

PRECIOUS BLOOD FOUNDERS HYMN COLLECTION

Loving Maria!

Hymn for Congregation and Keyboard

(Revised)

*In Honor of Saint Maria de Mattias
Founder of the Sister Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

**Text and Music by
Ralph C. Verdi, C.P.P.S.**

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MARIA DE MATTIAS

Founder of the Sister Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Maria de Mattias was born on February 4, 1805 in Vallecorsa, Italy. At that period in history, Italy was suffering from the political and social upheavals caused by Napoleonic rule. Everywhere practical and religious education were being neglected. Maria was destined to be one of the instruments in God's hands to accomplish the spiritual renovation so sorely needed in the Italy of that day. Her parents had instructed her well in practical Christian living.

Maria came under the influence of a zealous missionary known today as Saint Gaspar del Bufalo, founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. From him the young girl received encouragement in her work and the assurance that God wished her to strive for sanctity by exercising the active apostolate. Two years later in 1824, another missionary priest and friend of Saint Gaspar, Fr. John Merlini, now honored as the Venerable John Merlini, became her spiritual director and encouraged her to reach out to the girls and women of the village.

In 1833 the Bishop of Ferentino called for a teacher to open a school at Acuto. At the suggestion of Saint Gaspar, Maria made an application for the position. In her reply of acceptance, she wrote also of founding an institute with the title of the Most Precious Blood. The opening of her school on March 4, 1834 marks the foundation of a congregation of Sisters devoted to the adoration of the Most Precious Blood, and to the apostolic work of ministering to the souls for whom Christ died. Within a short time, new recruits entered and other schools were offered her in various sections of the country. Mother de Mattias discharged her office of superior and teacher with consummate zeal and prudence. During the thirty-two years that intervened between that first foundation at Acuto and her death in 1866, Maria established nearly seventy schools. Most of these were located in small towns and rural areas, for the foundress had a special love for the poor and underprivileged, endeavoring to elevate the moral tone of their social lives by her conferences and retreats for women. They in turn repaid her labors by reforming their lives and returning to the sacraments.

On October 1, 1950, Maria was beatified. She was declared a saint in May 2003.

Mother Clementine Zerr founded the Adorers' first American mission at Ruma, Illinois in 1876 and began undertaking teaching and hospital ministries. In 1893 Sisters were sent to teach in Kansas, and this led to the establishment of a motherhouse in Wichita in 1902. Pilgrim Adorers from Bosnia came to Illinois in 1906, later establishing a ministry to the elderly in 1925 in Columbia, Pennsylvania. In 1929, the vicariates of Columbia, Ruma, and Wichita became provinces, and in October 2000, converged to become the United States Province of the Sister Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

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Very Relaxed ♩ = 106

Introduction

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4

5



1. Lov-ing Ma-ri-a, please come to our aid! Help us be like you: so brave, not a - fraid!
2. Lov-ing Ma-ri-a, your faith nev-er failed. Your trust in Prov - i - dence al - ways pre-vailed!
3. Lov-ing Ma-ri-a, God's light in your day! Make us all lights of our God here to - day!

9



1. Help us to see! Help us to be pleas-ing to God with a love, kind and free!
2. So you be-lieved! So you did hope! Make our hearts fill with that same ho - ly hope!
3. Pray that we see! Pray that we be mak - ers of peace with those who dis - a - gree!

13



1. Lov-ing Ma-ri-a, so wise and so pure, help us to mend hearts in need of God's cure.
2. Lov-ing Ma-ri-a, so joy - ful, so sure, help us to mend hearts in need of God's cure.
3. Lov-ing Ma-ri-a, so joy - ful, so sure, help us to be hearts that aid in God's cure.

17



1. Help us to heal! Help us to save! Make us God's mes - sen-gers: hon-est and brave!
2. Help us to heal! Help us to save! Make us God's mes - sen-gers: hon-est and brave!
3. Help us to heal! Help us to save! Make us the means for God's love to en - dure!

*Last time only