



# LENT

## St. Frances of Rome

*1384–1440*

Feast Day—March 9

This laywoman and foundress, born a Roman aristocrat, married Lorenzo Ponziano when she was thirteen; they had several children. In 1409, their palazzo was pillaged by Neapolitan soldiers and Lorenzo was exiled for five years, returning home a broken man. He died in 1436. Frances, known for her great charity during epidemics and civil war, organized a women's society dedicated to self-denial and good works. It became the Oblates of Tor de Specchi, which she directed for her last four years. She is the patron saint of motorists, perhaps because of the tradition that an angel lit the road before her with a lantern to keep her safe when she travelled. She was guarded for twenty-three years by an archangel visible only to her. Her last words were "The angel has finished his work. He is beckoning me to follow."

