

Blessed Veronica of Binasco  
(Veronica of Milan, Giovana Negroni)  
born 1445, Binasco, Italy  
died 14 January 1497, Milan, Italy

Giovanna was turned away from several convents because she was illiterate. She struggled to learn to read and write until the Blessed Mother appeared to her in a dream and assured Giovanna that there were only three lessons she needed to learn: purity of heart, patience, and the Passion of Christ.

With purity of heart, Giovanna concerned herself only with pleasing God. With patience, she learned not to judge her neighbour, but to pray for those who lacked virtue. And by meditating on the Passion, she learned to forget her own problems and remember the wrongs that Christ suffered for our sake. After three years of studying these lessons, Giovanna was received into an Augustinian convent, taking the name Veronica because of her devotion to the Passion. Still unable to read Latin, she could not sing the Divine Office, the beautiful prayers that every educated religious recited daily, but she was blessed with wondrous revelations. Finally an angel appeared in her cell, holding a Psalter, and with the angel's help, Veronica learned to sing the Divine Office.

On another occasion, Veronica visited the decadent court of Pope Alexander VI. The sight of the humble nun amused his entourage, but he silenced them saying, "*You are in the presence of a holy woman.*"

**The Genius of Veronica of Binasco:**

Even in the last stages of a fatal illness, Veronica refused special treatment, insisting, "*I must work while I can, while I have time.*"

**Reflection:**

*"Do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by all, shown to be a letter of Christ, administered by us, written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh. Such confidence we have through Christ, towards God."*

2 Corinthians 3.1-4

Gallick, Sarah The Big Book of Women Saints p. 21