

# Venerable Domenica of Paradiso

1473-1553

*Sister Domenica* of Paradiso was born in Florence in 1473. Her father was a farm-laborer in Pian di Ripoli and worked on the lands belonging to the Convent of Saint Bridget of Paradiso. Domenica decided to embrace the religious life and at a very young age she entered into that convent taking the name of Domenica of Paradiso.

The fame of her sanctity quickly spread beyond the limits of Florence. Her profound spirituality however did not impede her from giving her nuns an activity useful for their upkeep. In fact, she introduced to them the art of weaving textiles of gold and silver which gained much success.

A great mystic, she had frequent visions of her Guardian Angel who cured her from a terrible illness that caused her profuse bleeding from both her nose and her mouth. On more than one occasion, the Angel saved her from the attacks of the devil who would, out of spite, throw her into the glowing embers of the fireplace. Quickly the Angel would lovingly dress the wounds that the fire caused her and the following night, to comfort her, he would give her Holy Communion in the same place where Domenica underwent these diabolical tortures. One day the Archangel Gabriel in person brought her the Eucharist in the presence of her confessor, to convince him of the veracity of these miraculous Holy Communions brought by her Guardian Angel. The day before her death, the neighbors heard angelic chants rise up above the top of the monastery. A few years later, her body was found to be incorrupt, and her hands and feet still bore the marks of the stigmata. It has been certified by many ecclesiastics that

her corpse, having remained incorrupt for all these centuries, on the occasion of grave events, had moved itself repeatedly inside the urn (casket) and one of her hands turned white. Venerated, for centuries she continues to work the miracles which God grants her.

