

Did you know . . .

**Blessed Among Us:
Maria Fortunata Viti**

On November 20, the Church honors the long and humble life of Blessed Maria Fortunata Viti who lived the majority of her 95 years as a Benedictine Nun.

Maria began her life in 1827 in Veroli, Italy. When she was only 14, her mother died and her father, addicted to alcohol and gambling, caused her as the oldest child to run the household and care for her siblings. She worked as a housekeeper to earn money for the family. At age 24, she rejected an offer of marriage and became a Benedictine nun, serving more than 24 years in the Order as their housekeeper. She had great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and visited the Tabernacle often while doing her tasks.

She never went to school and remained illiterate, yet she learned the vital spiritual lessons of humility. During her long life she knew nothing but assiduous work and constant prayer. She invoked the Lord with such passion and devotion it would edify her fellow Sisters. Admiring the beauties of nature she would be in the habit of often exclaiming: "The Love and the Power of God!" which remained her favorite expression. She dedicated her prayers and sacrifices in particular for the needy, for derelicts, and for the redemption of sinners.

The Blessed Maria confided to her fellow Sisters that the devil bothered her both day and night mocking her and hitting her in order to try her patience and humility. Her confessor, Father John Pasqualiti, wrote: "With tears in her eyes, Sister Fortunata confided to me that the devil insulted her with the most vile and crude expressions. Often he threatened and made life difficult for her, but she never despaired. These insults became all the more frequent when the Saint was near her death. Many of these disturbances were also heard and witnessed by her fellow Sisters." [Apparitions of Angels & Demons]

She died a holy death on the 20th of November 1922. She was a wonderful example of humility.



Blessa MARIA FORTUNATA VITI
MONACA BENEDETTINA - VEROLI

Judy Pearson