

# Blessed Aniela Salawa

1881-1922

## *Blessed Aniela Salawa*

was a humble domestic servant who nourished a great love for the Eucharist, spending all of her free moments in adoration before the tabernacle.

During the final months of her life she sought the help of her Guardian Angel. In the afternoon of June 15, 1921, she was about to enter the Church of St. Nicholas, but as the sexton was about to close the church, he asked her to leave as quickly as possible. She hid herself in a corner of St. Ann's Chapel. As the sexton made his rounds to see if anyone was still in the church, he failed to notice her. He searched throughout the church, but he did not find

humble domestic. Inspired by the love of Christ, she offered Him her virginity. She began an active apostolate for the many of the other women who sought employment in homes by encouraging them and helping them to live an authentic Christian life. She often said: "I love my work because it enables me to endure suffering, work harder and pray often; other than that I have no other desire in the world." She prays and honors the Virgin Mary with a daughter's love.



her. Thinking that she had left, he locked the door and left. The next day, and still puzzled by Aniela's disappearance, he searched for her once again and finally discovered her in the sacristy kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament next to the statue of St. Joseph. She was so engrossed in prayer she seemed to be in ecstasy. In obedience to her spiritual director, Aniela herself recounts this incident in her own diary. She had asked and prayed to her Guardian Angel to render her invisible so as to remain the entire night in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Through the intercession of her Guardian Angel, God granted her request.

Blessed Angela (Aniela) Salawa was born in Siepraw, Poland, on September 9, 1881 of a poor Christian family. In 1897 she moved to Cracow to work as a domestic servant. Two years later, distraught over the exemplary and pious death of her sister Teresa, she sought holiness as a poor and

She achieved a heroic degree of love for God and her neighbor, seeing Christ in them all. In 1911, she painfully experienced the death of her mother and the mistress of the house where she worked. In 1912 when she realized that her desire to be humble and poor was in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, she joined the secular Franciscan Third Order. During the First World War, she cared for the many wounded soldiers in the hospitals of Cracow whenever she was free. In 1917 she grew ill and was forced to abandon her work. She spent the last five years of her life in a tiny furnished room. She endured much suffering and offered it all to God for the conversion of sinners, the salvation of souls and for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. She died on March 12, 1922 at Cracow and the reputation of her sanctity spread throughout Poland. Pope John Paul II beatified her in Cracow on August 13, 1991.