

6. The Middle Ages (6th - 16th Cent. A.D.)

a. St. Vincent Ferrer (1357-1419 A.D.)

(1) He was a Dominican monk.

(2) He was miraculously cured of a death-sickness after he allegedly saw an apparition of Christ accompanied by St. Dominic and St. Francis.

(3) He carried on an extensive preaching ministry in Western Europe and was understood by Greeks, Germans, and Hungarians though he could only speak the language of his native Valencia. Many of his biographers account for this by saying he had the gift of tongues.

b. St. Louis Bertrand (1526-1581 A.D.)

He allegedly converted 30,000 South American Indians of various tribes and dialects through the use of the gift of tongues.

c. St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552 A.D.)

He reportedly was able to preach to natives of India, China, and Japan in their own languages even though he had never learned them, through the use of the gift of tongues.

NOTE: This contradicts both the testimony of Xavier himself and the explicit declarations of Joseph Acosta, the historian, for Joseph Acosta states that Xavier had to work hard to master the Japanese language and other languages which he studied, and the Encyclopedia Britannica article on Xavier specifically mentions that he favored the study of native languages by missionaries. Thus we see how the history of Xavier was embellished with a legend about his use of the gift of tongues that doesn't correspond with the facts. Since this was true in the case of Xavier, we need to carefully examine all the cases of tongue-speaking at this time to make sure the same thing isn't true in those cases as well.