

**St. Laurence of Brindisi:** Giulio Cesare (Julius Caesar) de Rossi, born on July 22, 1559 in Brindisi in what was then the Kingdom of Naples, was educated by the Franciscans and joined the Capuchin order when he was sixteen. He took the name of Laurence and studied Scripture, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, theology, and philosophy at the University of Padua. After being ordained a priest, he preached throughout northern Italy. Later he preached in Germany and with his colleague Benedict of Urbino he founded friaries in Prague, Vienna, and Gorizia (in the northeastern part of Italy). Elected major superior of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of Tuscany when he was thirty-one, Laurence became Minister of the entire order in 1602. A scholar, a compassionate human being, a capable administrator, Laurence of Brindisi is one of the thirty-three Doctors of the Church. Among his writings is this statement: “God is love, and all his operations proceed from love. Once he wills to manifest that goodness by sharing his love outside himself, then the Incarnation becomes the supreme manifestation of his goodness and love and glory. So, Christ was intended before all other creatures and for his own sake. For him all things were created and to him all things must be subject, and God loves all creatures in and because of Christ. Christ is the first-born of every creature, and the whole of humanity as well as the created world finds its foundation and meaning in him. Moreover, this would have been the case even if Adam had not sinned.” Laurence’s feast day occurs on July 21. Our window was donated in memory of the Yerman and Sakely families by George Laurence and Marjorie I. Yerman.

