

Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi *Part 2*

1566 - 1607

PURGATORY

“After Mary Magdalene had left the place designated for the priests in Purgatory, she arrived at the place where there are found the souls of those who have sinned more out of ignorance than malice. This place was less frightening. Here the Saint found also the soul of her deceased brother. She shouted: O my poor brother how terribly must you suffer! But be consoled! You know that these pains open for you the way of eternal beatitude! After awhile the Saint added: I see that you are not sad, because you endure the pains, which are terrible, but willingly and you are content! When you were still in this world, you did not want to listen when I admonished you and gave you advice. Now, as I see, you much desire that I listen to you. What do you want from me? He asked her for a determined number of Masses and Holy Communions. The extraordinary journey of the Saint continued. After a few steps she understood that now she was seeing much happier souls. She shouted: How frightful this place is! Oh, reason of God! Who are those who suffer here so frightfully? It was answered to her that those were the people who in life had sinned of hypocrisy – the hypocrites –, then continuing the journey she saw the souls of those who had been impatient and disobedient. Observing these souls more closely, she made unusual gestures; she bowed her head to the ground, then fixed her eyes on a point and at the same time uttered deep sighs. A little later she seemed even more disturbed; she had

reached that place of Purgatory where the liars were staying and their sufferings seemed frightening. Then she reached the place where those who had sinned due to frailty and bad habit were staying. A bit further she found the greedy and lastly those who were expiating their impurities; they had repented and had confessed their sins, but had not expiated and repaired sufficiently. At this point the Saint had the impression that her heart was constricted as in a vice. She went through this place without saying a word. But after she left this frightful place, she was heard asking: O my God, and my Lord, why did you make me see such frightful things? Perhaps so that I may have more compassion for the poor souls and in the future I must pray even more? But no, now I understand clearly: You have wanted to make me realize more Your incomparable and extraordinary purity. From the place of the impure the Saint arrived to the place of the arrogant and of the ambitious. Here dominated an impenetrable terrifying and cold darkness. It was heard that the Saint said: O, these poor little ones who on earth wanted to be elevated above the others and now must stay in such a frightful darkness! She saw also the souls of those who in life had been cold and indifferent towards God, so Good, and who had so little love for their Creator, Father and Redeemer, that maybe they had not even known what it really meant to truly love God. At the sight of these poor souls the Saint remembered a renewed commitment to



pray and a more tender and intimate love for God. Finally the Saint arrived to the place where were purified the souls who in this world had not committed serious faults, but only venial sins of every kind. After two long hours of wandering around the garden the ecstasy ceased, Mary Magdalene regained her senses, but she felt so disturbed both physically and emotionally, that it took several days before she would be able in some way to recover from the tremendous impression made to her by this vision of Purgatory. As for the price she paid for her deceased brother, she was profoundly moved that her brother had to remain in Purgatory until she would have offered to God 107 Holy Communions for him.”

