

Saint Veronica Giuliani

Part 1

1660 - 1727

PURGATORY

Saint Veronica Giuliani was born at Mercatello sul Maturo near Urbino in 1660. In 1677 she entered among the Capuchin Poor Clares of Città di Castello. She became abbess of the community but had to face a great number of trials for her mystic experiences. She had the stigmata and a wound on the heart that was verified by doctors at her death. She guided the community on the way of perfection and was a model for all the sisters. She had several times the vision of Purgatory and many souls were liberated through her prayer. She died on Good Friday of 1727, after thirty-three days of sickness. She was canonized in 1829. In obedience, she wrote her mystical experiences in a Diary.

Here we report two of these mystic experiences taken from her *Diary*. The first is of September 10, 1700: "A few days after the death of Fr. Vitale, one morning, after receiving Communion, suddenly I thought I saw an arm with the sleeve of a Franciscan Friar there before me and I heard a voice saying to me: *Help! Help!* Really it seemed to me the voice of Fr. Vitale when he was alive, and it immediately disappeared. I did not pay much attention; I only kept a definite concern to do some good for this soul.

"A little later, one night in a dream, I thought I saw two souls of Purgatory. One seemed to me the Sister who died a short time ago, and the other one I didn't recognize. The soul approached

me, and told me: Do you know me? I feared and trembled; but I took courage and said: *I do not know you. It seems that you are Fr. Vitale, but I don't know whether it's true.* He answered: *I am*, and took me by an arm. At that time I felt a great pain as if my arm was being cut; and I also felt so much ice cold, that it seemed unbearable. And I thought I heard him saying: *Now is my time of need*; and I recognized very well that it was Fr. Vitale. But he had a definite clear and joyful voice, not like that morning that I heard it after Communion. Immediately he squeezed my arm with his hand and said: *May the agreements be maintained.* At this point I awakened from sleep and, while opening my eyes, I saw something like a shadow departing the cell. On my arm remained a great pain; and warmth did not return until late evening. All day I was as if numb."

The other story is of August 15, 1701: "It seemed to me that the Eternal Judge gave me His blessing with that cross he was holding in His Hand; and I learned that, for the merits of His Most Holy Passion and for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, I had obtained grace from Him. He confirmed me as mediator between Him and sinners, and also mediator and helper for the poor souls of Purgatory. These were the two offices that I had to exercise for all the remainder of my life; and I had the impression that it will be short."

