

**Bl. Marta Wiecka**  
**(Poland/Ukraine) 1874-1904**

*Daughter of Charity*  
*Nurse, worked in present day Ukraine.*  
*Served the sick and suffering in the*  
*Vincentian spirit of humility, simplicity and love.*



**Marta Anna Wiecka** was born on January 12, 1874, in Nowy Wiek, Koscierzyna district in Pomerania (Poland) to Marcelli Wiecki and Paulina nee Kamrowska. She was the third of thirteen children. Marta was baptized on January 18, 1874, in the parish church in Szczodrow.

The region of Poland in which she lived was governed by Prussia. During a program called the Kulturkampf, Prussia's leadership attempted to destroy the national and Catholic identity of Poland. In spite of these efforts by the Germans, the Wiecka household remained deeply religious and patriotic. In the home, the family prayed together, read pious books and shared the content of Sunday sermons in common.

When she was two years old, Marta was miraculously healed through the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Piaseczno. (In the 14<sup>th</sup> century a "Beautiful Lady" appeared to the paralyzed son of a tar producer, healing him. Piaseczno is a traditional place for pilgrimage of the Pomerania.<sup>1</sup>) Thereafter, Marta had a great devotion to Mary and turned to her often for help.

Marta also admired St. John Nepomucen (1345-1393), the patron saint of Czechoslovakia and the "martyr of the confessional" because he was killed by the King Wenceslaus IV because he would not divulge the Queen's sins from confession. As a young girl, Marta was often observed standing in prayer by his wayside shrine which was erected at her request.

After receiving her First Holy Communion on October 3, 1866, Marta attended the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at every opportunity. This required that she walk to the parish church in Skarszewy, 12 kilometers away. She looked after her siblings due to her mother's frequent illnesses earning her the name "second mother."

She attempted to enter the local Daughter of Charity in Chelmno at age 16. She was instructed to wait two more years. At the age of 18, Marta entered the Daughters of Charity at the Provincial House at 8 Warszawska Street in Krakow on April 26, 1892. She entered in Krakow because her friend, Monika Gdaniec, had been denied entry at Chelmno, and they were both accepted in Krakow. It was not the sisters who denied her entrance but the "invaders," the Prussian government who imposed restrictions on the religious order. After a four month postulancy, Marta began the novitiate on August 12, 1892.

After eight months, on April 21, 1893, Marta received the habit of the Daughters of Charity of Krakow and was sent to her first assignment to the General Hospital in Lviv, Ukraine. She had a reputation for serving the patients with great love and devotion. On November 15, 1894, she was transferred to the hospital in Podhajce (Pidhaitsi). Here she served for five years and made her first profession on August 15, 1897, committing to serve God in the person of the poorest of the poor.

In 1899, Sister Marta was assigned to the Daughter of Charity house in Bochnia. Here she had a vision of Jesus on the cross in which He urged her to “patiently endure adversity and promised that she would be with Him soon.”<sup>2</sup>

The adversity soon began. A demoralized man began spreading rumors that she was pregnant. He was a student and relative of the parish priest. Her superior, Sister Maria Chablo, kept her in Bochnia so that her innocence would become apparent. Sister Marta endured these insults with serene patience, relying solely upon God. After this situation calmed, she was assigned to the hospital in Sniatyn, a town located in Kolomyia Raion of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, in western Ukraine along the Prut river.

There she ensured that no one in her department died without first receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. She took equal care of her patients regardless of their ethnicity or religion. “She had a unique gift of helping people be reconciled with God.”<sup>3</sup> “The local parish priest sent parishioners to her with various problems and spiritual matters that she successfully solved for the good of their souls.”<sup>2</sup> She helped wherever she was needed. She loved caring for her patients and did so with extraordinary kindness, bringing healing to both the body and soul. Her whole life was an act of love.

During a typhoid epidemic, she volunteered to disinfect a room of a person who had been ill with typhoid in place of a fellow nurse, a man who was a father whose assignment this was. She contracted typhoid. Crowds of people prayed for her healing, including Jewish people who prayed for her in their synagogue. After receiving Viaticum (the Holy Eucharist given to the dying, “food for the journey”) she was observed to be deep in prayer. Sister Marta died peacefully on May 30, 1904, in Sniatyn, Poland (now Ukraine). Many people flock to her grave convinced that “Matuszka” will answer their requests.

Sister Marta Anna Wiecka was declared venerable with the promulgation of the decree on heroic virtues on December 20, 2004, by Pope St. John Paul II. Her beatification was approved for May 24, 2008, by Pope Benedict XVI.<sup>1</sup> The beatification ceremony was held at the Bogdan Chmielnecki Park in Lviv, Ukraine, and presided by Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone.<sup>4</sup> (Memorial May 30)



Prayer to obtain favors through the intercession of Blessed Sister Marta Wiecka:<sup>2</sup>

*Lord God, You called Sister Marta Wiecka  
to the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy,  
so that, following Your Son, she would serve the poor and the sick.  
Obedient to your call, she followed the path of a Vincentian vocation,  
devoting herself entirely to service, to the point of giving her life for a human being.  
Lord, my God, I adore you for all the favors you deigned to grant Blessed Sister Marta Wiecka.  
I am begging you, please show through her intercession the power of your love  
and grant me the grace...  
for which I am asking you with humility and trust,  
if it agrees with Your will.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father,  
*O Mary conceived without sin,*  
*pray for us who have recourse to You.*

---

Reference:

- 1) Opanuj Gniew. Piaseczno. Accessed 15 May 2022. <https://www.gniew.pl/919,piaseczno>
- 2) Biography Blessed Sister Marta Wiecka (1874-1904). Accessed 15 May 2022. <https://martawiecka.pl/>
- 3) Hagiography. 1904-Marta Anna Wiecka. Accessed 15 May 2022. <http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1904.htm>
- 4) Hagiography. Saints of 2008. Accessed 15 May 2022. <http://newsaints.faithweb.com/2008.htm>
- 5) Congregation of the Mission. Marta Wiecka. Accessed 15 May 2022. <https://cmglobal.org/en/2020/10/02/marta-wiecka/>