

Blessed Agnes of Jesus of Langeac

1602 - 1634

PURGATORY

As the Dominican Blessed Agnes of Jesus was praying in the choir, a religious unknown to her appeared, observing her with a sad countenance. Blessed Agnes heard a voice saying:

“She who is present is the sister of Altavilla”. She was a nun of Puy who died ten years earlier. During the apparition, the deceased did not utter any more words, but made known that she needed some supplications. Blessed Agnes then began fervently to pray for her. For three weeks, the deceased nun appeared to her especially after Communion and common prayer and made known of being in pain. The Blessed recounted all that occurred to her confessor, who believed proper to make known the events to the nuns of St. Catherine of Puy, where the religious had lived. Blessed Agnes however convinced him not to reveal those apparitions to anyone to avoid the risk of being ridiculed as visionaries. Notwithstanding the supplications, the penances and the prayers offered for the deceased nun, every time she appeared as if nothing had benefited her. Therefore the Blessed began to doubt that she truly dealt with a soul of Purgatory, but her guardian angel confirmed to her that the soul was real and that she suffered so much for having been lukewarm in the service to God.

There is another episode in the life of the Blessed, which involves a religious of Langeac, called Sister Serafica. Her confessor ordered Agnes to beseech

God, so that He would let her know the state of that soul. During prayer the Blessed asked God to accept her as a victim in place of the deceased nun. At that moment, she felt an inner warmth enveloping her entire body, from which she understood that the deceased was in Purgatory. One day, in fact, she recognized Sister Serafica among many souls who were suffering in the flames, and heard her voice asking for help. The deceased appeared to her again another time to ask for her blessing. After eight days, the Blessed started to pray for that soul right after receiving Communion, in order that she would be freed from purgatory. She heard a voice telling her: “Continue, continue to pray, since the time of the liberation of Serafica has not arrived yet.” However two days later, as the Blessed was participating at Mass, she saw Sister Serafica ascending to Heaven, at the moment of the elevation of the chalice.

The Blessed, inspired by the Virgin Mary, prayed and suffered for the young cleric Jean Jacques Olier, to whom she revealed that he was called to found the first seminaries in France. During the last three years of her life, she had to endure many slanders which caused her to be removed from the position of prioress. She suffered everything in silence in favor of the future Congregation of the Priests of St. Sulpice, founded by Olier. She maintained daily contact with her guardian angel. She died October 19, 1634. Her body is preserved at the monastery of Langeac.

