

# *Seven Dialogues*, Bernardino Ochino

TRANSLATED WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY  
RITA BELLADONNA

Bernardino Ochino (1487–1564) had a highly successful career in the Roman Catholic Church. Making meteoric progress in two religious orders, he served as Definitor General of the Franciscan Friars Observant and General of the Capuchins. To the public, Ochino was the embodiment of the ideals of St. Francis. Within the religious orders, some agreed with this assessment, while others saw him as the Antichrist.

The *Dialogi sette*, completed in 1542, are among Ochino's few extant pre-exilic works and show how this master of the spoken word preached "Christ in a mask." By subtle use of the dialogue form, Ochino dealt with such controversial themes as justification by faith and the church of the elect. By 1542, Ochino could no longer safely remain in his beloved homeland for fear of the Inquisition. In the end, he died an outcast from mainstream Protestantism and Roman Catholicism.

BERNARDINO OCHINO

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