

Bl. Natalia Tułasiewicz

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1906–1945 • Poland

Bl. Natalia Tułasiewicz's life of love overcame the spiritual darkness of World War II. Natalia was a teacher and belonged to the secret Polish resistance against Hitler. Hitler was an evil dictator who wanted the German Nazis to rule the world. He did not believe that life or God was important, and he mercilessly killed all those who did not belong to the German race or believe in the same things he did. He specifically targeted the Jewish people, but he also killed Catholics. Many despaired because they thought that Hitler was going to win the war. But Natalia knew that evil could not win. She knew that God's love had already defeated everything evil. God's mission for her was to be love in the world, bringing Jesus's love to those who lived in fear and despair.

When Nazi soldiers took over Poland, they forced a group of Polish women to leave their homes to perform heavy labor in Germany. When Natalia heard this news, her heart cried in sympathy for these poor women. She knew their lives would be hard, and they would be in grave danger. Worse, she was afraid that they would believe that God had abandoned them. So she volunteered to join these women with a secret mission in mind: she would preach to them about the love of Jesus, giving them words of comfort and hope.

The women worked hard in miserable conditions, but in spare moments, Natalia's bravery and her words of love restored their hope and strength. But the Nazis discovered Natalia's secret mission of love. They did not want women full of hope and strength; they wanted them weak and afraid. And so the Nazis arrested Natalia and sent her to a women's concentration camp in northern Germany. But this did not stop Natalia from continuing her mission of love. Her words about Jesus brought comfort to the women of the concentration camp, the women most in need of hope.

Two years had passed since Natalia had left for Germany. It was Good Friday of Holy Week. Natalia climbed onto a stool in the women's barracks, and in a clear, loud voice she proclaimed the death and resurrection of Jesus. Her words reminded all who listened that Jesus had endured suffering like theirs. But even in Jesus's death, evil did not triumph. Jesus rose from the dead, and if they loved Him, so would they. On Easter Sunday, Natalia was sent to her death in the gas chambers. On the same day Jesus rose from the dead, Natalia, too, shared in Jesus's resurrection and joined Him in heaven. Bl. Natalia Tułasiewicz , help me live a life of love!