

B. CECILIA EUSEPI (1910-1928)



Cecilia Eusepi was born in Monte Romano (Viterbo) on February 17, 1910 and died at Nepi on October 1, 1928. Her eighteen years of life were filled with signs of the Divine Favor that began when she was five years old. Until 1915 she lived with her mother in their home village. Her father died when she was only six weeks old and her mother's brother, her uncle, took the place of her father. His name was Filippo Mannucci.

Cecilia's brother, Vincenzo, was called up for military service when the First World War began in 1914. Her mother, Paolina Mannucci left Monte Romano on January 6, 1915 and went to live on a farm (La Massa,) at Nepi which her brother ran. The farm belonged to the Dukes of Lante della Rovere and Mannucci had worked there since 1911.

On September 5, 1915, Cecilia became a boarder at the Cistercian Nuns' convent in Nepi – very near the Servite priory – and spent her childhood within the cloister walls. Cecilia fell sick and left the convent for the first time when she was twelve years old in February 1922. She spent a few months with her mother and uncle at La Massa until November 1, 1922 and during that time she became a Servite Tertiary. She returned to the convent, finished her elementary school studies and in November 1923 expressed the desire to join the Mantellate Servite Sisters in Pistoia. She pursued her secondary studies for three years (1923 – 1926). In August 1926 she was stricken with tuberculosis and returned to La Massa in October. She spent the last two years of her life there. During this time she wrote her autobiography (*Storia di un Pagliaccio* [History of a Clown]) and a *Diary*. During that time, Father Gabriele M. Roschini, a teacher at the Nepi Priory, was her spiritual director.

She died a holy death on October 1, 1928. The Diocesan Informational Process began in 1939 and concluded on June 1, 1987. It was recognized that she practiced the Christian virtues to an heroic degree.

During the October 1, 2009 medical meeting the facts of Tommaso Ricci's case were unanimously approved. On August 4, 1959, Ricci miraculously survived a traffic accident at Monte Romano in the province of Viterbo. The unanimous agreement that Ricci's survival was inexplicable fulfilled the required condition for proceeding with the beatification of the Servant of God, Cecilia Eusepi.