

## **A TIME LINE OF LUISA PICCARRETA'S LIFE**

- 1865: April 23. She is born in Corato on Via Murge 10, daughter of Vito Nicola Piccarreta (1829-1907) and Rosa Tarantini (1834-1907). She is baptized the same day, that evening, in the main church.
- 1874: She receives her First Communion and the sacrament of Confirmation on the same day. She begins to hear Jesus' voice during Holy Communion.
- 1876: She joins the Association of the Daughters of Mary.
- 1877: Jesus teaches her the mortification of the human will out of love.
- 1878: Her immersion in Jesus' passion.
- 1881: The Christmas Novena. The narration of the first volume of the Diary begins.
- 1882: The start of a "new life." Jesus chooses her as victim. The phenomenon of being in a state of "petrification" begins. The intervention of Augustinian Father Cosma Liodice. Luisa becomes a Third Oder Dominican with the name Sister Magdalena.
- 1886: Luisa offers herself to God to rid Corato of cholera. Father Cosma Liodice leaves Corato and Father Michele De Benedittis (1844-1910) becomes her first spiritual director. It becomes impossible for her to keep food down.
- 1887: Starting in the second half of November, Luisa is permanently confined to bed; she offers herself as a voluntary victim to implore for peace during Italy's war in Africa. For the first time, Luisa's soul leaves her body.
- 1888: October 21, feast of the Purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first mystical marriage in the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Catherine of Siena takes place.

- 1890: September 7, she renews her mystical marriage in the presence of the Most Holy Trinity in heaven. The “indwelling” of the Most Holy Trinity.
- 1894: Father Michele De Benedittis is confirmed as Luisa’s confessor. Luisa moves with her family to a new house on Via Ospedale Vecchio 14.
- 1894 or 1895: September 14, feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the spiritual marriage of the Cross in Jerusalem and the in visible stigmata.
- 1898: Father Gennaro de Gennaro (1844-1922) replaces Father Michele De Benedittis as Luisa’s confessor.
- 1898: March 8, a request for an indulgence to celebrate Mass once a week in Luisa’s house is granted with a rescript by Pope Leo XIII.
- 1899: February 28, out of obedience to her confessor, Luisa begins to write her Diary (36 notebooks or volumes) until December 28, 1938.
- 1905: May 23, Pope Pius X grants an extension of Leo XIII’s rescript for another seven years, allowing the celebration of Mass once a week in Luisa’s home.
- 1906: September, Archbishop Giulio Vaccaro of Bari, who was also apostolic administrator of Trani, imposes a ban on visits to Luisa. The ban, however, will not have much of an effect.
- 1907: March 19, her mother dies and her father dies, too, about 15 days later. Luisa is alone in their home with her sister Angelina, who helps her until she dies.
- 1908: March 17, Archbishop Francesco Paolo Carrano obtains a new pontifical rescript that extends permission to celebrate Mass in her home everyday.

- 1910: April 2, inauguration of an Antonian orphanage for girls in Trani by Father Annibale Di Francia (1851-1927). The friendship between Father Annibale and Luisa begins; he writes his first letter to her March 20, 1911.
- 1914: June 25, Archbishop Francesco Paolo Carrano attaches holy indulgences to the first draft of *The Hours of the Passion*.
- 1915: The publication of the first and second editions of the book, *The Hours of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ with Devoted Considerations and Reparations* (10,000 copies).
- 1917: Publication of the third edition of the book, *The Hours of the Passion* with the appendix *Treatise on the Divine Will*. The first publication of texts drawn from the Diary.
- 1918: October, Luisa prays for an end to the “Spanish flu” epidemic.
- 1919: February 10, Luisa utters her “yes” to the Divine Will of Jesus.
- 1919: Father Annibale’s project to build a convent for the Daughters of Divine Zeal and an orphanage in Corato that would also provide accommodation for Luisa.
- 1922: March 10, Father Gennaro De Gennaro dies. Father Francesco De Benedittis (1868-1926) takes his place.
- 1925: Publication of the fourth edition of the book *The Hours of the Passion*.
- 1926: January 30, Father Francesco De Benedittis dies. Father Benedetto Calvi (1886-1968) succeeds him as her confessor.
- 1926: July 15, at the request of Father Annibale Di Francia, Luisa writes the “Notebook of Childhood Memories.”
- 1926: August 6, Father Annibale personally places the *nihil obstat* on the first 18 manuscript volumes of the *Diary*.

- 1926: September-October, Archbishop Giuseppe Maria Leo of Trani places his *imprimatur* on the first 18 manuscript volumes of the *Diary* and authorizes their publication.
- 1927: June 1, Father Annibale Di Francia dies in Messina.
- 1928: October 7, Luisa and her sister, Angelina, move to the institute called “House of the Divine Will” that is run by the Daughters of Divine Zeal in Corato. She will live there for 10 years.
- 1929: June 20, work on editing her writing is started up again after it was interrupted by Father Annibale’s death.
- 1930: Publication of the book *In the Kingdom of the Divine Will* with the *imprimatur* of Archbishop Giuseppe Maria Leo.
- 1930: September, the first misunderstandings surrounding her writings emerge.
- 1931: The Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office is contacted. Continuing with the publications of the *Diary* is prohibited.
- 1932: Publication of the first edition of the book *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will* with the *imprimatur* of Bishop Giuseppe Batignani of Montepulciano (Siena).
- 1933: October, publication of the second edition of *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will* edited by Father Benedetto Calvi with the *nihil obstat* and *imprimatur* of the archiepiscopal delegate of Taranto, and published by the archdiocesan printing house S.T.A.T. of Taranto.
- 1934: September, publication of the fifth edition of *The Hours of the Passion*, edited by Father Benedetto Calvi, with the *nihil obstat* of the archiepiscopal delegate of Taranto.
- 1935: Work on translating Luisa’s publications into other languages. Contact made with the German Benedictine Father Ludwig Beda (1871-1941) from the Andechs Monastery in Bavaria, Germany.

- 1936: October, publication of the translation into German of the *Treatise* from the fifth Italian edition of *The Hours of the Passion*, edited by Father Ludwig Beda with the title *Das Reich des Gottli chen Willens*.
- 1937: April 21, letter from the secretary of the Holy Office, Cardinal Donato Sbarretti, to Archbishop Giuseppe Maria Leo of Trani notifying him that a canonical investigation is underway concerning the German version of the *Treatise*. It is asked that the copies of all publications of Luisa's writings in the most recent editions in Italian be handed over.
- 1937: August; Luisa receives orders from her superiors not to receive visitors.
- 1937: November 24, feast of Christ the King, publication of the third edition of *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will*, edited by Father Benedetto Calvi, with the *nihil obstat* and *imprimatur* of the archiepiscopal delegate of Taranto. Work on the sixth edition of *The Hours* is underway.
- 1938: Publication of the translation of the fifth Italian edition of *The Hours of the Passion* into German, edited by Father Ludwig Beda, in 30,000 copies, which were also sold out in only a few months. Released as the second volume of the series, *Das Reich des Gottli chen Willens*.
- 1938: May 21, Carmelite Father Lorenzo di San Basilio, theologian of the Apostolic Dataria, goes to Corato to confiscate the manuscripts of the Diary. Father Benedetto hands over the first 34 notebooks, while the 35<sup>th</sup> cannot be found and the 36<sup>th</sup> is incomplete, therefore, they are not handed over.
- 1938: July 13, during the general session of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office it is decided that the following books are to be inserted into the Index of prohibited books: *The Hours of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ* with a *Treatise of the Divine Will*; *In the*

*Kingdom of the Divine Will*; and *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will*.

- 1938: August 31, the decree *Proscriptio Librorum* is published in the *Osservatore Romano* newspaper Sunday September 11.
- 1938: September 19, Luisa writes a letter reaffirming once more her full obedience to Church authority, and deploring and condemning her own writings that the Church has disapproved of and condemns.
- 1938: October 15, Luisa leaves the Daughters of Divine Zeal's "House of the Divine Will" and she moves to an apartment on Via Madelena 20.
- 1938: December 28, date on the last page of the Diary (volume 36) written by Luisa.
- 1939: June, Father Ludwig Beda sends a long letter to the Holy Office, enclosing the text of the Treatise in which some of the more dubious passages are corrected in an attempt to rehabilitate the publication.
- 1942: August 3, Luisa sends a letter to Pope Pius XII requesting that permission be granted for the celebration of Mass in her home.
- 1947: March 4, At six o'clock in the morning after 15 days of severe pneumonia, Luisa dies.
- 1947: March 7, funeral attended by a huge number of people. Luisa is interred in the city's cemetery in the chapel of Father Benedetto Calvi's family.
- 1947: March-April, Archbishop Francesco Petronelli of Trani authorizes collecting information about Luisa to be part of a request to the Holy See for her rehabilitation.
- 1948: November 27, Archbishop Reginaldo Giuseppe Maria Addazi of Trani, a Dominican, grants permission to print holy cards of Luisa with a relic and prayer for her beatification, giving her the title of "servant of God."

- 1950: September 21, Archbishop Reginaldo Giuseppe Maria Addazi writes a letter to city officials requesting the transfer of Luisa's mortal remains from the public cemetery to St. Mary the Greek Church. The request first faces resistance from public officials and then from church officials.
- 1963: July 3, Luisa's remains are moved from the cemetery of Corato to the parish of St. Mary the Greek.
- 1987: March 4, Archbishop Giuseppe Carata of Trani, on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luisa's death, canonically erected in Corato the "Pious Association Luisa Piccarreta, Little Children of the Divine Will," of which Sister Assunta Marigliano, the foundress, was named the first president.
- 1994: February 25, Archbishop Carmelo Cassati of Trani receives from the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes the *nihil obstat* to open the Diocesan investigation into the life, virtues and fame of holiness of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta. The "Pious Association Luisa Piccarreta, Little Children of the Divine Will" becomes the petitioner for Luisa's cause. Msgr. Felice Posa is appointed diocesan postulator.
- 1995: November 13, Archbishop Carmelo Cassati asks the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, if copies could be made of the 34 manuscript notebooks of the *Diary* kept in the dicastery's archive. The afore mentioned copies are approved and made from January 29 to February 2, 1996.
- 2001: February 11, Archbishop Giovan Battista Pichierri appoints Msgr. Sabino Amedeo Lattanzio to be the new diocesan postulator.
- 2005: October 29, Archbishop Giovan Battista Pichierri closes the diocesan investigation.
- 2006: April 2, given the active role the "Pious Association Luisa Piccarreta, Little Children of the Divine Will" plays in the sainthood cause, Archbishop Giovan Battista Pichierri invites the association to set up a secretariat for the cause of beatification and canonization as part of its responsibilities.

2007: January 31, a letter addressed to the Congregation for Saints' Causes from the bishops of Puglia asks that the canonical procedure for the cause be carried out as quickly as possible.

2007: February 22, a supplementary inquiry by the diocese concludes.

2010: June 13, Archbishop Giovan Battista Pichierri changes the status of the Pious Association by erecting it as a public association of the faithful with the name "Luisa Piccarreta Association – Little Children of the Divine Will." He approves its new statutes.