

Blessed Narcisa de Jesús Martillo Morán

Birth 29 October 1832, Nobol, Guyas, Ecuador

Death 8 December 1869, Lima, Peru

Narcisa's parents lived together for years without marriage, which was not unusual in their rural community. They married at some point but died by the time Narcisa was eighteen. She moved to the city of Guayaquil to dedicate herself to prayer and charity. Narcisa worked closely with Mercedes Molina in providing a home and education for young women on the streets. Both blesseds were deeply affected by the story of Mariana de Paredes, who was beatified the year that Narcisa turned twenty-one. It is said that to know the story of Narcisa one only needs to know about Mariana.

Early in 1865 Narcisa traveled to Peru where she lived as a guest in a Dominican convent in Lima and worked to support herself. It was becoming obvious that Narcisa was blessed with mystical gifts, among them the gifts of healing and prophecy. Her last spiritual director, Manuel Medina, was so confident that he was dealing with a saint that he began to collect Narcisa's writings and had them notarized while she was still alive. During her final illness, Narcisa heroically endured intense pain, offering herself as a victim for the conversion of sinners. After her death, the Sisters who entered her cell reported that a brilliant light radiated from her body and the room was filled with an exquisite perfume. (This is not uncommon with saints and is known as the "odour of sanctity.") Her body has remained incorrupt for more than one hundred years. In 1955, after lengthy negotiations, the government of Ecuador succeeded in having Narcisa's body returned to her homeland. In 1972 it was finally brought back to Nobol, where she is honoured as a powerful intercessor.

The Genius of Narcisa de Jesús:

Because she made a successful journey from rural to urban life, Narcisa is regarded as a model for young women who leave small towns to work in large cities.

Reflection:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.."

Colossians 3.16