

Servant of God Teresa Neumann

1898 - 1962

PARADISE

In her diary for July 2, 1955, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Teresa Neumann describes a vision of Paradise. “Was reciting my evening prayers for the day, it was about ten o’clock, and I prostrated my self before God and I kissed the ground. Suddenly my small room was bathed in shimmering light and I saw a beautiful woman. Fearful that it might be a trick of the devil, I sprinkled my room with holy water. The woman simply smiled. Still doubtful, I asked her to pray and she then proceeded to pray exceedingly well. When she had finished praying, the woman approached me, still smiling, and said: You have acted well! Do not be afraid, my daughter. I am your heavenly mother... little flower dear to the heart of my son, Jesus, you are constantly weeping. Do not torment yourself so and do not concern yourself about anything that will happen! You have offended the Lord – but He will protect you and hold you close to His Sacred Heart; everything happens for the fulfillment of His heavenly Providence. She continued: Your sufferings and your tears are the precious jewels that adorn the crown of the blessed in heaven where you, my dearest daughter, by the gracious gift of God, will shine with the greatest brilliance. As your tender Mother, I will

assist you to the end with a maternal care. Think of yourself as the blessed bride of my all powerful Son; do not become proud because of this great gift – in fact, I would wish that as you consider on the one hand your dignity as chosen bride, you would, on the other hand, repeat the words that I uttered to my cousin, Elisabeth: ‘He who is mighty has done great things for me!’ While I acknowledge the graces I have received, I must confess that it is completely the work of Almighty God. And I repeat again: I have received the pearls which adorn me only from Him who has loved me and not for any merit of my own. He has chosen me from among thousands. To Him, and Him alone, be honor and glory! This feeling of humility, my daughter, is as necessary as oars and rudders are to ships. Woe to you if you take upon yourself anything that is not yours and that spirit of pride begins to overtake you! Everything is the result of the loving mercy of Jesus, my Son. He could have chosen so many other souls worthier than you who would have been more faithful. He only wished to choose you because you are the lowliest; He would have chosen another lowlier had he found one... Because your life has been so difficult you must continue to thank Jesus, constantly praying that He



strengthen you for this painful journey of His choosing... so you will finally arrive at that place! (Dear father, what a beautiful vision have I seen!) I felt as if I were already in Paradise: it was a vast expanse, like the sea, whose limits could not be seen. I am unable to describe the brilliance of the light! And there were the harmonious melodies and the hosts of angels and blessed souls surrounding Jesus. One such carried a tablet inscribed: ‘St. Gemma Galgani’; my own Guardian Angel carried a tablet inscribed with my own name!”

