

# Maria Josefa of the Heart of Jesus Sancho de Guerra

1842-1912

*Born in Vitoria, Spain, on September 7, 1842. At a very young age, she demonstrated a profound devotion for the Eucharist and for the Most Blessed Virgin, and a special sensitivity for the poor and the sick.*

In 1860 she entered the Institute of the Servants of Mary, but from conversations she had with Saint Anthony Maria Claret and Saint Soledad, Sister Josefa realized that she was called to begin a new religious Order. Together with four other Servants of Mary, she established a new religious congregation at Bilbao in 1871, which took the name of the Congregation of the Servants of Jesus. She lived her vocation as an authentic apostle in the field of health,

kind of help ... which is that of the heart, seeking to adapt oneself to the person who suffers." She was canonized October 1, 2000 by John Paul II.

There were many extraordinary graces that God gave to Sister Maria Josefa, among which was that of seeing Angels. On various occasions, recount her sisters, they were helped by the extraordinary intervention of Saint Raphael the Archangel during the dangerous journeys they had undertaken in their



since her servant's approach sought to join material with spiritual aims, seeking with every means the salvation of souls. Despite the illness that struck her in the last twelve years of her life, she did not heed difficulties or suffering, but dedicated herself completely to the charitable service of the sick in a spirit of contemplation, recalling that "help does not consist only in giving medicine and food to the sick; but there is an entirely different

charitable missions. Sister Maria Josefa always encouraged asking Saint Michael for the gift of the fear of the Lord; asking Saint Raphael for the spirit of charity both for gently curing the sick and also that they not die without first receiving the Holy Sacraments and being in God's grace; and asking Saint Gabriel the Archangel for the strength to endure the vicissitudes of life.