Our predecessors established an orderly practice: when they saw that people sometimes dedicated images, statues, and even shrines to the memory of the dead and performed sacred rites to them, they feared that people would be deceived into making offerings to demons or damned souls. Therefore they decided that only those who had been accepted as saints by the Roman and First See might be revered as saints. This See only permits the canonization of saints after mature deliberation and lengthy procedures, and not on the basis of superficial rumour or fickle public opinion. And when it canonizes a person, it does not make it holy or blessed or immortal, but only declares that he or she is made holy and immortal and blessed by God Himself.

[10] Moreover, the blessed virgin Catherine does not enter Heaven today for she already entered it when she left this world. Nor is it only on the last day of the great judgment that the Lord Saviour says: Come, ye blessed of my Father, possess you the kingdom. ¹ No, whenever people die well and piously, he says: My saints, who fought when you were in the flesh, I shall reward you for your labours.² Nobody will deny that this is what he said to the blessed Catherine when she left the prison of the body, saying: Lord, into thy hands I commend my spirit.³ Thus, today We do not make this virgin holy, but We only declare that she is holy and may be venerated publicly. Concerning her merits We shall only say a few things now, since you have heard so many and so great things about her life and miracles over the last days. But it is not proper to completely omit her praises at this solemn feast of her canonization. So let Us just say a few words – We believe that you will hear them gladly.

¹ Matthew, 25, 34: Venite benedicti Patris mei, possidete paratum vobis regnum
² Liturgical text from the Feast of Martyrs
³ Psalms, 30, 6; Luke, 23, 46

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¹ se dedicans : sede dicans L, T  
² quoniam H, L, T  
³ agnoscere H  
⁴ omit. R  
⁵ mondanas R  
⁶ omit. H, R  
⁷ omit. R  
⁸ maritale H
3. Life and miracles of Catherine of Siena

3.1. Life and character

[11] This virgin was born of good parents, and she became even better herself. She dedicated herself to God even before she was old enough to really know him. As a small girl of six she wanted to go to the desert to serve the Lord. Having been taught the Salutation of the Angel,¹ she saluted the Blessed Virgin, Mother of Our Lord, on bended knees and on each step every time she went up the stairs in her father’s house. When she grew older, she dedicated her virginity to Christ whom, in a clear vision, she saw enthroned in majesty. She also saw the secrets of the Heavenly Court which no mortal tongue can speak of. She renounced all worldly pleasures, gave herself totally to prayer, and chastised her little body with fasting, vigils, and scourging. She taught and persuaded her girl friends of the same age to do the same. When she reached the age of puberty, she cut off her hair and refused marriage with a mortal man, disdaining the mockery and insults of men.

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¹ The prayer Angelus

\footnotesize
\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{increpavit H, L, R, T}
\item pugnas \textit{corr. ex pugnans L; pugnans T}
\item carceratos H
\item \textit{omit. R}
\item et proximi \textit{omit. H}
\item et H
\item \textit{em.;\ virginem A, B, C, D, G, H, L, R, T}
\end{itemize}
[12] She received or rather extorted the so-called penitential habit of Saint Dominic. She performed the services of a maid in her father’s house, generously helped the paupers of Christ, took intense care of the sick, and with patience as her shield and Faith as her helmet overcame the temptations of the Devil and the incessant attacks of malign spirits. She comforted the imprisoned and the distressed as best she could. Only religious and holy words came from her, and all her talk was about morals, the studies of the good arts, religion, piety, contempt of the world, the love of God and one’s neighbour, and the Heavenly Fatherland. No visitor left her without having learned something and become a better person. Learning had been infused into her, it was not acquired. She was a teacher before she was a disciple. Indeed, when teachers of Holy Scripture and even bishops from great dioceses arrogantly put very difficult questions on the divinity to her, she answered them wisely and so well that those who had come to her as wolves and lions left her meek as lambs. Indeed, many of them greatly admired the virgin’s divine wisdom, and having distributed their possessions among the poor they accepted the Cross of the Lord and afterwards lived an evangelical life.

1 Here the humanist pope manages to slip in the liberal arts – though it is doubtful that Catherine would have been much concerned with these, and that they would really be a sign of holiness. Interestingly, the passage on the liberal arts is not repeated in the papal bull (see appendix) which otherwise quotes the oration verbatim.
Quid de vitae austeritate summaque abstinencia dicemus? Miramur Moysen und Eliam, qui XL dierum jejunia tolerarunt: haec virgo a die cineris usque in Pentecostem jejunium produxit, sola eucharistiae communione contenta. Miramur Antoniorum, Paulorum, Machariorum, et Hilarionum abstinentiam, qui solis aut oleribus aut leguminibus victitarunt: hujus virginis tenuior cibus extitit, quae per annos ferme octo minimo herbarum succo, eoque parum retento sustentata est. Miramur Antoniorum, Paulorum, Machariorum, et Hilarionum abstinentiam, qui solis aut oleribus aut leguminibus victitarunt: hujus virginis tenuior cibus extitit, quae per annos ferme octo minimo herbarum succo, eoque parum retento sustentata est. Miramur Antoniorum, Paulorum, Machariorum, et Hilarionum abstinentiam, qui solis aut oleribus aut leguminibus victitarunt: hujus virginis tenuior cibus extitit, quae per annos ferme octo minimo herbarum succo, eoque parum retento sustentata est.

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1 Moysen D, H, R, T
2 cinerum H
3 Pentecosten C; Pentecosten D, G, R
4 jejunia G
5 solam L, T
6 Hi/ylariorum H, R
7 omit. C
8 Bragmanas G; Bragianos L, T
9 illorum R
10 demoniis H
11 omit. H, L, R, T
3.2. Asceticism

[13] What shall We say about her austerity of life? We admire Moses and Elia who were able to fast for 40 days: this virgin extended the fast from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost, having the Eucharist for her only food. We admire the abstinence of an Antonius, a Paulus, a Macharius, and a Hilarion who only ate cabbages and legumes: this virgin ate even less, subsisting, for almost eight years on vegetable juice, and she was even only able to keep a little of it down. We admire the Brahmans, the Indian gymnosophists, who are reported to sustain both cold and hot weather, though nude: this virgin suffered even more, though clothed, for she lay on hard bed, slept neither day or night, and did not rest even for a twentieth part of her time. She disciplined her flesh with knotted strings, had almost permanent headache, burnt from fever, and suffered back pain. She also fought with demons and was much plagued by them. But even in such difficult circumstances she did not neglect the works of charity. She assisted people who were treated badly; she rebuked sinners and called them to penitence; she made peace among people quarrelling; and she gladly gave precepts for salvation to all.
[14] Pro pace Florentinorum usque in Avenionem profecta est, ipsique gratias habere Italos
decet, per cujus operam Romana curia ad eos reedit. Audite, Romani, audite omnes: res
memoranda sacris annalibus atque recenti digna historia: Annos\textsuperscript{1} quattuor et septuaginta
Romana curia trans alpes peregrinata fuerat. Apostolica sedes per multas deducta manus tandem
ad Gregorium XI. sanctitatis opinione celebrem pervenerat. Is cum episcopum quemdam
redargueret, quod procul ab ecclesia et sponsa sua vitam ageret, hoc responsum habuit: “Cur tu,
pater sancte, qui me arguis, apud ecclesiam tuam non trahis moram, sed multo quam ego meam,
tu tuam sponsam a te procul absentem contemnis?” Tactus hoc responso veluti monitu divino
pontifex penitiorum palatii partem ingressus solus Deo vovit, quam primum posset Romam
petere, neque hoc mortalium cuipiam revelavit. Sed cum navaret ad recessum operas, et rex
Franciae multique Galliarum principes ejus propositum impedire nunc precibus, nunc minis
adrinerentur, dubius quid ageret, hanc virginem ad se accersitam consuluit, an Romam accedere
deberet. Cui virgo: “Quid me,” inquit, “pontifex, vilem femellam\textsuperscript{2} interrogas? Tute scis, quae Deo
promiseris; servato, quae vovisti.” Attonitus his dictis praesul omni haesitatione rejecta itineri se
commisit, et navigio in Italiam vectus Romam petit.

\textsuperscript{1}annis R
\textsuperscript{2}famellam C; heminellam H
3.3. Role in the return of the papacy to Rome

[14] She even went to Avignon in a matter of peace for the Florentines. The Italians owe her thanks because it was through her efforts that the Roman Curia returned to them. Hear it, Romans, hear it, all of you for it is a matter worthy of being recorded in the sacred annals and an important event in recent history. For 74 years the Roman Curia had been residing in foreign country, beyond the Alps.¹ The Apostolic See passed through many hands and finally came to Gregory XI,² whom many consider to be a saint. When he rebuked a bishop for living far away from his church and spouse, the bishop answered him: “Why do you rebuke me, Holy Father, when You yourself do not stay with your own Church, and much more than I disdain your spouse who is far away from you?” The Pontiff was struck by this answer as if it was a rebuke from God. He went into his private rooms in the palace, and when he was alone he swore to God that he would return to Rome as soon as possible, telling nobody about it. But when he tried to leave, the King of France³ and many French princes strove by entreaties and threats to prevent him from doing as he wished. In doubt as to what to do, he summoned the virgin and asked her advice about returning to Rome. The virgin answered him: “Why, o Pontiff, do you ask me, a lowly woman? You know quite well what you yourself promised to God. Keep your promise!” Deeply moved by this answer, the Pontiff cast all hesitation away, left [Avignon], sailed to Italy, and came to Rome.

¹ In Avignon, France
² Gregorius XI [Pierre Roger de Beaufort](ca. 1329-1378): Pope from 1370 to his death. Seventh and last of the Avignon popes, and last pope before the Great Western Schism
³ Charles V (1338-1380): King of France from 1364 to his death.
Fuit enim in hac virgine spiritus\(^1\) prophetiae, multa praedixit antequam fierent, et cum\(^2\) hoc Gregorii votum tum alia multa occultissima revelavit. Rapiebatur a spiritu extra se et in aere suspensa frequenter visione divina\(^3\) fruebatur. Languores\(^4\) multos curavit, febrisibus ceterisque morbis in Christi nomine imperans. Propter quas res duobus Romanis pontificibus, Gregorio, cujus modo meminimus, et Urbano sexto acceptissima fuit, ita ut eorum legationibus fungeretur, multisque et magnis spiritualibus gratiis ab eis donaretur.

\(^{1}\) species corr. ex spes H  
\(^{2}\) tum H  
\(^{3}\) visione divina : divina visione H, L, T  
\(^{4}\) languores A, B, C, D, R, L
3.4. Miracles

[15] This virgin also had the spirit of prophecy and predicted many things before they happened. Apart from the vow of Gregorius, she revealed many other hidden things, too. Frequently her spirit left the body, and floating above the ground she enjoyed the vision of God. She cured many melancholics. She commanded fevers and other illnesses in the name of Christ. For these reasons, two Roman Pontiffs, Gregory whom We have just mentioned, and Urban VI,¹ held her in the greatest esteem, used her on missions, and granted her many and great spiritual boons of grace.

¹ Urbanus VI [Bartolomeo Prignano] (ca. 1318-1389): Pope from 1378 to his death
[16] O igitur gloria et beatissima virgo, quae tantum decus patrum\textsuperscript{1} nostrorum memoriae tradidisti, atque urbem Senam tantopere exornasti. Gaudemus\textsuperscript{2} sane, fratres, et gloriamur\textsuperscript{3} patriae nostrae sub cœnārum carnet tantum splendorem esse concessum, ut nostra aetate cives duo\textsuperscript{4} Senenses in cælesti Jerusalem ascriberentur\textsuperscript{5}: rara laus et nostris alias inaudita temporibus. Bernardinum, nobili loco apud \{138v\} Senenses natum, Nicolaus V., praedecessor noster, pontifex maximus, in catalogo\textsuperscript{6} sanctorum Christi confessorum adnumeravit, cujus excellentissimas virtutes et admiranda opera non solum audivistis ab aliis, sed ipsi vidistis, qui vestro\textsuperscript{7} sub aevō clarent, doctrina sua mundum implevit. Catherinam, ejusdem urbis alumnam, ipsi modo inter acceptas Deo\textsuperscript{8} virgines et caelo donatas relaturi sumus, cujus ante annos octuaginta defunctae tam clara et illustra fama est, ac si hēri aut nudiustertius decessisset. Neque enim ingentia facta facile obscurantur.

[17] Loquuntur Catherinam, ejusque signa et prodigia miratur et celebrant non Senenses modo, apud eos nata et adulta est, aut Romani, apud eos obiit, sed Florentini, Pisani, Lucenses, Genuenses, et ipsi transalpes Avenionenses, inter eos aliquandiu summa cum laude versata est. Veneti quoque huic virgini testimonium perhibent\textsuperscript{9}, miro\textsuperscript{10} virtutum\textsuperscript{11} suarum odore\textsuperscript{12} afflati. Ad Germanos insuper et Hungaros flagrantia\textsuperscript{13} sanctitatis ejus pervenit. Si quidem rex Hungariae, dux Austriae et Pataviensis episcopus\textsuperscript{14} canonizationem ipsius a nostri antecessoribus per nuntios et epistolas petierunt. Idemque pari modo a nobis efflagitavit carissimus in Christo filius noster\textsuperscript{15}, Fredericus, Romanorum imperator Augustus.
4. Canonization of Catherine of Siena

[16] Oh glorious and blessed virgin, who has so greatly contributed to the reputation of our fathers and has adorned the City of Siena so magnificently. We rejoice, brethren, and are proud that this splendid honour has been given to Our fatherland after the flesh and that, in our time, two Sienese have been inscribed in the Heavenly Jerusalem. It is a rare distinction, indeed, and otherwise unheard of in our time. Bernardino, who came from a noble family in Siena, was entered into the catalogue of the Holy Confessors of Christ by Our predecessor, Supreme Pontiff Nicolaus V. You yourselves have not only heard from others about his excellent virtues and admirable works, but you have seen them yourselves for he was renowned in your own time and filled the world with his teaching. And Catherine, a native daughter of the same city, We Ourselves shall now declare to be among the virgins pleasing to God and given to Heaven. Though she died 80 years ago, her fame is so great and illustrious as if she had died only some days ago. For great deeds are not easily forgotten.

[17] Catherine and her signs and miracles are told, admired, and celebrated not only by the people of Siena, where she was born and grew up, or of Rome where she died, but also by the people of Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Genoa, and even Avignon beyond the Alps where she lived for a time in great honour. Also the Venetians bear witness to this virgin, moved by the wonderful odour of her virtues. The splendour of her holiness has even reached the Germans and the Hungarians. Indeed the King of Hungary, the Duke of Austria, and the Bishop of Passau have sent envoys and letters to Our predecessors requesting her canonization. And the August Emperor of the Romans, Friedrich, Our dear son in Christ, has begged Us to do the same.

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1 Bernardino of Siena (1380-1444): Franciscan preacher and saint
2 Friedrich III (Habsburg) (1415-1493): Duke of Austria (as Friedrich V) from 1424. Elected King of Germany and Holy Roman Emperor in 1440, crowned in Rome in 1452
Non est igitur, venerabiles fratres, cur dubitemus hanc prudentissimam virginem apud militantem ecclesiam sua dignitate donare, quae jampridem coronata est apud triumphantem. Conveniunt omnia, quae tanto in opere desiderari solent. Adest vita purissima, nullius conscia culpae\(^1\). Adest integerrima fides. Adest flagrantissima\(^2\) caritas. Adest signorum et miraculorum supra naturam virtus, sicut perpulchre recitavit advocatus. Adest fama celebris. Adsunt preces principum et rogamina populorum. Adhibita est omnis solemnitas, quae in tanto negotio requiritur. Audacter igitur canonizationem ejus absolvere possumus. Sed nihil est quod sine\(^3\) divina\(^4\) gratia rite perfici queat. Homines sumus, labi, errare, et decipi possumus. Solus Deus est, qui falli non potest; quapropter oratos vos omnes, qui adestis, facimus, ut\(^5\) una nobiscum spiritus sancti misericordiam et assistentiam imploretis, ne\(^6\) nos in hoc negotio sinat aberrare, sed ea nobis inspiret, quae suae sint beneplacita\(^7\) voluntati et fidelium utilitati conducant\(^8\).\(^9\)

\(^{1}\) conscia culpae : culpae conscia R
\(^{2}\) fragrantissima H
\(^{3}\) omit. H, L, R, T
\(^{4}\) omit. H
\(^{5}\) omit. H, L, R, T
\(^{6}\) neque D, G
\(^{7}\) omit. R
\(^{8}\) concedant H, L, R, T
\(^{9}\) Amen add. R
Thus there is no reason, venerable brethren, why We should hesitate to let the Church Militant recognize the honour of this wise virgin\(^1\) who has already been crowned by the Church Triumphant. All the proper conditions in such a great case have been fulfilled. Her life was pure and without any sin.\(^2\) Her faith was unblemished and her love burning. Her signs and miracles showed power over nature, as it was movingly told by the advocate.\(^3\) Her fame is great, and We have received requests from the princes and demands from the peoples. All the solemn procedures required in such an important affair have been followed. We can therefore proceed to her canonization with confidence. But nothing can be done rightly without the grace of God. We are men, we may fall, err, and be deceived. Only God cannot be deceived. Therefore, We ask all of you who are present to beg, together with Us, for the mercy and assistance of the Holy Spirit that He will not let Us err in this matter, but inspire Us to do what may please His will and benefit the faithful.

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\(^{1}\) Probably an allusion to the ten prudent virgins – and a reuse of a title of the Virgin Mary

\(^{2}\) Here Pius – unabashedly - applies the expression “inscia culpae” which Vergil had used about Queen Amata of Latium (Aeneid, 12.648), to a Catholic saint. The office he wrote for Saint Catherine also contains some expressions and concepts from classical pagan literature. The world would know and note that the pope himself knew, appreciated, and used such literature, true humanist and lover of the liberal arts, such as he also claimed Saint Catherine to have been

\(^{3}\) The advocate charged with defending Catherine’s holiness in the procedure of canonization had made a public report on one of the preceding days
Appendix 1: Papal bull *Virgo Catharina* of 29 June 1461 on the canonization of Catherine of Siena

*After Rainaldus, ad ann. 1461, nr. 124*

Pius Papa II ad perpetuae rei memoriam

Summa hujus virginis abstinentia fuit et mirabilis vitae austeritas, nam cum vini et carnium usum prorsus abjecisset, nec pulmentariis ullis uteretur, ad extremum eo deducta est, ut nec legumina ederet, nec pane visceretur nisi caelesti, quem verus Christianus in sacramento sumit altaris. Inventa est aliquando a die cinerum usque in Pentecostem jejunium perduxisse, sola eucharistiae communione contenta, per annos circiter octo minimo herbarum succo, eorumque parum retento et communione sacra sustentata est: ad cibum quasi ad supplicium dormiebat, nec illo cruciatu carebat, luctabatur cum daemonibus, multisque illorum molestiis vexabatur, sed ajebat cum apostolo: *Cum informor, tum fortior sum*. Nec enim in tantis laboribus deficiebat, nec caritatis opera negligebat. Assistebat miseri, arguebat peccatores et blandissimis verbis ad poenitentiam revocabat; praecipue salutis omnibus laeta dabat, quid sectandum, quid fugiendum esset alacri vulnus ostendebat; dissidentes summo studio componebat, multa extinxit odia, et mortales sedavit inimicitiis.

Pro pace Florentinorum, qui cum ecclesia dissidiebant et interdicto suppositi erant ecclesiastico, Appeninum et Alpes transire atque usque in Avenionem ad Gregorium XI. pontificem maximum proficisci non dubitavit, cui votum suum de petenda urbe Roma in occulto factum et soli sibi ac Deo notum sese divinitus cognovisse monstravit. Fuit enim in ea spiritus prophetiae, et multa praedixit antequam fierent, et occultissima revelavit. Rapiebatur saepe in aeris contemplationibus divinis, adeo extra se acta, ut expuncta percussaque nihil omnino sentiret, idque frequenter sibi contingebat, cum divinissima refereretur Eucharistica. Magnum et sanctum erat in plebis Catharinae nomen: undique ad eam aegroti et malignis vexati et ab oppressis abire corporibus propter quas res duobus Romanis pontificibus, Gregorio, cujus paulo ante meminimus, et Urbano sexto acceptissima fuit, ita ut legationibus eorum fungeretur, multisque et magnis spiritualibus gratiis ab eis donaretur.

Eadem cum vitae agonem jam peregisset anno aetatis suae tertio circiter ac trigesimo, in urbe Roma diem suum clausit, de cujus animae in caelum assumptione et gloriosa receptione, stupendae et admirabiles revelationes factae reperiuntur apud eam personas, quae virginem dilexere, maxime vero apud ejus confessorem Raymundum Capuanum, sacrae theologiae magistrum, qui postea generalis totius Ordinis Praedicatorum pater, magister et rector effectus est: is namque, cum Genuae ageret, ea nocte, qua virgo migravit, hora matutina intra
dormitorium apud imaginem matris domini eam contemplatus est miro splendore fulgentem, et verba ad se consolatoria dicit. Corpus aliquandiu servatum, denique in ecclesia fratrum Praedicatorum, quae de Minerva dicitur, Rome conditum est non sine maxima populi devotione ac reverentia, cujus tactu plerique aegroti salutem consecuti sunt, adeo ut nonnullis saluti fuit ea tetigisse, qua sacra virginis membra tetigere. Postea quoque virgo ipsa jam caelo recepta vota supplicantium benigne audivit, et, ut a sponso et domino suo Christo Salvatore exaudirentur, curavit: multi enim ex diversis aegritudinibus curati sunt, qui audita Beatae Catharinae gloriosissima fama, ejus patrocinium supplices petivere.

Appendix 2: Three hymns composed for the office of Saint Catherine of Siena by Pope Pius II


Ad (primas) vespéras

Hec tue, virgo, monimenta laudis,
Que tuis leti, Catherina, sacris
Hoc quidem pacto modulamur omnes
   perfer Olympo.

Si satis digně nequeant referri,
anvus nobis ueniam, precamur:
non sumus tanti ingenii, fatemur,
   optima virgo.

quis fuit dignas modulatus unquam
uirginis laudes? quis in orbe toto
femine inuicte peritura nunquam
carmina pandet?

predita exemplis, Catherina, claris
moribus prestans, sapiens abunde,
temperans, fortis, pia, iusta, prudens
   ethera scandis.

quem latet virtus facinusque clarum,
quo nequit dici sanctius per orbem?
uulnerum formam miserata Christi
   exprimis ipsa.
nam breuis, meste misereque vite
et malis cunctis penitus referte
fortiter spernens pretiosa queque
sidera adisti.

gratias summas habeamus omnes
filio magni genitoris almo,
spiritum sanctum ueneremur et sit
laus tamen tua.

Amen.

Ad laudes

iam ferox miles tibi sepe cessit
et duces iras posuere sevas,
in necem diram populo minati
sepe senensi.

quid quod et sacris studiis frequenter
uiribus summis operam dedisti?
littere docte lepideque claris
urbibus extant.

niteris uerbis reuocare lapsos,
niteris rectum suadere cunctis;
sic ais: “tantum probitas beatos
efficit omnes.”

iura tu seue tremebunda mortis
fortiter temnens, nihil extimescens
premium nostre vocitare uite
sepe solebas.
unde cum tempus properaret ipsum, 
quo sacros artus cineresque busto 
linqueres, celos aditura flentes 
ipsa docebas.

sic sacrum Christi uenerata corpus, 
hostiam libans lacrymis obortis 
dixeras cunctis documenta uite 
uoce suprema.

gratias summas habeamus omnes 
filio magni genitoris almo, 
spiritum sanctum ueneremur et sit 
laus tamen tua.

Amen.

**Ad matutinum**

Laudibus, virgo, nimis efferenda 
iure censeris, quoniam triumphos 
ipsa celorum probitate mira 
nacta refulges.

premium sancte tamen ipsa vite 
et simul munus probitatis alme 
accipis celo cumulata cunctis 
denique rebus.

tu grauem sacris meritis refertum 
orbis exemplar pietate plenum, 
predicatorum uenerata patrem 
ordine fulges.
nulla iam rerum placuit uoluptas,
nullus ornatus, nitor ecce nullus
 corporis. semper fugiens inique
crimina vite.

sepius corpus domitans acere
(quam pie flagris, cruar hinc et inde
fluxerat riuis!) hominumque demum
crimine flebas.

qui per ingentes variosque casus
orbe terrarum cruciantur omnes
quotque vel curis agitantur ipsi
undique diris.

suppetent nobis totidem canenda
si tue laudes repetantur omnes;
tu quidem longe pietate cunctis
inclyta, prestas.

gratias summas habeamus omnes
filio magni genitoris almo,
spiritum sanctum ueneremur et sit
laus tamen tua.

Amen.