

Albertus Magnus
(St. Albert the Great)



St. Albert the Great lived in the thirteenth century.

He was proficient in every branch of learning, but the natural sciences, especially physics, geography and biology interested him the most. He also loved to study the Catholic religion and the Bible. He used to observe the ways of animals and write down what he saw, just as scientists do today. St. Albert is often called the “Father of Natural Science”. Albert was known in his own lifetime and for centuries that followed, as an authority on physics, geography, astronomy, mineralogy, chemistry and biology. As a geographer he received special praise in later times because he traced the chief mountain ranges of Europe, explained the influence of latitude on climate and gave an excellent physical description of the earth, which he argued to be spherical in shape.

On December 6, 1941, Pope Pius XII proclaimed Saint Albert the Great to be the patron of all students and researchers of the natural sciences. St. Albert said of science, “The aim of natural science is not simply to accept the statements of others but to investigate the causes that are at work in nature”

He was an authority on physics, geography, astronomy, mineralogy, chemistry, zoology and physiology, as well as the study of Aristotle. He understood that the Church is not opposed to the study of nature, and that faith and science may go hand in hand. Albert the Great is a Doctor of the Catholic Church and the patron saint of scientists and science students. His feast day is November 15.

