

**“ST. FRANCIS
& DOMINIC
A MYSTICISM
OF THE WORD
IN THE WORLD”**



**“THE PATHWAY BACK TO GOD, AN EXPOSITION OF THE TEACHING OF
ST. BONAVENTURE, PRINCE OF MYSTICS”**

Fr. Solanus Benfatti, CFR

When, at the end of the 19th century, Leo XIII began to hold up St. Thomas Aquinas as a preeminent model for theologians, Franciscans approached that pope to ask if they should discontinue their project of making critical editions, according to emerging scientific methods, of the works of Thomas’s contemporary, St. Bonaventure. At an audience in November of 1890, he responded by asserting that they should, in fact, “study his volumes night and day,” because, among those who discoursed on mystical theology, Bonaventure “is easily held to be the prince” of them all. Following on such an exhortation, this talk will outline the Seraphic Doctor’s teaching on the pathway back to God, which culminates on earth with mystical union with Him, and, in heaven, with His vision.