

# Blessed Maria of the Passion

1866-1912

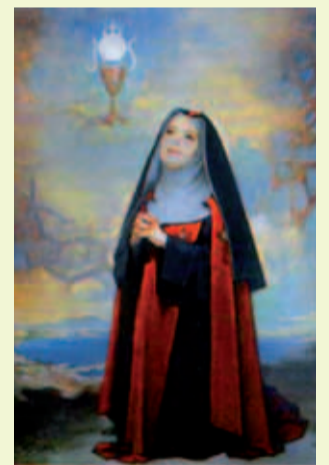
*Blessed Maria* of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ has much familiarity with her Guardian Angel, who unites himself to her prayer and helps her when, unable because of the stigmata and her illnesses, she has to move herself and participate in the Divine Office.

One of her fellow sisters testifies: “One night the Blessed went to the choir to recite the lauds. The corridor and the stairs were very dark. But I saw an extraordinary light that preceded her all the way to the choir. I said to her: ‘Sister, you walk like this in the darkness of the night? You might fall!’ She replied to me with simplicity: ‘Do not be afraid, we have by our side a Guardian Angel who will protect us.’ I said to her: ‘What was that light that was in front of you in the cloister?’ She held back her smile. I am convinced that it was her Guardian Angel, who accompanied her and helped her in every moment.”

The Blessed Maria of the Passion was born in Barra, nowadays in the outskirts of Naples, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1866. From when she was little, she decided to become a religious, but she had to confront the adversity of her father, who at the age of 23 years old, obligated her to get married. The matrimony was performed with a civil ceremony, even if, as was the custom of the time, Maria stayed with her family while waiting for the religious ceremony to take place. After a short while, the young husband died. Her father, so shaken up by what happened, allowed his daughter to enter the convent.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1891, she was welcomed by the Adoring Crucified Sisters of the Sacramental Jesus. The Eucharist is the center of her spiritual life along with the daily meditation of the Passion of Jesus and the devotion of the Grieving Virgin. Still a novice her life’s plan was: “I want to become a saint, loving Christ in the Eucharist, suffering with Christ Crucified, seeing Christ in the person of my brethren.” She had the gift of prophecy: to Cardinal Prisco she predicted his appointment to Archbishop of Naples; she read secrets in the hearts of others. The Founding Mother and her spiritual director Don Fontana, affirmed that the Blessed had the stigmata on her feet and her chest. Many were the prodigious healings,

to which the Founding Mother and other nuns assisted (or witnessed). The Blessed underwent many assaults and attacks from the devil, who tormented her and frightened her during the night with terrible visions and hitting her across the cheek and striking her right hand. In the night noises and strange sounds were heard coming from her room, frightening the other sisters, who knew that the devil was abusing Sister Maria.



She would spend whole hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament in reparation for sacrileges and for the conversion of sinners. She would carry out penances and offer herself as a victim for the salvation of priests. The fame of this woman of God caused many faithful people to hasten to the convent to ask her for prayers and advice. She died at San Giorgio in Cremano, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1912. She was proclaimed Blessed in the Cathedral of Naples on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2006.

Regarding the molestations and harassment that the devil did to her, a fellow sister gives this testimony:

“I remember that once, while begging the Servant of God for the conversion of a sinner who was entrusted to me by way of a letter by someone I knew, the spiteful devil gave a hard punch to her arm, which made her feel a very sharp pain and caused a punctured wound. She was forced to call the surgeon, Doctor Sodo, who had to remove the rotator cuff of her arm.”