

Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

1796-1868

Mary Euphrasia Pelletier was born in 1796 on Noirmoutier Island in Vendée, a region in western France. At the age of 19 she joined the Order of Our Lady of Charity at Tours and here she matures in her vocation to help women who were in social and moral difficulties.

She was elected Mother Superior at the age of 29 and decided to establish a contemplative community under the Patronage of St. Mary Magdalene. Mary Euphrasia, who had a special affinity with St. Teresa of Avila, drafted the Constitutions inspired from the original rule of Carmel. So in this way, with their life of prayer and intercession, the Contemplative Sisters themselves also would have produced a spiritual fecundity for the

which was quite far away, Sr. Marie-Thomas with all her force was intent on splitting with an axe some walking sticks from some tree branches. Her arms gave out and her back hurt her very much. Hunger pangs began to be felt. However it was only ten o'clock in the morning and it was a long time until dinner. The Sister then thought to herself: "Oh! If my Guardian Angel could go to that of our Mother Mary Euphrasia and tell her



apostolate of the Congregation. In 1829, the Bishop of Angers invites Mary Euphrasia to open a House at Angers and approves her Constitutions in 1834. In the Congregation of the Good Shepherd two lifestyles existed with the same goal: the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Mary Euphrasia died at Angers on the 24th of April, 1868 in her Convent dedicated to the Good Shepherd.

Sr. Mary Euphrasia had a special rapport with her Guardian Angel. One time, at the far end of the garden of the convent,

that I cannot go on anymore. If only I could have a cup of broth!" As if not spoken, the Angel alerted the Mother and she quickly went into the kitchen to speak with the cook giving her the duty of bringing to Sister Marie-Thomas a cup of hot broth. Indescribable was the stupor which Sister Marie-Thomas felt when she saw the cook arrive with a cup of steaming broth!