

# Blessed Crescentia Hóss

1682 - 1744

PURGATORY

**B**lessed Crescentia Hóss was born on October 20, 1682 at Kaufbeuren in Bavaria, the last of eight children that Matthias, a poor weaver, had with Lucia Hörmann. She had heavenly visions since childhood. When she could not go to church she hid in a corner of her house to converse with God and her guardian Angel who appeared to her once in a while, and gave her advice on how to assist the poor. At 14, her guardian Angel told her that one day she would wear the Franciscan habit. There was in her city a monastery of Franciscan nuns, where she had permission to retreat in prayer. One day, praying in front of a Crucifix she heard the words: "Here shall be your dwelling". In 1703 she was welcomed among the nuns and gave herself to a life of penance and union with God. The devil tried to block her and harass her in a thousand ways. She also endured the hostility of some nuns who did not believe her to be saintly. The Blessed had a profound devotion to the Archangel Raphael and many times had anticipated that he himself would lead her to the judgment of God. A little before her death, Father Pamer, her confessor who assisted her asked: "Mother, will Saint Raphael arrive soon?" She answered: "He is already here". Those were her last words. She died on Easter night, April 6, 1744. Her body, as it had already done during her illness,

effused a sweet fragrance and maintained flexibility. Leo XIII beatified her on July 27, 1900.

Her devotion to the Souls of Purgatory was very strong. It is told that on October 19, 1716 the Jesuit Father Ignatius Vagener, who had interviewed and directed the Blessed for two years, died in Regensburg. The news of his death reached the Franciscan Monastery of Kaufbeuren on October 21. Yet, on the day of the Jesuit's death, Crescentia, when going to the choir at the sound of the Angelus, saw a white ghost in front of her. She was used to similar visions, since the Souls of Purgatory appeared to her in that form. For this reason, she immediately started to pray for that soul, even if she didn't understand who he was. The apparition repeated on October 21; but that time Crescentia recognized that it was the soul of her spiritual director. He told her that he needed her prayers to reach the vision of God, which had been delayed to him, because in life he didn't desire it enough. All this caused great torments to that soul. The Blessed prayed for him and offered to God many supplications. On October 23, after having participated in the memorial Mass for the deceased, she saw his transfigured soul thanking her for the prayers offered, and announcing that he was in Heaven.

