

Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi *Part 1*

1566 - 1607

PURGATORY

Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, in the world Catherine, was a Carmelite religious, proclaimed saint by Pope Clement IX on April 22, 1669. She had numerous visions among them also the ones of Purgatory.

From 1585 to 1590 Mary Magdalene had to suffer "The lions' den" a terrible period of trial during which she felt attacked by demons from all sides and in all manners. During this period of exhausting trial she labored very much in favor of the poor souls of Purgatory, as the Lord Himself assured her. Among the many things she saw we recall in particular the death of her brother Alamanno, which occurred on June 14, 1587. Mary Magdalene was at recreation with some fellow sisters in the garden of the Monastery. Suddenly she was enraptured in ecstasy and began to shout: *Yes, I am ready to go everywhere!* With these words whose meaning her companions could not understand, the Saint made known her disposition to follow her guardian angel on a journey through Purgatory; and immediately she started this tormenting voyage of which was later made a disconcerting and moving description: for two hours the Saint continued to go around the garden of the Monastery always in ecstasy, stopping occasionally and at the same time uttering deep sighs while contemplating the visions with attentive observation, especially the ones which her guardian angel had pointed out. We quote directly from the text compiled by the sisters who were next to her: "Entering this journey,

as soon as she started, she began to tremble vividly, shaking her hands together, worrying intensely in her face, pale and ashen she walked bent and crouched like one who has much fright. And in this way she went on for a little and then she retreated much more, because entering that place it seemed to her to become tormented too... Then she narrated - I suffered seeing them suffer so much, but it was not that I already felt the same pains because I do not believe that it were possible for a mortal creature to feel them. During her journey at times she stopped and said in a compassionate voice: *Compassion, compassion, mercy! O blood, please come down and liberate these souls! Poor little ones, you suffer so much and are so content!* After she had gone for a while, she began to pray to Jesus that he would send her for assistance, in addition to her guardian angel, who had already given her help, also Saint Catherine, since her pains were so great... and she invoked... *O, Catherine come, come to help me in asking mercy for these poor souls and please offer the Blood of my and your Spouse for them... O, poor ones, you endure much cruel pain, and are so content and cheerful. But you know the will of God and that soon you will enjoy His blessed vision...* One time the Saint shouted: *Oh! May I not have to see so close these poor tormented ones!* But she had to obey and to descend other steps of that abyss... At a certain moment she stopped, trembling in her entire body and shouted: *How can it be? Even religious priests are in this frightful place! Oh my God, how much do I see them suffer!*

