Gerardo Bianchi

Called Gerard of Parma, son of a poor peasant of Gainaco, near Parma. He educated himself, and went to Pavia as pedante to the sons of a citizen. He became Canon of Parma; Protonotary Apostolic; Cardinal of SS. Apostoli; Bishop. of Sabina; Archpriest of Lateran; Legate to Naples, Spain, Aragon, Sicily.

In 1282, after the Sicilian Vespers, when the people rose in their wrath against the rule of Charles of Anjou, and when his incapable son, afterwards Charles II, made his weak effort to recover Sicily, it was Gerardo who in vain tried to dissuade him from risking battle off Trapani with the fleet of Peter of Aragon, commanded by Ruggieri de Loria. Charles was hopelessly beaten, and taken prisoner. During his imprisonment Gerardo acted as his deputy in Sicily. Returning to Rome, he was employed in many Embassies.

He built the monastery of S. Martino in Parma, and enriched the cathedral and other churches of the town, dying at last in Rome after twenty-four years in the purple, during which he had taken part in the election of five Popes.

Ref: Davies, Gerald S.; <u>RENASCENCE: THE SCULPTURED TOMBS OF THE 15TH CENTURY IN ROME</u>; 1916

Also see: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerardo_Bianchi</u>