

of piety and devotion. Her mortification and austerities were so great that it might have been said she was trying to expiate the days she had passed amid worldly joys and grandeur. She loved the poor and loaded them with alms, and her heart was most compassionate towards the sick whom she nursed with her own hands by which miraculous cures were, at times, obtained.

Her love for the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar was so extraordinary that she could never approach to receive it without being bathed in tears ; her devotion towards the Mysteries of Our Redeemer's Passion was equally ardent.

She had a representation of the Holy Sepulchre made in her garden to which she frequently retired and there, giving full course to her tears, she would strike her breast with heavy stones, to inflict on her own flesh some portion of our Lord's sufferings.

In fulfilment of the promise which, at the age of five years, she made to the Blessed Virgin, of founding a congregation of religious women destined to honor and practise her virtues, Saint Jane, after long and earnest prayer and frequent consultation of Saint Francis of Paula, submitted her rule to Rome where it was approved by the Pope. She commenced immediately to build a monastery in which, when completed, she, with five companions, made the religious vows in honor of the mystery of the Annunciation.

Such was the origin of the name and order of the Annonciade. The foundation took place on Pentecost, 1503.

The foundress was only forty years of age when, by the diminution of her strength, she realized that the hour of departure from exile was at hand. She prepared for this last passage with all possible fervor and piety.

The 4th February was the last day of her earthly pilgrimage and the first of her endless bliss. When her soul was departing, a supernatural brightness shone in her room for an hour and a half ; at the same time, the inhabitants of Bourges saw a wonderfully brilliant cloud resting over the church of the Annonciades. After her death, her body was found clad in the roughest hair-cloth ; her