

Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified

1846 - 1878

PARADISE

On the 7th of September 1858, Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified was almost murdered because of the hate against her faith by a fanatical Turk. While she was in agony, her soul was conducted to Paradise, as she later recounted, and she was healed by the Virgin Mary. "It seemed to me, she stated, to be in Heaven: I saw the Blessed Virgin, the Angels and the Saints who welcomed (me) with great kindness; I even saw my parents in the middle of them. I contemplated the radiant throne of the Holy Trinity, and Our Lord Jesus Christ in his humanity. There was no sun, no lamps, and yet everything shined with an indescribable light. I rejoiced in everything I saw, when, suddenly, someone came to me to say: 'You are a virgin, it is true, but your book is not yet finished.' Having just finished speaking, the vision disappeared and I came back. I found myself transported, knowing neither how nor thanks to whom, to a little solitary grotto. Laid down upon a poor bed, I saw next to me a religious (nun), who had had the charity to stitch for me the wound on my neck. I never saw her eat nor sleep. Always next to my bedside, in silence she cared for me with the utmost of affection. She was dressed

in a beautiful habit of cerulean blue, transparent and iridescent-like; the veil was of the same color. I have since seen many different religious habits, but none that was similar to hers. How much time did I spend in that place? I could not say with precision; I believe to have remained there for about one month. I ate nothing during that period, at rare intervals, the religious limited herself to wetting my lips with a sponge, white like snow. It made me sleep almost continually.

The last day, this religious served me a soup so good, something like it I have never eaten since. Having finished the portion, I asked her for a second one. Then the religious, breaking the silence, said to me: 'Maria, it is enough for the moment; later I will give it to you again. Remember to not be like those people who believe that it is never enough. Say always, it is enough, and the good God who sees everything, will watch over all of your needs. Be always content, despite all that you will have to suffer, and God, who is so good, will ensure you have what is necessary. Never listen to the devil, always distrust him, because he is too clever. When you ask something



of God, He will not always give it to you quickly, for the purpose of putting you to the test and to see if you will love Him all the same; and then, a little later, He will grant it to you, as long as you are always content and that you love Him. Maria, Maria, do not ever forget the graces that the Lord has given you. So that when something unpleasant happens to you, consider that it is God that wants it. Be always full of charity towards your neighbor; you must love him more than yourself.

You will never again see your family; you will go to France, where you will become a religious; you will be a daughter of Saint Joseph before becoming a daughter of Saint Therese.' "

