

Blessed Maria Fortunata Viti

1827-1922

She was born in Veroli on the 10th of February 1827. She was educated to the holy fear of God from her mother, who died when she was only fourteen years old.

In 1851 she decided to enter as a Lay Sister into the Monastery of the Benedictines of her native city. Here her noble and exemplary virtues and her great simplicity of spirit blossomed into resplendence. During her long life she knew nothing but assiduous work and constant prayer. She invoked the Lord with such passion and devotion it would edify her fellow Sisters. Admiring the beauties of nature she would be in the habit of often exclaiming: "The Love and the Power of God!" which remained her favorite expression. She dedicated her prayers and



sacrifices in particular for the needy, for derelicts, and for the redemption of sinners. She died a holy death on the 20th of November 1922. The devil often attempted

to disturb her in her prayers and in her duties. The Blessed related that one time she was on her way to rearrange furniture in the chapel when quite unexpectedly the passageway became dark, and a dense fog came down together with such a nauseous stench that she found it difficult to breathe. Realizing that it was the work of the devil, she quickly invoked the Holy Name of Jesus, confidently making the sign of the cross. Immediately the devil and the stench vanished. Frequently the devil reprimanded her calling her foolish and ignorant. The Blessed Maria confided to her fellow Sisters that the devil bothered her both day and night mocking her and hitting her in order to try her patience and humility. Her confessor, Father John Pasqualiti, wrote: "With tears in her eyes, Sister Fortunata confided to me that the devil insulted her with the most vile and crude expressions. Often he threatened and made life difficult for her, but she never despaired. These insults became all the more frequent when the Saint was near her death. Many of these disturbances were also heard and witnessed by her fellow Sisters."