

Prayer to St. Magdalene

O God,
 Father of goodness,
 you revealed your
 love to the humble
 and to the children,
 by raising in your Church
 Saint Magdalene of Canossa,
 to be the servant
 of the poor;
 grant that we
 may seek you
 above all things
 and serve the poor
 and the little ones
 in the true spirit
 of charity and humility.
 Through Christ
 Our Lord.

Amen



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Above all, make Jesus known and loved.

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF FOUNDATION



ST. MAGDALENE OF CANOSSA
 FOUNDRESS OF THE DAUGHTERS &
 SONS OF CHARITY

CANONIZED 1988 BY
 POPE JOHN PAUL II

FEAST DAY MAY 8TH

Canossian Daughters of Charity Servants of the Poor

The Canossian Daughters of
 Charity, Servants of the Poor, is an
 international congregation of
 women founded by St. Magdalene
 of Canossa, canonized in 1988.
 Our actions arise from our identity
 born of Christ
 crucified, the
 Greatest Love. We
 are called to
 journey in
 simplicity, sharing
 a common life at
 the service of our

brothers and sisters on every
 continent. Through ministries of
 education and human promotion,
 evangelization and faith
 formation, and pastoral care
 among the suffering, we strive to
 touch each
 person with the
 love of God. Our
 motto is "to make
 Jesus known and
 loved," especially
 to those most in
 need.



Sisters of Cristo Rey Province

The Canossian Daughters of Charity in the world today ...



Charity is a fire that spreads out to embrace all.

St. Magdalene of Canossa



Canossa Palace in Verona

Magdalene was born into the noble family of Canossa in Verona, Italy, on March 1, 1774, to the Marquis Octavius Canossa and Teresa

Szluha. The Canossa family would grow to include five children, one son and four daughters

The Marchioness

When Magdalene was five, her father died in an accident. Two years later, Magdalene experienced another loss when her mother left the Canossa palace to marry the Marquis Zanetti of Mantua. The Canossa children were placed under the guardianship of their uncle, Marquis Jerome and a governess. The governess treated Magdalene badly, but Magdalene suffered with patience and offered silent prayers to Mary, Mother of Sorrows. She experienced a serious illness when she was 15 years old due to emotional problems relating to her losses. She eventually recovered but her health was impaired from that point on. In the tortured life of this young girl, God's plan was unfolding. She recalled: "When I was five, I felt the call to become a nun."

Magdalene entered a Carmelite convent in Verona but after eight months, she left because she found the cloister life was not for her. Once back home, Magdalene yearned again for convent life. She soon entered another Carmelite convent in the town of Treviso. After a short stay, she once again left and returned to Verona and worked in the administration of the Canossa household.

At this point of history, Europe was overrun by Napoleon. With the occupation came many orphans and wounded who had fled from their devastated villages. Magdalene



Magdalene distributes bread to the poor at the entrance of Canossa Palace.

emerged from the Canossa palace to help and, in collaboration with a priest from Verona, she ministered to the sick, the wounded, the orphans, and the hungry.

She initiated a school of charity in the district of San Zeno, Verona, with the help of two other young women. While still living in the Canossa palace, she went daily to the school to teach, to assist in

the classrooms, and to clean the street children who went there for shelter and education.

Magdalene wanted very much to leave her palace definitively but the Canossas dissuaded her by saying that the charity school was unsuitable for her status of the Marchioness of Canossa. They agreed to let her leave when a proper locality was found.

The Foundress

Magdalene negotiated with government authorities and acquired a former monastery of the Augustinian nuns, the Monastery of Sts. Joseph and Fidenzio, in the San Zeno district.

At 35 years old, Magdalene bade farewell to the comfortable palace for the simple cell

of the monastery. Several young women joined her charity mission.

In 1810, Magdalene was invited by Count Cavanis in Venice to help found a school of charity. She went to Venice to form young women teachers and gathered street children to give them formal and moral education. When this work was established, she returned to her Sisters in Verona.

In 1812, a house was given to her and her Sisters in Venice to start their own charity school. There, with the help of three young Sisters, she introduced the three branches of charity of the Canossian Daughters of Charity: assistance to the sick, parish catechesis and education of children.

In 1816, Magdalene founded her third house in Milan with the help of a faithful friend. Two other young Sisters joined her there to start the three branches of ministry of the Institute.

In 1820, a fourth house was founded in Bergamo. At that time, with the help of a young seminarian, she began forming a congregation of "The Sons of Charity."

The Saint

On December 23, 1828, Pope Leo XII gave approval of the rules of "The Daughters of Charity."

In early 1835, in weak health, she made final visits to the convents in Bergamo and Brescia. Magdalene then returned to Verona and on April 10, 1835, she died at the age of



Inner Courtyard of the Convent of San Giuseppe in Verona

61. The little flock of Magdalene slowly continued to grow in Italy and around the world. In 1860, under the leadership of Mother Luigia

Grassi, the first Sisters sailed the seas for the far East, Hong Kong and China, the first of the numerous Canossian Missions around the world.

Magdalene Speaks

"Above all, make Jesus known. Jesus is not loved because he is not known."

"I desire that God may set your heart on fire with his love."

"Let us pray and God will do the rest."

"The cross is the key to heaven."

"Holiness without suffering is just a dream."

"Let us get used to lifting up our hearts and minds to God. Let us live in his presence and unite ourselves deeply to him day by day."

"Let us serve our Lord with courage and a generous heart filled with love."

"Do not be afraid, after the storm comes a more splendid calm."

"May God transform you all according to his love."

"Silence is the soul of any undertaking."

"Take heart, let us hope incessantly. Let us continue to love the Lord, loving him with a willingness that he alone can see."

