

## *From Your Pastor*

### *Celebrating the Feast of San Donato*



***San Donato di Arezzo, Bishop and Martyr***

*(From a triptych completed in 1320 by Pietro Lorenzetti in the Church of Santa Maria della Pieve in Arezzo, Italy)*

One of the great, but little known, saints in our Catholic tradition is San Donato of Arezzo, Italy. His name is given to a number of towns on the Italian peninsula. Among them is the town of San Donato Val di Comino in central Italy whence a very large number of Italian immigrants in Brighton and the region hail. (The town is well worth visiting!)

Donato was born into a very wealthy Roman family early in the fourth century, and it is said that he was educated in the Christian faith with Flavius Claudius Julianus who became emperor in 355. Sadly, when Julian assumed the throne he apostatized from the truth, persecuted the Christians, and put many of them to death. Following the persecution and murder of his own father, Donato fled from Rome and took refuge 115 miles north of Rome in the town of Arezzo.

When he arrived in Arezzo, Donato met a monk named Hilarion, a very holy man. Together, they performed many miracles. They healed the sick and cured those who were possessed by evil spirits. Because of his extraordinary work and his reputation for holiness, Donato was made bishop of Arezzo.

The story is told that one day that a group of pagans who wanted to insult the faith broke the chalice that Donato was about to use at Mass. The chalice was made of glass. However, at the prayer of the holy bishop, the glass fragments reunited in his hand, and Donato went on to use the chalice at Mass without its spilling a drop of the Lord's precious blood.

This miracle, which is related by St. Gregory the Great in his *Dialogues* (Book I, Chapter 7), caused many to be attracted to and convert to Christianity. As a result, the heathen became so enraged that the Roman prefect in the region ordered Hilarion to be scourged to death. As the faith continued to grow, Donato himself was tortured and then decapitated on August 7, 362. The bodies of both saints lie buried under the high altar of the Cathedral of Arezzo.



God bless each of you.

*Mrs. Fay*