

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

1774 - 1824

HELL

Anne Catherine Emmerich was born the 18th of September 1774 at Flamsche, near Coesfeld in Germany and entered into the Monastery of Agnetenberg in Dulmen (Westphalia) of the Canonesses Regular of Saint Augustine, where she died the 9th of November 1824.

Famous for her mystical experiences, the Blessed had also a vision of Hell, when she saw the Saviour descend into the netherworld. "I saw (...) the Saviour approach, towards, the center of the abyss. Hell to me seemed like an immense gloomy cavern, barely illuminated by a dull light almost metallic. On its entrance protruded enormous black doors, with incandescent locks and bolts. Wails of horror rose up without ceasing from that frightful pit of which, all of a sudden, the doors collapsed. Thus I was able to see a horrid world of desolation and of gloom. The Inferno is a prison of eternal wrath, where discordant and desperate beings are thrashed. While in Heaven joy is savored and the Most High is adored in gardens rich in beautiful flowers and exquisite fruits which impart life, in Hell instead cavernous prisons are sinking, horrendous deserts extend and immeasurable lakes are spotted overflowing with frightening monsters, horrible. In that place hums the eternal and the terrible discord of the damned.

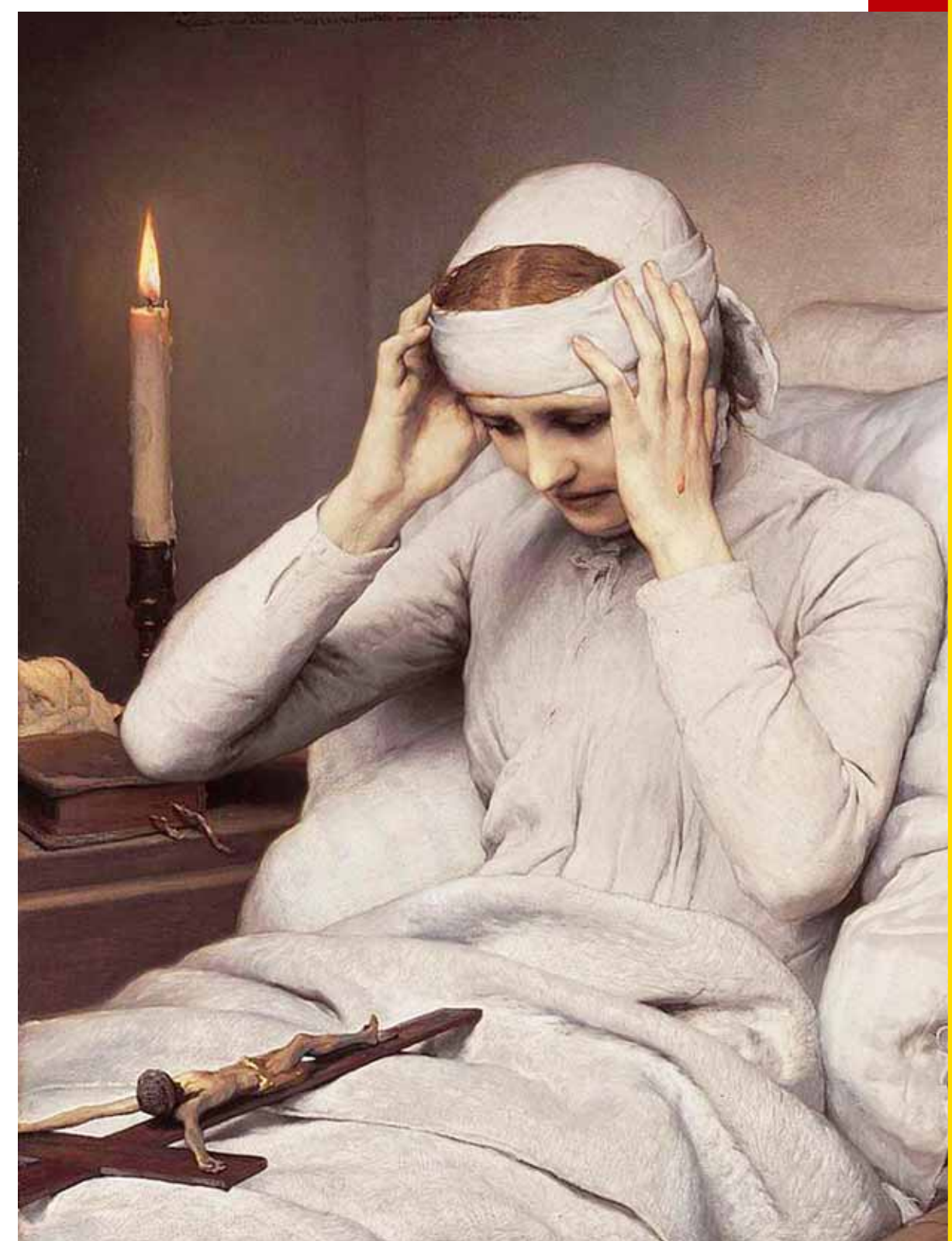
"In Heaven instead reigns the union of the Saints eternally blessed. The Inferno, on the contrary, imprisons as much as the world produces of corruption and of error;

there rages the pain and one suffers therefore torments in an indefinite variety of manifestations and of penalties. Each damned person has this thought always present: that the torments, that one suffers, are the natural and just fruition of one's own misdeeds. How much one feels and one sees of the horrible in Hell is the essence, the interior form of the exposed sin. Of that poisonous serpent, that devours so many who foment him in their bosom during a mortal test. All of this one can comprehend when seen, but it turns out inexpressible in words.

"When the Angels, that were escorting Jesus, had knocked down the infernal walls, a storm rose up of curses, insults, shrieks and laments. Several Angels elsewhere chased endless swarms of demons, those who would have then had to recognize and adore the Redeemer.

"This was their worst torment. Many of them then became imprisoned in a sort of sphere, which resulted in many concentric sectors. At the center of the Inferno a dark pit sank, where Lucifer was hurled in chains, and who was immersed in dark angry vapors. All of this occurred according to determined divine mysteries.

"I knew that Lucifer will be unchained for some time: fifty or sixty years before the year 2000 of Christ, if I do not err. Some demons instead are to be loosened before that epoch in order to castigate and exterminate the



worldly. Some of them were unleashed in our days; others will be soon. While I deal with this topic, the infernal scenes I saw were so horrific in front of my eyes, that the sight of them could even make me die."

