
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

A Summer of Saints!

Ellen Organ was born in Waterford City, Ireland in 1903 and was the youngest of four children. Her nickname was Nellie. She had a serious fall as a baby when she was accidentally dropped. The fall caused her hips to be out of joint and her spine became crooked as she grew. This caused her much pain. Despite her sufferings, Nellie had a sweet attitude. Sadly, when she was four years old, her mother died. Her father was unable to take care of his children by himself so Nellie was sent to a home run by the Good Shepherd Sisters. There was a chapel where Nellie now lived and the very first time she saw the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance she cried, "There He is! There is Holy God now!" She loved to go to the chapel often which she called: "the House of Holy God." Contacting the local bishop, the sisters asked for Nellie to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation which was granted. Almost immediately after this, Nellie began asking if she could receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. The sisters tried to explain to her that children who received their First Holy Communion were twelve years old but Nellie insisted. The sisters had a priest come visit her and he asked, "Tell me Nellie, what is Holy Communion?" The four-year-old replied, "It is Holy God. It is He who makes the Nuns and everyone else so happy!" The bishop gave special permission for Nellie to receive her First Holy Communion at age four. Nellie was diagnosed with the same disease that had taken her dear mother: tuberculosis. Her health began to decline quickly. She would hold her little Crucifix and the sisters often heard her whisper, "Holy God. Holy God." When the pain became too much she would cry out, "Holy God suffered far more on the Cross for me!" Nellie died on Candlemas, February 2, 1908.

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Little Nellie of Holy God

The story of Nellie's life spread after her death and she became known as "Little Nellie of Holy God."

Nellie's story reached Pope St. Pius X. He was considering lowering the age of receiving First Holy Communion. It is reported that when he heard about Nellie he exclaimed, "This is the sign I have been waiting for!" His decree "Quam singulari" officially lowered the age from twelve years old to seven years old for children receiving First Holy Communion.

One year after her death in 1909, Nellie's body was exhumed. It appeared unchanged from the day of her burial. Her limbs were flexible and the white dress and First Holy Communion veil she wore looked brand new.