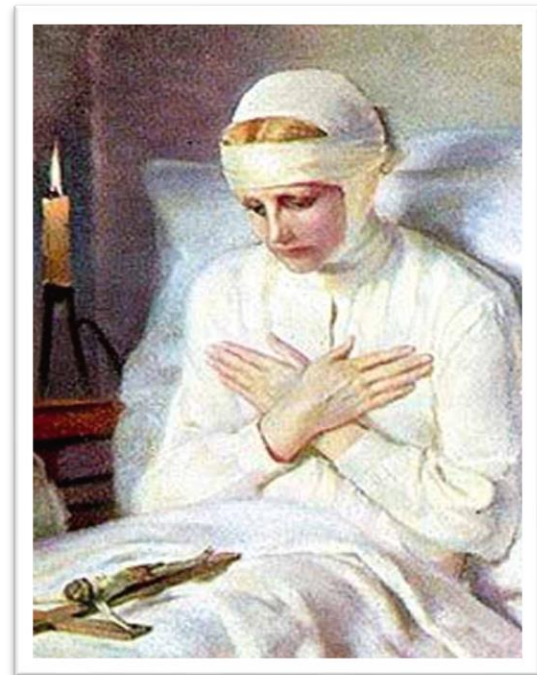


Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

1774-1824

The life of Blessed Anna Catherine Emmerich is filled with mystical experiences. On November 1, 1819 she had a vision of the Church Triumphant in Paradise: "I went on a long journey with my guide: I visited quietly with her in diverse places, I looked and felt happy, if I asked I received a response and if I did not receive one I was satisfied the same. We went to the places of the Martyrs (Rome), then we crossed seas and deserted lands, up to the house of Ann and Mary, here I saw numerous choirs of Saints that were interiorly like one soul. They moved around with joy.



The place appeared to be like an infinite ark, full of thrones, gardens, palaces, arches, wreaths, trees, and all the directions were joined by rays of golden and sparkling lights. Above, high in the center, the Seat of Divinity rose infinitely arrayed in splendor. The Saints and the priests were subdivided according to their position in religious life. The religious were assembled according to their Order and were classified or elevated according to the personal battle that they had endured in earthly life. The martyrs were all close by, and likewise were honored according to the degree of their victory and were subdivided according to their aspirations to holiness.



They lived in marvellous gardens full of light and houses. I encountered a priest that I previously knew, who told me: 'Your house is not finished yet!' I saw also large formations of soldiers in Roman uniforms and many renowned people.

All were singing together a gentle hymn and I joined them. In the heavenly and cosmic dimension, the terrestrial globe appears like a small sphere and the land represents only a small piece of surface amid the water. I understood in this way the meaning of life in its smallness and brevity, but where we can still draw much benefit and merit. I want to take upon me with joy all the suffering of God!" The first of November of 1820 she had another vision of Paradise: "I received an indescribably meaningful vision: there appeared to me an enormous table, red and covered with a white transparent cloth, set with an abundance of delicious foods. Above it, there were golden amphorae that had blue letters on their borders. Everywhere there were fruits and flowers in a radiant display. Around this table sat the Saints on thrones, grouped among themselves according to their different orders. Religious of all types and bishops who served at the table and took care of their own. I was near this immense table, and I could see the entire magnificent garden, that was divided into many other small gardens with minor tables, filled with Choirs, and those gardens were also separated into single gardens. But all the harmony flowed and originated in unity from the large table at the centre. In all these gardens, fields, plantings, flowers, and fruits resides all that lives in each human being. The benefit of the fruits certainly does not have eating as its purpose, but the awareness of oneself."