

23 April
(22 APRIL FOR THE MONASTERIES OF THE OCSO)

Blessed Maria Gabriella Sagheddu, Virgin

Blessed Maria Gabriella Sagheddu, born in Dorgali (Nuoro) on 17th March 1914, at the age of twenty-one entered the Monastery of the Trappist nuns at Grottaferrata (Rome); the monastery has since been relocated to Vitorchiano (Viterbo). In simplicity of heart she humbly offered her life for the unity of the Church and for our separated brethren. The Lord was pleased to accept her sacrifice, which was consummated on 23th April 1939, Good Shepherd Sunday. She was beatified on 25th January 1983. Her remains are honoured in the Chapel of Unity, within the walls of Trappist monastery of Vitorchiano. monastery.

From the Common of Virgins

COLLECT

O God, Eternal Shepherd
who inspired Blessed Maria Gabriela, virgin
to offer her life for the unity of all Christians,
grant that through her intercession,
the day may be hastened in which all believers in Christ,
gathered around the table of your Word and of your Bread,
may praise you with one heart and one voice.
Through Christ our Lord...

Office of Readings

READING FROM THE SECOND NOCTURN

From the last letter to her mother

To her mother

Dearest Mother,

I'm writing these few lines in order to send you my last thoughts and my last greetings. The Divine Bridegroom has renewed His invitation and the longed for day draws near. I don't call it the day of death, but rather the day in which the ties that bind me to this miserable flesh will be loosened and I will finally pass from this life to the happy, blessed life of heaven. The separation from the body is not a death but a passage to real life.

Rejoice, dear mother, because up there, there will be no more cloister and, even though you won't be able to see me, I'll be able to come and visit you and embrace you warmly, for I feel my love for you grows ever stronger. Don't be upset, because from up there I will be much more useful to you than I am here because I will be able to see all your needs and intercede for you to the Lord. Don't cry and carry on the way they usually do in Dorgali, because it would cause me great displeasure.

Indeed, the very day that you get the news, I would like you all to go to Mass and Communion. That way you will pray for me and thank the Lord so much for all the graces He has given me and for the predilection He has had for me.

I hope that Salvatore and my brother-in-law have made their Easter duty, but if not I urge them to do so as soon as possible, at least to fulfill my last desire. I will pray a lot for them.

Once again, I ask you to remain peaceful and happy in the Lord, and to pray for me and ask all our relatives and friends to pray for me. I send my last farewell to you and to all of them.

I ask forgiveness from everyone one last time for all the offenses I may have committed. I embrace you dearly in the Heart of Jesus, you together with the whole family.

Always your daughter,
Sister Maria Gabriella

(From the last letter to her mother – to be sent after her death)

RESPONSORY

R. Rise with Christ to a new life!

V. And walk with him along the path of love and holy abandonment

R. Rise with Christ to a new life

Or:

R. In the simplicity of my heart, I offer you everything with joy, O Lord: * you have deigned to call me and I come to you with joy.

V. You have made your lowly servant a queen.

R. * You have deigned to call me and I come to you with joy.