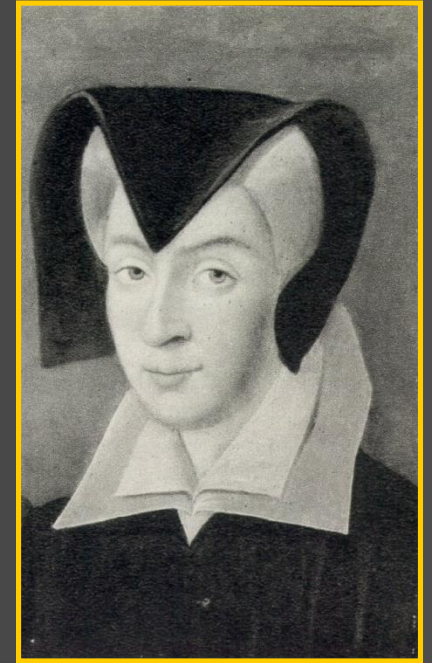
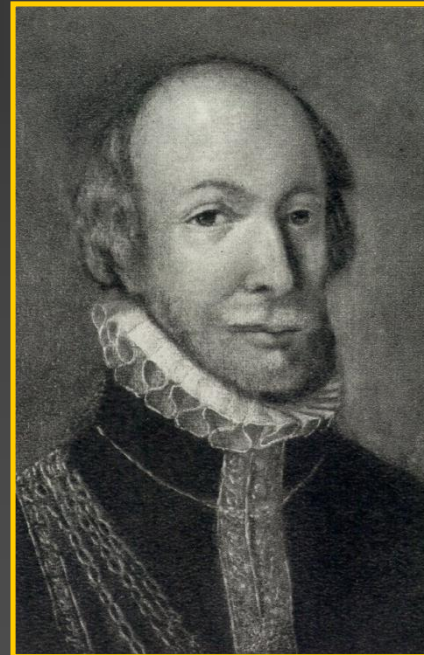


The Proud Parents

- Father: François de Nouvelles de Boisy
 - military general,
 - able administrator.
- Mother: Françoise Simonaz
 - gentle and youthful,
 - mindful of the poor.



Aristocratic Family

- Francis Bonaventure

- born 21 Aug 1567

- Parents teach

- love of God

- Christian mysteries

- through stories,
examples and comparisons taken from nature.



A mother's love

■ Françoise Simonaz

- 1552-1610
- Tender affection
- Give and take
- Seeing God's gifts in the beauties of nature
- Being “at home” with God in the rhythm of every-day life



A father's love

- François de Boisy
 - 1522-1601
 - Love neighbor in honorable service
 - Strengthen peace through reconciliation
 - “It is our duty to always think of God and to be men of God.”



Francis' world...

- Constantly learning from those around him:
 - close-knit family,
 - schools attended,
 - ideas and trends,
 - contemporary politics,
 - persons with whom he came into contact.



Saint Francis de Sales en Padua



Youthful experience
and spiritual growth

Environs: University of Padua



- Born to assure academic freedom...
- Unique: no imperial or pontifical statute...
- *Universa Universis Patavina Libertas*

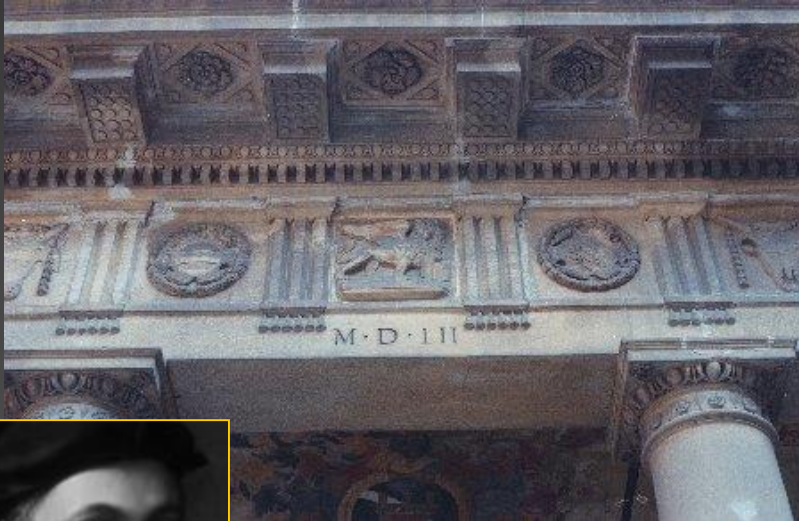
Environs: University of Padua



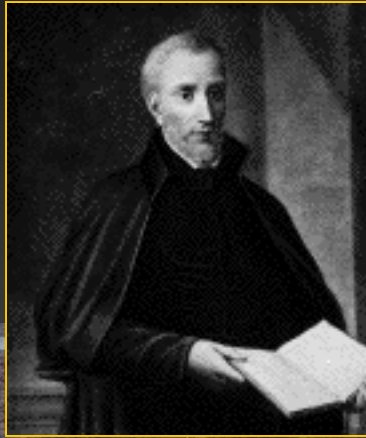
- The official (and only) university of the “most serene” Venice
- *Universitas Iuristarum*
 - Civil Law, Canon Law, Theology
- *Universitas Artistarum*
 - Medicine, Philosophy, Grammar, Dialectics, Rhetoric, Astronomy

Francis de Sales arrives

- At age 21;
- Tranquil Savoird begins to breathe the air of the Italian Renaissance;
- He encounters many new situations and must defend himself...

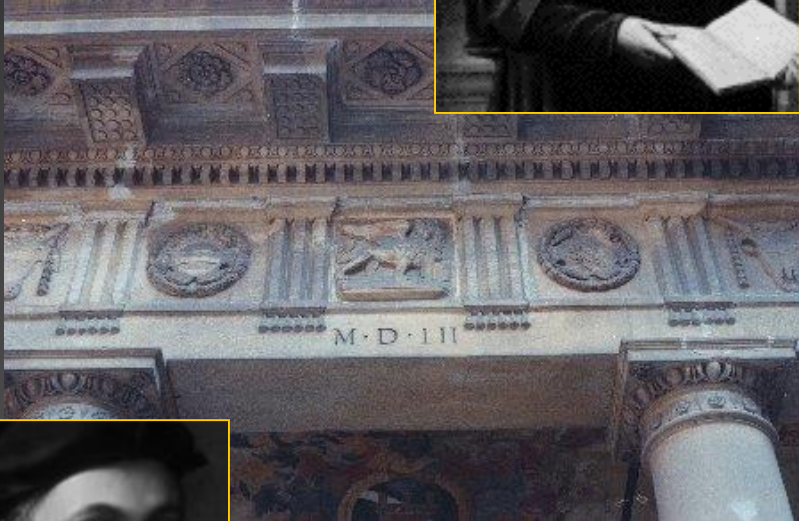


Enter Father Possevino

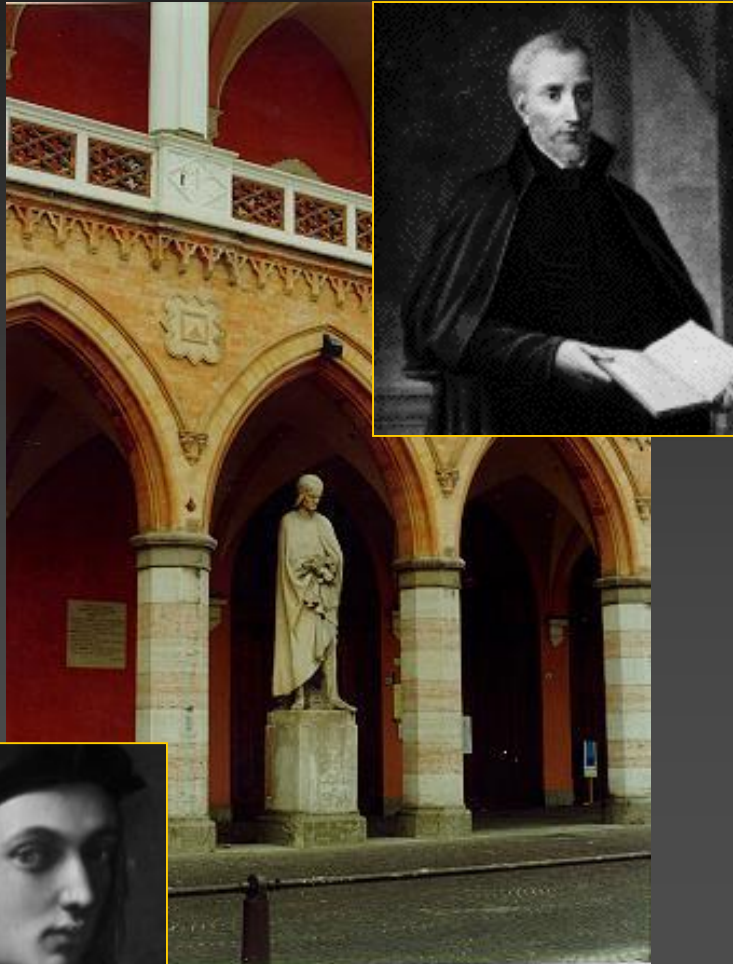


■ Francis looks to Fr Antonio Possevino SJ for spiritual direction

- Missionary in Savoy and Piedmont;
- Apostolic nuncio to Sweden;
- Diplomatic envoy to Poland, Hungary, Transylvania, and some German states.



Fr Possevino's direction



- “Dedicate yourself to your law studies. This is your obligation for the moment, and the *will of God* for you.”

Francis settles down to work...



- he finds his dry studies most tiring;
- he enters a difficult period and his third crisis: a crisis of intellectual awareness.

Fr Possevino's direction



- “Your mind was not made for the worries of the law courts.”



Fr Possevino's direction

- “Life in the world is too risky for you; you may get lost in it.
- “Concentrate on divine things and keep studying theology.”



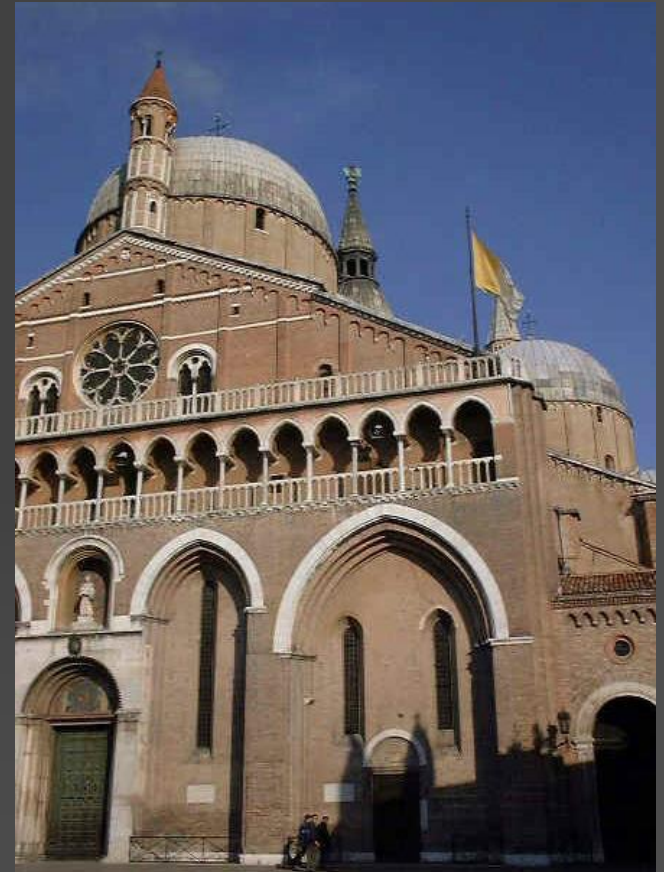
Plan of Life



- Fr Possevino shows Francis how to make his own “ratio”...
- Francis makes his “plan of life”... taking in “all that is good” to come to learn of God’s love in his life

Intellectual deepening

- Law school courses are most demanding.
 - Francis cannot formally add theology classes.
 - He sits in on the conferences of Conventual Franciscan Fr Filippo Gesualdi.



Padre Gesualdi...



- Well-known preacher and author...
 - Writes on the art of contemplation...
 - Publishes a work on the “40 Hours Devotion”...
- His conferences:
 - Offer a panorama of Christian theology...
 - Seem like mission sermons.

Francis...



- Links his studies with his spiritual life:



- Attends Fr Gesualdi's lectures and consults with him;
- Meditates on classes during his prayers;
- Personalizes what he learns through theological reflection.

Predestination again



- He ponders:
 - Sacred Scripture,
 - Church Fathers,
 - Medieval doctors,
 - Protestant reformers,
 - Tridentine theologians.
- He fills six notebooks with his reflections.



6 notebooks of reflections

■ Main themes:

- *De gratia et eius auxilio;*
- *De gratia et predestinatione;*
- *De predestinatione et reprobatione.*



6 notebooks of reflections

- His methodology:
 - prayer (oration),
 - study,
 - reflection,
 - confronting the Word of God.



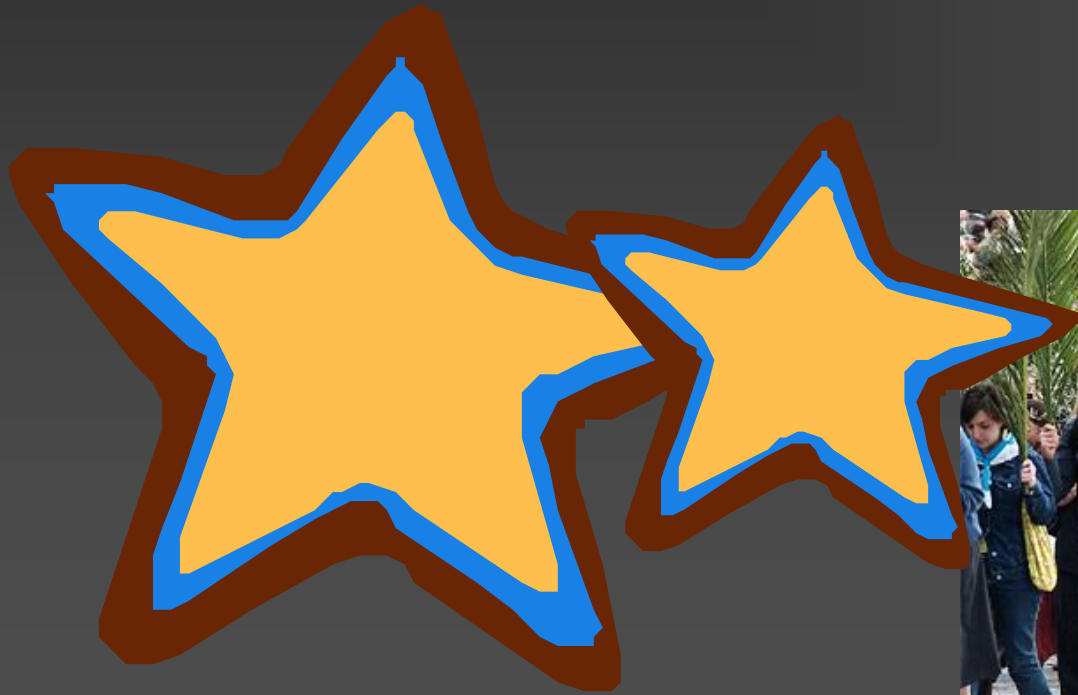
Francis welcomes the word of God

- I place you at the head of a multitude...



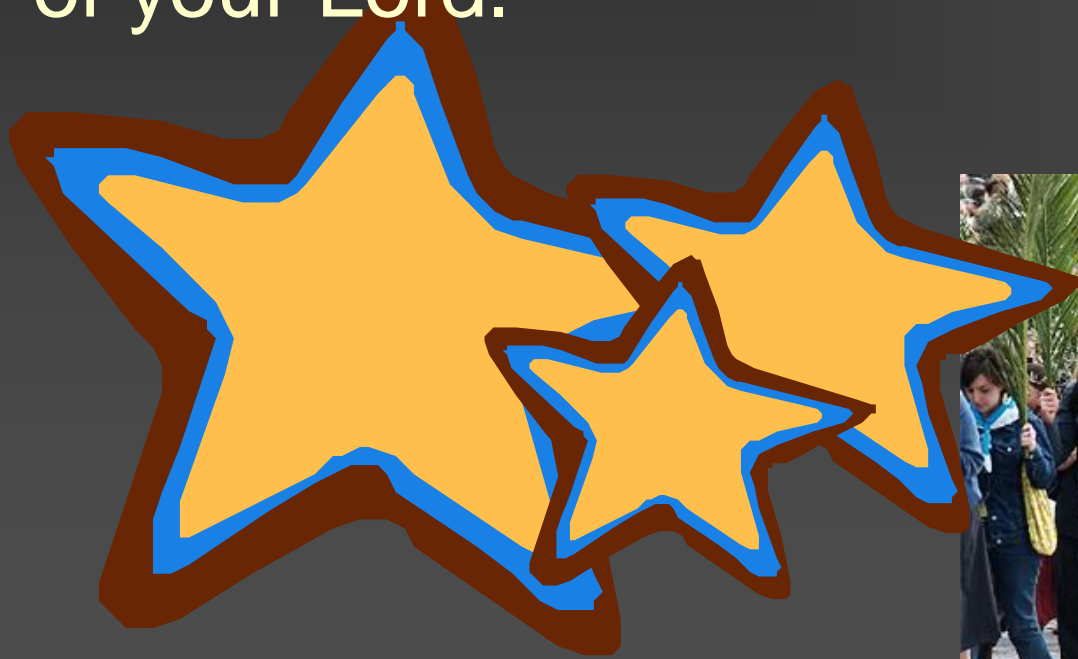
Francis welcomes the word of God

- I swear to you by my own self...



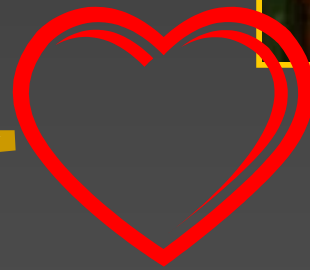
Francis welcomes the word of God

- I will bless you with an everlasting blessing... and you... enter into the glory of your Lord.



In dialogue with the Lord

- Biblical meditation and prayer carries Francis beyond the limits of philosophy and logic. He listens to God's Word and commits himself entirely to Him.



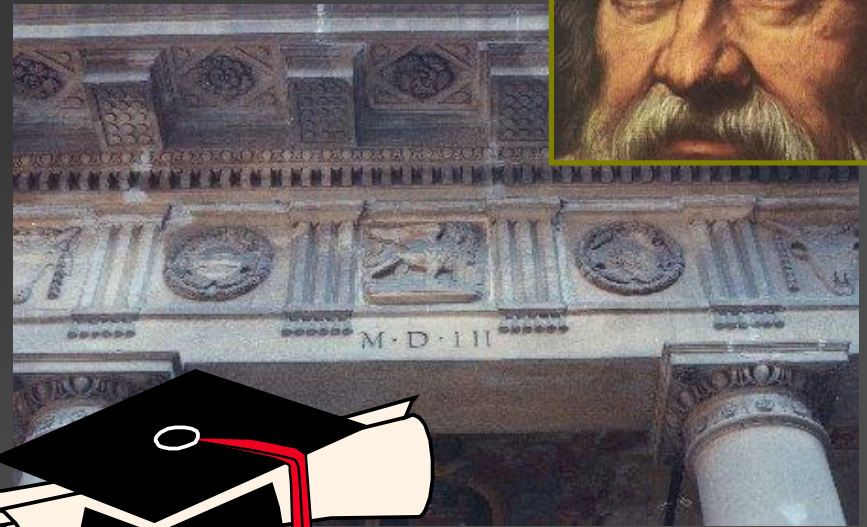
Completing his education

- Complete his studies under **Guido Panciroli**.
 - Famous jurist,
 - Christian humanist,
 - Teaches that the law is at the service of the human being, and not the human being at the service of the law.



Completing his education

- In 1591 under the direction **Guido Panciroli**, he consigns his thesis...
- Doctor in Civil Law and Canon Law
- *Summa cum laude*



Changed person...

- Studies in Padua work a change in him. From a tormented vision of life, he passes to a more serene humanism.

self-assured

optimistic

Serene

spontaneous

Leaving Padua...



- Qualified in the area of law and culture:
 - self-assured,
 - spontaneous...
- deeply prayerful
 - optimistic ...
- spiritually mature
 - serene!

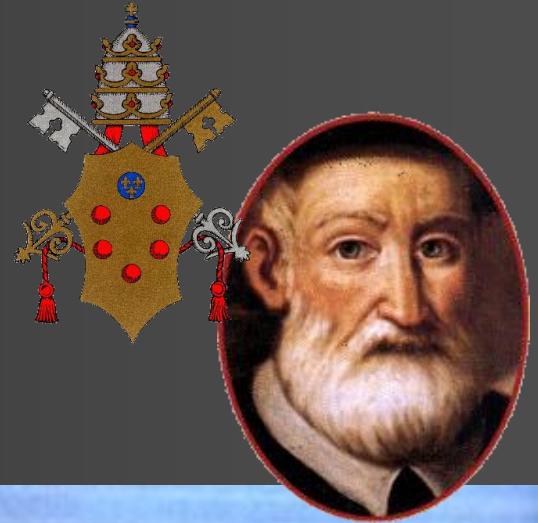
Passing through Loreto...



- With brother Gallois, P. Déage, & cousins,
- Visits shrine of Loreto, and “Holy House” of the Virgin...
- Thanks God for all the graces received in student years.

Pilgrimage aborted

- Unable to continue to Rome because of hostilities with the Turks...
- The pilgrims turn back, and travel through Padua, Milan, Turin, and back to Annecy...



... to his father's house



Some concluding thoughts



- He's educated in 2 leading university towns of Europe.
- His is typically a layman's formation.
- He learns to integrate religious conviction with academics as a youth.