

Blessed Maria Clementina Anuarite, virgin and martyr

December, 1
Optional memorial

Biographical profile

Blessed Maria Clementina Anuarite Nengapeta was born in December 1939 in Wamba (Congo), in a pagan family. At birth her father gave her the name Nengapeta. After converting to Christianity, while still young she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family, where she was spiritually accompanied by Bishop Wittebols, SCJ. She humbly showed obedience, highly moved by a strong sense of service, active participation and collaboration in the life of the community. On November 29, 1964 she was taken by the Simba rebels with other sisters and transported on a truck to Isiro. There, on the night of December 1, 1964, vigorously refusing to consent to the evil requests of Captain Olombe, after horrible mistreatment she was brutally killed: "I prefer to die rather than commit sin". Before falling under the blows of the ferocious Olombe, like Jesus on the cross, she forgave her killer with these words: "I forgive you, because you do not know what you are doing". She was 25 years old.

Liturgy

BLESSED MARIA CLEMENTINA ANUARITE – OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

SCJ

Red

Eucharist

MISSAL: From the Common of Martyrs (for a Virgin Martyr) or from the Common of Virgins: For One Virgin, except the collect, which is proper to the Memorial.

LECTIONARY; mass of the day.

Liturgy of the hours: Common of Martyrs or the Common of Virgins, except the prayer, which is replaced with the collect from the Mass. In the office of readings, the second reading and short responsory are proper to the memorial.

Eucharist

Entrance Antiphon

Blessed is the virgin who by denying herself and taking up her cross imitated the Lord, the spouse of virgins and prince of martyrs.

COLLECT

Heavenly Father, who gladden us today
with the annual commemoration of blessed
Maria Clementina Anuarite,
virgin and martyr,
by her intercession and example
grant us the strength and purity of spirit
to follow Christ on the way of the cross.
For he Lord, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God
for ever and ever. Amen

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Through the intercession of Blessed Maria Clementina Anuarite and the holy virgins and martyrs who offered their lives to Christ by shedding their blood, we ask the Lord to also grant us the grace to give our lives to our brothers and sisters:

R./ Create in us, Lord, a new heart.

— For the Holy Father and all the pastors of the Church: may their evangelical witness benefit and inspire all believers, let us pray.

— For those who, in every part of the world, are persecuted because of truth and justice: by seeing the consistency of the martyrs, may they be faithful to the Gospel of Christ, let us pray.

— For those who live consecrated virginity: let the gift received, shine with joyful fidelity in prayer and service, let us pray.

— For those who are called to follow Christ chaste, poor and obedient: may their life, consecrated to his love, comfort and support those in pain or doubt and show the way to true joy, let us pray.

— For the whole Dehonian Family: may their belonging nourish their faith through prayer and Dehonian charism, to live in love for the Sacred Heart and be witness to the Reign of God, let us pray.

— For SCJ missions, especially for the Congo: may the seed of faith, sown broadly in the hearts of Christians, grow and bear fruit, let us pray.

O God, prize and crown of the martyrs, who willed to save the world through the sacrifice of Christ your Son, help us to imitate him in the gift of our life for others. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the offerings we bring in celebration
of Blessed Maria Clementina Anuarite
win your gracious acceptance, O Lord, we pray,
just as the struggle of her suffering and passion
was pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE II OF HOLY MARTYRS

The wonders of God in the victory of the Martyrs

V./ The Lord be with you.

R./ And with your spirit.

V./ Lift up your hearts.

R./ We lift them up to the Lord.

V./ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R./ It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you are glorified when your Saints are praised;
their very sufferings are but wonders of your might:
in your mercy you give ardor to their faith,
to their endurance you grant firm resolve,
and in their struggle the victory is yours,
through Christ our Lord.

Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth
sing a new song in adoration,
and we, with all the host of Angels,
cry out, and without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

Communion Antiphon

Rev 7, 17

The Lamb who is at the center of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestowed
on Blessed Maria Clementina Anuarite
a crown among the Saints
for her twofold triumph of virginity and martyrdom,
grant, we pray, through the power of this Sacrament,
that, bravely overcoming every evil,
we may attain the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayers (for Adoration)

**(From the spiritual writings
of Beata Maria Clementina Anuarite Nengapeta)**

“We must be happy, in the hour of meditation, because it is the time for rest and conversation with the Lord, as when two engaged couples talk to each other without thinking about effort or fatigue. If you feel lukewarm in the hour of prayer, you must not be discouraged. Keep begging. Even if your heart is dry, always beg. The Lord Jesus will be amazed and will say: ‘Even when I turn my back to her, she does not get tired!’ Talk to the Lord in meditation. Who would get tired of talking to her boyfriend? Don’t you love to think of him? We, who are consecrated, must think even more often of the spouse of our souls”.

“I consecrated myself to Jesus alone. So I will try to please him and recognize that everything that happens to me is his will. Did I not take vows? Remain calm, in moments of joy as in difficulties, in the hour of illness as in the moment of trial. You need to accept everything, yes! Isn’t that why I came here?”.

“Lord, here I am spiritually sick. I came here to look for the remedy to heal, that is, to gain heaven. Lord, give me the strength to never fall back into my sick state, never go back or into the world again. Did you not shed your blood for me? And also for the black people? Answer me. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I place myself in your hands”.