

Sister Maria Serafina of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

1843 - 1871

PURGATORY

Sister Maria Serafina of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was a religious Sister from the diocese of Malines in Belgium and who, in 1870, experienced various apparitions of her father's face. These experiences were recorded in a volume entitled: "Apparitions of a Soul in Purgatory." Its editor was a priest by the name of G.M. Curicque. He noted: On October 16, the father appeared in a vision and exclaimed "O my! O my! I have been in Purgatory now for over a year and no one has shown any pity for me!" "O my poor father exclaimed the Sister, how can you say such a thing? You have only been deceased for less than a month!" And he replied to her: "O, you have no idea what eternity is like! Once a soul has been with God, it becomes obsessed with a burning desire to possess Him. I've been consigned to Purgatory for six months, but if the community would pray for me, that time would be reduced in half. The Lord has permitted me to remind you constantly until my full freedom is realized. Oh! How I regret now my opposition to your vocation! I can find relief now only by being close to you." On October 17, the Sister again saw her father, but instead of being immersed in the very fires of Purgatory, he was in a deep depression... "Look now how I find myself in this pit of fire! There are hundreds of us here." "Oh! If

Purgatory was truly understood for what it is, one would do everything to avoid it and would pray for the poor souls imprisoned there. You must strive to become a holy religious, observant of even the minutest details of your holy Rule, as Purgatory for any religious is a terrible thing!"

The Sister, in fact, saw that fiery pit and the dense clouds of black smoke which issued from it. "I shall never forget the impression that vision made upon me!" And, as her father re-appeared and fell once more into the fiery pit, he showed his dry tongue and loudly cried out: "I thirst, I thirst!"

From that moment, as the good religious recounts, she saw her father regularly every evening, always in the same state of suffering and desolation. While it was true that he was no longer immersed in flames as in the initial apparitions, he was nevertheless hidden in the fiery pit and still crying out, "I thirst, I thirst... Three months in Purgatory is an eternity. Initially, I was consigned for several years and if now I have only a few months remaining, it is due to the Blessed Virgin Mary who has interceded on my behalf."

Later, the deceased touched his daughter with his finger in two different places. The first, on the right shoulder and the other on her heart; she experienced



and felt a painful burning sensation. The amazing thing is that while her skin was not burned, her clothing exhibited scorch marks.

On October 30, the deceased exclaimed: "O my! It is not understood or realized that the fires of Purgatory are similar to those of Hell. Anyone who would visit and experience Purgatory, would never commit even one venial sin – so severely is it vigorously punished!"

