

Blessed Mary Magdalene of the Incarnation

1770-1824

Catherine Sordini, was born April 16, 1770 at the Port of St. Stephen. When she was seventeen years old, a rich young man of good background, Alphonsus, made a proposal of marriage, and on a visit to her one day left a gift of numerous precious jewels.

On Sunday, Catherine dressed up and looked at herself in the mirror with pleasure. At the moment, however, she saw in the same mirror the sorrowful face of Jesus crucified who said to her, "Perhaps, you wish to abandon me for another?" After that, she went to a cloistered convent of Franciscan Sisters at Ischia of Castro and decided to become a sister. Taking the name of Sister Mary Magdalene of the Incarnation, she had numerous visions of Angels and mystical experiences. One day while still a novice, she was taken up in ecstasy; she saw the wall separating the refectory from the chapel disappear and noticed on the altar the Majestic Christ surrounded by twelve Angels dressed in white tunics with a red scapular, and while singing the Angels incensed the church. Her Guardian Angel then said to her, "You will gather a great number of Angels who like these, will adore the Lord!"

In fact, several years later, the young religious Mary Magdalene of the Incarnation established the Institute of Perpetual Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament with sisters dressed in white with a red scapular. Initially, the continual adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist was reserved only for the religious, but in a short while the Mother decided to open the church also to the faithful for adoration. In this she was somewhat of a pioneer. Magdalene died April 29, 1824.

