



# LENT

## The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

*13th century*

Feast Day—February 17



In 1233, seven Florentine laymen—two married, two widowed, three single—all well-known merchants and members of a Marian confraternity, abandoned homes, jobs, and wealth for a life of poverty, prayer, and penance at Monte Senario, where they built a chapel and hermitage. Within a few years, they formed the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, or Servites, a mendicant order that received formal papal approval in 1304. The seven founders, jointly canonized in 1888, are: Bonfilius, Bonajuncta, Amadeus, Hugh, Manettus, Sostene, and Alexis. Alexis, who out of modesty refused ordination, served the order in various ways as a lay brother; he outlived the other founders and reportedly died at age 110.

