

# BRINGING THE CARMELITE SAINTS ALIVE

TENTH EDITION



IN THIS MONTH OF JANUARY 2025, WE WILL BE HIGHLIGHTING

BLESSED ARCHANGELA GIRLANI

WHOSE FEAST DAY IS ON JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>



Eleanor Giralani (Blessed Archangela Giralani, O. Carm. (1460-1494) was born in the small Italian town of Trino (Piedmont). She demonstrated great piety and holiness as a child. Despite her family's noble

heritage, her only ambition in life was to become a Benedictine sister and together with some friends and relatives, she prepared to travel to the monastery of Rocco delle Donne, who had agreed to accept and raise her as a member of the Order. However, this was not to occur. Upon mounting her horse to travel, the animal refused to carry her to the monastery. As this particular horse was one of gentle and obedient spirit, the animal's refusal to move was interpreted as a sign from the Lord and Eleanor returned home. Despairing, she prayed for guidance and contented herself in her own daily practices of contemplation, penance and service to others.

Elenor soon encountered a Carmelite monk, who introduced her to the sisters of the Carmelite Order. Understanding this as a divine intervention, Elenor sought admission and was accepted into the Order on her seventeen birthday. She lived and served in the convent of Maria Maddalena in Parma, along with her sisters Mary and Scholastica. Elenor received the veil as a Carmelite sister at the age of eighteen, taking the name Archangela as her own. She was made Prioress of the abbey, given her nobility (as was the custom of the time) and became a model of Christian virtue to her sisters. She was especially devoted to the Holy Trinity. She spent many hours in the chapel praying and contemplating the divinity of the Lord.

Sister Archangela soon was requested to found an additional abbey in Mantua, which was named Santa Maria del Paradiso (The Convent of Mary in Paradise). There under her direction the sisters of the Order lived as if already absorbed in Heaven. The monastery developed a reputation for great holiness and received many new sisters. As prioress, Archangela experienced many beautiful ecstasies, some lasting well over 24 hours and on more than one occasion was discovered by her sisters to be levitating above the ground while contemplating the Holy Trinity. The Lord also performed many miracles through her.

Only three years after founding the monastery at Mantua, Blessed Archangela fell gravely ill. After receiving the Sacraments, she was strengthened and with her eyes fixed on an image of the Crucified Christ, she repeated her frequently uttered words: "Jesus, my love" and peacefully died at the young age of thirty-three. Three years later, when the tomb was re-opened to commit another sister to the earth, her remains were found incorrupt and exuding the fragrance of holiness. Great miracles were reported, and her relics were enclosed in a crystal tomb and placed above the altar at the monastery. Blessed Archangela Girlani, pray for us!

#### OUR CARMELITE MISSION

MAY WE EMBRACE MARY'S PURITY OF HEART (PURITAS CORDIAS), HELPING US TO PONDER THE LAW OF THE LORD DAY AND NIGHT, HELPING US TO BE CONTEMPLATIVES AND TEACHING US TO LISTEN. WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR FATHER AND LEADER, ST. ELIJAH WITH HIS FLAMING ZEAL AND COURAGE. "HIS PROPHET SPIRIT IN COMBATING THE EVILS OF HIS DAY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR CARMELITE LIFE."

MAY OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL'S MANTLE WRAP YOU ALL WITH HER PRECIOUS LOVE & PROTECTION

ALL THROUGH THE IMMACULATE & SORROWFUL HEART & TEARS OF OUR MOTHER MARY, ALL THROUGH THE PURE CHASTE HEART OF ST. JOSEPH, ALL IN UNION WITH THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS, YOUR SISTER IN CARMEL,

LINDA

