



Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta

Who is she?

On April 7, 1905, a young FMM, called Maria Assunta, died a victim of typhus. She was 27 years old and was a missionary in China for just less than a year. Her sisters surrounded her praying, when suddenly they smelt a perfume of violets.

Something extraordinary was happening... *It was a sign!*



But why a sign?

Maria Assunta had lived a life like so many others. Nothing special, nothing extraordinary, but what she lived, she lived it in depth!

Born on August 20, 1878 in the mountain village of Force in the Italian region of Marches, she shared in the simple, poor life of hard labour of her people.

One day, she heard this call: "Come and follow me". The family bonds were strong. Her parents opposed her decision and her departure was not easy. She knew that the call of God was demanding. At 20 with confidence, she left her native village behind and became a Franciscan Missionary of Mary. She began a new life that seemed difficult in the beginning, but she let God work in her, like a child marveling to see her life transformed by grace.

She is like malleable clay in the potter's hands...

Assunta began to live an interior adventure, where the extraordinary hid under ordinary appearances. It is the ways of God! He chooses the little ones, the simple, to accomplish his salvation.

*The obedience of Jesus,
the disponibility of Mary,
the humility of Francis of Assisi*
are three aspects very dear to Assunta.



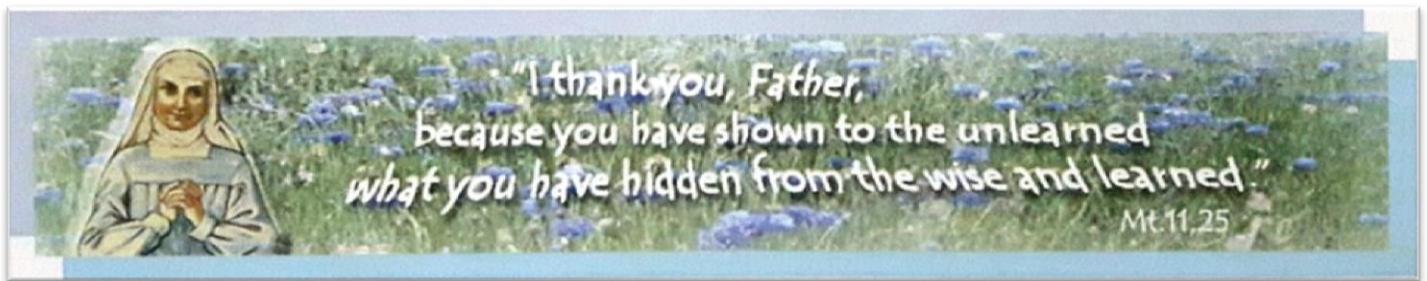
Thus, she asks the Lord for

*«...the grace to make known to the world purity of intention
which consists in doing all for the Love of God, even the most ordinary actions.»*

Moreover, the Lord did *great things* through her humble way, a way of minority where her whole person radiated the love of God. The *ordinary things, the little things* she accomplished became instruments of evangelization in Italy and later in China.

Assunta felt the call to Universal Mission... she wrote to Mary of the Passion that she was ready to set out. In March 1904, she was sent to China. Like a child, she trusted in God and placed herself in His hands... Upon arrival on June 18, 1904, she dreamt of serving her brothers and sisters, preferably the poorest, the lepers, but she was asked to do something completely different by working in the kitchen!

*God wanted her to be small, simple, minor ...
and Assunta accepted!*



Her whole mission is one of humble and hidden service. She centered her life on Jesus in the Eucharist. In her donation, she fulfilled her destiny: "Do all for the love of God!"

The months passed. An epidemic of typhus broke out in the region. Assunta devoted herself to take care of the sick and she too fell ill. After a few days, she became weak and quietly went into agony. Her last words spoken in Chinese were,

«Shen-ti! Shen-ti! - Eucharist! Eucharist!»

She finally celebrated her Paschal Mystery!

Assunta lived a very short but intense life!

*She did not leave anything special
or do anything great in the eyes of the world.*

However, her life is a message!

On November 7, 1954, the Church confirmed her *humble life filled with love as heroic*, and declared her Blessed for her fidelity and her trust in God in her daily life through so many gestures of love.

Her liturgical feast is celebrated on November 7.

