



ANTONI GAUDÍ I CORNET

God's Architect
(1852 – 1926)

ANTONI GAUDÍ I CORNET was born on June 25, 1852. Early in his life he became familiar with volumes and shapes at his father's boiler-making shop in Reus. At the family farm in Riudoms, in the midst of the Tarragona country side, his blue eyes caught the purest images of Nature, his great teacher.

After he finished his high school at the Piarist Fathers of Reus, he attended the University of Barcelona where he earned his degree in architecture, the great passion of his life. On 1883 he was given the job of building the Sagrada Familia Temple, started shortly before. Although he worked on this project for forty-three years, it was during the last ten years of his life that he exclusively dedicated his art and all his energies to it in a full service to God's glory. Gaudí identified himself with the religious and expiatory aim of the Temple, founded by a pious man, the bookseller Josep M.^a Bocabella and his Association of Devouts of St. Joseph.

Gaudí was a man of a rather strong temperament, but cheerful and a friend of the people. Since he was convinced that nothing of value can be achieved without sacrifice, he dedicated himself to an austere life of prayer and detachment. He loved the Catholic liturgy and was devoted to the Mother of God and her spouse St. Joseph: he conceived "La Pedrera" as a monument to Our Lady of the Rosary. On occasion he had expressed a desire to die in a hospital among the poor people. This came to pass when he was run down by a street car. The city police didn't recognize him and, seeing him as a poor man, they took him to the Holy Cross Hospital, where he died on June 10, 1926. The last words he uttered were: "Amen. My God, my God!" His body rests in the Crypt of the Holy Family Temple.

PRAYER FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION

God our Father, you instilled in the Venerable Antoni Gaudí, architect, a great love for your Creation and a burning desire to imitate the childhood and passion mysteries of your Son. Grant, by the power of the Holy Spirit that I also may learn to dedicate myself to a well-done work and, to glorify the Venerable Antoni, grant me, through his intercession, the favour I request (*here make your petition*). Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, grant us peace and preserve the family. (*Three times*).

Those who obtain favours and want to help with donations, or wish to have additional cards, write to: "**Associació Canònica Antoni Gaudí**", Calle Marina, 253. 08013 Barcelona (Spain) / info@beatificaciogaudi.org

With ecclesiastical approval.

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgement of the church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.