

BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Veronica Giuliani

Life, prayer, novena and pilgrimage

Feast day: July 9

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IN BRIEF

Saint Veronica Giuliani

Capuchin Poor Clare of Città di Castello, stigmatized mystic and author of an immense spiritual diary.

Feast day	July 9
Born	December 27, 1660, Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy
Died	July 9, 1727, Città di Castello, Italy
Canonized	May 26, 1839, by Pope Gregory XVI
Era	18th century

In this booklet

Life

Prayer to Saint Veronica Giuliani: Finding Love in Suffering

Novena to Saint Veronica Giuliani

Monastery of Saint Veronica Giuliani in Città di Castello

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Veronica Giuliani

Saint Veronica Giuliani (1660-1727) was a Capuchin Poor Clare nun of Città di Castello, in Umbria, and one of the great mystics of baroque Italy. She entered the monastery at seventeen and spent fifty years there, first as novice mistress and then as abbess. According to her own testimony she received the stigmata of the Passion, and for more than thirty years she kept a spiritual diary of some twenty-two thousand pages. Canonized in 1839, she is celebrated on July 9.

Who was Saint Veronica Giuliani?

Orsola (Ursula) Giuliani was born on December 27, 1660, in Mercatello sul Metauro, in the Marche region of Italy, then part of the Papal States. She was the fifth and youngest daughter of a deeply Christian family. She was only four when her mother died. Doted on by her father and her older sisters, she grew up with a lively and ardent temperament. The stories of her childhood show her talking very early to the Child Jesus in front of the holy pictures in the house, the way one plays with a friend.

She made her First Communion at ten. At seventeen, after insisting for a long time, she obtained her father's permission to enter the Capuchin Poor Clares of Città di Castello, an austere branch of the Franciscan family. There she received the name Veronica, after the woman who, according to tradition, wiped the face of Christ on the way to Calvary.



Saint Veronica Giuliani, an old portrait.

Key dates in the life of Veronica Giuliani

- **December 27, 1660**: Born in Mercatello sul Metauro and baptized Orsola.
- **1677**: Enters the Capuchin Poor Clares of Città di Castello, taking the name Veronica.
- **1688**: At twenty-eight, she becomes novice mistress.
- **1694**: Experience of mystical marriage, according to her diary.
- **April 5, 1697**: According to her testimony, she receives the stigmata in her hands, feet and side.
- **1716**: Elected abbess of her monastery.
- **July 9, 1727**: Dies in Città di Castello.
- **June 17, 1804**: Beatified by Pope Pius VII.
- **May 26, 1839**: Canonized by Pope Gregory XVI, on the same day as Alphonsus Liguori.

A life united to the Passion

Years of trial and grace

Her first years of religious life were hard. Veronica chose a penitential life that her confessors did not always understand. Then, from 1681, came years of mystical graces that she described with great precision. She relates that in 1694 she experienced a mystical marriage with Christ, and that two years later her heart was wounded as if by an arrow.

The stigmata of 1697

On April 5, 1697, she said, she received the stigmata. In her diary she describes rays of fire coming from the wounds of Christ, four shaped like nails and the fifth like the point of a lance, and a terrible pain together with the sense of being transformed into God.

The Holy See, cautious at first, had her examined carefully and at length, and during this time the marks remained visible. At the end of the inquiry she was restored to all her rights in the community. Yet the heart of her spirituality was less the extraordinary phenomenon than love for Christ crucified and the offering of herself for the salvation of sinners.

A diary of twenty-two thousand pages

Out of obedience to her successive confessors, Veronica wrote the story of her inner life for thirty-three years. This diary, known by the title *Il tesoro nascosto* ("The Hidden Treasure"), runs to about twenty-two thousand handwritten pages. Unpublished until the end of the 19th century, it is one of the most abundant mystical testimonies in the history of the Church.

In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI devoted one of his general audience catecheses to her, highlighting the place held in her writings by Christ crucified, the Virgin Mary and prayer for souls.



Statue of Saint Veronica Giuliani in Mercatello sul Metauro.

The abbess and her last words

Novice mistress for nearly forty years, Veronica became abbess in 1716 and remained so until her death. She died on July 9, 1727. Her last words, reported by her sisters, sum up her life: "Love has let itself be found! This is the cause of my languishing. Tell everyone: I have found Love!"

Her bishop opened the inquiry for her beatification immediately, and a first biography appeared as early as 1728.

What does her holiness teach us?

The life of Veronica Giuliani can seem distant, with its penances and extraordinary phenomena. But her message is simple: God's love can be met in the very heart of suffering, when it is united to the suffering of Christ. She also

lived obedience in very hard conditions, accepting suspicion and investigation without rebellion. She is a friend for those who suffer without understanding why, and for those who want to love to the very end.

To pray with her, see the prayer to Saint Veronica Giuliani and the novena to Saint Veronica Giuliani, which ends on her feast day, July 9.

Is Saint Veronica Giuliani a patron saint?

No official patronage is attached to her in the universal Church. Because of her life, Catholics readily turn to her when they are going through physical or moral suffering, when they feel misunderstood or wrongly suspected, and for the conversion of sinners, for whom she offered her life. Novice mistresses, formators and religious superiors can also see in her a model: she spent decades forming young sisters.

Symbols and how to recognize Saint Veronica Giuliani in art

Veronica is usually shown in the brown habit of the Capuchin Poor Clares, with a dark veil. Her most typical attributes are the crown of thorns on her head and a crucifix held to her heart or before her eyes. Some images show the wounds on her hands, or rays coming from the crucifix toward her, recalling the account of her stigmata.

Where to pray to Saint Veronica Giuliani

- **Città di Castello** (Umbria, Italy): the monastery of Saint Veronica Giuliani, where she lived for fifty years and where she is venerated.
- **Mercatello sul Metauro** (Marche, Italy): her hometown, where a statue keeps her memory alive.
- **Ksaibé** (Lebanon): a monastery of Capuchin Poor Clares placed under her name.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Veronica Giuliani: Finding Love in Suffering

Saint Veronica Giuliani did not leave a prayer that became traditional, but her writings and her last words say what mattered most in her life: meeting the love of God at the heart of the cross. Below are two of her sayings, with their source, followed by an original prayer by Saintspedia.

Two sayings of Veronica Giuliani to meditate on

> *"I felt a terrible pain, but at the same time I understood clearly that I had just been entirely transformed into God."*

Source: Veronica Giuliani, Diary (*Il tesoro nascosto*, "The Hidden Treasure"), account of the stigmata received on April 5, 1697 (free translation).

> *"Love has let itself be found! This is the cause of my languishing. Tell everyone: I have found Love!"*

Source: last words of Veronica Giuliani, reported by the sisters of her monastery at her death on July 9, 1727, and repeated by her biographers (free translation).



Saint Veronica Giuliani in prayer.

Prayer to Saint Veronica Giuliani

Saint Veronica, you searched for Love all your life and found it at the foot of the cross: teach me to recognize God present even in my trials.

You carried in your flesh the marks of the Passion: pray for those who suffer in body or in heart. May they never feel abandoned.

You obeyed in the midst of misunderstanding and suspicion: give me peace when I am not understood, and the patience to wait for God's hour.

I also entrust to you my intention: (name it in silence).

Obtain for me the grace one day to say with you: "I have found Love." Amen.

This prayer is an original text by Saintspedia, free to use for personal and community prayer.

When to pray this prayer

Saint Veronica Giuliani is celebrated on July 9, the anniversary of her death in Città di Castello in 1727. You can begin the novena to Saint Veronica Giuliani on June 30 so that it ends on her feast.

She is also a good companion during Lent and Holy Week, while meditating on the Passion of Christ that was at the center of her life. Pray to her:

- in times of illness, pain or grief;
- when you feel misunderstood, suspected or judged unfairly;
- for the conversion of sinners, for whom she offered her sufferings;
- before a crucifix, during the Stations of the Cross.

To learn more about her, read the life of Saint Veronica Giuliani.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Veronica Giuliani

This novena is an original composition by Saintspedia, inspired by the life and writings of Saint Veronica Giuliani. It is not an official liturgical text. To end on her feast, begin on June 30: the ninth day then falls on July 9. You can also pray it at any time of year, especially in times of suffering, during Lent, or when you feel misunderstood.

How to pray this novena

Each day, place your intention before God, read the short meditation, then say the prayer of the day followed by an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. If you can, pray in front of a crucifix, as Veronica loved to do. The small act suggested for each day helps turn prayer into a concrete step.

You may begin each day with this opening prayer: *Lord Jesus, crucified for love of us, you drew Saint Veronica Giuliani into the mystery of your Passion. Through her intercession, hear the prayer I bring you today. Amen.*

If you miss a day, simply pick up where you left off. Perseverance matters more than perfection. You can pray this novena alone, with your family or in a prayer group, and you can offer it for someone who is sick or going through a dark time.

Day 1: A child who spoke with Jesus

As a little girl in Mercatello, Orsola talked to the Child Jesus in front of the holy pictures at home, as one talks to a friend. Prayer begins with this simplicity: speaking to Jesus as someone truly present.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, give me the simple trust of a child who speaks to you as a friend.

Today: Spend five minutes speaking to Jesus in your own words, with no set formula.

Day 2: A mother lost too soon

Veronica was only four when her mother died. Grief marked her childhood, yet it did not close her heart. Many people carry wounds from their earliest years.

Prayer: Lord, heal the wounds of my childhood and comfort all children who have lost a parent.

Today: Pray for a deceased member of your family, or call someone who is grieving.

Day 3: Insisting on God's call

At seventeen, after long insistence, Orsola obtained her father's permission to enter the Capuchin Poor Clares. A vocation sometimes needs patience and perseverance before it can be lived.

Prayer: Lord, give me perseverance in following your call, and bless young people who are discerning their vocation.

Today: Pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in your diocese.

Day 4: The name of Veronica

She received the name of the woman who, according to tradition, wiped the face of Jesus on the way to Calvary. To wipe the face of Christ today is to comfort those who suffer.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, let me recognize your face in those who suffer around me.

Today: Do a small act of comfort for someone who is tired, sick or alone.

Day 5: Hard beginnings

Her first years in the monastery were difficult, and her confessors did not always understand her. Faithfulness is not proven in easy times, but when nothing seems to make sense.

Prayer: Lord, keep me faithful when the road is hard and no one understands me.

Today: Accept a small difficulty of the day without complaining, offering it to God.

Day 6: The wounds of love

On April 5, 1697, Veronica received, she said, the marks of the Passion. She described a terrible pain and the sense of being transformed into God. Suffering united to Christ can become a place of love.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, by your holy wounds, strengthen all who suffer in body or soul.

Today: Pray the Stations of the Cross, or stop for a moment in front of a crucifix.

Day 7: Obedience under suspicion

The Church examined Veronica at length. She accepted the inquiry without bitterness, and wrote her diary out of obedience to her confessors for thirty-three years. Humility lets God act in his own time.

Prayer: Lord, give me peace when I am judged, and humility to accept correction.

Today: Forgive in your heart someone who has judged you unfairly.

Day 8: Forming others

Veronica was novice mistress for nearly forty years, then abbess. She spent her life helping young sisters grow in faith. Each of us has someone to accompany.

Prayer: Lord, bless parents, teachers, catechists and all who form others in the faith.

Today: Encourage a young person in their faith or their studies.

Day 9: "I have found Love!"

Veronica died on July 9, 1727, saying: "Love has let itself be found! Tell everyone: I have found Love!" Her whole life was a search, and God allowed himself to be found.

Prayer: Lord, I place in your hands the intention of this novena. Through the intercession of Saint Veronica Giuliani, let me find your love and tell others about it. Amen.

Today: Tell someone, simply, what God's love means to you.

Closing prayer

Saint Veronica Giuliani, at the end of these nine days, I entrust to you the intention I have brought before God. You loved Christ crucified with all your heart and offered your sufferings for sinners. Help me to unite my trials to the cross of Jesus, to trust when I do not understand, and to find, as you did, the Love that never disappoints. Amen.

You can end with the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be, then thank God for the graces received during these nine days, even those you do not yet see.

To go further, read the life of Saint Veronica Giuliani and the prayer to Saint Veronica Giuliani.

PILGRIMAGE

Monastery of Saint Veronica Giuliani in Città di Castello

The monastery of the Capuchin Poor Clares in Città di Castello, in Umbria, is the place where Saint Veronica Giuliani spent fifty years of her life, from her entry in 1677 to her death in 1727. It now bears her name and remains the chief place of her veneration. A community of Capuchin Poor Clares keeps her memory there.

Fifty years in the same monastery

Veronica entered this monastery at seventeen. She took the habit there, became mistress of novices in 1688, then abbess in 1716. It was within these walls that she experienced the mystical graces described in her Diary, that she received, by her own account, the stigmata on April 5, 1697, and that she underwent the examination ordered by the Holy See. She died there on July 9, 1727. The monastery is thus inseparable from her whole story, since she almost never left it.

Visiting the monastery

The monastery is first of all a place of cloistered life. Pilgrims are welcomed in the church and in the areas open to the public, where people come to pray to the saint. The rest of the buildings remain reserved for the community. Città di Castello, a small town in the upper Tiber valley, is easily explored on foot, and the pilgrimage can be extended with a visit to its cathedral and churches.

Praying on site

Before your visit, you can read the life of Saint Veronica Giuliani. On site, you can meditate for a few moments on one of her last words, "I have found Love," then say the prayer to Saint Veronica Giuliani, entrusting those who suffer. These suggestions are offered by Saintspedia.

Other places associated with Saint Veronica Giuliani

- **Mercatello sul Metauro** (Marche): her native town, where she was baptized with the name Orsola and where a statue recalls her memory.
- **Ksaibe** (Lebanon): a monastery of Capuchin Poor Clares under her name, another place of her veneration.

Practical information

Città di Castello is in northern Umbria, near the border with Tuscany and the Marche. Since the monastery is home to a cloistered community, proper dress and silence are asked of visitors. Times for welcoming pilgrims and visitors may vary: ask the monastery or the Diocese of Città di Castello before you come.

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