

Blessed Alix Le Clerc

1576-1622

Alix Le Clerc was born in 1576 at Remiremont. In 1595, because of her father's illness, she moved to Hymont with her family. Shaken by some dreams and pleas of the Lord, she decided to change her life.

She makes a vow of chastity and retires from the world. She wears a habit of coarse canvas and a white veil on her head. In the beginning many consider her crazy. In 1597, she meets Fr. Fourier in whom she confides. After six months of daily confessions and terrible moral and physical penances, she decides to dedicate herself completely to the Lord. At the age of 23, together with four other young women, under the direction of Fr. Fourier, she founds the Congregation of Notre Dame (the Canonesses of Saint Augustine) for the apostolic life and the education of poor young girls. In 1622, at the age of 46, she dies at Nancy in one of the houses she had established. Mother Alix was beatified in 1947.

The Lord gifted her with numerous graces, among which was that of seeing the Angels. Her biographers tell us that the Countess of Aspremont had donated a cow to the young community founded by Mother Alix. One day the animal mysteriously disappeared. The Sisters went looking for the cow, crisscrossing the whole valley for three hours but all in vain. As soon as they entered the convent, they heard an Angelic voice saying: "Go down toward the valley and there you will find her."

At once they obeyed and, running toward the place indicated, found the cow peacefully ruminating under a willow tree. Mother Alix and her Sisters attributed the voice to that of the community's Guardian Angel, who had also helped them on other occasions.

In 1599, Mother Alix Le Clerc had just established her recent community in Poussay. Faithful to their mission as educators, the young religious dedicated themselves to the children. But they also had to learn the rudiments of liturgical chant to worthily celebrate the Divine Office. For this purpose they called on a devout woman, Catherine

du Fresnel, who had some knowledge of chant: "we were at the end of a hot summer day... The lesson that day had been particularly hard. All of a sudden we heard a noise and, raising our eyes, we saw an Angel approaching not far from us, with the appearance of a young man of about 15 years of age, with a very luminous face. He repeated, word for word, Madam Fresnel's lesson and was able to explain it so clearly that the difficult rules



were engraved in our memory like never before. As soon as he had finished giving the explanations, the young man mysteriously disappeared."