



## ***Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta***



### ***Who was she ?***

**O**n 7<sup>th</sup> April 1905, a young FMM, called Maria Assunta, died a victim of typhus. She was 27 years old and was a missionary in China for just less than a year. Her sisters surrounded her praying, when suddenly they felt a perfume of violets.

Something extraordinary was happening .... ***It was a sign !***



### ***But why a sign ?***

Marie Assunta had lived a life like so many others. Nothing special, nothing extraordinary. But what she lived, she lived it in depth!

Born on 20th August 1878 in the region of the Marches in Italy, in Force, a small village perched on top of a hill, Maria Assunta shared the simple, poor life of hard labour of her milieu and her family.

One day she heard this call : "*Come and follow me*". The family bonds were strong. Her parents were opposed; her departure was not easy.

She knew that the call of God was demanding. And confident, at the age of 20, she left all, left her native village behind and became a *Franciscan Missionary of Mary*. She began a new life – which seemed difficult in the beginning – but she let God work in her, like a child marvelling to see her life transformed by grace.

### ***She is like clay that lets itself be modelled....***

Assunta began to live an interior adventure, where the extraordinary was hidden under ordinary appearances. It is the ways of God! He chooses the little ones, the simple, to realise his salvation.

***The obedience of Jesus,  
the disponibility of Mary,  
the humility of Francis of Assisi***

are three aspects very dear to Assunta.



So, she asks the Lord for :

**« ...the grace to make known to the world purity of intention which consists in doing all for the Love of God, even the most ordinary actions. »**

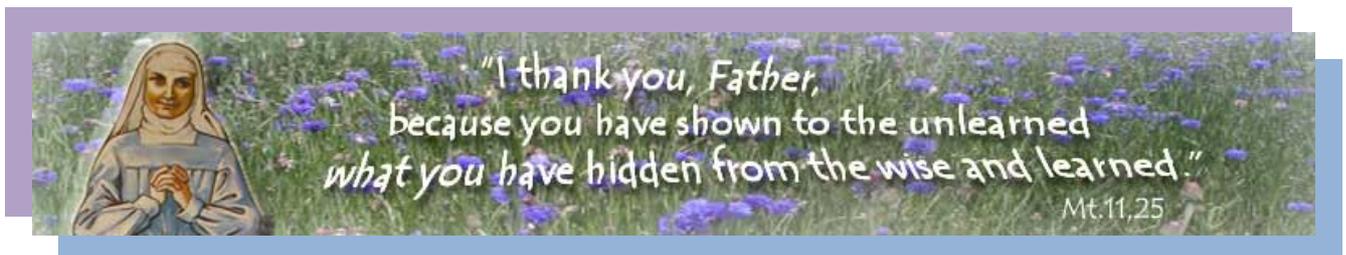
And the Lord did « great things » in this little way in which she advanced: the way of minority in which her whole person radiated the love of God. These « *ordinary things, these little things* » which she accomplished became instruments of evangelisation in Italy and later in China.

Assunta felt the call to Universal Mission... she wrote to Mary of the Passion that she was disponible to set out.

In March 1904, she was sent to China. Like a child, she trusted in God and placed herself in his hands....

On arriving there on 18th June 1904, she had dreamt of serving her brothers and sisters, preferably the poorest, the lepers, but she was asked to do something completely different, the work of the kitchen!

***God wanted her to be small, simple, minor, ...  
and Assunta accepted!***



Her whole mission boils down to giving a humble and hidden service. She centred her life on Jesus in the Eucharist. In her donation, she realised her path: "*Do all for the love of God!*"

The months passed. An epidemic of typhus broke out in the region. Assunta multiplied herself to take care of the sick and she too fell ill. After a few days, she became weak and quietly went into agony. Her last words were, in Chinese, « *Shen-ti ! Shen-ti - Eucharist ! Eucharist !* »...



**And, finally, she celebrated her Paschal Mystery!**

***Assunta lived a very short but very intense life !***

***She said nothing special***

***She did not do anything great in the eyes of the world***

***But her life is a message !***

On 7th November 1954, the Church confirmed her life - humble and invaded by love - as heroic, and declared her Blessed, for her fidelity and her confidence in God, lived in daily life and visible in so many gestures of love.

**Her liturgical feast is celebrated on 7th November.**

