

Holy Heroes

Saint Gertrude the Great

Feast Day - Nov.16

Gertrude was born in Germany around the year 1256. Not much is known about her early childhood. She was probably an orphan, because at age 5 she was received by Benedictine nuns to begin her schooling. She was a very good student, but became bored by her studies. When Gertrude was around 26 years old, Jesus appeared to her. He spoke very sweetly and tenderly to her and told her from now on, she needed only to think of loving Him.

After this, Gertrude studied the Bible with great joy and wrote many beautiful prayers. Jesus appeared to her many times during her life. Because she loved Him so very much, Jesus gave Gertrude a special vision and showed her His own Sacred Heart and let her rest her head on His Heart. She saw in His Heart the great, burning love He has for each one of us. Jesus also asked Gertrude for prayers for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. He told her how He longs for them to be with Him in Heaven.

She was told to share the gift of her visions and began to write them down. These writings eventually became the book, The Revelations of Saint Gertrude. In later times, her writings were greatly praised by St. Teresa and St. Francis de Sales.

Gertrude is the only female saint labeled “the Great” for her great love of the souls in Purgatory and being the first to spread the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May she continue to bring many souls that Jesus longs for to His Sacred Heart.