

## Peter of Verona

An extraordinary incident is found in the life of St. Peter of Verona—a tireless defender of the Church against the Manichaeans. This sect mixed elements of Christian teaching with ancient Persian mythology.

Whenever traveling to Milan, Peter made it a practice to stop at the house of a good friend, who was an ardent Catholic. On one occasion the friend received him with uncharacteristic coldness. On being asked for the reason for this unexpected change, the host replied that he had recently met a Manichaean who reproached him for extending his hospitality to Peter of Verona, a Catholic and “enemy of the truth.” This Manichaean had proposed that they go to a certain shrine and hear from the mouth of Mary herself who was right in the matter of faith. And, indeed, Peter’s friend had witnessed the appearance of a wondrous lady on the altar, who said to him, “My son, you are in error. Look, the real faith is here, not with the Catholics. I, the Mother of Jesus, am telling you this.”

On hearing this, Peter of Verona answered, “Go tell your friend that I too will become a Manichaean, if I see the Mother of God.” A meeting was arranged for the following day. A woman serving as a medium went into a trance and soon the figure of a beautiful woman stood before them on the altar. At this moment Peter withdrew a host, which he had consecrated that morning at Holy Mass, and, holding it up, said, “If you really are the Mother of God, then pay homage to your Son!” The vision vanished instantly in a puff of smoke.