

# Saint Catherine Thomas

1531-1574

*Catherine Thomas* was born at Valldemoza on the isle of Majorca (Baleari). She became an orphan at the age of seven and was transferred to her aunt and uncle who entrusted the care of livestock to her.

This impeded her from going to church to pray. On weekdays she would construct little altars at the feet of the olive trees. Thanks to one Father Antonio Castaneda, from the nearby college of Miramar, Catherine decided to enter the monastery of the Canonesses Regular of St. Augustine of Palma where she was accepted as a member of the choir in 1553. She professed her religious vows on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, 1555. Her prayers, meanwhile, became known also outside the monastery insomuch as the Bishop of Majorca often sought her advice. She spent her life more and more often in periods of mystical ecstasies until the last one which ended on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1574. She died the next day. From early childhood she was favored with special mystical gifts. She often went into ecstasy after having received Holy Communion. She experienced however also ferocious assaults from demons who very often beat her causing serious wounds.

Although the other Sisters could not see the demons they heard the shouts and frightening noises. One day, while Sister Catherine was crossing the refectory, a demon threw her into the air; Sister Catherine was then found in a cistern full of mud from which she was pulled out with much difficulty. All of her fellow Sisters assisted at this event.

