

Blessed Agnes of Jesus Galand de Langeac

1602-1634

Agnes was born on November 17, 1602 in Puy-en-Velay. In 1621 she decided to enter the Order of the Dominicans. In 1623 she participated in the foundation of the Monastery of Saint Catherine of Siena in Langeac where she took her vows. She was the prioress of the Monastery from 1627 until her death in 1634.

Agnes always had a special relationship with the Angels. One day her father found her in the countryside, in a terrible, life-threatening, danger. Agnes' Guardian Angel appeared to her to recommend that she pray to Jesus and suggested that her father return home as soon as possible. Agnes obeyed and her father knew that the following day some assassins were supposed to ambush her exactly at the hour of her return.

When she returned home late after visiting the poor and she found herself locked out of the house, the Guardian Angel took her to her room.

When she was attacked by a demon, her Guardian Angel defended her and reassured her with his presence. This charitable custodian made her notice every minimal error, he woke her up during the night to encourage her to pray, he helped her to bear crosses and he helped her tolerate the ardor of divine love and in one important circumstance he pierced her heart with a flaming arrow.

The Guardian Angel of Agnes did not limit himself to helping her; he was also interested in anyone in her circle. At the time that M. Olier, abbot of Pebrac was preaching during a mission in Alvernia, he had to distance himself from Langeac; it was a terrible time and the streets were dangerous and full of precipices. Agnes put her Angel in charge of guiding him. And so it was. M. Olier legally declared to have seen a big guiding Angel walking ahead of him and leading him safely and soundly to his destination.

Several times the spouse of Christ received Holy Communion in a miraculous manner, by the hand of her good Angel or some other being of the Heavens. This rare favor happened like this to other saints, but to

her it happened quite frequently; we could consider it a compensation for her submission to the superiors.

Numerous episodes exist in which a demon pursued her. One winter night, while she was in prayer, Satan stopped in front of her saying angrily: "What are you doing here, you poor crazy girl, you would be better off



in bed". The sight of such a horrible being paralyzed her, but she regained herself since she was protected from above, and so she understood well that she should not have interrupted her prayer. A grain of guilt was the result of this cruel torturer: Agnes agonized. Her spiritual director informed of the event, told Agnes: "If the devil returns, spit in his face". The chaste virgin obeyed, but Satan took revenge tempting her repeatedly. In spite of everything the young saint always defeated her enemy and often spoke to him with great authority. The prince of darkness then thought to transform himself into an angel of light, and one day he appeared to her almost as the crucified Christ.