

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

Part 1

1647 - 1690

PURGATORY

Saint Margaret Mary Aloque was born in Versosvres, in the Diocese of Autun, France in 1647. In 1671 she entered the Visitation Convent in Paray-le-Monial, where she was the Novice Mistress. Saint Margaret Mary was a great mystic and her life was undoubtedly tied to the revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who appeared to her on many occasions. The first apparition occurred on December 27, 1673, on the Feast of Saint John the Evangelist. Jesus invited the saint “completely dressed in divine presence”; to take the seat that Saint John had occupied during the Last Supper and said: “My divine heart is so passionate for the love of mankind that I could no longer contain the flames of my ardent love, they had to pour out. I have chosen you to carry out this great plan, as long as everything is done by me.” During the apparition, Jesus promised her: “My heart will swell and spread love with abundance to those that honor me”. In addition: “The precious treasures that I reveal to you contain the sanctifying grace required to pull mankind from the abyss of perdition”.

One day while Margaret Mary was praying for the deceased, who were very important people of the world, it was revealed to her that one of these souls was condemned to stay at length in Purgatory. All of the prayers that would have been offered to her, and all of the Masses that were celebrated in honor of her suffering would not work to her advantage, but to the favor of the deceased of her family that were damaged

and oppressed by this person. All of this because the families that were reduced to poverty because of wrongdoings and sickly harm did not have the means to celebrate Masses in honor of their relatives. Therefore the Lord intervened in their favor.

One day the saint was praying for three deceased people for a short while. Two of them were of the religious order, the third was a layperson. Jesus appeared to Margaret Mary and asked her: “Which of these three people do you want me to release immediately from Purgatory?” The Saint responded: “Oh Lord worthy are you to choose according to your divine will and your fine tranquility which will return in glory of your honor”! Then Margaret Mary saw the Lord release the soul of the layperson, and then he revealed to the saint that the religious ones were less pious, because they had many means at their disposal in order to reach perfection and they could have more easily made amends for their sins, above all with the observance of the Law.

The saint became one of the elect souls of God, to which she offered herself as a host of sacrifice to divine justice. Jesus asked her to celebrate a feast in the honor of the Sacred Heart. The solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was bestowed upon the universal Church in 1856. Under the orders of her superiors, Margaret Mary described her mystic experiences in an autobiography. She was canonized in 1920.

