

## Blessed Margaret Ebner - (Dominican Nun 1291-1351)



Mystic, Dominican virgin; b. c. 1291, Donauwörth (near Nuremberg), Bavaria, Germany; d. June 20, 1351, Medingen, Bavaria, Germany.

A child of the nobility, Margaret received a classical education at home. She was solemnly professed (1306) at the Dominican convent at Maria-Medingen near Dillingen. Dangerously ill for many years, Ebner offered penances—abstinence from wine, fruit, and the bath—for those who had died in the war devastating the countryside. She was suddenly cured, but then forced with the other sisters to leave the convent during the campaign of Ludwig the Bavarian. From her letters and diary we learn that she remained loyal to the excommunicated Ludwig, whose soul she learned in a vision had been saved. Among her other correspondents were many contemporary spiritual leaders, including Johannes Tauler. Ebner's religious life was at the time of infighting due to the Western Schism though she remained dedicated to serving the Roman pontiff who was the true claimant to the papal see.

Shortly after the death of her nurse, to whom she was emotionally attached, Margaret grieved inconsolably. But in 1332 she regained her composure through the efforts of Henry of Nördlingen, who then assumed her spiritual direction. The correspondence between them is the first collection of this kind in German. Under his tutelage, she wrote with her own hand a full account of all her revelations and conversations with the Infant Jesus, including the answers she received from him, even in her sleep. This diary is preserved at Medingen in a manuscript that dates to 1353 and translated in a book by Leonard Hindsley.

Her body rested in a chapel built in 1755 in the Maria-Medingen Convent church but it's current condition and location is not confirmed since a recent fire.

Ebner's beatification cause began in the 1600s well after her death though stalled for a time until 1910 when the initial process was concluded; Pope John Paul II beatified Ebner in 1979 after confirming her longstanding "cultus" – or popular devotion to her – rather than recognizing a miracle as would be the norm. Pope John Paul II praised Ebner, the first person he beatified, for her perseverance.

Further reading: (this work includes the full translation of her "Revelations" from German to English Margaret Ebner, *Major Works* (Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback)), Jul 1, 1993 by Margaret Ebner and Leonard P. Hindsley