

Blessed Maria Angela Astorch

1592-1665

Angela Maria Astorch was born in Barcelona in 1592. Having no father or mother she entered the monastery of the Capuchin Poor Clares as soon as she was orphaned.

She made her solemn profession on September 8, 1609. In 1614 when she was just 21 years old, she was destined for the new foundation of the monastery of Saragossa as a teacher's apprentice, which required nine consecutive years of service. In 1628 she was elected abbess and her position was guaranteed for the following three years. In 1645 she took an active part in the foundation of the monastery of Murcia. Here she was able to show her great charity and her great faith especially on two particular occasions: during

Lord celebrating the mystical honeymoon. She died surrounded by a great fame of sanctity on December 2, 1665.

She had numerous encounters with the Angels and in particular with her Guardian Angel. In her diary we find written a detailed description of the sensations that she felt during her first encounter with her Guardian Angel: "As soon as I perceived its presence, such a change in my spirit came upon me that one could say that I lived within and outside of my own body at the very



the plagues of 1648 and the great flood of 1651 that destroyed the church and a good part of the monastery. Gifted with extraordinary intelligence, the beatified one from very little showed great maturity. She cultivated the Latin language so much so that she gained admiration of the gifted. She possessed a charismatic knowledge of the Sacred Scripture and of the ecclesiastical writers that read assiduously. Her contemplative experience was extraordinary. The font of her mystic heights was the liturgy, especially those of the daily Mass. That is why she became known as the breviary mystic. Her piety centered itself above all in the person and mystery of Christ. For many years she was attracted to the active participation in various moments of the passion, particularly to the flagellation, reliving in herself the same pain as that of the Savior. On October 21, 1626, after a long spiritual preparation, out came a pact of love with the

same time. Infused with great nobility in my perceptions, my heart filled with a sweet sensation of comfort and with minuscule operation it fortified my whole spirit. It left in me such an imprint, a gratitude so humble and sweet that I no longer knew of human weaknesses, all of my passions were gone; I felt such a pureness of consciousness and such a deadening of my senses that I no longer had to fight with these graces the power of such misery." Just one encounter with her Guardian Angel was enough to completely purify all of those imperfections that normally would require years to purify!