

April 7

Blessed Mary Assunta Pallotta

Good day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!

Today we welcome as company a remarkable woman of faith. Her story is both inspiring and heart wrenching. Blessed Mary Assunta Pallotta was born in Italy in 1878. Even as a child she evidenced a very strong, even passionate, love of God. She had but two years of education and then at age eleven her father left the family to pursue work and she became the sole provider for the family! Even with all of the household duties to attend to, Mary Assunta was dedicated to prayer. She expressed her desire to enter the convent to her local pastor and at the age of 19 she left her home to become a Franciscan Missionary of Mary. She professed her vows in 1900 and was granted permission to join the China missions, arriving in June of 1904. There she willingly embraced even the most menial tasks in the community. It was in March of 1905 that she was diagnosed with typhus. On April 7, 1905, at the age of 27, Mary Assunta died. Instantly, miracles were attributed to her intercession.



Courage, bravery, joy and holy acceptance marked the life of this amazing woman. Nothing human prepared her for the daring undertaking she requested going to the missions in China. She believed God needed her in China. She went. I speculate that the only regret she had was that by dying so young, she could not serve Christ any longer. How many times we self-limit ourselves because we are not ready. We don't have the time. We need more money. Our experience is too limited – and on and on we go. Mary Assunta is a powerful example of trusting in the providential love of God. There is no perfect time.

Let us pray.

God, ever amazing, help us to lose our "little thinking" and trust in you. Spare us from the curse of "not enough" attitude. Liberate us from the failure to recognize our embarrassment of riches with which you give us. May this

Lent be a time for us to develop our courage, bravery, joy and holy acceptance. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Mary Assunta Pallotta is a friend of God and we welcome her today.