

# All Saints' Eve Storybook

Who will be the next . . .

2017



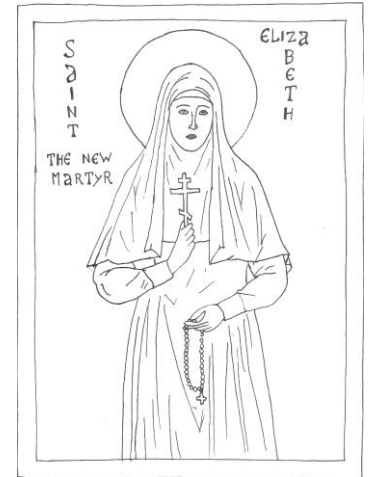
**St. Mariam Baouardy**   **St. Nicholas of Japan**

2018



**St. Brigid of Kildare**

2019



**St. Elizabeth the New Martyr**

Saint of the Year?

2020



What is a saint? A 'holy one,' that is someone who knows they belong to God and who lives that way. An old-fashioned word for holy is someone who is 'hallowed. We still use the word *hallowed* when we pray the Lord's Prayer every day—"Hallowed be Thy name"—which means we confess the Name of God to be kept sacred and holy.

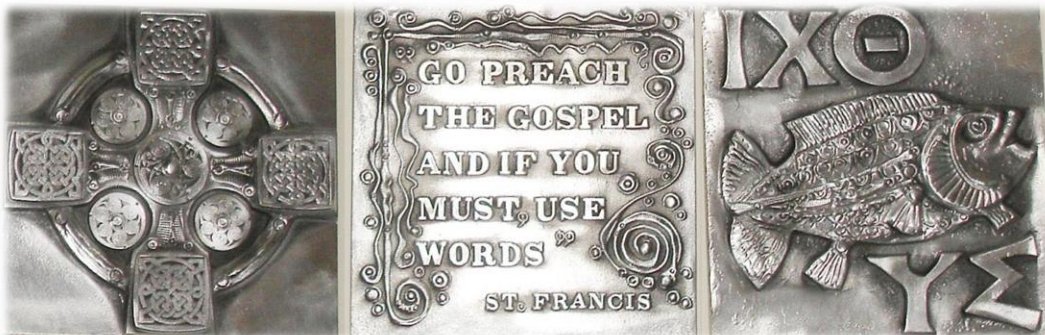
Now our All Saints Eve book was created to help us celebrate the Feast of All Saints, which is observed by Christians in the western churches on November 1. (In the Orthodox Church we observe the Feast of All Saints every year on the Sunday after Pentecost with a Divine Liturgy on that day.) Because "hallow" means "holy" the western Feast of All Saints (or Holy Ones) was also called All Hallows. The night before, October 31, became known as All Hallows Evening, or Halloween. You've heard that word before.

You probably think of Halloween as a time when children dress up in all sorts of costumes, some of them scary, but the name *Halloween* is really a Christian name for the evening of All Saints. So we thought it would be a great time for us Christians to dress up like saints! It makes sense, doesn't it?

It is important for us to always remember the saints. They show us what it is like to follow Jesus our Savior. Some of them were put to death because they were Christians; others preached the gospel in foreign lands; others devoted their lives to prayer, to confession, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and showing mercy.

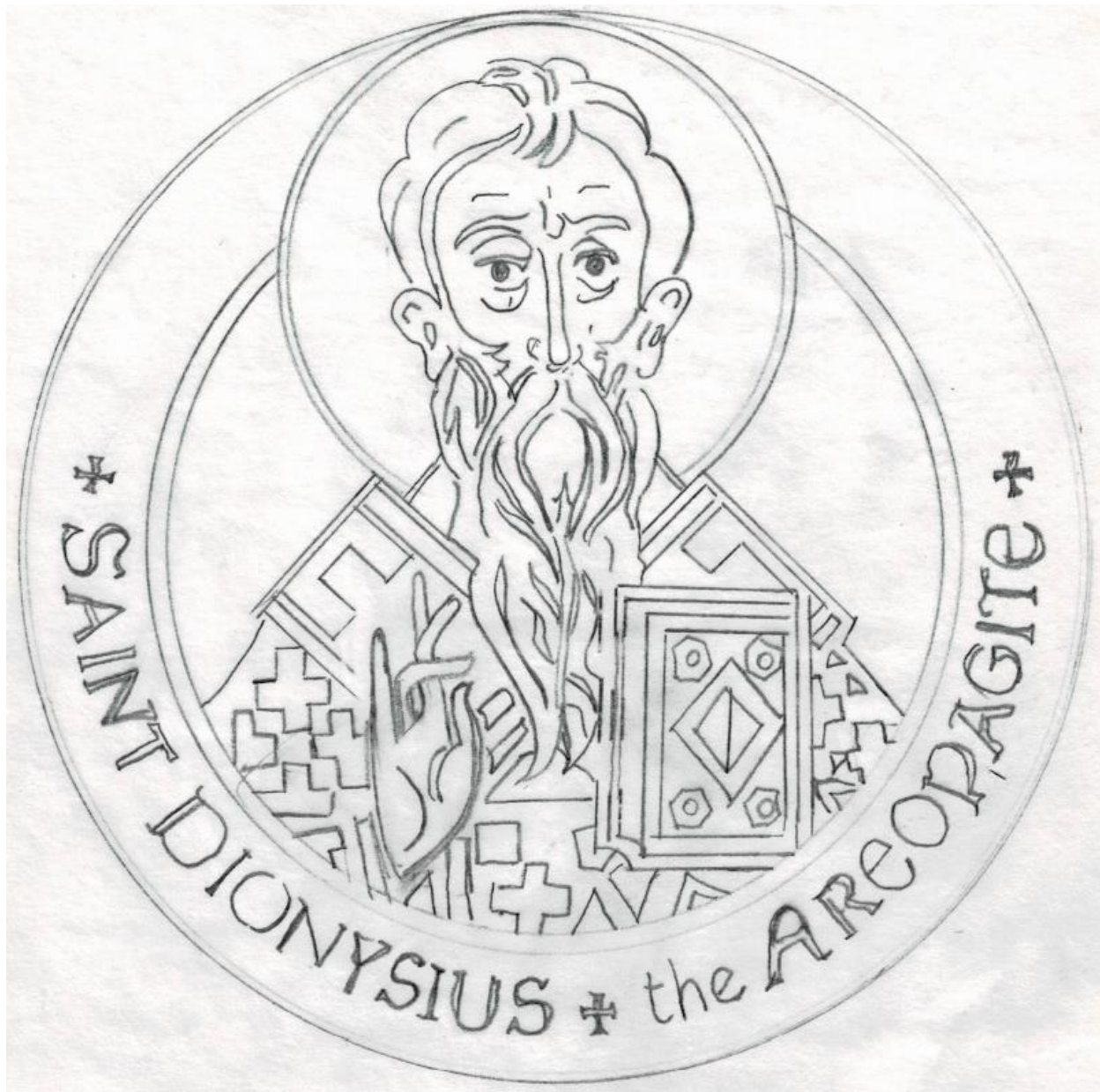
We hope you will enjoy reading the stories in this book and remembering the saints. You probably have a saint's name yourself. Do you know the story of your saint? This would be a great time to find out more. Let Jesus inspire you to serve and obey him like the thousands of saints who have lived before us. Let's all pray together and help each other to become more and more like the saints!

*Special thanks this year to story writers Michael Gallo, Ysobel Gallo, Jane Hebel, Claire Kellar, Steve Kellar, Domitille Nicolescou, Laura Pavlov, Sarah Schlueter, and to artists Katie Walter, Annie Gallo and Eva Walter for the drawings. We really appreciate all their wonderful efforts!*



# St. Dionysius the Aeropagite

82



*From the monastery of Saint Dionysius the Aeropagite, in Long Island NY*

**W**hat prompted me to present this Saint at first was his conversion: Here was a well-educated man, one of the nine counselors of the high court in Athens - known as Aeros Pagos on Mars hill – exceeding all others in wealth, intelligence, glory and wisdom, who was able to hear the word of God and change his heart. *“If you are struggling with judgment of a certain situation, surely St. Dionysius would be willing to pray for you ... if you ask him.”* [Forgotten author]

He became a follower of Saint Paul after hearing his sermon [Acts 17:16-34] on the good news of the resurrection of Christ for our salvation, leaving the unknown god and the idols of gold and silver, and he was baptized. During the following three years, as a companion of Saint Paul, he preached the Word of God and became bishop of the city of Athens.

Dionysius travelled to Jerusalem to meet the Most Holy Virgin. Here is what he experienced in Her presence: *“The grace from her overwhelmed my heart and shook my very spirit.”* Later, he was accounted worthy to be present at her entombment in the same ways as various apostles - snatched up by a cloud - which says a lot about his **height in divine contemplation**.

After the martyrdom of Saint Paul under Nero’s reign, which Dionysius witnessed, he went on preaching in Rome. Later, Saint Clement, bishop of Rome (baptized by the holy apostle Peter), sent Dionysius to Gauls, part of today’s Germany and France, to preach the word of truth with his companions Presbyter Rusticus and Deacon Eleutherius. They finally settled in Paris – then a pagan small town - teaching the word of God and bringing many to piety. When Dionysius' fame came to the ears of The Emperor Domitian, who was unable to persuade them to deny God, the three holy men were beheaded in 82.

Parts of the holy relics of Saint Dionysius are kept in the Docheiariou monastery and the Simonopetra of Mount Athos; in the Dionysiou Monastery of Mount Athos; in the Pantokratoros monastery of Mount Athos; in the Gregoriou Monastery of Mount Athos; in the Monastery of Agios Dionysius in Olympus; in the Monastery of Pantokratora at Ntaou Penteli; and in the Monastery of Voulkanos, Messinia.

Saint Dionysius’ memory is commemorated on October 3.

**Apolytikion in Fourth tone:** *Since thou hadst been instructed in uprightness thoroughly and wast vigilant in all things, thou wast clothed with a good conscience as befitteth one holy. Thou didst draw from the Chosen Vessel ineffable mysteries; and having kept the Faith, thou didst finish a like course, O Hieromartyr Dionysius. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.*

~ Domitille Nicolescou

# St. Eustáthios

118



**H**ave you heard the story of Job in the Bible? God allows the Devil to test Job by taking away all his wealth, his family, and even his health. Job is depressed but he refuses to curse God. In the end God restores his health and his wealth. Something similar happened to St Eustáthios, known as St. Eustace in the West.

His original name was Plakidas and he served as a Roman General in the reigns of Emperors Titus (79-81) and Trajan (98-117). Even before he came to know Christ, Plakidas devoted himself to charitable endeavors, helping the poor and destitute.

One day, while hunting in a forest, Plakidas saw a stag which stopped now and then to stare at him. Plakidas pursued it on horseback, but could not catch up. The stag jumped over a chasm and stood on the other side facing him. Suddenly, Plakidas saw a radiant Cross between its antlers. The General was astonished to hear a voice coming from the Cross saying, “Why do you pursue me, Plakidas?”

“Who are You, Master?” asked Plakidas. The voice replied, “I am Jesus Christ, Whom you do not know, but by your good deeds, you honor me. I have appeared here on this creature for your sake, to draw you into the net of my love for mankind.”

Plakidas cried out, “Lord, I believe that You are the God of Heaven and earth, the Creator of all things. Master, teach me what I should do.” The Lord replied, “Go to the bishop of your country and receive Baptism from him, and he will instruct you.”

Plakidas immediately obeyed and brought his whole family to the Christian bishop for baptism. Plakidas was renamed Eustáthios, his wife was called Theopistē, and their sons, Agapios and Theopistos.

On the following day, Saint Eustáthios went back to the place where he saw the stag and received another miraculous revelation from the Lord. “Eustáthios,” he was told, “you shall suffer many misfortunes, as did Job, but in the end you will conquer the devil.”

Soon after that, all of his servants died of the plague, and his cattle perished. Brought to ruin, but not despairing in spirit, Saint Eustáthios and his family secretly abandoned their home, to live in poverty. They went to Egypt to board a ship bound for Jerusalem. The voyage turned into a disaster. At one stop, the ship owner cruelly left Eustáthios and his children ashore, keeping the wife for himself. Then while trying to cross a river, one son was seized by a lion and the other dragged off by a wolf.

Saint Eustáthios wept bitterly, but he realized that Divine Providence had sent him these misfortunes in order to test his endurance and devotion to God. He pressed on, settling in a village where he worked for 5 years.

During this time it had become difficult for Emperor Trajan to raise an army for Rome to deal with a rebellion, for the soldiers refused to go into battle without Plakidas. They advised Trajan to send men out to all the cities to search for him. Eventually, Saint Eustáthios was found, returned to Rome, and was restored to his former rank. Many new recruits were drafted into the army from all over the Empire.

While on campaign, the army led by Eustáthios halted at a certain place. One night, two of the young soldiers were talking in their tent. The elder spoke about his life, how he had lost his parents and brother, and how he had been rescued from a lion by shepherds. The younger brother then realized that the other man was his own brother, and revealed how he had been rescued from the wolf by farmers. Their conversation was overheard by a woman living in the house next to their tent. She realized she had found her sons and went to see their general whom she discovered to be her husband. Thus, through God's great mercy, the entire family was reunited.

Soon thereafter, the rebellion was crushed, and Saint Eustáthios returned to Rome with honor and glory. Emperor Trajan had died in the meantime, and his successor Hadrian (117-138) wanted to celebrate the victory with a solemn sacrifice to their "gods." To everyone's amazement, Saint Eustáthios did not go to the pagan temple. The Emperor ordered them to find him and bring him to the temple.

“Why don’t you want to worship the gods?” the Emperor inquired. “You, above all others, should offer thanks to them. Not only did they preserve you in war and grant you victory, but they also helped you to find your wife and children.” Saint Eustáthios replied: “I am a Christian and I glorify and give thanks to Christ, and I offer sacrifice to Him. I owe my life to Him. I do not know or believe in any other God.”

Outraged, the Emperor ordered him to remove his military belt and brought Eustáthios and his family before him. They did not succeed in persuading the steadfast confessors of Christ to offer sacrifice to idols. The Saint's family was sentenced to be torn to pieces by wild beasts, but the animals would not touch the holy martyrs.

Then the cruel Emperor ordered that they be thrown alive into a red-hot brass bull, and Saint Eustáthios, his wife Theopistē, and their sons Agapios and Theopistos suffered martyrdom.

Three days later, they opened the brass bull, and the bodies of the holy martyrs were found unscathed. Not one hair of their heads was singed, and their faces shone with an unearthly beauty. Many who witnessed this miracle came to believe in Christ. Some pious Christians buried the bodies of the Saints with all honor and reverence.

Abridged from:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/09/20/102674-greatmartyr-eusthios-placidus-with-his-wife-and-children-of-rom>

~*Michael Gallo*

# St. Ambrose of Milan

397

ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN





One day, as baby Ambrose was lying in his cradle, a swarm of bees landed on his face and left behind a drop of honey. Ambrose's father, governor of the region of Gaul, declared this a sign: his son would speak words as sweet as honey and be of great use to the world.

When Ambrose was about 14 his father died and he moved to Rome with his mother, his older sister Marcellina, and his older brother Satyrus. The boys studied, and Marcellina devoted herself to fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

At the age of 32, Ambrose was made governor of Liguria and Emilia. He had served diligently as governor for two years when the Bishop of Milan died. As governor, Ambrose knew that there were sharp divisions between the Arians and the Nicene Christians in the church at Milan. The Arians believed that Christ did not exist in eternity, and thus was lesser than God the Father, while the Nicene Christians held to the belief that Christ was co-eternal with the Father.

The dispute between the two parties as they struggled to choose a new bishop could easily turn violent, so Ambrose decided to be present at the election in order to preserve the peace.

Imagine his surprise when the entire church gathered for the election started to chant "Ambrose, bishop!" The decision was almost unanimous—the only person who disagreed was Ambrose himself! He protested: he hadn't even been baptized yet! He hid at the house of one of his friends for a time, but eventually agreed to become the new Bishop of Milan. In the span of a week, he was baptized, ordained, and set apart as bishop.

Ambrose took his new position very seriously. He gave his money and land to the poor and adopted strict ascetic practices. The honey-sweet words prophesied by the bees were put to use in sermons and beautiful hymns written for the Church. In fact, a certain young man named Augustine, who had originally been scornful of the Christian faith, was so impressed with the sweetness of Ambrose's words that his heart was opened to their truth as well. Eventually, Ambrose baptized Augustine, who is also recognized as a saint.

Ambrose's faith in God gave him strength to stand firm in the truth, even in the face of powerful men and women. Even when commanded by the Empress to surrender some of his churches for use by the Arian heretics, Ambrose refused. He also chastised the Emperor Theodosius for massacring innocent people in Thessalonica and required the Emperor to do public penance before he would be allowed to receive communion again.

*In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, and image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Ambrose, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.*

*~ Laura Pavlov*

# St. Cyril and St. Methodius

869 / 885



In the year 863 two brothers arrived in Moravia; a vast area that includes much of Eastern Europe as we know it today. They would become known as the ‘Enlighteners of the Slavs’. They came at the invitation of King Rastislav who wished for the conversion of his kingdom to Christianity.

The brothers were already experienced missionaries. They had recently come from converting the Khazars. There they began using the Slavonic language in liturgy and even translated the bible into the language known now as Old Church Slavonic. Cyril was a gifted linguist and invented the Glagolitic alphabet; a Slavonic alphabet using Greek characters. This alphabet became used by most southern and eastern Slavs.

At this time the Frankish missionaries of Rome and the West relied upon a doctrine stating that only Greek, Hebrew, and Latin could be used in liturgies. This was known as trilingualism (the three languages of the cross). The brothers, with the support of Constantinople, knew the importance of expressing the faith in the words and culture of the people who were being baptized; and the mission was a great success. The Glagolitic alphabet was soon replaced by a revised version named after Cyril and called now the Cyrillic script. This “Slavic Project” equipped the Slavs with a written language and a native liturgy in the tongue of the people; it also assured the eventual formation of a Slavic clergy. And, just as importantly, these efforts established a pattern for future Orthodox missions.

After three years, the brothers withdrew from Moravia for a time and traveled through Venice. They were widely known for their missionary work and there they ran afoul of militant “trilingualists” who vigorously rebuked them for their departure from the Western practice of trilingualism and “Latinization” (and would soon include the addition of the filioque clause to the Creed). In 867, Pope Nicholas I invited the brothers to Rome to explain the conflict now come to a head with a neighboring German archbishop and the bishop of Passau. They both had claimed control of Slavic territory and wanted to enforce the exclusive use of the Latin liturgy. Cyril and Methodius arrived in Rome in 868 where the new pope, Hadrian II took their side and agreed to the continued use of the Slavic liturgy. However, Cyril fell ill while in Rome and died in 869. Methodius, now a bishop, left with newly ordained Slavic priests to evangelize in the Slavonic language. Upon his return to Moravia, Methodius was arrested and put on trial by the German clergy in 870. Pope John VIII asked for his release and confirmed the legitimacy of his mission and the use of the Slavonic language in the liturgy. So, Methodius continued his work until he died in 885. After his death, Pope Stephen V forbade the use of the Slavonic liturgy and the disciples of Methodius and Cyril were forced into exile. So ended the mission to the Slavs.

But the impact of these two brave brothers was ongoing and extended to the Bulgars, and eventually to Vladimir of Russia. Perhaps it is best to quote Cyril himself in his defense of the mission to the Slavs, and to all peoples, in their own language:

*“Does the sun not shine for all, and do we not all breathe the air in equal measure? Wherefore, then, are we not ashamed to recognize but three tongues and command the other nations and races to be blind and deaf? Say, will you have God to be weak, as though unable to bestow the Slavic script, or jealous, that He does not wish to? For we know many peoples who have a script and give glory to God, each in his own tongue.”*

*~Steve and Claire Kellar*

# St. Igor, Prince of Kiev

945



## The Holy Igor, Saint and Great Prince of Kiev

Commemorated on September 19<sup>th</sup>

Sometimes when people disagree, there can be violence. In 1147 A.D., two important families were fighting to rule Kiev, now in Ukraine. Prince Igor, of the Olgovich family, gained control and reigned for two weeks. In all things he tried to do God's will. Then Igor's enemies captured him and imprisoned him in a windowless log hut. Igor became very ill. He was sorry for his sins. He became a monk and was sent to live in the beautiful monastery of the Caves, in Kiev, where he regained his health.

One day Igor was in church, praying to the Holy Mother of God before an icon that depicted her loving kindness. He prayed in words like these:

*I thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou has humbled my soul. Grant me to transit into light from this dark, vain, and shortliving age... If they now shed my blood I shall be a martyr to my God.*

During the prayer, Igor was grabbed by his enemies. He was killed; his body was mutilated and hung up in the market place. Then his body was taken to the church of St. Michael, where a miracle occurred: the candles lit by themselves. In 1150, when Igor's relics were placed in the Cathedral of the Transfiguration, in Chernigov, a pillar of fire appeared over the church.

Today the Russian Orthodox Church commemorates the martyr Igor during the Litiya, an evening prayer for the whole world.

Sources:

- ❖ The Orthodox Church of America
- ❖ The Russian Orthodox Church abroad
- ❖ Fedotov, G.P., "The Russian Religious Mind", Vol. 1, New York, Harper, 1946
- ❖ Kornilovich, Kira, "Arts of Russia: From the Origins to the End of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century", World Publishing, Cleveland, 1967

~ Jane Hebel



*Cathedral of the Transfiguration, Chernihiv (Chernigov)*

# St. Catherine of Siena

1380

- Saint Catherine of Siena -



Catherine of Siena was born on the Annunciation in 1347. To say that her family was very large is an understatement- she was the youngest of twenty-five brothers and sisters! Her family lived in Northern Italy, where her father was a wool dyer and her mother ran the household and took care of all the children.

When she was very young, Catherine began to find quiet places in the house or yard where she could pray and talk to God. When her family tried to persuade her to get married at the age of 16, she cut her hair short and began fasting in protest. Her parents relented and supported her when, prompted by a vision of Saint Dominic, Catherine joined the Third Order of Dominican nuns. She wore their habit and lived in a small room in her parents' home. Catherine spent three years in this room, praying.

The late Middle Ages were a time of great upheaval and turbulence in the world. The bubonic plague, a deadly and contagious disease often called The Black Death, spread across Europe and killed one third of the population. No one knew how to contain the disease or who would get sick next.

Catherine began visiting and caring for people who were sick with the Plague, even though she was young, beautiful, and rich. Her family tried to dissuade her, arguing that she was risking her health and beauty needlessly. She only said that if she didn't help, no one else would.

She cared for those who needed it, both poor and rich, contagious or not, and even grateful or ungrateful. In fact, there was a woman named Cecca, who was sick with leprosy. Cecca was one of the rudest patients in the hospital and all the other workers wouldn't care for her. Catherine started nursing Cecca, even though Cecca said the nastiest things she could think of to Catherine. Catherine didn't respond in anger, but continued with caring for Cecca, for she knew that Cecca's foul temper was caused by her pain. Eventually, Cecca realized how silly she sounded always yelling rude things to the calm, quiet, lovely Catherine, so she stopped. Even though her leprosy got worse, Cecca was able to bear it with fortitude.

There were many disagreements within the Church during Catherine's life. The pope, Pope Gregory XI, was living in France instead of Rome. Catherine believed that God wanted the disagreements to end so she began to write to the pope. They corresponded for a long time, and she successfully convinced the Pope to move back to Rome. Here is a small part of one of her letters to Pop Urban VI, the successor of Pope Gregory: "There is nothing—no difficulty, no sort of trouble—that can overcome you.... The blows of wretched, wicked, self-centered people will not harm your soul's will. Nor will they topple holy Church, the bride; she cannot fail, because she is founded on the living Rock, Christ gentle Jesus."

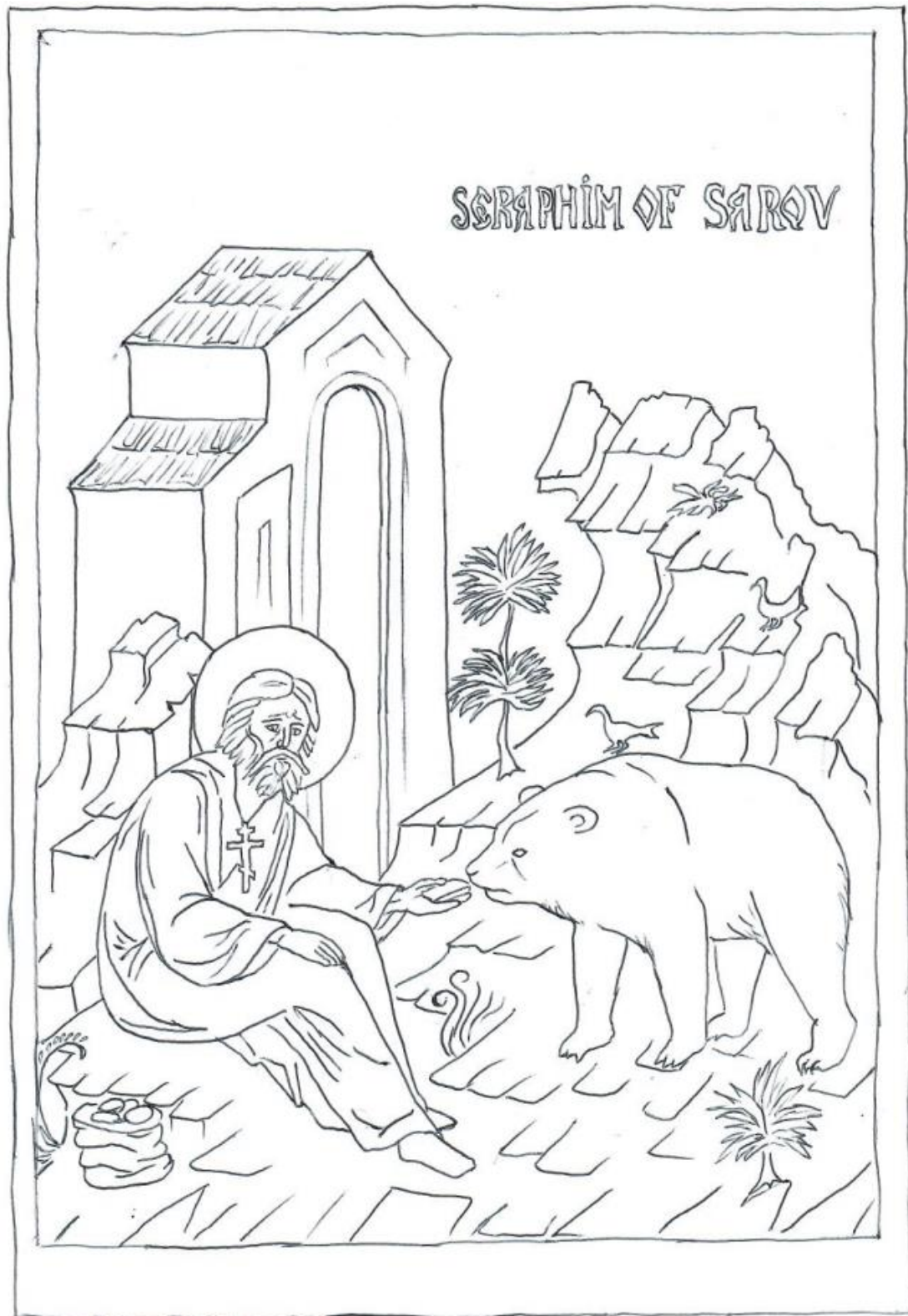
More and more people from every walk of life started to visit and correspond with Catherine. Catherine's letters to these people, both rich, famous, and poor are among the classics of Italian literature. The advice and wisdom contained in her writings can still be applied to our lives today. In 1970, Catherine of Siena was proclaimed a Doctor of the Catholic Church, the only laywoman to ever be given this title.

"You are a fire always burning but never consuming; You are a fire consuming in your heat all the soul's selfish love; You are a fire lifting all chill and giving light."

~ Sarah Schlueter

# St. Seraphim of Sarov

1833





There are so many stories about St. Seraphim. There's the time he prayed almost without pause for 1,000 days. There's the time his face shone light like an angel. Or when he refused to fight back against robbers who beat him with the handle of his own ax. Or when his student witnessed him floating above the ground while in prayer. My favorite stories, however, are his visions of the Theotokos and the Church.

His first vision occurred when he was just 10 years old and very sick. The Theotokos told St. Seraphim -- or Prokhor as he was called then -- that she would heal him. Just a few days later, she did, through a miraculous icon. The icon was being processed through Prokhor's hometown when a sudden storm drove the priests to take a shortcut right through Prokhor's backyard. His mother carried him out to venerate the icon, and he was healed shortly afterward.

At 19, Prokhor entered the Sarov monastery. He was tonsured as a monk 8 years later and took the name of Seraphim. Shortly afterwards he became a priest. St. Seraphim spent most of his time, except for brief rests, in the church. At different times he was allowed to see angels singing and serving in the church. One time, during the Trisagion hymns, St. Seraphim saw Jesus, attended by angels, walk through the church, blessing those who were praying, and enter the altar. After seeing this vision, St. Seraphim was unable to speak for a long time.

St. Seraphim spent many years in a forest hermitage about 3 miles from the monastery. This was where the robbers attacked him, and also the place of his 1,000 day prayer. St. Seraphim might have stayed there for the rest of his life, but for another vision of the Theotokos. Because of her prompting, he became an elder, speaking and advising any pilgrim who came to visit him. And thousands did, sometimes hundreds in one day. St. Seraphim always greeted them with "Christ is risen!" and called them "my joy." Many pilgrims said St. Seraphim knew of their problems before they told him. Many healing miracles are associated with St. Seraphim's prayers, both during and after his life.

St. Seraphim taught that the purpose of Christian life was to acquire the Holy Spirit. One of his students Motovilov wanted to know what that looked like. How could he tell whether the Holy Spirit was with him or not? St. Seraphim provided examples from the Bible but Motovilov still did not understand. St. Seraphim put his hands on Motovilov's shoulders. "We are both now, my dear fellow, in the Holy Spirit." The saint's face shone like the sun. Motovilov felt peace inside of him, and warmth and even a beautiful fragrance spreading around them. Motovilov was terrified. "Do not fear," St. Seraphim said, "You would not even be able to see me if you yourself were not in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Thank the Lord for His mercy toward us."

Altogether, St. Seraphim had twelve visions of the Theotokos over his lifetime. One of the last times the Theotokos appeared to him, St. Seraphim saw her walking around the boundaries of the monastery. St. Seraphim understood her to be protecting the monastery, and blessing those who would follow in her footsteps. He and the Diveyevo-Sarov nuns built a canal in the place where she walked so pilgrims could walk in her footsteps.

St. Seraphim died on January 2, 1833, while kneeling before his icon of the Mother of God.

*"It is necessary that the Holy Spirit enter our heart. Everything good that we do, that we do for Christ, is given to us by the Holy Spirit, but prayer most of all, which is always available to us." ~St. Seraphim*

*~ Ysobel Gallo*

# Find the Saints

There are 8 saints nominated in this story booklet (Cyril and Methodius were nominated together). You can find their names in the grid below. Names can go down, across, and in two diagonals, both forwards and backwards.

Y	H	R	W	H	G	C	M	Y	Z	I	L	M	Z	X
I	D	L	J	M	F	I	X	J	V	N	E	I	S	P
X	M	L	F	D	H	U	X	A	F	S	G	V	O	W
P	W	J	U	P	B	F	O	A	K	U	G	J	A	J
E	S	G	A	T	C	V	B	C	E	I	D	Y	K	K
J	N	R	D	M	M	K	J	U	X	D	T	D	U	A
N	E	I	P	S	U	I	S	Y	N	O	I	D	B	H
S	U	C	R	H	Z	T	X	I	Y	H	E	Z	F	F
C	Z	C	O	E	A	K	Y	Z	F	T	W	Q	X	I
U	Y	Y	X	T	H	B	T	W	A	E	G	Y	H	A
P	C	R	H	N	I	T	X	O	D	M	U	J	V	S
J	X	I	I	Q	E	K	A	M	B	R	O	S	E	Q
X	O	G	H	L	S	C	N	C	Q	P	G	H	Z	Q
S	V	O	M	A	C	G	J	C	U	P	I	M	A	V
Y	T	R	G	L	M	H	F	Z	R	J	F	J	O	E

AMBROSE  
CATHERINE  
CYRIL  
DIONYSIUS  
EUSTATHIOS  
IGOR  
METHODIUS  
SERAPHIM



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