

Blessed Anna Schäffer

1882 - 1925

PURGATORY

The Blessed Anna Schäffer, a German mystic who lived at the end of the XIX Century, had many apparitions of the Souls of Purgatory; among them is this one that she recounts in her *Diary*: “On July 22, 1918 I had this dream in regard to the poor souls. I seemed to go to visit a very sick woman; she told me that from her room I had to cross another six of them and then stay for a long time in the seventh one. A strong anguish gripped me and I thought: ‘Certainly these are poor souls.’ Nevertheless, without hesitation I opened the door and shouted: ‘May my Jesus have mercy on all of you!’” “On October 21, 1918 I dreamt of a twelve year old boy who had died a short time earlier; although very young, he too was in Purgatory. He told me that he was suffering thirst very much and he asked me to pray for him, because he was terribly hot.”

And again: “On January 12, 1919 I dreamt that a girl, between fourteen and sixteen years old, came into my room. When she took my hand to greet me, I felt it completely icy and therefore I asked her: ‘Are you this cold because you are a spirit?’ and she answered me: ‘Yes, and it is for this that I have come to you, to tell you: Pray for me; no one does it since a long time ago, because they all think I am by now in the beatific vision of God, whereas instead I am still suffering in Purgatory.’ Then I asked her where she was from and she answered that she was from Oberdolling. Therefore I suggested to her to return to her relatives: ‘Perhaps they too may resume praying for you.’

“That poor girl went to her relatives, as I had told her, but after an hour she knocked on my door again and said to me crying: ‘My relatives have not prayed for me’ and continued: ‘When I died I had as a powerful advocate the Most Holy Virgin, but also the patron saint whose name I bore and another woman Saint came to my assistance.’ She told me also the names of her patronesses, but once awakened, I could not remember them anymore. I answered: ‘Stay calm: I will pray fervently for you’, and she added: ‘My patroness had already foretold me all this: thanks to her, as a matter of fact, I know ahead of time the consolations that I will receive.’”

Again another apparition: “On the first of March 1919 I dreamt three times of Purgatory and each time among those souls I recognized some acquaintances.

“On Saturday, November 29, 1919 I dreamt of being in Purgatory and I saw souls suffering in unspeakable manners. It is not really possible to describe all the suffering of these poor souls! I saw among them also some people I knew, dead already for several years, who suffered very much.”

Finally, in a vision of July 25, 1920: “I dreamt of a woman whom I had known and who was dead already for many years: she was still in Purgatory and she appeared to be suffering in an unspeakable manner. Seeing her like this, I said to her: ‘Although I have suffered very much up to now, my pain is nothing in comparison to yours: it is like fresh dew!’ That woman begged me very much: ‘Pray for me.’”

