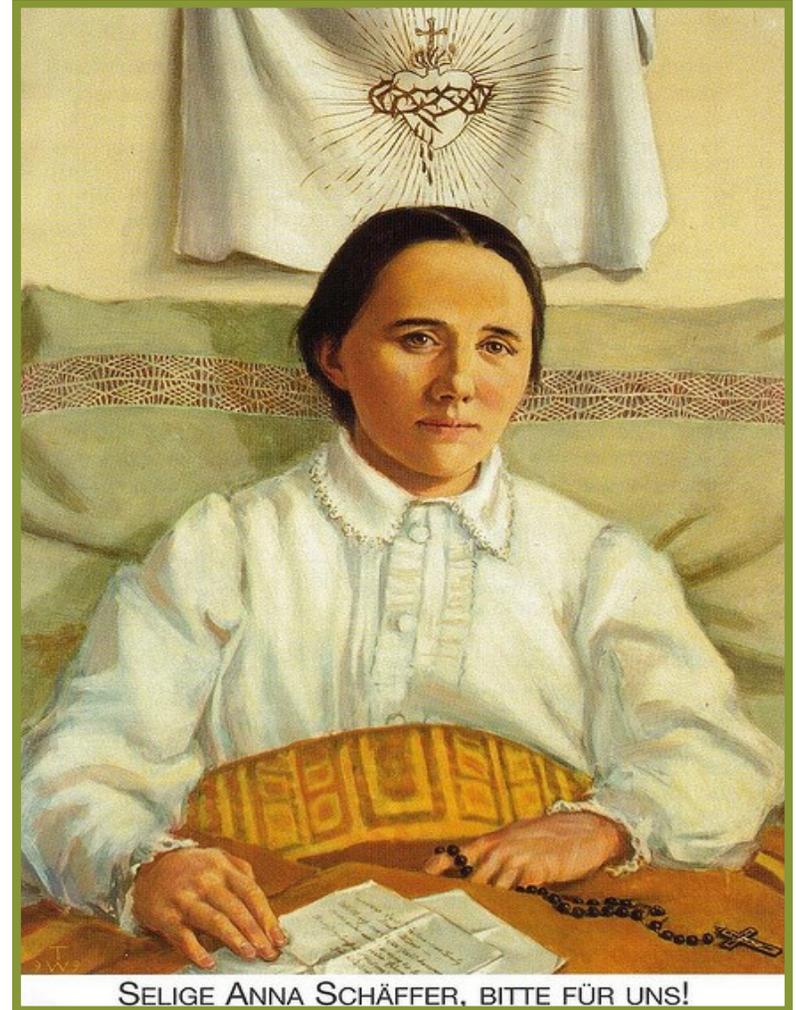


Anna “the degree of heroic virtue” on July 11, 1995. The miracle which was necessary for beatification was acknowledged on July 3, 1998 in Rome. On March 7, 1999 Anna Schäffer was officially registered among the saints by Pope John Paul II when she was beatified. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012.

***(Excerpted from: www.bistum-regensburg.de)

Saint Anna Schaffer of Midelstetten

Feast Day: October 5



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

Accepted suffering as God's will

Saint Anna Schaffer of Midelstetten

*In the heart of Bavaria, between Regensburg and Ingolstadt is located the parish village of Mindelstetten. Here, Anna Schäffer was born on February 18, 1882 as a carpenter's daughter and received her baptism. The family who had several children lived under very modest circumstances. The mother nourished the good Christian spirit. The child developed into a healthy strong girl. At school she was among the best, but quiet, demure and pious. When Anna could receive her First Holy Communion in 1894, she offered up her life to the Saviour. At the age of 13 she took up work in Regensburg. There, she hoped to earn the necessary funds to enter into a religious order since she wanted to become a missionary sister.

After her father's death in 1896 she served in Landshut. But there she received in June 1896 the call from Jesus which was to change her life forever: she would suffer a great and long lasting agony. Even though her childlike soul was willing to give her all – the same year Anna had consecrated herself to Mary – she reacted at first like every other normal person: with fear and the urge to flee. At the foresting house in Stammham she found a new job. There, on February 4, 1901 in the laundry room, her ordeal began. Since the oven pipe above the laundry pot had loosened itself from the wall, she tried to repair the damage. And thereby she slipped and with both legs fell till her knees into the huge pot with seething hot lye. Neither in the Kösching hospital where she was rushed to, nor at the Erlangen clinic it was possible to heal her wounds. When she was released as an early invalid in May 1902, her condition grew so bad that shortly after she could not leave her sickbed anymore.

Soon bitter poverty joined her illness. Together with her mother she had to leave her parents home for the sake of her brother's family. They had to rent a room and live on 9 marks (RM) per month disability pension.

After initial rebelling, Anna grew to recognize the will of God in the tough school of suffering and more and more to consent to it joyously. In suffering and poverty, the girl saw the tender call of Jesus crucified, her life's mission and fulfillment. She made up her mind to offer life and suffering to God as a victim of atonement and she started to develop great zeal in prayer, penance and sacrifice. The local parish priest, Karl Rieger was a good spiritual director to her, bringing her daily Holy Communion. And he also gave her material help like others in her village.

In autumn 1910, extraordinary things started to happen. In visions – Anna called them dreams – she first saw St. Francis, then the Lord who was ready to accept her as a victim. From then on she bore – unknown to many – the stigmata of Christ. The idea of apostolate took strong shape in Anna's heart: she promised to pray for others, gave consolation in speaking and writing to all who turned to her for help. Petition letters reached her not only from close by but from Austria, Switzerland and even America.

Starting on the feast day of St. Mark 1923 when Anna was allowed to witness in ecstasy the Lord's passion on Good Friday, her condition deteriorated dramatically: complete paralysis of the legs (spastic paralysis), terrible cramps resulting from a spinal disorder and cancer of the intestines. five weeks before her death, she suffered a brain injury when falling out of her bed which in turn impaired her ability to speak and her eyesight. In the last years of her life, her sufferings became so painful that everyone was amazed that a human being could tolerate such agonizing and excruciating physical pain.

On the morning of October 5, 1925 dying Anna received for the last time Holy Communion, which had been her source of support throughout 25 years of ordeal. Shortly before she passed, she made the sign of the Cross again and prayed "Jesus for you I live!" – Her funeral on October 8, 1925 which was attended by many people was orchestrated as a big event. The priest, Karl Rieger restricted the funeral sermon to reciting the many graces that were showered on Anna by the Good Lord and what great things he had worked on her.

Since Anna's death, her graveside has become a Pilgrimage center for many people who call on her help in their needs, to thank her for graces granted, to pray for her beatification. So far, 14.000 answered prayers have been reported. By numerous demands, bishop Dr. Rudolf Graber of Regensburg permitted to move the corpse from Mindelstetten cemetery to the parish church on July 26, 1972 and to open the beatification process. Ever since, thousands of people flock to Mindelstetten on July 26 (St. Anne's day) which is always being celebrated as a prayer and penance day. After the commissions of the congregation for canonisation reached the definite conclusion of Anna's heroic virtues, Pope John Paul II officially granted