

# Servant of God Luigina Sinapi

1916-1978

## *The Franciscan Tertiary*

Luigina Sinapi was born at Itri in 1916 to a well-to-do family. Hers was a life marked by great sufferings which she offered to God out of love for her neighbor and for the Church.

At the age of 16, Luigina decided to enter into the Daughters of St. Paul in order to consecrate herself to God. Her spiritual director was Don Timoteo Giaccardo (now "Blessed").

But because of her delicate health, that was not her place. On the night of Christmas, Don Giaccardo asked her: "For love for Jesus, do you want to offer yourself as a victim for the salvation of souls?" Luigina replied yes. Don Giaccardo concluded: "Go, my daughter, your vocation is elsewhere." Luigina feels atrocious pains in her pelvis. It is a tumor.

She remains in bed, in her home at Itri, for two years, praying, offering, and continuing with heroism to look after her siblings for whom she acts like a mother. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1935, the solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, the Pastor administers to her the Sacrament of Extreme Unction (Anointing of the Sick) because she is near the end. But here is the miracle: Luigina sees Jesus and Our Lady who ask her: "We have come to offer you a proposal. You however are free to choose: do you want to come right now with us to Paradise or remain on earth and offer yourself as a victim of expiation for the Church and for priests?"

In an instant, Luigina sees the dangers of apostasy, the defections that would come in the years ahead and she accepted the second alternative, still offering herself as a victim to God.

Jesus then tells her: "You will not go into a convent, but as an ordinary person you will live hidden from the eyes of the world. You will be poorly comprehended, you will suffer much, and you will die alone.

You will be – as your name says – the little mustard seed in a furrow of Rome. You will live the extraordinary in the ordinary. From this moment on, I will leave to you my holy Mother: she will guide you and she will comfort you. You are to be a violet, hidden but always perfumed. Be not afraid."

Jesus had barely finished speaking when the Guardian Angel of Luigina, Samuel, took her by the hand and consoled her. Luigina suddenly found herself healed,



while the bandages that covered the tumor fell off. After that vision, on the first Saturday of every month and on Marian feasts, the Blessed Mother, given advance notice of by music angelic choirs, always appeared to Luigina, leaving on the spot a heavenly aroma that lasted throughout the whole day. Luigina died in Rome in April of 1978.