

Servant of God Maria Angela Mastroti of Papasidero

1851-1896

Maria Angela Mastroti

was born in 1851 in Papasidero, to a very religious family. Her ascetic life procured for her frequent spiritual ecstasies.

From when she was very young, every day, it was usual for her to stop in front of the painting of the Blessed Mother with the Infant Jesus in her arms to ask her to let her hold the Baby. One time her mother gave her a gift of a 5-cent coin, and Maria Angela, with the coin and a sheet of paper full of scribbles, got on her knees in front of that painting of the Blessed Mother to tell her that she wanted to marry the Holy Child since she already had a dowry, exactly 5 cents! One day, while she was in Church, in the Chapel of Saint Mary of Constantinople, "from the statue of Ecce Homo" a voice said to her: "Daughter, you have been satisfied (re: your prayers have been answered)." Struck, around the age of 6 years old, by a serious illness, perhaps pulmonary tuberculosis, she was confined to bed, in conditions of unspeakable suffering, for thirteen years, during which she began to have her first visions.

One morning she saw enter into the room a Lady of incomparable beauty who said to her: "Do not be afraid, I am Mary of Constantinople, you will not die, even though your family members, foreseeing your forthcoming death, have already had a casket made for you, on Holy Saturday the 16th of April at sunset I will come to cure you." It was the 16th of April, Holy Saturday: "The family was praying, Angela was watching the pendulum of the clock, it was time, but the Blessed Mother did not come, and then, all of a sudden the vision. 'Daughter, it is the clock that does not keep time well. I have come, here you are healed, and tomorrow you will go to the Temple to give thanks!'" Some months after the prodigious healing, again the Blessed Mother appeared to her saying: "As a powerful weapon against temptation, I leave for you here on the stool the imprint of my foot." The piece of wood with the imprint of that time is conserved in the chapel of the Mastroti family.

In 1871 another misfortune happened to her: a stone in her bladder. During this second malady, which was prolonged for two years, on the 14th of April in 1871, the Virgin

reappeared to her who, encouraging her, said to her: "The upcoming 3rd of June, a day consecrated to me, at the 15th hour (3 o'clock in the afternoon), I will come to heal you. I urge you to advise your family about it." The painful stone, of 56 grams, as certified by Dr. Domenico Pandolfi in a long and detailed report, was "expelled by a singular thrust" and "outside of the natural order" exactly on that day and at that hour! Visions and interventions became recurrent: the young girl was making bread and the Angels helped her knead it and bake it. One time during an ecstasy, from the



Monstrance she saw droplets of blood ooze out from a fragment of the Consecrated Host that remained stuck to the crystal of the Monstrance. Her confessor, Fr. Fulgentius, caught the tiny droplets on a handkerchief! Many times she received the Eucharist from the hands of St. John of the Cross. A few days before dying the Blessed Mother announced to her the date of her death which was communicated to several people. On the 26th of May 1896, at the hour of 6:30 in the evening, exactly as predicted by the Blessed Mother, the soul of Maria Angela soared to Heaven.