

Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi *Part 3*

1566 - 1607

PURGATORY

Regarding the punishments or the pains of Purgatory, we must not minimize even the smallest venial faults, as demonstrated by the two following stories, taken from the life of St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi. One day while she was in adoration in front of the Most Holy Sacrament, she saw the soul of another nun, ascending, rising, who, as it was revealed to her, had neglected one or another of the Communion required by the Rule and had otherwise observed diligently the rules of the Order and had led a very virtuous life. But her indolence to go to Communion had led her to Purgatory. The Saint also told of a sister of another religious order who had to expiate in Purgatory for these three faults that she had regarded of little importance: without any real necessity she had done some small domestic jobs on a day of Sunday or holiday. Moreover for a misleading sense of respect, she had neglected to report to the Prioress about some divine exhortations from God, which concerned the monastic community and its spirit; and also she had too great an affection for her relatives. For these three faults, certainly not serious, this poor sister would have had to suffer even more if the Lord had not mitigated her punishment in view of her diligent observance of the rest of the rule and in view of her great love for her fellow sisters. Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi had the habit of offering to the Eternal Father the Most Precious Blood of his Divine Son at least 50 times a day. Indeed the Lord had revealed to her one day that through this

pious exercise she would have been able to convert innumerable sinners and liberate innumerable poor souls of Purgatory, and that in the offering of the Most Precious Blood to the Eternal Father was presented a gift of inestimable value, with respect to which all the treasures of the earth were worthless. Now if already this simple mention of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ shed in His salvific Passion could have such a marvelous result, much greater will be the real offering of the renewed sacrifice of the Cross offered and consumed in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. On August 24, 1590 died the mother of the Saint, Maria Buondelmonte, a noble and very devout woman. The Saint saw the soul of her deceased mother in Purgatory, but she also saw what great glory was soon prepared for her in Heaven, for all the good that she had done and her generosity towards her neighbor. After 15 days the Saint saw the soul of her mother, for whom she had much prayed, and offered and above all offered Holy Masses and Holy Communion and the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. The doctrine taught and lived by Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi was the one promulgated by the Holy Council of Trent, taught by the Church and instituted for the supplications and the good that can be passed on by the living to the poor souls of Purgatory. And also for this, her work of persuasion and her example convinced many to follow her by laboring and praying for the poor souls of Purgatory.

