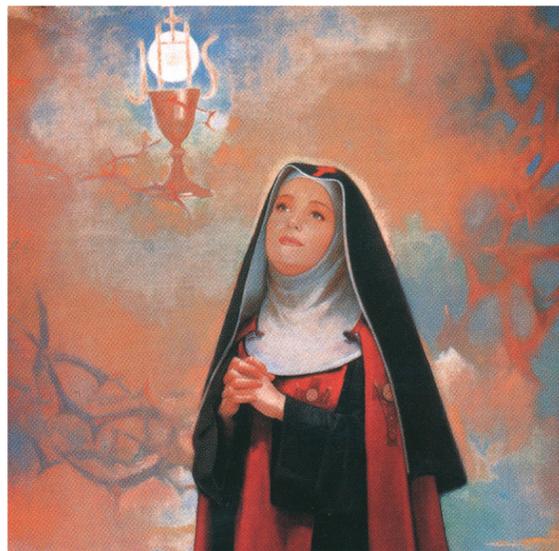


A life for the Eucharist

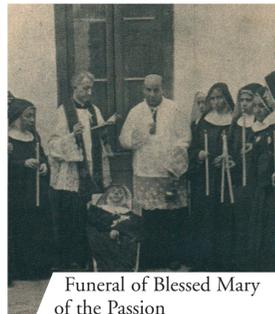
BLESSED MARY OF THE PASSION

ITALY, 1866-1912

On the day of her First Communion, Mary Grace was seven years old, and the Child Jesus appeared to her with wounded and bloody hands and said to her: "People inflicted these wounds on me with their sins!" From that moment Mary Grace consecrated her life to the Eucharist and the salvation of souls. "I am in the Eucharist to dispense graces and extend mercy, but I receive only ingratitude, profanity and sacrileges. The Eucharist is dishonored and nobody cares. My beloved one, you make reparation with your adoration done in my presence."



On April 19, 2004, John Paul II declared that the Servant of God, Mary of the Passion, lived the virtues in a heroic way. On January 19, 2005, Benedict XVI promulgated the decree of beatification. On May 14, Mary of the Passion was proclaimed Blessed in the Cathedral of Naples.



Funeral of Blessed Mary of the Passion



The Mother House. The ancient stoves for the making of the hosts



San Giorgio at Cremano. The Mother House where Mary of the Passion lived most of her life as a religious and where she died in 1912.



The portal of the chapel in the Mother House



The little room where Blessed Mary of the Passion died



Grotto of the ecstasy and of the struggle against the devil



San Giorgio at Cremano. Place where the body of Blessed Mary of the Passion was transported, in the chapel of the Mother House on April 20, 1914.



Mary Grace had a special relationship with her Guardian Angel. At night, when she would walk through the corridors of the convent to go to pray at the Grotto of the Agony, the Sisters saw her bathed in a mysterious light. They said that it was the glowing halo of the Angel.



Despite the fact that she had made a vow of virginity at the age of five, her father wanted to give her in marriage to a young man by force. When everything seemed lost, Our Lady appeared to her and assured her with these words: "Say yes and then become a nun." Our Lady was not wrong. On the day of the wedding in the town hall, Mary's husband took sick and had to be rushed to the hospital. The doctors diagnosed his ailment as a case of severe tuberculosis. His agony lasted eight months.

Notwithstanding that her father had forbidden Mary Grace to visit her husband because the religious ceremony had not yet been celebrated, Mary Grace was often seen at his bedside as she took care of him and taught him catechism. In fact, among her gifts, Mary Grace had the gift of bilocation.

As soon as her husband died, Mary Grace embraced the religious life with the Suore Crocifisse Adoratrici dell'Eucaristia. One day, as the priest was distributing Communion in the convent chapel, a host escaped from his hand and flew to Mary's lips. Out of love for the Lord and for sinners she constantly inflicted severe penances on herself. She had a great intimacy with the souls in Purgatory, who sometimes appeared to her to thank her for her prayers.

During the last years of her life, Mary Grace hardly ate anything and used to tell her confessor: "I receive such fullness from the Lord when I receive the Blessed Sacrament that in no way can I feel a desire for any food!" She spent many hours in adoration before the tabernacle: she was like a Eucharistic lamp that was

burning and shining. Mary's passionate love had an exceptional recompense: one of the most extraordinary gifts in the history of the mystics, the change of heart. The Lord opened her breast and placed his heart in it.

Like all great mystics, Mary was very much tormented by the devil because she tore the souls of sinners from him, so much so that one day, out of spite, the devil went so far as to break her arm. During a vision she experienced the terrifying pains of the crucifixion and Jesus himself pierced her heart with a lance. It was the wound of love, which bound her definitively to her Spouse. From that moment on, Mary of the Passion carried the stigmata until her death. During the last fifteen days of her life, she lived on the Eucharist alone.