

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE BLESSED
MOTHER ANNE OF SAINT
BARTHOLOMEW, INSEPARABLE
COMPANION OF SAINT TERESA, AND
FOUNDRESS OF THE CARMELS OF
PONTOISE, TOURS AND ANTWERP**

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Autobiography of the Blessed Mother Anne of Saint Bartholomew, Inseparable Companion of Saint Teresa, and Foundress of the Carmels of Pontoise, Tours and Antwerp by Ana Garcia Manzanas & Rev. Marcel Bouix

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ANA GARCÍA MANZANAS & REV. MARCEL BOUIX

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE BLESSED MOTHER ANNE OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW

Ana de San Bartolomé, madre



INSEPARABLE COMPANION OF SAINT TERESA, AND
FOUNDRESS OF THE CARMELS OF PONTOISE, TOURS
AND ANTWERP : FRENCH TRANSLATION OF THE UN-
PUBLISHED AUTOGRAPH OF THE VENERABLE SERVANT
OF GOD, PRESERVED BY THE CARMELITES OF ANT-
WERP, WITH COMMENTARY AND HISTORICAL NOTES.
BY REV. MARCEL BOUIX, S.J. : TRANSLATED FROM
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THE HOLY FATHER POPE BENEDICT XV'S REPLY

On the Reading of the Decree of Approval of Two Miracles, Wrought by God Through the Intercession of the Venerable Servant of God, Sister Anne of St. Bartholomew, Professed Nun of the Discalced Carmelites, Sunday, February 25th, 1917.

"From our heart we join in the happiness which the Carmelite Order feels at the solemn approval of two miracles wrought by God through the intercession of the Venerable Anne of St. Bartholomew, and we are moved to do so by reasons both personal to ourselves and inherent in our dignity.

"We will not stay to call to mind the ties which in our earliest years and in our loved native place united us to illustrious members of the Teresian Order: the more than ordinary esteem which we hold for that Order would be enough, even by itself, to make us share in the joy just expressed in the name of all the members of the deserving Order by its worthy head. But how can we help saying how, while we can never at any time forget, today the memory comes back to us, bringing us keener pleasure, of a visit we paid to the convent at Alba di Tormes at the time when our stay in Spain was drawing to its close? Fresh with us today as if it had taken place yesterday, though indeed it is thirty years ago, is the recollection of the tender emotion we felt before the precious relic of the transverberated heart of St. Teresa. Ah, those thorns which so suddenly appeared in a most unhappy hour for the Church bear indeed the message that the spirit of the great Reformer of Carmel is ever a-wing amid the Christian people and thus shares their joys as well as their sorrows. But we think that around that precious relic, together with the thorns—symbol of the never-ceasing sorrows of the Church—little flowers should grow, too, today, to witness the pleasure of St. Teresa in seeing her faithful companion, Sister Anne of St. Bartholomew, so soon to receive the cult of Blessed. And shall not the daughters of St. Teresa, who, to kindle our interest in their Order, have so often reminded us of our visit to the sepulcher of their Blessed Mother, join us and all the children of the Reform of Carmel in thanking the Lord for having used our littleness to hasten the honor of the Blessed for their Sister?

FRESH INCREASE IN THE ORDER

"But, far more than for personal reasons, our share in today's happiness of the Reformed Order of the Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel is grounded on reasons intimately connected with the high dignity with which, without merit of our own, we are clothed. Indeed, the care which, on account of our high ministry, we must have for the well-being of the flock entrusted to us, brings to our

Address of His Holiness

heart the desire that the well-deserving institutes of the Christian people may spread ever more and more. To reach this desirable end, what is needed is a more widely diffused knowledge of the merits of those institutes. But are not the miracles wrought by God, at the intercession of His faithful servant, the seal which God Himself sets on the virtues of this privileged servant? And the wonders which God works through the intercession of a member of a certain family, or child of a certain religious Order, are they not a clear sign of the favor with which again God regards that Order or that family? We have reason, then, to draw the happiest auspices for a fresh and greater increase of the Carmelite Order from today's approval of the two miracles attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Anne of St. Bartholomew. Many souls thirsting for Christian perfection will follow the fragrance of the sweet-smelling flower reared in the mystic gardens of Carmel, and the Christian people will thus benefit from the new examples of virtues which will rejoice the earth, as from the new voices raised in heaven in prayer for them.

"And should not to your hymn of joy be added perhaps the harmonious note of all who, in the increase of a religious Order, do not see merely an exclusive interest of its children? Should not they see, perhaps, full reason for the joy of all who, like the Pontiff, must be anxious for the good, not so much of some members, as of the whole mystical Body of Jesus Christ? But, without entering now, for lack of time, into the advantage of the whole Church in the multiplication of monastic Orders, suffice it to say that the joy we feel today is indeed caused by the well-founded hope that the renewed and more widespread knowledge of the Teresian Order may be fruitful of good, not only for a few individuals, but indeed for all the Christian people.

"THE SERAPH OF CARMEL"

"It is enough for the purpose to think of the very nature of the Carmelite Institute. Who does not see in that 'spirit of prayer' which gained for St. Teresa throughout the centuries the name of 'Seraph of Carmel,' and by which she wished her children to be guided, how she herself was ever informed by it even in the midst of troubles and the difficulties of her many 'foundations'? This spirit of prayer was learned directly at the school of the holy Mother by Sister Anne of St. Bartholomew, her inseparable companion for fourteen long years, sharing her most intimate confidences, receiving her last breath. And how surely and profoundly Sister Anne of St. Bartholomew learned from her holy Mother to express in herself the true character of the Carmelite Order is well shown by the marks of kindly deference which, after the death of St. Teresa, it was at once desired should be bestowed on her, first in Spain, then in the Gauls and Flanders. To the blessed Mother who wished to change her white veil to black, she had at first opposed sweet violence, founded on reasons of sound

Address of His Holiness

humility, but she could not persist in her opposition when she was elected mistress of novices—so clear and eloquent appeared in her the spirit of the holy Foundress. And shall we not say that with today's approval of two miracles wrought through the intercession of the Venerable Anne of St. Bartholomew, the Lord wishes to call the world again to that spirit of prayer which the happy daughter of St. Teresa drew with such living strength from her holy Mother?

AN OPPORTUNE CALL

"There is none but must see how opportune, indeed necessary, such a call is in our day. By the theories in vogue today, by the scandals which poison the world, by the very atmosphere in which they live, men of our age are miserably drawn towards the earth; to bear them to regions of purer air is a work of true compassion; and should not we rejoice in seeing this work of compassion wrought by God through today's recognition of two miracles attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Anne of St. Bartholomew? The record of the noble Order to which she belongs—she of whom the Lord availed Himself to carry out two perfect and instantaneous cures of diseases judged incurable—revives in us the thought of the spirit of prayer; indeed, should inspire in us a love for the spirit of prayer.

THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

"Someone might say, perhaps, that that is the proper thought for monks and nuns, but that it is difficult to see the advantage to be drawn from it for the majority of men and especially those who, in the whirlwind of the times, live the troubled life of business, commerce and industry. But, of the two miracles approved today by the authority of the Church, while one rejoiced in a cloister the other brought happiness to a royal court; if the favored object of one was a minister of the sanctuary, it was a Queen of France who drew from the other benefits and life itself. The Lord does nothing by chance, and why should we not say that also under the gilded roof of a royal court was shown the efficacy of the intercession of the Venerable Anne of St. Bartholomew, because the Lord willed that men should know that the spirit of prayer was necessary for the life of the Christian, not only in convents and cloisters, but always and everywhere? This divine lesson has been repeated again today in the decree which recognizes the miracles wrought by God, both in a poor convent of Antwerp and in a rich palace of Ghent, through the intercession of her who, following in the footsteps of her great mistress, promoted and spread the spirit of prayer. We are justified, then, in sharing in the joy which the Carmelite Order feels today; evident is the good which all the Christian people can draw from the publication of the decree on the miracles attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Anne of St. Bartholomew.