



## **Bl. Maria del Carmen of the Child Jesus**

**Born:** 30 June 1834 in Antequera, Málaga, Spain as María del Carmen González-Ramos García-Prieto

**Died:** 9 November 1899 in Antequera, Málaga, Spain of typhus, buried at Our Lady of Victory church at the mother house of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Antequera

**Beatified:** 6 May 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI, beatification recognition celebrated at Antequera, Málaga, Spain by Cardinal Saraiva Martins, the beatification miracle involved the healing of a large tumour in the liver of Sister Maria José Rodríguez in 1991

**Feast day:** November 9

Born to a pious family. In 1857 she married Joaquín Muñoz del Caño, a violent, unfaithful man; Maria responded by praying for him until he finally turned his life around. Widowed in 1881. In 1882, with the help of Cappuccin Father Barnabas Astoraga and some like-minded women friends, Maria turned her home into a combination school and clinic, caring for and educating children too poor to have other resources. On 8 May 1884 she and the other women began to live in common at the convent of Our Lady of Victory of Antequera, Spain. They formed the core of the Hermanas Franciscanas de los Sagrados Corazones (Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart) which Maria helped found; they received approval of Bishop Miguel Salazar Gomez on 10 July 1884, and Maria took the name Carmen of the Child Jesus. The Sisters received approval of Pope Leo XIII on 3 May 1902, and continue their good works today.