

Saint Gemma Galgani

1878 - 1903

PARADISE

Saint Gemma Galgani, after her death, gave evidence on several occasions of being in Heaven. In the process for her canonization we find numerous testimonies of healings attributed to her intercession, among them is this one of Isolina Serafini, one of her admirers:

“In 1906, for about ten months I suffered from a severe headache; due to it I was feeling like I had many ignited coals, in such a way that it felt like my brains were boiling; my mouth also burned, so that I could not eat and had to placate myself only with iced beverages and sometimes a bit of soup, but with ice. Doctor Castruccio Lippi visited me fourteen times, and after having tried many methods to cure me, finally he told me: My dear one, if you were a turnip or an apple I could split it open and see what is inside; but I do not know what to do for you anymore; resign yourself to the will of God. – Therefore, raising my eyes to Heaven and with my hands clasped, I said: Gemma, if it is true that you are in Paradise, give me this sign, please attain for me the grace of healing. Said like this, I felt healed instantly.

I had promised Gemma that if I had obtained the grace of being cured, I would have publicized it immediately in her honor. However I did not publicize it at once because I wanted to be certain it was complete. I did not suffer any more and I resumed my sleep and my normal

life without ever feeling the slightest pain in my head, and now sixteen years have passed since I received the grace.

The physician had diagnosed that my illness was a progressive meningitis and so serious that encountering me one day on the street, astonished at seeing me, he said: Oh, what are you doing here? I thought you were in the tomb. What a special Grace!

Father Germano, spiritual director for St. Gemma, in the processes for her beatification (which contained the account of the miracle), makes this statement: “From the beginning of her illness, December 1906, to the first few days of October of the following year she could never sleep more than about one hour a day.

This is the pure truth – the woman miraculously healed attested in the certificate that she released to the same Father – and I, Isolina Serafini, confirm it under oath.”

Saint Gemma was born on March 12, 1878 in Borgonuovo di Camigliano (Lucca). She was left an orphan of her mother in September of 1886. In 1895 Gemma had the inspiration to follow with enthusiasm the way of the Cross. Some visions of her Guardian Angel began to appear. On November 11, 1897 Gemma’s father, Enrico, died. Often sick, Gemma, had the opportunity to read the biography of the Passionist, Saint Gabriel



of Our Lady of Sorrows, who appeared to her and consoled her. Convinced that God was calling her to live more intimately with Him, on December 8, 1897, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, she expressed the vow of virginity. However Gemma suffered from osteitis of the lumbar vertebrae with inguinal abscess, and soon after the pain worsened so much that it led to paralysis of her legs. The physicians could not do anything, but she was miraculously healed. She desired to enter the monastery of the Passionists but was not received. She died on April 11, 1903.

