

Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa

1904-1955

Alexandrina Maria da Costa was born in Balasar, Portugal, on March 30, 1904.

Stricken by a progressive paralysis in 1925, she is forced to stay in bed in the midst of atrocious sufferings. She decides to be the Tabernacle lamp: every day in spirit she visits Jesus present in the Eucharist and offers herself up for sinners. Jesus gives her this program of life: "To love, to suffer, to make reparation." From 1938 on, she relives the sufferings of the Passion of Jesus: every Friday she miraculously gets out of bed and once again makes present the various stages of the Via Crucis.

In the *Diary* of Alexandrina (1904-1955), we find some instances of the action of the Angels in her life. In particular, when the priest cannot go and bring her Communion,

to recount this vision to her Spiritual Father but receives this order and this explanation from Jesus: "Say everything, everything. I have shown you all this so that you may see that your prayers are acceptable to Heaven. You have seen Our Lady with her Angels, the Cherubim and Seraphim with their instruments. They came to prepare your soul. Then they thanked me, loved me and praised me, just like in Heaven. I am on a throne within you." Besides seeing the Angels, she was also tormented by Satan. In her *Diary*, we read: "Satan comes once in a while with his temptations, with his attempts to lead me into evil, into doubt or despair. On one of these afternoons, I felt as if my flesh were on



Angels will take his place and give her Communion. "Yesterday I had the joy of receiving my dear Jesus. I have had the habit of asking Our Lady to send a multitude of Angels, Cherubim and Seraphim to accompany Jesus from the Tabernacle to me and to come herself with another multitude, to prepare the throne of my soul, to receive Jesus herself, and to make thanksgiving for me. With my eyes open, I began to see in front of me a multitude of Angels forming a great arch. On one side, there were larger figures holding something in their hands: I don't know what. In the middle, there was an even larger figure, but I could hardly make it out. In front, there was a throne with such beautiful colors and, on the other side, golden rays were emanating and flooding over them. Seeing this, I thought it was the Blessed Mother accompanied by her Angels, as I had asked her to." Alexandrina hesitates

fire and my body burning in the flames. I was not alone and one of the people present said: 'What an odor of burnt clothes!' My sister went to my mother who was in the kitchen to ask if something was burning. She said no. This very strong and irritating odor was in the room. I stopped feeling the flames which had been consuming me, and the odor disappeared. My God, my bed is on fire and I can't get out of it! Oh, what will hell be like! What is eternal despair like!" On October 13, 1955, she died saying: "I am happy because I'm going to Heaven." Pope John Paul II beatified her on April 25, 2004.