

*Biography of the Servant of God,  
Maria Rosa Segale  
(Sr. Blandina Segale, SC)*

The Servant of God, Maria Rosa Segale (Sr. Blandina Segale, SC) was born January 23, 1850 in Cicagna, Italy. Her family migrated to Cincinnati, Ohio when she was four years old. Her first word as a child was Gesu (Jesus).

On September 13, 1866 the Servant of God entered the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. She was sent to work in the newly acquired territories of the western United States in 1872. Arriving first in Trinidad, Colorado Sr. Blandina taught the poor. In 1877 she was transferred to Santa Fe, New Mexico where she cofounded the public and Catholic schools. Her work included starting hospitals in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Her work in these territories is well documented in the publication of letters to her sister, also a Sister of Charity, called *At the End of the Santa Fe Trail*.

Other heroic virtues include her tireless work of teaching and healing the immigrant, the marginalized, and the poor, and advocating for women and children. She challenged the occupying government and military in fair treatment of the Native Americans. Sr. Blandina came to the aid of mistreated railroad workers, finding time to care for the sick while building orphanages, hospitals, schools, and trade schools.

Her compassion converted hundreds and she even had numerous encounters with the famous Billy the Kid and his band of outlaws. She calmed mobs of armed men from taking the law into their own hands and helped criminals seek forgiveness from their victims.

In 1897 she founded the Santa Maria Institute in Cincinnati, serving immigrants. She led the organization until 1933. The institute is still in operation today, serving the poor and marginalized.

In 1900 Sr. Blandina returned to Albuquerque for two years to help start the St. Joseph Hospital whose mission continues today as CHI St. Joseph's Children.

Her ministries continue today, over 100 years later, and thousands of poor children receive early childhood services by her continuing ministry. Her life's work is well documented in the archives of the Sisters of Charity Mother House in Cincinnati.

Sr. Blandina was one of the petitioners of the Cause of St. Elizabeth Seton, and at 81 years old she traveled to Italy to meet with Pope Pius to plead St. Elizabeth's Cause. The Servant of God died on February 23, 1941 in Cincinnati at the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity at the age of 91. Her last words were Gesu e Madre.

Sister Blandina Segale

Photo - Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA) Negative #67735



*Sister Blandina Segale  
1850-1941*

## *Novena to Sister Blandina Segale, Servant of God*

Blandina, the servant of God, protector of children, especially immigrant children, caring for their health and education;

I come to seek your intercession in my present need:

(State your intention.)

I admire your spirit of sacrifice, recognizing the need and ready to serve. Your healing hand and educating voice moving hearts to forgive, now brings me joy to know your love for Jesus. Teach my heart to trust God as you did and ready my lips to say "Gesu" (Jesus) as to welcome God's spirit into my heart.

### *Day one*

Blandina, hear my cry like an immigrant of this earth waiting to receive my true home of Heaven. Take my intention to the throne of God.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...

### *Day two*

Blandina, swift to heal the broken worker who labored for so little pay, take my intention to the throne of God.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...

### *Day three*

Blandina, adobe maker, building shelter one brick at a time; build in my heart a place for God's love. Take my intention to the throne of God.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...

### *Day four*

Blandina, seeker of justice and recognizer of human dignity even in the guilty, lead me to justice, be my defender in front of the Judge.

Take my intention to the throne of God.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...

### *Day five*

Blandina, health care worker, bandage my wounded heart with love, removing all hate. Take my intention to the throne of God.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...

### *Day six*

Blandina, advocating for the poor before governments, negotiate my release from sin and win me divine love. Take my intention to the throne of Heaven.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...

### *Day seven*

Blandina, social worker, summon the helpers and refer me to helping angels. Take my intentions to the throne of God.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...

### *Day eight*

Blandina, teacher of little ones, show me my littleness and once again teach me right from wrong. Take my intention to the throne of God.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...

### *Day nine*

Blandina, counselor of souls, prepare me for death. Remove all evil thoughts, remove resentment, and bring me to forgiveness. As you talked dying people into forgiveness of those who brought great harm, so when on my death bed whisper in my ear "Gesu" (Jesus) so I too may say the sacred name that will bless my lips so to be prepared to kiss my Lord. Take my intentions to the throne of God.

(State your intention.)

Our Father...