

ATRIUM TOUR

(19) St. Bonaventure Stained-Glass Window



St. Bonaventure (1218–1274) is one of the most important figures in the history of the Franciscan Friars. Born Giovanni di Fidanza in Bagnoregio, Italy, he became a leading medieval theologian, philosopher, and spiritual writer. After joining the Franciscan Order, he eventually served as Minister General, where he played a major role in strengthening and organizing the community. He studied at the University of Paris and was a contemporary of St. Thomas Aquinas. In 1273, Pope Gregory X appointed him Cardinal-Bishop of Albano, but he died the following year while participating in the Second Council of Lyon. Bonaventure was canonized on April 14, 1482, by Pope Sixtus IV and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V.

In sacred art, St. Bonaventure is often shown wearing a red cardinal's hat, reflecting his rank in the Church. He is also commonly associated with a book, symbolizing his scholarship and many writings, and a cross, representing his deep faith. At times he is depicted with light shining through a window, an image that suggests divine inspiration and revelation.

The most famous story connected with Bonaventure comes from his childhood. According to tradition, he became gravely ill, and his mother brought him to St. Francis of Assisi, asking for his prayers. Francis prayed over the boy, and he was immediately healed. Seeing this, St. Francis is said to have exclaimed, "O buona ventura!" meaning "O good fortune!" From that moment on, Giovanni became known as Bonaventure.

Roger Bacon High School shares a special connection with St. Bonaventure University, a private Franciscan university in western New York founded in 1858 and named in his honor. The Franciscan friars of St. Bonaventure Friary belong to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, the same province that sponsors Roger Bacon High School. Because of this shared Franciscan heritage, Roger Bacon graduates who attend St. Bonaventure University receive a generous scholarship.

St. Bonaventure's feast day is celebrated on July 15.

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The window is in honor of Dave and Nancy (Henninger) Meyer. Dave is a 1963 Bacon grad and Nancy a 1966 OLA grad. Dave went to Villa Madonna (Thomas More) on a basketball scholarship and graduated in 1967. He worked for McAlpins (Mercantile Stores) for 27 years. He and Nancy started their own companies, *Willow Green* in 1995 and *Designs Direct* in 2002. Designs Direct is currently located In Mainstrasse, Covington, and is managed by their youngest son, Steve. Nancy and Dave have been married for 57 years and have 3 sons and seven grandchildren who joyfully occupy most of their free time. Dave and Nancy still meet regularly with classmates from RB and point out: *"It's amazing how much Roger Bacon has meant to so many and how the "Spartan Bond" stays strong for 63 years."*

