

Juliana got all her strength from the Blessed Sacrament. She was an angel of mercy and would often restore peace and help enemies, to become friends, again. She often visited the sick and gave them much love and comfort and would bandage their wounds; prepare them to receive the sacraments and buried the dead. She lived like a hermit in the desert and ate barely enough to keep herself alive. She slept on the bare ground only a few hours a day, wore a hair shirt and an iron girdle for penance, and scourged herself everyday. When her mother died in 1305, Juliana gave away her great fortune and she moved into a house with several other tertiaries thus beginning the first Convent of the Sisters of the Third Order of Servites. She was elected as their Superior and chose a black gown as their habit, a leather girdle and a white veil. For thirty-five years she remained Mother Superior, and by the time she was seventy years old and in poor health, she retired as Superior in 1341. Because of her bad health, Juliana could no longer receive Holy Communion. Begging Jesus to comfort her, He appeared to her as a Child and crowned her with flowers. She longed to receive Our Lord, for she wanted to die being united to Him. On her death bed, the priest, Fr. Reggie, went to the chapel and brought her the Host in a pyx and spread a corporal upon her breast and lay the Host on it. Suddenly the Host disappeared and Juliana went into ecstasy and died with great love in the arms of Jesus on June 12, 1341, saying: "O My Sweet Jesus!"

*(excerpted from: www.sspcx.ca)

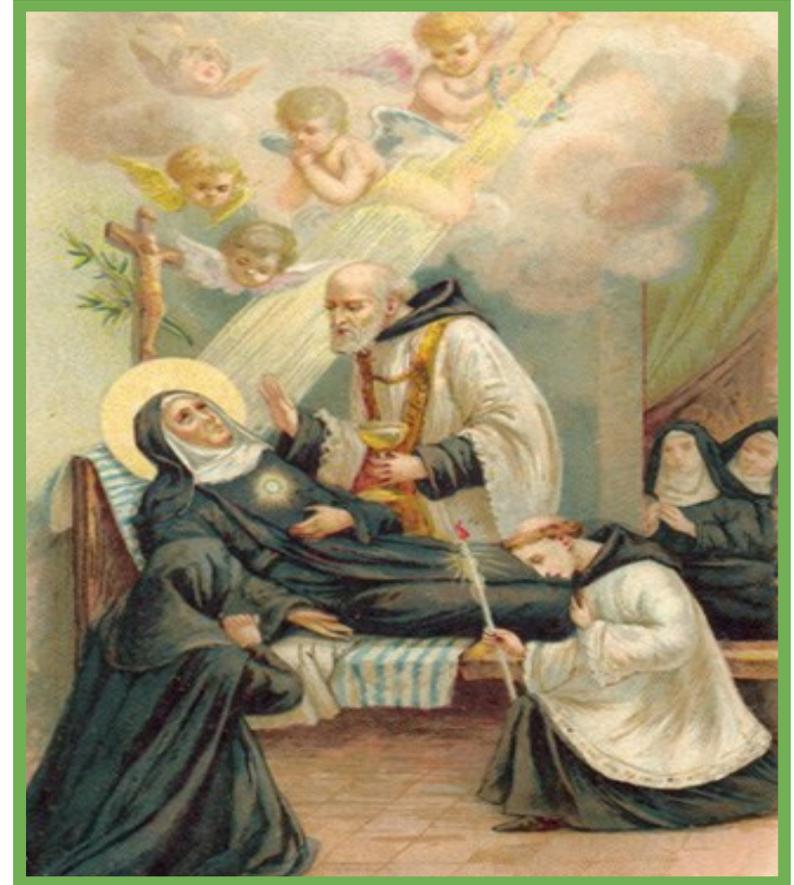
PRAYER

O faithful Spouse of Jesus Christ and most humble Servant of the the Sorrowful Virgin, glorious St. Juliana, when nearing the term of a life all spent in the practice of the most heroic virtues, you felt but the one grief of being prevented by sickness from receiving in viaticum you Beloved; but this grief proved to be so pleasing to your heavenly Spouse Jesus that He deigned Himself to reward it by an extraordinary prodigy, when, behold, at your supplications, the Divine Sacrament having been placed on your virginal breast it instantly penetrated the same leaving the image of the Crucified visibly impressed thereon, whilst your soul, with a sweet smile, expired in His sacred embrace. O great Saint, and my special Patroness, obtain for us from God, we pray, the grace to live a holy life like to yours, that we may die a like holy death; and in particular that, prepared for this last voyage, provided with the Holy Sacrament, and strengthened with God's grace, I may deserve a holy demise and escape eternal death. Amen.
(An Indulgence 300 Days, once a day)

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Saint Juliana Falconieri

Feast Day: June 19



An occurrence, mentioned in the *oratio* of her feast day, took place at her death. Being unable to receive Holy Communion because of constant vomiting, she requested the priest to spread a corporal upon her breast and lay the Host on it. Shortly afterwards the Host disappeared and Juliana expired, and the image of a cross, such as had been on the Host, was found on her breast. Immediately after her death she was honored as a saint.

Saint Juliana Falconieri

*Juliana's father was known as Chiarissimo and her mother's name was Riguardata. Chiarissimo had been a cloth merchant for a long time and had become very rich. During his life he did a very great deed, by building the Church of the Annunciation, in Carfaggio (Florence, Italy). The years passed by and when he reached the age of seventy, he still did not have any children. Riguardata was about the same age, and though they had prayed for many years, their prayers for children had never been answered. But one day in 1270, the good God answered their prayers, and Juliana was born. Even before she had the use of reason, Juliana pronounced the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary. From a very young age Juliana loved to pray. She was a very intelligent child and enjoyed hearing the things about God. She never cared for the things that amused other girls, but loved to spend her time in prayer and in Church. The little girl was more like an angel than a human being. When someone would mention Sill, she would shudder and tremble! Once when she heard about a terrible scandal, she fainted from shock. Juliana was very modest and humble and never used a mirror to look at herself.

Juliana's father died when she was very young. Her uncle, St. Alexius, who was also her Godfather, made sure that she received a good religious upbringing. Alexius encouraged Juliana throughout her childhood, to practice Christian perfection and to love the religious life. He made sure that she had a good education. In school she learned languages and some of the sciences. Juliana could read and understand Latin, and could sew and embroider.

St. Alexius was one of the Founders of the "Servites of Mary." The Order was started by seven men from Florence, Italy while they were meditating and praying in Church. The Virgin Mary appeared to them and told them to leave the world and do what She wanted them to do. They were all rich men and what Our Lady asked of them was not an easy sacrifice. In 1239, exactly six years after the first apparition, Our Lady asked them to found the Order of Servites (Servants of Mary). This order was to have a great devotion to Her, especially for Her sorrows. The next year in 1240, six of the founders were ordained to the priesthood. But Alexius Falconieri could never be persuaded to become a priest and served as a brother of the Order.

Now we return to Juliana. Before she was fourteen, Juliana met with another holy person as well. This was St. Philip Benizi, who later became the head of the Servite Order. On seeing Juliana, he knew that she was a child of grace, marked by God. He gave good advice to her, and guided her well in the spiritual life. In her early teens, Juliana was beautiful, tall, and graceful. She did not realize that she was beautiful and dressed very plainly. Her mother often scolded Juliana, because she was not interested in the social life. Riguardata insisted that Juliana dress in beautiful clothes, and get interested in the social life. In reality, Juliana's mother wanted her to get married to a fine young gentleman some day. Juliana obeyed her mother and dressed in fashionable clothes. But she did great penance by putting needles in her head. She then arranged her hair in a special way to hide the needles, so that nobody could see them. They caused a lot of pain, but Juliana continued to keep a smile on her face.

Juliana knew that there were dangers out in the world, so she did extra penances to strengthen herself against these dangers. She met many young men who were interested in her, but she was more interested in the religious life. One day a young noble from Florence asked to marry Juliana. Her mother was delighted and gave her consent to the marriage. But the girl, gently, yet firmly refused, stating that she would not marry this man, nor any man. Riguardata thought it was just a girlish idea. She begged her daughter to change her mind but Juliana continued to refuse. Her mother was furious and hit the poor girl. Juliana did not want to offend her mother and went to her Uncle Alexius for advice. He encouraged her to bear this trial for the love of Christ and continue to pray with all her heart. She took his advice and returned home. Later when St. Alexius saw Juliana's mother, he begged her to allow Juliana to dedicate herself to God, but the mother always refused. Finally one day, seeing that it was useless to go against the Holy Will of God, she allowed Juliana to become a religious. Juliana was delighted and immediately she cut off her hair and consecrated herself to God.

Because of her great love for Our Lady of Sorrows and Christ Crucified, Juliana desired to join the Servants of Mary. Even though there was no Order of Servite Nuns, St. Philip Benizi and St. Alexius believed that Juliana would be the one to found the order for women. She was carefully taught by her Uncle Alexius, before joining the Servites as a Tertiary (Third Order member). She was given the Servite habit by St. Philip, in the Church of the Annunciation, and a year later, she made her profession as a Tertiary.

Juliana continued to live at home, taking care of her mother who was in very bad health. She was allowed to use a part of her mother's house to carry out her religious life. There she lived like a nun, praying and doing penance. She also acted like a missionary and directed the lives of others. Three of her cousins, and some other girls her own age, also followed her way of life and the rule she gave them. During this time, St. Philip used to visit Juliana to teach her about the monastic ways of life. In this way, she would be ready to set up her order, when it was time to do so. As the days passed by, Riguardata, seeing that her daughter was a holy woman, placed herself under Juliana's spiritual direction.

St. Philip died in 1285. He had been a great help to the little group. Juliana seeing that the number of tertiaries increased, decided to start up a community. In 1287, St. Alexius told her to move to a house near the Church of the Annunciation. Juliana still had to remain with her mother, but she continued to visit and help the community. She did many works of charity towards others.

Saint Juliana spent many hours praying before the Blessed Sacrament. She would often go into ecstasy and remain floating in the air! She would shed tears, because so many people did not love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Juliana received Holy Communion several times a week and on the days she received, she would not eat any food.