Saint Juliana Falconieri

- Feastday: June 19
- Patron Saint of: bodily ills, sick people, sickness
- Birth: 1270
- Death: 1341
- Canonized: by Pope Clement XII in 1737

Saint Juliana Falconieri, pray for us!

Juliana Falconieri lived in Florence during the Middle Ages. Juliana came from a noble Florentine family who was also rich in the Christian faith. Juliana was fascinated by her uncle's vocation as one of the founders of the Servants of Mary (the Servites). Although she was a beautiful young woman, she rejected all offers of marriage. She dedicated herself to serving the poor, and in time, other young women began to follow her lead. Juliana and her friends were distinguished by the dark cloaks they wore in imitation of the Servites, and from this choice of dress were known as the "Mantellate." Eventually, they became the Sisters of the Third Order of Servites. Their lives were given to contemplation and charitable works.

The Mantellate became a common sight in Florence. They were known, too, for promoting peace in a city marked by deadly vendettas. Their sacrifices were offered for an end to the hatred that plagued the population. Juliana, who guided the community until her death, was able to offer additional suffering. For many years she was afflicted with a stomach ailment that made it difficult to eat solid food. Over time, it became impossible for her to swallow even the little food necessary to sustain her life. It soon became clear that her life was drawing to a close. But because of her illness, she was unable to receive Holy Communion for the dying. When the priest came to give her last rites, Juliana asked him to spread a corporal on her chest and place the Blessed Sacrament there. After a short time, the Sacred Host disappeared, and Juliana went to her eternal reward. As her sisters prepared her for burial, they discovered the image of the Cross, similar to the one on the host, had appeared on Juliana's body. This was widely acclaimed as a Eucharistic miracle, and the story became part of the liturgical account of her life.