

Q: I have read in many of Luisa's writings that she was not able to tolerate food. Was her intolerance to food a lifelong issue, or just a temporary issue? How was she able to live without any food?

A: After having received a vision of Jesus 2nd floor from the balcony of her Corato flat, Luisa the age of 14 Luisa received from Jesus continuous lessons on the Cross after Holy Communion. It was then that she began not only to understand the redemptive value of his sufferings, but to ardently desire to share in his Passion. Subsequently, her own sufferings intensified and the first signs were manifest in Jesus' depriving her of all sensible graces and consolations, which caused her bitter interior suffering. She also suffered from her family's move to the countryside, as it deprived her of the possibility of frequent Communion. This notwithstanding, Jesus continued to exhort her to cultivate a life of constant prayer, and never to abandon prayer even if that meant suffering to the point of death. Luisa would endure this interior state of suffering for three years, from the ages of thirteen to sixteen, during which time she embraced the state of victimhood.

Shortly after having begun to experience locutions, Luisa began to experience the sensible graces of visions and apparitions from Jesus and Mary, interspersed with physical sufferings. On one occasion, while at the family house in the countryside, Jesus placed his crown of thorns upon her head and communicated to her his pains that caused her to lose consciousness, and the ability to open her mouth to take food for two to three days. Every time she tried to eat, her body rejected the food. This peculiar condition devolved to the point where she could no longer ingest food except the Eucharist, and it eventually became a permanent condition that lasted until her death in 1947ⁱ. Later, Jesus would reveal to her that he was training her to live exclusively on the Divine Will, which, along with the Eucharist, would constitute her daily breadⁱⁱ.

ⁱ A similar condition is rediscovered in the lives of the Bavarian mystic Teresa Neumann (1898-1962), and the French mystic Marthe Robin (1902-1981), whose was later declared Servant of God, both of whom God had called to live only on the Eucharist for respectively forty and fifty years until their deaths.

ⁱⁱ Initially Luisa would throw up every three to four days, but eventually she would do so only when she ate. A peculiar situation resulted: Minutes after she ate, she regurgitated her food in its entirety, with the food remaining intact and fresh, as though it had not been eaten.