

# **St. Benedict the Moor**

St. Benedict was born to black slave parents in Sicily in 1522. Because of the loyalty to his parents to their master, their son benedict was freed and baptized. Benedict grew in piety and holiness so that even as a youngster he was called holy. He joined the Franciscan order. A master of the Scripture even though he was illiterate, he was chosen as superior of the Franciscan order in 1578 even though he was not a priest. He is the patron saint of Palermo, Italy.