

Blessed Emilia Bicchieri

1238-1314

Emilia Bicchieri was born in Vercelli in 1238. Attracted to the monastic life of the Order of Preachers, she entered the Order at the age of 18.

In 1255, thanks to an inheritance from her father, she acquired a Dominican convent in Vercelli, where she established a new community. She founded the Third Order Regular of the Dominicans. After the example of St. Dominic, Blessed Emilia became a teacher of prayer.

She died on May 3, 1314. Numerous are the episodes in which Blessed Emilia experienced the help of the Angels. We recall one of them in particular, in which we



see how the Guardian Angels preserve the very remembrance of the good deeds and sacrifices, even the smallest ones, which the men and women entrusted to them perform during their lifetime. We read in the writings of Blessed Emilia that at the time she was prioress, one of the religious who was under her direction, during a very hot summer, asked her permission to drink a glass of water.

- “Did you forget, my Sister, that the Rule forbids drinking at this hour?”
- “I know, Reverend Mother, but I am so thirsty.”
- Very well, my Sister. Put this glass of water into the hands of your Guardian Angel who is there waiting for you.”

The religious obeyed and gave the glass to her Angel. A few years later, this Sister died unexpectedly, and not being sufficiently perfect for Heaven, ended up in Purgatory. Three days after her death, she appeared to Blessed Emilia and told her: “I am no longer suffering, Reverend Mother. Thanks to the help of that glass of water I gave my Angel at your behest, my Angel extinguished the fire that was tormenting me.” If we entrust many of these little sacrifices to our Angel, what a treasure we will accumulate for Eternal Life!

On another occasion, while taking care of a very sick Sister, Blessed Emilia forgot to look at the time and arrived in chapel at the end of Mass and thus missed Holy Communion. She began complaining with the Lord about not having been able to receive Him, when suddenly, miraculously, an Angel appeared and gave her Communion.