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9 February

Blessed EUSEBIA PALOMINO YENES, virgin

Optional Memorial

For the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians: memorial

Eusebia Palomino Yenes was born at Cantalpino (Salamanca, Spain) on 15 December 1899 in a family which was quite poor but rich in faith and harmony. Her early life was marked by daily hard work, as a child-minder with families in the countryside and then in the city.

From her father she eagerly learned the rudiments of the catechism, which enabled her to receive the "Bread of heaven " at nine years of age. At that moment Eusebia experienced deep within her something very special: she felt drawn by a deep love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, and from then on every holy communion was for her a moment of "great happiness."

Overcoming numerous difficulties she fulfilled her dream of consecrating herself to the Lord, and in 1924 she became a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. In the house of Valverde in Camino, in the diocese of Huelva, she was assigned to the kitchen and to various other community services, which she undertook with cheerfulness and joy. In the festive oratory she was entrusted with the smallest little girls, but little by little the older ones and the adults used to go to her captivated by her spirit of faith and of prayer. In her letters she spread everywhere the devotion of "Marian slavery," according to the teaching of St. Louis M. Grignon de Montfort which she herself practised. In 1931, on the eve of the revolution, Sr Eusebia offered herself to the Lord as a victim for the salvation of her brothers and sisters in Spain and in the world.

Her offering was accepted: for three years she lived with indescribable suffering, which the doctors were unable to diagnose or to cure, until she entered into eternal Life on 10 February 1935. On 25 April 2004 the Holy Father John Paul II proclaimed her Blessed.

From the Common of virgins. Psalms of the day as in the Ordinary.

Office of Readings

SECOND READING

From the «Autobiography» of Blessed Eusebia Palomino

*(Edited by Manuel Garrido Bonaño OSB, Seville 1985;
tr. by Domenica Grassiano FMA, Rome 1987, p. 10-11)*

An irresistible and great desire to become a saint

At school I remember perfectly that along the walls there was a Bible History in pictures. On one of the first days the teacher explained a picture which was in front of my bench and contained the story of Isaac. I was sitting there making little tubes of paper, but I liked the explanation very much and I didn't miss a word.

The following day I went with my mother to the forest nearby looking for wood. She gathered together a great bundle of wood and as is usual she carried it on her back tied to her belt, with a cord round her shoulders. She also gave me a small bundle, and I came down the hill full of joy and very satisfied as I remembered the story of the sacrifice of Isaac, and along the way I told it to my mother.

When I felt tired I said to her: «Now let's rest a little like Isaac, because we still have a long way to go»; so we rested a little, then we carried on further until we stopped to rest a second time.

I said to my mother: «Isaac was a victim: if he had died he would have gone straight to heaven. I am not a victim, but I would very much like to be one, if it were pleasing to God, because in my heart I feel such a great desire to become a saint that I can't stop thinking about it ».

And as my mother went on under the weight of the bundle I saw a tear run down her face. I would never have thought that, as in the picture that made such an impression on me in my early years, as time passed I would have the same fate of consecrating myself as a victim of love for the salvation of souls and for the Kingdom of my Mother and of Jesus?!

RESPONSORY

1 Cor 7, 34; Psal 72, 26

R/. God is the rock of my heart. God is my possession for ever: * apart from him I want nothing on earth.

V/. A virgin is concerned with the Lord's claim, intent on holiness, bodily and spiritual:

R/. apart from him I want nothing on earth.

Concluding prayer as at Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Song of Songs 8, 7

Love is a fire no waters avail to quench, no floods to drown; for love a man will give up all that he has in the world, and think nothing of his loss.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R/. My heart has said of you: * I have sought your presence, Lord.

My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord.

V/. It is your face I will continue to seek:

* I have sought your presence.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

My heart has said of you: I have sought your presence, Lord.

Ant. At the Ben. You have given your heart to Christ, wise virgin; now you live with him, shining like the sun in the assembly of the saints

INTERCESSIONS

Let us thank God Our Father for having given us in Blessed Eusebia Palomino a living image of his love and of his mercy.

Grant us your love O Lord.

Father you chose us from all eternity,

– make us aware of your call to holiness and make our heart taste in its fullness the joy of belonging to you in imitation of the holy virgins.

Open, O Father, the gates of your kingdom to the poor, to the little ones who place their trust in your Providence:

– grant us to know how to follow the life traced out by Blessed Eusebia in humility and poverty, so that you may reveal the glory of your face also to us.

Increase in us hunger for the Word of life,

– so that every day we may grow in love for the Truth and we may know how to pass it on to those most in need.

Give us the light and strength of your Spirit,

– to meet the trials of life with peace and to give the reason for the hope we have.

In her ever-ready and calm service Sr Eusebia experienced the joy of giving:

– grant that we too may recognise you in every brother and sister and serve with joy in all the different circumstances of life.

Our Father

PRAYER

O God,
who shaped the heart of the Virgin Blessed Eusebia
according to the paschal mystery of your Son
even to the giving of her life
grant that strengthened by her example of humility and joy
we may grow constantly in your love and
in the service of the poor.
Through

Evening Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor 7, 32. 34

He who is unmarried is concerned with God's claim, asking how he is to please God; a woman who is free of wedlock or a virgin, is concerned with the Lord's claim, intent on holiness, bodily and spiritual.

SHORT RESPONSORY

R/. The virgins come before the king * They sing for joy.

The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy.

V/. They pass within the palace of the king,

* They sing for joy

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The virgins come before the king. They sing for joy

Ant. al Magn. Come, bride of Christ,
and receive the crown which the Lord has prepared for you.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us make our prayer to Christ the Lord who in Blessed Eusebia made the love of service and of poverty a shining example:

Renew your Spirit within us, O Lord.

You inspired Sister Eusebia to offer you her life for peace,

- help us to live generously a spirit of sacrifice in all difficult circumstances with the certainty of cooperating in the coming of your Kingdom.

You enriched the humble Sr Eusebia with the gift of wisdom and counsel:

- guide and enlighten those who are called to guide young people in the discernment of their vocation.

Remember those who in your name come to the aid of those in need:

- may they reflect your love and discover your presence in the little ones and in the least.

Renew in us the gift of your Spirit:

- may the eucharistic zeal which shone in the heart of Blessed Eusebia inflame and renew our ability to love you and to seek your will in everything.

You who consider as done to yourself every good and charitable deed,

- grant the joy of the eternal reward to all those who strove to live their lives according to the beatitudes of the gospel

Our Father.

PRAYER

O God,
who shaped the heart of the Virgin Blessed Eusebia
according to the paschal mystery of your Son
even to the giving of her life
grant that strengthened by her example of humility and joy
we may grow constantly in your love and
in the service of the poor.
Through