

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

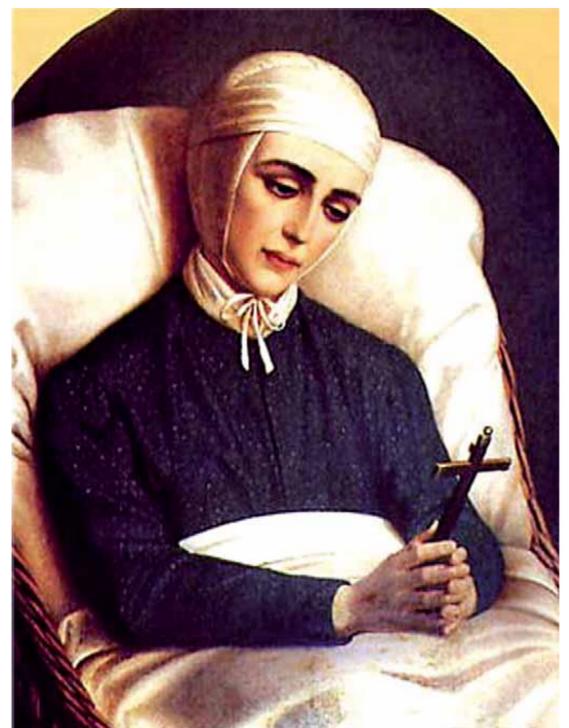
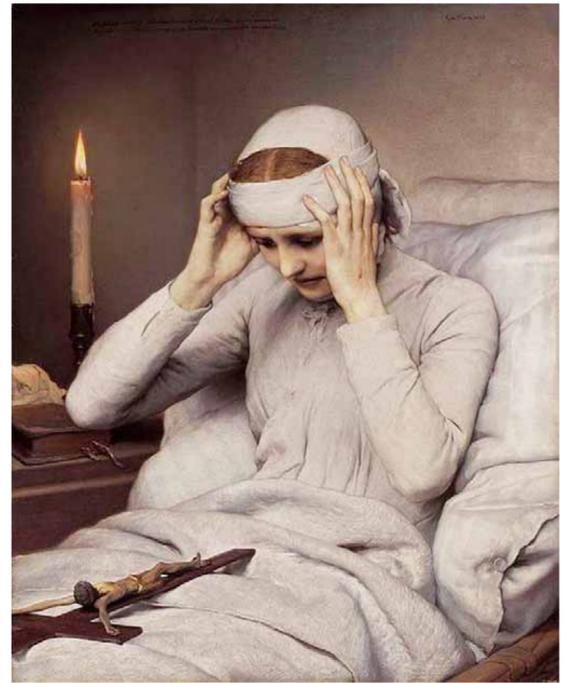
1774 - 1824

PURGATORY

The Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich had various mystic experiences in regard to Purgatory, as she herself recounts. The first one occurred on September 24, 1820: "I had received a heavy task in the 'house of the wedding,' I could not finish it; I had to struggle to clean much garbage using a hard broom. Then my mother appeared and helped me. Later my mother led me to many places where the souls were staying; I was also brought on top of a mountain on which a luminous spirit shining like copper, tied to a chain, tried to approach me. He was there for a long time, no one remembered him nor helped him; he spoke very little, only a few words, nevertheless I came to know his entire story. He had been, in his time, the King of England and led the war against France; he employed atrocious methods and had a very wicked behavior. It seemed to me that his mother was responsible for the origin of his behavior. He destroyed all the images of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and one time while passing in front of a statue of the Holy Virgin he wanted to destroy even that one, but he experienced a profound emotion and did not wish to do it any longer. After this experience, he repented bitterly and would have willingly confessed, but he died from a very strong fever; he found mercy and did not die damned. Thus he could be helped, but he had been completely forgotten. He told me that he could be helped particularly with the celebration of the Holy Mass, so that he would be able to obtain his longed for liberation before the designated time. The place where he

stayed did not seem to be the normal Purgatory, but perhaps an adjacent location. I saw him persecuted and mauled by dogs in the manner in which he had persecuted people; he was chained in many spots and lived in an area covered by enflamed grass. He told me that only the slightest hope of his liberation from that place would have been for him a great consolation. I encountered him three times."

The second time occurred on September 27, 1820: "Last night I prayed a lot for the poor souls and I saw many wonderful things and the unfathomable mercy of God. I saw again the sorrowful English king and I prayed also for him. It was made clear to me how good and evil can be passed on from ancestors to children and how their action, and their will, can be the cause of salvation or damnation. I saw assistance to the souls coming from the richness of the Church and from her members. Many priests were suffering; they were the ones who in life had always aspired to a little place in Paradise only because they distributed Communion and celebrated Masses. Now I saw them in indescribable repentance for their missed works of love and assistance towards the poor souls. At this time they were aspiring, silently, with an unquenchable desire to be able to help and labor. All their indolence is turned into pain of the soul, their calmness into impatience, their inaction into a barrier; all these punishments are the consequence of evil. In Purgatory I saw also and especially the condition of children who had been killed before and



right after birth, however it is something that I would not know how to represent, even if I could reveal it, and therefore I leave it out."

