

The Servant of God Maria Bolognesi

1924-1980

Maria Bolognesi was born in 1924 at Bosaro of a very poor family. She lived a life full of difficulties but rich in supernatural gifts.

With her death in 1980, she left unfinished a house for convalescents which, however, was finished later on. In 1942, she had her first vision of Jesus, which was confirmed by the gift of a wedding ring and the miraculous healing of a woman friend of hers.

Shortly after that, she began to undergo within herself the sufferings Christ experienced on Calvary. Before showing himself to her, God permitted that, for her purification, she should live through a period of demonic possession, which lasted almost two years. For a year and a half Maria was immersed in unbelievable suffering, which affected her physically and morally. The beginning of this possession goes back to June 21, 1940. This is how her biographers describe this period: "She alternated moments that were normal, as it were, with other moments during which something undefinable was obviously going on in her. Her parents thought of helping her with blessings. During the course of the months, many different attempts were made to free Maria from this "strange malaise," but they never achieved any result, also because Maria would flee terrorized whenever she noticed the presence of a priest or whenever someone brought holy water to her house. Moreover, until the summer of 1941, one could sometimes even detect in Maria a physical inability to go to church. Once, when she arrived with other young women to the bridge leading to the road of the parish church of Saint Cassian, Maria suddenly froze: her skirts were pulled back by a mysterious presence. Since there was no wind, even Maria's friends were astonished to see the physical effect of this invisible action. In their testimonies, the young women stated that they returned home screaming with fear. In the summer of 1941, her father managed to stop Maria and have her blessed by the pastor of St. Cassian. This blessing was ineffective. But – during that same day – it was followed by a second blessing, imparted by the Bishop of Rovigo, which, however, did not

free her completely. During the following months, the diabolical possession was no longer total, as in the past: Maria was now able to pray, go to church, and sometimes attend Mass. However, her body was stricken with a sudden loss of weight which "devoured" and "consumed" her. Her suffering was so excruciating that she aroused pity, but no one could help her, except by going to Jesus and asking Him to free her from so much pain. At the end of January 1942, convinced that she had only three days of life left, Maria was able to go to confession and receive Communion. "The following three days were atrociously



painful for her. For three consecutive days she cried, invoking the Lord and all the saints of heaven to come to help her ... At the beginning of the 4th day, her complete healing finally occurred in the house of the Piva family."