

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

Part 2

1647-1690

PURGATORY

Saint Margaret Mary saw many souls in purgatory during the course of various apparitions and she came to help them in their suffering and penitence. One time a deceased fellow nun appeared to her, but to her surprise, she did not ask for prayers because God told her that she could not, since during her life she had avoided all inconveniences and had searched for a comfortable and easy existence.

Another time a fellow nun appeared to her crying and begged her to help her with her prayers so she could be freed from the pain of purgatory. The saint asked her the reason she was suffering in purgatory and she responded that it was because she had loved comfort too much. Because of this, she had not exactly observed the Law and she used to excuse herself from communal exercises. Also, she confirmed that she would have been condemned if it were not for the intervention she made to the Virgin Mary.

On another day, while Margaret Mary was in adoration before the most Holy Sacrament, a soul from purgatory appeared to her surrounded by flames of a fire that emitted such heat that the saint believed she would be burnt to ashes. Margaret Mary recognized in that soul a religious person that had directly guided her spiritually on the road to perfection. The priest, thanks to the grace of the Lord, showed himself to the saint and asked for her assistance, revealing the reasons for his pain. Often in his activities he had looked for his own praise and not for the pure love of God. In addition, he lacked

general love for his neighbor and was too affectionate towards certain people. This soul appeared for three continuous months to the saint, until finally the graces of prayer and penitence of the saint could not free him from purgatory.

Margaret Mary was so fervent with desire to help the souls of purgatory that her superiors had to intervene and mitigate her zeal; otherwise she would have risked getting herself sick. One day she promised to whip herself in order to comfort the souls of purgatory but she did it so hard that she exceeded the allowable limits. Immediately the souls appeared to her and scolded her because she was actually increasing their pain rather than diminishing it.

