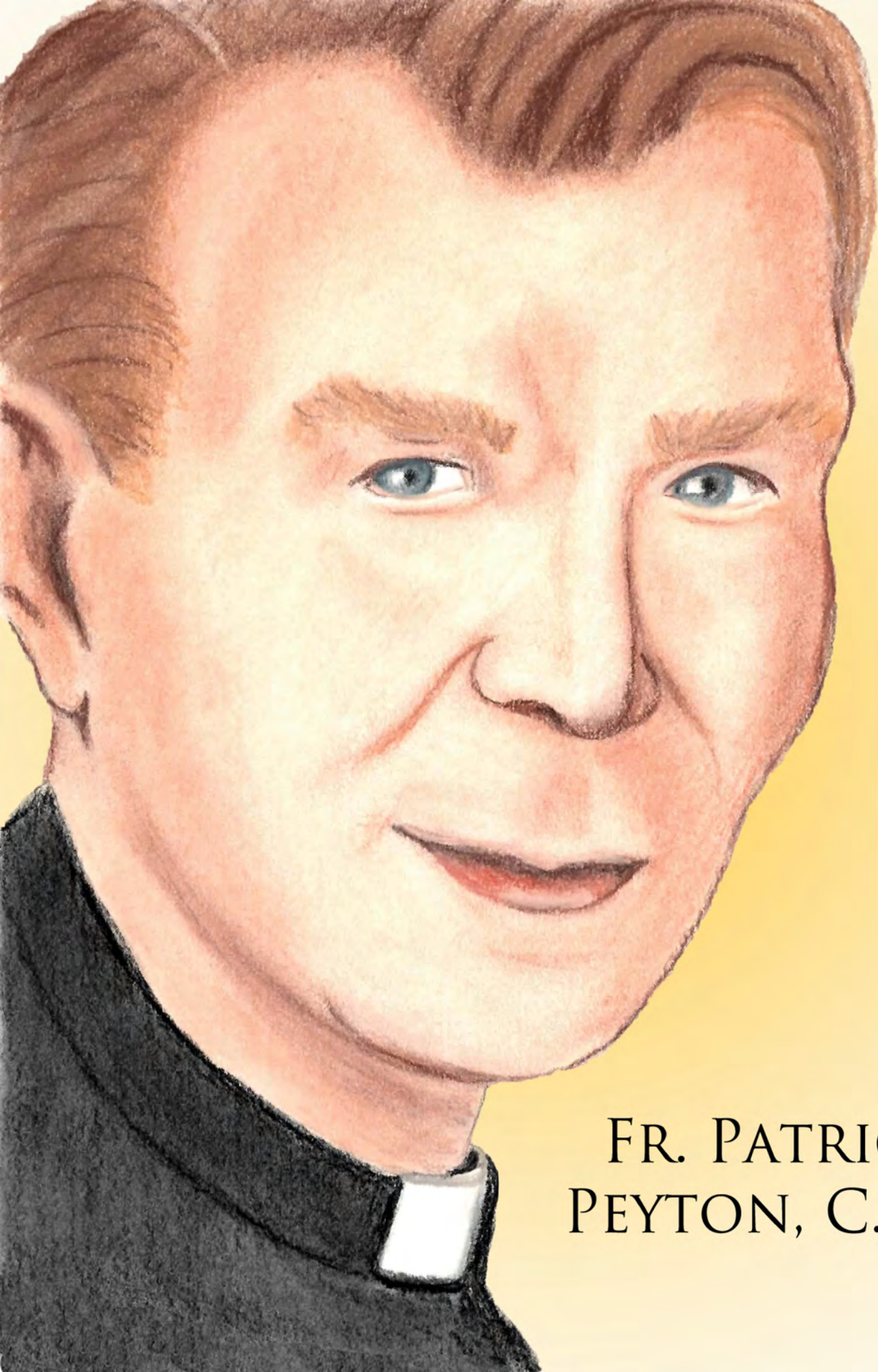


How does each Vocation:	Married Life	Committed Single Life	Priesthood	Religious Life
Know God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive the Sacrament of Matrimony Attend and participate in Mass every Sunday Read the Bible and pray as a couple and as a family Look for God's presence in their marriage and family life Grow in their relationship with their spouse and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend and participate in Mass every Sunday Read the Bible and pray Build Christian friendships and community with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders Pray and celebrate Mass Study the Bible and theology Look for God's presence in their ministry Make friendships with their brother priests Make friendships with people in other vocations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray and attend Mass with their community Read the Bible Read spiritual writings from their community Look for God's presence in their brothers or sisters in community Share graces of their ministry with their community Build community with their brothers and sisters in religious life Imitate Jesus who was poor, chaste, and obedient through their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
Love God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend time in prayer with God, especially for their spouse and children Grow in the spiritual life Selflessly love their spouse and children Make their home a "domestic church" where the faith is taught and lived Generously give to the Church what they have been blessed with Follow the commandments and Church teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend time in prayer with God Keep their hearts and bodies pure for God as celibates Grow in the spiritual life Consecrate or commit their lives to God in service of others, especially those most in need Follow the commandments and Church teaching Generously give to the Church what they have been blessed with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend time in prayer with God Grow in the spiritual life Invest their hearts and souls into their prayer and the celebration of the Sacraments Give up having their own family to make the Church their family Develop a love for those they serve Seek to do the will of God in all things Faithfully obey and assist their bishop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend time in prayer with God, alone and in community Grow in the spirituality of their community Devote their hearts completely to God Live their vows faithfully Love their brothers and sisters in community Give up having their own family to make their religious community their family Love those they minister to and meet
Serve God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sacrifices for their spouse and children Witness to their faith in their neighborhoods and jobs Use their gifts and talents from their jobs to help spread the Gospel Develop the gifts of the Spirit Serve in a ministry at their parish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sacrifices for others in need Witness to their faith in their neighborhoods and jobs Use their gifts and talents from their jobs to help spread the Gospel, especially to those who are poor or on the margins Develop the gifts of the Spirit Serve in ministries at their parish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve the People of God as good shepherds Proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments with joy Pray for those who ask for their prayers Respond generously to unplanned requests for the sacraments, visits to the sick, and counseling Share God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give their lives to God through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience Contribute to the mission of their community Carry out their assigned ministry faithfully Proclaim the Gospel through our word and action especially to those who are poor or on the margins Live in solidarity with those they serve
Make God Known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach their children the Catholic faith and make sure they receive their Sacraments Talk about God to their neighbors, co-workers, and families Live a life faithful to their vocation to marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk about God to their neighbors, co-workers and their families Support their friends in their faith journeys Serve as godparents and sponsors to others in the faith Live a life faithful to their vocation as a single person or celibate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister in persona Christi (in the person of Christ) in the Sacraments Preach the homily at Mass Proclaim the Gospel Prepare people to receive the Sacraments Teach the faith Help people apply the Scriptures to their lives Live a life faithful to their vocation as priest Continue the mission entrusted to the apostles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preach the gospel and share their faith Teach the faith in various settings, including schools Show God's love as our true wealth through poverty Show God's will as our true freedom through obedience Show God's love as our true love through chastity
Make God Loved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspire others through their love and unity as a family Invite others who have no family into their family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite their friends and families to go to Church with them Build Christian community with others Live a prayerful life as an example for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate the Sacraments and proclaim the Gospel with joy Unite Catholics in the community of the Church Present Scripture, Tradition, teachings of the Church in a way that reveal love of God Witness to God's mercy and love, especially in Confession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind people through the way they live that all the gifts of this world come from God Witness to our union possible in Christ through their religious community Build up the community of the Church by being brother and sister to their fellow Christians Reach out to those in need
Make God Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open their children to God's call in their lives and help them discern their vocations Volunteer in the wider community Assist other families in being faithful to God Encourage vocations among the youth so they may serve the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give generous service to their families Volunteer in the wider community Reach out to the poor and the needy Encourage vocations among the youth so they may serve the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the Church through their example and witness Call other Catholics into ministry in the Church Open the eyes of the faithful to the needs of others through their preaching Encourage young people to consider each of the four vocations, and assist them in discernment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live their vows in a way to point to our heavenly home Serve generously in various ministries Inspire others to serve through their generous service Invite others to share in their work in ministry Invite others to join them in the vocation to religious life Help others discern their vocations



FR. PATRICK
PEYTON, C.S.C.



PRIESTHOOD

FATHER PATRICK PEYTON, C.S.C.

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., was born January 9, 1909, in Ireland. He answered God's call to the priesthood and served as a Holy Cross priest for 51 years. He was known as the "Rosary Priest" because he encouraged people to pray the Rosary.

He held Rosary Rallies across the globe and at the time of his death Fr. Peyton had preached to more people – an estimated 28 million – than any other Catholic. He was known for his famous phrases: "The family that prays together stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace."

Fr. Peyton's family first nourished his faith. His parents were deeply religious. Fr. Peyton was one of nine children. At the age of 19, in 1928, he and his brother, left Ireland to come to America. Fr. Peyton settled in Pennsylvania, where he worked as a janitor at the Cathedral. It was at the Cathedral in the spring of 1929 that he first met priests of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Immediately, he felt called to join the congregation and be a missionary. That fall, on August 20, he and his brother, Tom, entered the seminary at the University of Notre Dame.

During his final year in the seminary, Fr. Peyton was diagnosed with tuberculosis. At this time there was no cure for the disease, but Fr. Peyton had great hope and prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary that he would get better. His prayers were answered, and he began improving, amazing his doctors. He was ordained on June 15, 1941, along with his brother. He credited his healing to the intercession of Mary.

To show thanks for his healing, Fr. Peyton spent his life teaching families to pray the Rosary. Peyton began the Family Rosary Crusade, getting volunteers to help him write letters to bishops asking for their help. Radio broadcasts of the Rosary followed.

Fr. Peyton had long dreamed of being a missionary, of going to foreign lands to help others come to know, love, and serve Jesus through his preaching and witness. In 1948, his dream came true! He began his work in Canada and then Ireland. Eventually, he traveled around the world hosting Rosary Rallies. His mission was to encourage family prayer and a deeper devotion to Mary.

Peyton used the media to spread his message and make God and Mary more known. His Rosary Rallies were broadcasted around the world on radio. He even convinced celebrities to lend their fame to the promotion of the Rosary through radio, television, and film. By the time of his death he had helped produce over 600 television and radio shows. He had also overseen the production of three feature-length films on the life of Christ.

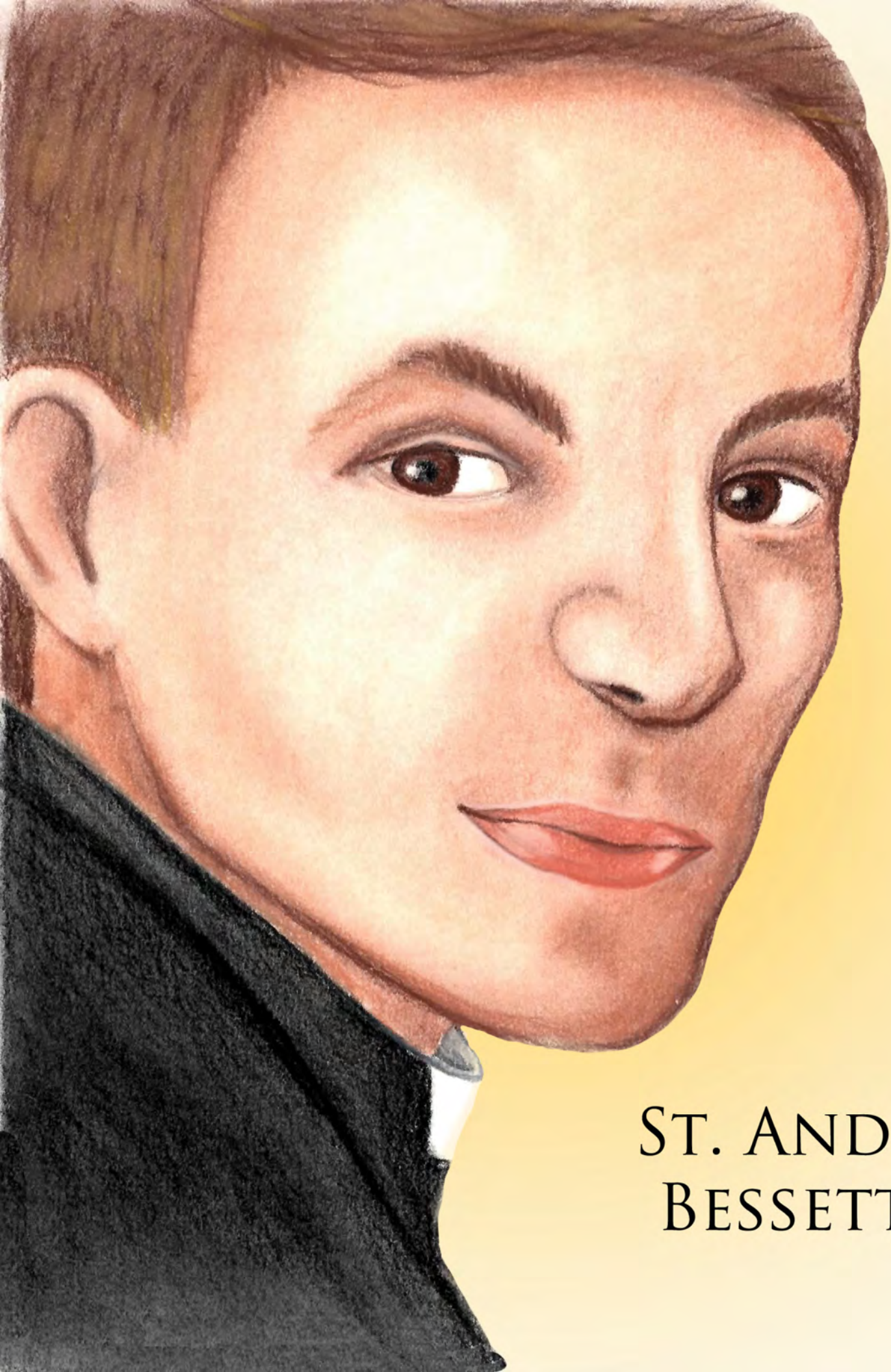
Fr. Peyton understood naturally what it means to be a man with hope to bring. He labored with the rich and the poor, the famous and the ignored, to promote prayer in our world. Many people came to know, love, and serve God more through him and his work. Fr. Peyton died on June 3, 1992, in Los Angeles, California.

In June of 2001 the formal Cause of Canonization was introduced at the Vatican. Fr. Peyton's example reminds us of the power of prayer, particularly through Mary's intercession.

**"The family
that prays
together stays
together."**

**-Fr. Patrick
Peyton, C.S.C.**





ST. ANDRÉ
BESSETTE



RELIGIOUS LIFE

SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE

Saint André was born Alfred Bessette in 1845 in Quebec, Canada. Alfred was orphaned by the time he was 12 years old. He was passed from family member to family member to care for him. Alfred received very little formal education, but he had a lively faith and a deep devotion to Saint Joseph.

Alfred felt God calling him to the religious life. His local pastor supported Alfred in his desire to enter religious life. The priest sent Alfred to a nearby community of Holy Cross brothers with a letter telling the superior, “I am sending you a saint.”

Despite the letter from Alfred’s pastor, the Congregation of Holy Cross did not accept him at first because of his poor health. He had been baptized right after birth because his family had been afraid that he might not live more than a few days. He was sickly all his life. Alfred, however, was not discouraged, and with the assistance of the Archbishop of Montreal, he eventually received entrance into the Holy Cross Novitiate on December 27, 1870.

When Alfred entered the Novitiate he took the name André. Religious brothers and sisters often take a new name when they enter religious life as a sign they are leaving their former way of life behind to live in a new way.

Brother André professed his First Vows on August 22, 1872. They are called “first vows” because it is the first time he professed vows, and they were temporary. This is a time to see if religious life is a good fit for the person. Religious take vows to help them live in a new way, more like Jesus did, and serve those in need. Because religious brothers do not have their own families, they are free to make all people, especially those in need, their families! On February 2, 1874, Brother André professed those vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience forever.

In 1871, Brother André was assigned as the doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, a post he held until 1909. He answered the door and did numerous other manual tasks in a spirit of humility, obedience, and love for others. Brother André often prayed with the poor and sick who he met at the door, usually instructing them to pray to Saint Joseph. Soon many miraculous healings were attributed to his prayers, and large crowds came to see him.

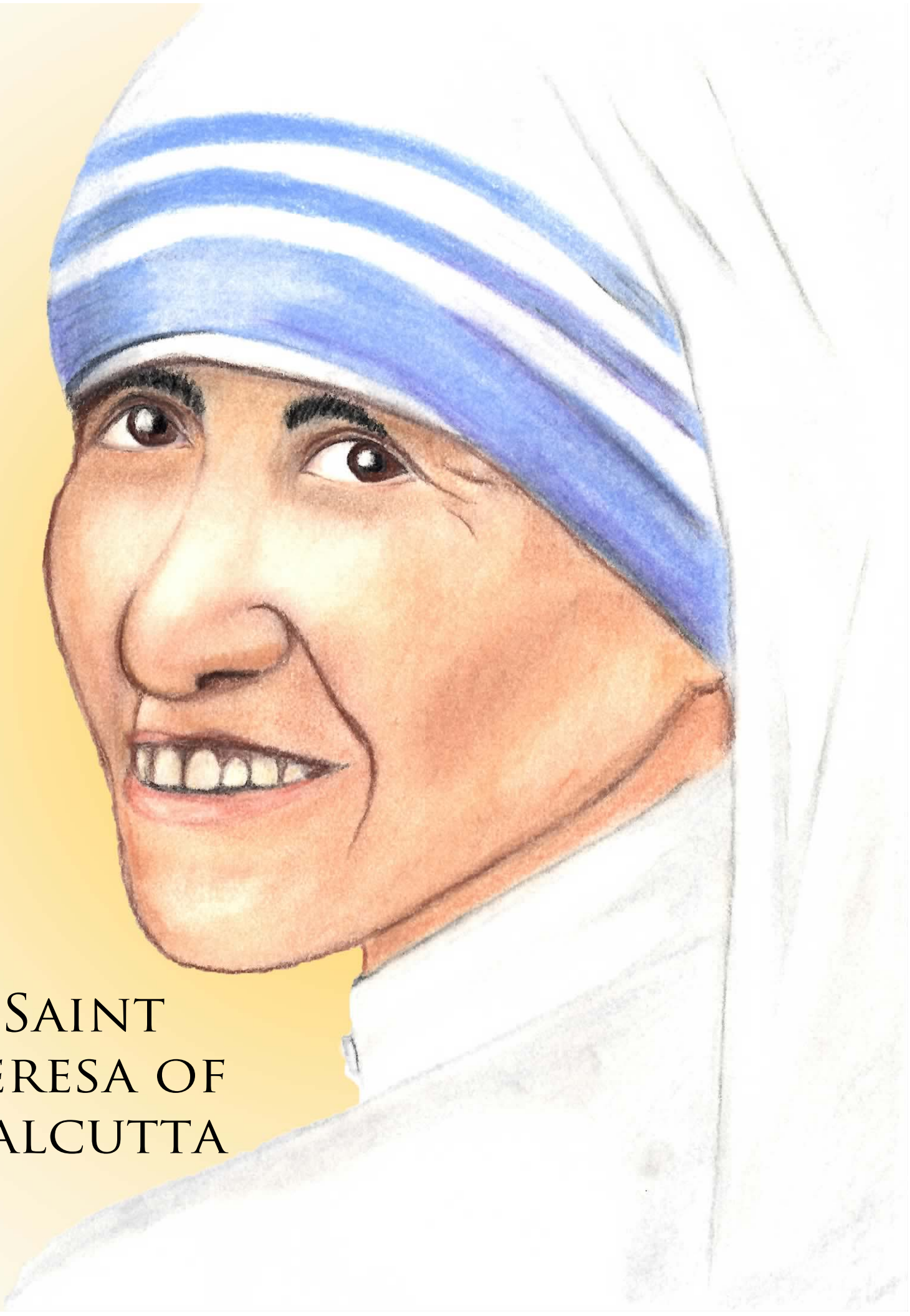
Brother André always had a strong devotion to Saint Joseph. He presented many sick visitors with medals of the saint and anointed them with oil that came from an oil lamp burning in the College’s chapel next to a Saint Joseph statue. In giving this oil to the sick, Brother André always insisted that the desired healing was the work of Saint Joseph and not himself. He promised to pray to God through Saint Joseph’s intercession. Brother André always insisted, “I am nothing ... only a tool in the hands of Providence, a lowly instrument at the service of Saint Joseph.”

Brother André died on January 6, 1937, at the age of 91. After his death an estimated one million people braved the bitter winter to pay their respects. On October 17, 2010, Saint André Bessette was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI and became first saint of the Congregation of Holy Cross. On this day, the Church recognized that God chose a very simple man for a remarkable life of making God known, loved, and served.

“It is with
the smallest
brushes
that the
artist paints
the best
paintings.”

-Saint André
Bessette





SAINT
TERESA OF
CALCUTTA



RELIGIOUS LIFE

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

St. Teresa of Calcutta, or Mother Teresa as she is still known by many, was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia. Her father was a well-respected businessman, and her mother was a very religious woman. As a child Agnes spent most of her free time involved in her parish. She loved the Church and felt God calling her to a special life within the Church. When Agnes was 18 years old, she left her home and moved to Ireland to join the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Loreto. On October 12, 1928, she entered the community, becoming what is called a “postulant.”

In 1929, after spending a year in Ireland and learning English, the Loreto Order sent Agnes to India. Upon her arrival, she entered the Novitiate in Darjeeling, at the base of the Himalayan Mountains. This is a special year of training or formation that all men and women who enter religious life go through before professing religious vows. Religious vows are like marriage vows in that they are promises people make to God to be true to their vocations.

Agnes professed first vows at the end of her Novitiate on May 24, 1931. At that time, Agnes chose the new name Teresa, after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. Religious sisters and brothers often choose new names as they enter religious life. These new names are a sign of their new way of life. This is why everyone knew Agnes as Mother Teresa.

On September 10, 1946, on a train journey from Calcutta to Darjeeling, St. Teresa received what she termed the “call within a call.” She felt God calling her to do more to help the poor around her. This calling eventually led her to create a new Order, the Missionaries of Charity, which is a congregation of religious sisters committed to serving the poor. On October 7, 1950, the new congregation was officially created in the Archdiocese of Calcutta.

St. Teresa’s goal was “to quench the infinite thirst of Jesus on the cross for love and souls” by “laboring at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor.” The work that St. Teresa and her sisters did was work that many others did not want to do, including comforting the dying, caring for the sick, and feeding the homeless. They lived and worked in the poorest parts of the city. They truly cared for the people who were forgotten by the world but not forgotten by God, and their service was a sign of God’s love for those people.

Throughout the following decades the Missionaries of Charity grew. The growth began in India, and then spread throughout the world – Europe, Africa, Australia, the Middle East, and North America. By 1997, the Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members. They had 600 foundations in 123 countries around the world.

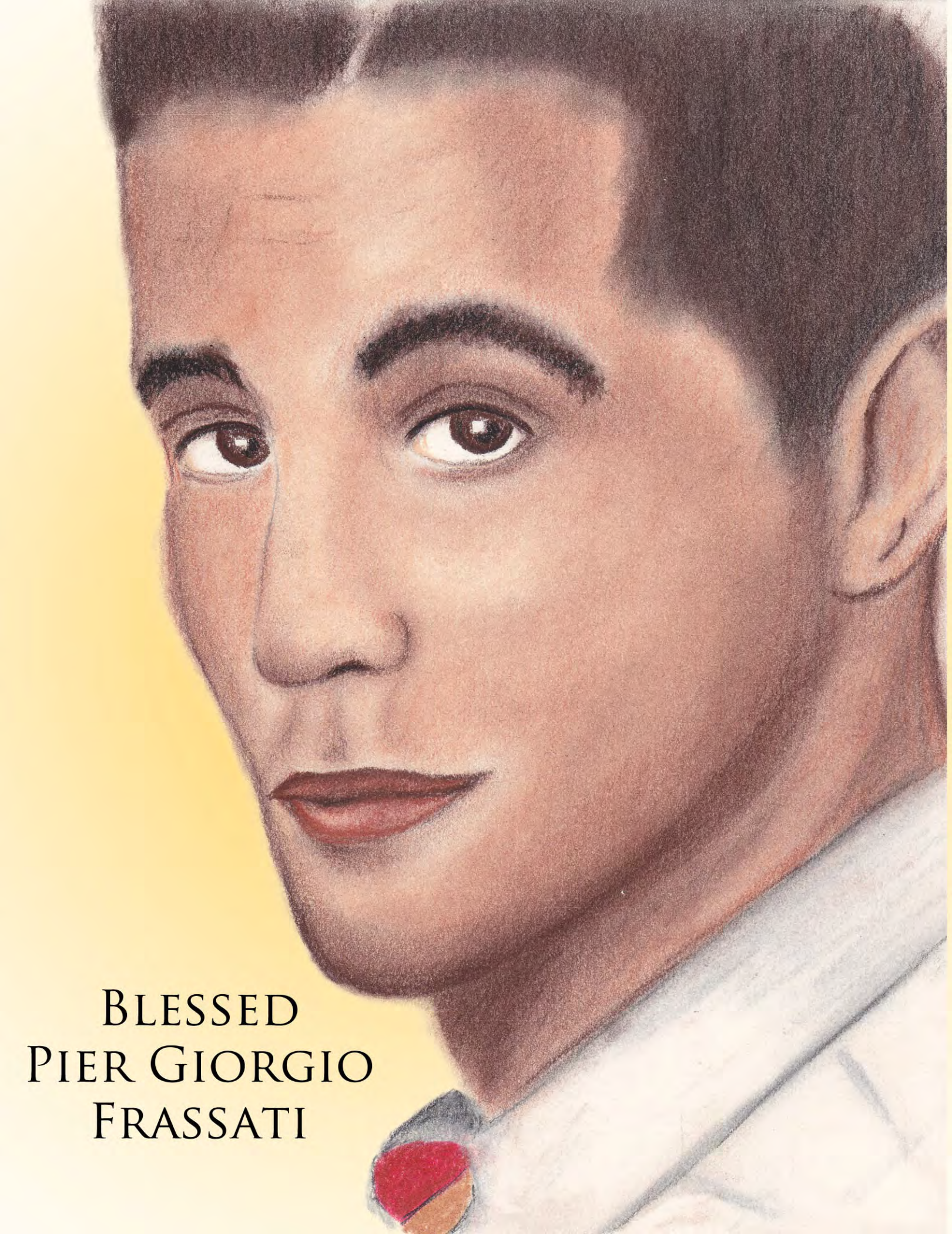
Despite increasing health problems and getting older, St. Teresa continued to travel and minister to the poor and needy. St. Teresa died on September 5, 1997, at the Missionaries of Charity’s Motherhouse in Calcutta, India. Hundreds of thousands of people from all classes and all religions, from India and around the world, came to pay their respects.

St. Teresa listened closely to God’s call, bravely answered it, and changed the world because of it. On October 19, 2003, Pope John Paul II beatified Mother Teresa, marking the first step in the journey towards sainthood. On September 5, 2016, Mother Teresa was canonized by Pope Francis.

“If you
can’t feed
a hundred
people, feed
just one.”

-Saint
Teresa of
Calcutta





BLESSED
PIER GIORGIO
FRASSATI



COMMITTED SINGLE LIFE

BLESSED PIERGIORGIO FRASSATI

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was born on April 6, 1901 in Turin, Italy. He came from a prominent family, as his father, Alfredo, was the founder and owner of a famous newspaper. He was also an influential man in politics. His mother, Adelaide Ametis, was a painter.

Even as a young boy, Pier Giorgio became known among his peers for his faith and devotion. He joined various prayer groups. He deeply loved the Holy Eucharist and obtained permission to receive Communion daily (which was uncommon at that time). He also had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At the age of 17, in 1918, Pier Giorgio joined the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, which works with the poor and the sick. He gave much of his free time to serving the needy, including caring for orphans, and helping the veterans returning from World War I.

Pier Giorgio's father was frugal and did not give him much spending money, but Pier Giorgio often gave the little he had to help the poor. At times, he even gave his bus fare to help someone in need, and he would have to run home to be on time for meals. Other times, he would return home without his sweater or his coat, having given it away to someone in need. He thought of others before he thought of himself. Pier Giorgio, however, did not only give what he had. He also gave of himself. Pier Giorgio often sacrificed vacations at the Frassati summer home in Pollone because, as he said, "If everybody leaves Turin, who will take care of the poor?"

Pier Giorgio loved art and music. He often went to the theater, to the opera, and to museums. Mountain climbing was one of his favorite sports. Trips to the mountains, which he organized, also served as opportunities to make God known, loved, and served among his friends. He never passed up the chance to lead his friends to Mass, to the reading of Scripture, and to pray the rosary. If they were going to spend time together hanging out, Pier Giorgio also believed they should spend time together coming to know, love, and serve God.

Pier Giorgio contracted poliomyelitis just before receiving his university degree. Doctors believed that he probably caught this disease from the sick for whom he cared. After six days of terrible suffering, he died on July 4, 1925, at the age of 24.

Even as Pier Giorgio was dying, his thoughts were for others who were poor and sick. The day before he died, he scribbled a message to a friend with a paralyzed hand, asking him to take the medicine needed for injections to a poor sick man. It was clear that Pier Giorgio saw as his family the poor, the sick, and the suffering of Turin.

From Pier Giorgio's funeral, it was clear that those in need in Turin saw him as family, too. The streets of the city were lined with people; they were the poor and the needy who Pier Giorgio had served so unselfishly for seven years. Many of them were surprised to learn that the young man they knew so well was from the influential Frassati family.

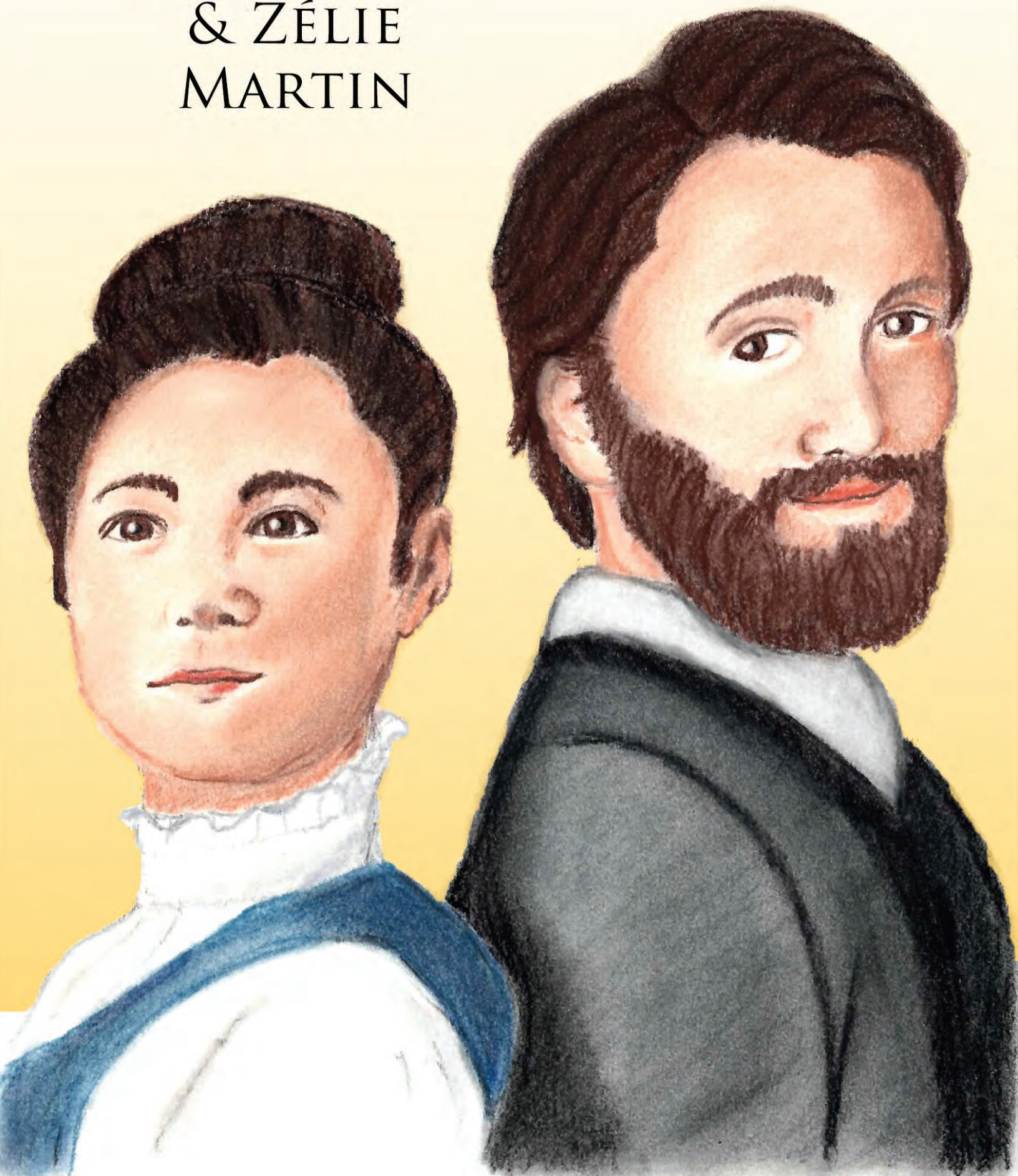
On May 20, 1990, in Saint Peter's Square in Rome, Pope John Paul II beatified Pier Giorgio Frassati, calling him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes."

"Jesus comes to me every morning in Holy Communion: I repay him in my very small way by visiting the poor."

-Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati



SAINTS LOUIS
& ZÉLIE
MARTIN





MARRIED LIFE

SAINTS LOUIS & ZÉLIE MARTIN

“Raise your eyes to your Holy Homeland, and on thrones of honor you will see a beloved Father ... a dear Mother ... to whom you owe your immense happiness !”

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is one of the most popular saints in the Catholic Church. She is often called the “Little Flower” because she taught about the beauty and importance of doing little things with great love for God. On the other hand, few people know Saint Louis and Saint Zélie Martin, yet without them, Saint Thérèse would not have become such a saint. Louis and Zélie Martin were Saint Thérèse’s father and mother. They were the ones who first taught Saint Thérèse of God’s love and how she could love God in her life.

Both Louis and Zélie had a deep love for God and wanted to serve Him with their lives. As a young man, Louis thought about being a priest, and Zélie dreamed of being a religious sister. Yet those were not the dreams that God had for their lives. Louis went on to become a master watchmaker, and Zélie became an expert lacemaker. They were both very good at their work.

Louis’ mother met Zélie at a lacemaking class, and she introduced her to her son. Very soon after meeting each other, they were married on July 13, 1858. Although they loved each other, this was not the only reason they got married. They got married because they also loved God. They realized that God wanted them to know, love, and serve Him in marriage. That was their vocation or their calling.

Soon Louis and Zélie had children of their own. They eventually had nine children total, although four of their children died when they were still young. With so many children and so much work, Louis and Zélie were very busy, but they tried hard not to let the things of this world distract them from God. They kept God and faith at the center of their marriage and their family. They prayed together as a family and even went to Mass during the week.

Louis and Zélie cared so much for their children. They wanted their children to know how much they loved them, but even more importantly they wanted them to know how much God loved them. At home, they taught their children about God and prayed with them. It was like their home became a little church. In fact, it was from her parents that Saint Thérèse learned about the “little way,” how to try “to please Jesus” in all things, even when things are tough.

Louis and Zélie’s love as parents and the way they faithfully lived out their vocation of marriage inspired their children to give their lives to God as well. Five of their daughters, including Thérèse, went on to become religious sisters.

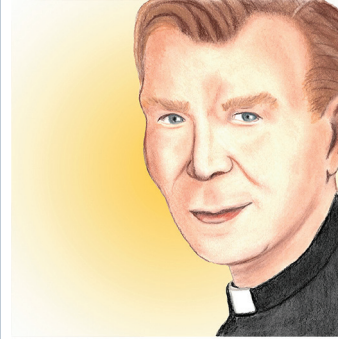
Zélie died of cancer on August 28, 1877. Her death was hard for Louis, who was left to care for the children who were still at home. Yet, he trusted in the support and prayers of his wife. He lived almost 17 more years, dying on July 29, 1894.

Pope Francis canonized Louis and Zélie on October 18, 2015, which means they are officially saints like their daughter Thérèse. The pope canonized them together, as a married couple, because it was in their marriage to each other that they grew closer to God and deeper in love. They did not become holy alone but together as husband and wife. As Saint Thérèse said about her parents, “God gave me a mother and father more worthy of heaven than of earth.”



Supplemental Materials on Sainly Models

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.



Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

Born: January 9, 1909

Died: June 3, 1992

Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley
opened the
Cause for Sainthood June 2001

Interesting Facts

- Growing up, Fr Peyton's family was poor, so everyone had to pitch in to earn money. One of Fr. Patrick's early jobs was to clean the local pub. His youthful imagination and joyfulness led to him being fired after he was found dancing with a broom instead of working.
- Fr. Peyton said about his father that "to see a man who lived totally what he believed left an impression on me even as a little child that nothing could erase."

Likely Student Questions:

Why did Fr. Peyton feel attracted to join the Congregation of Holy Cross?

Fr. Peyton grew up in a family with a great devotion to the Blessed Mother. The patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross is Mary under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows. That was one of the reasons that Fr. Peyton was attracted to the Congregation. He also wanted to be a missionary, and foreign missions were a big part of the work of Holy Cross.

What is a Rosary Rally or a Prayer Crusade?

Fr. Patrick started with weekend retreats at local parishes on the theme of the family rosary. They grew in popularity and then had to be transformed to meet the needs of the larger numbers. The rosary rallies were Family Rosary Crusades where people prayed the rosary together and listened to talks from different people, as well as testimonies of people witnessing to the power of prayer in their lives. Many of them drew thousands, even millions. They started in Canada, Ireland and in the United Kingdom. When they held the Family Rosary Crusade in San Fransisco, 500,000 attended. They then exapnded to Latin America and the Philippines where people came in the millions.

Who were some of the other famous people that Fr. Peyton worked with?

Fr. Peyton met and worked with many celebrities during his lifetime, including Bob Hope, Ronald Reagan (when he was an actor and before he was president), James Dean, and Helen Hayes. He also met St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II.

How did Fr. Peyton die?

He died peacefully with a rosary in hand.

Does the work of Fr. Peyton continue today?

Yes, the work of Fr. Peyton continues today through the work of Holy Cross Family Ministries and Family Theater Productions in Hollywood. They continue to produce videos and other media on the rosary and family prayer. They also continue to host rosary rallies and do other promotions to expand family prayer and devotion to Mary.

Interesting Facts Continued

- Growing up, the family said the rosary every night together.
- Fr. Peyton's first national radio program on the New York based Mutual Broadcasting System was the biggest following they had had at that time (May 13, 1945).
- The Family Theater Productions was born of this success. The radio program ran for 22 years.

Discussion Questions:

Could Fr. Peyton have been able to also serve the Lord as a janitor at St. Joseph's Cathedral?

Absolutely! We are able to serve God in many ways. We need to offer our daily works, joys, and sufferings to Him so that all we say and do may lead others to the knowledge of God's love and to build the kingdom by making God known, loved, and served in their own way.

What talents or abilities might Fr. Peyton have had to share that best served God in the priesthood?

Clearly through his accomplishments, God saw Fr. Peyton's ability to inspire and to draw together a movement like no other. Imagine if Fr. Peyton had been too scared to join the priesthood. How many opportunities to make God known, loved, and served would have been missed by his lack of faith? Fr. Peyton's belief in prayer, his belief in Mary's intercession, and his belief in God's love enabled so many people to grow in their faith and their love for God.

How could Fr. Peyton avoid becoming prideful working with so many famous people?

Fr. Peyton often attributed his success to the Blessed Mother and her intercession. He continued to pray the rosary daily, and he also prayed in many other ways. His prayer life helped him to continue to see that God was the source of the fruitfulness of his ministry.

Supplemental Materials on Sainly Models

St. André Bessette



St. André Bessette

Born: August 9, 1845

Died: January 6, 1937

Canonized by
Pope Benedict XVI
October 17, 2010

Interesting Facts

- St. André did not know how to read or write until he was twenty five years old, but even though he had little formal education, he became a “great educator in the faith” as he was able to teach many people how to pray.
- After he learned to read, he read the lives of the saints and also memorized the Passion of Our Lord in all four Gospels.

Likely Student Questions:

What happened to his parents?

When St. André was six years old, his father was killed in a “lumbering accident.” Four years later, his mother contracted tuberculosis and had to give all of her twelve children (except for the sickly St. André) up for adoption. She went to live with her sister and died two years later. St. André was twelve years old when he became an orphan.

If he was born in Canada, why did he spend time working in New England? How did he end up down there and why did he go back to Canada?

St. André was never very strong and was seemingly always sick. He had trouble holding down a job because of his health. When he was eighteen years old, he went to the United States in search of a milder climate and better employment. He also had extended family in the area.

Why did the priest think that “Alfred” was a saint? What did he do?

Fr. André Provencal, the parish priest of St. André’s childhood parish, was the one who prepared St. André for his first communion and was witness to St. André’s desire for prayer and his closeness to Jesus. He knew that despite his frailty, St. André with his great love for God could do many things to make God known, loved, and served.

Why did the college need a full-time doorkeeper?

Much like we have greeters or front office secretaries to direct concerns in our school, St. André was able to take care of the smaller tasks at the college so that the other individuals on the school staff could teach.

Where does his connection to St. Joseph come in? Why was he so attached to St. Joseph?

Fr. André, St. André’s childhood priest and the one for whom St. André chose his religious name, is the one who instilled in St. André a love of St. Joseph. Having St. Joseph as a second father helped St. André after he had lost his own father at an early age. It is similar to how Pope John Paul II took Mary as his mother after his own mother died.

(Continued ...)

Interesting Facts Continued

- St. Joseph's Oratory is taller than the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and can hold inside of it St. Paul's in London (which is the biggest church in England). It is also the largest shrine dedicated to St. Joseph in the world.
- Not only was St. André the first canonized saint in the Congregation of Holy Cross, but he was also the first male Canadian-born canonized saint in the Church.

Likely Student Questions Continued:

Was St. André popular because of his healing powers?

Over a million people came to St. André's funeral, and so it is clear that many people knew about him. Yet, from the beginning of the healings, St. André did not always find acceptance, both in his own religious congregation and in the wider community. Some people thought he was a fake and dangerous; others thought he was prideful. It was not easy for St. André to be the instrument of God's miraculous healing power.

What is an oratory?

An oratory is a special chapel that is set aside for Mass and prayer. Often it is a site of pilgrimage, to which people travel to offer prayers.

Discussion Questions:

Even from simple beginnings, St. André became a widely known person. What do you think drew people to him? What made them want to bring their problems to him?

Certainly, some people were drawn to St. André because God had chosen him as an instrument of his miraculous healing power, but not everyone who came to St. André experienced a miraculous physical healing. Those people still came to St. André because they found in him a humble, prayerful religious brother who would listen to their problems and ills and help them discover God's love for them. For many, coming to know God's love for them was a miracle itself!

St. André was a very humble person. How do you think God was able to use Saint André's humility to help serve in God's plan for us?

If St. André were an ambitious man, he would have been too focused on personal achievement and getting into "bigger" positions, instead of really living his own vocation to the best of his ability. Instead of constantly looking to be someone else, he was able to be who God made him to be, with his strengths and his weaknesses. In this way, he was able to achieve far more than most "ambitious" people could.

Why did God choose St. André to be such a miraculous healer?

St. André was always the first to say he was not the one who was healing the people who came to him. He said it was St. Joseph and God who was healing them.

(Continued ...)

Discussion Questions Continued:

Certainly, St. André's humility was part of the reason God was able to work through him, but God probably also chose St. André to make Himself known, loved, and served in this way because St. André himself had suffered so much from his birth. From his own sufferings, he could really relate to those who suffered. Sharing in their pain, he could help give that pain to God so that God could transform it.

Supplemental Materials on Sainly Models

Saint Teresa of Calcutta



Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Born: August 26, 1910

Died: October 19, 2003

Canonized by
Pope Francis
September 5, 2016

Interesting Facts

- One of her famous quotes is: “We can do no great things, only small things with great love.”
- St. Teresa was fluent in five languages.
- In 1979, St. Teresa received the Nobel Prize for Peace.

Likely Student Questions:

How many siblings did she have?

She was the youngest of five children born to her parents, but only three survived – her older sister, older brother, and herself.

Why did she go to Ireland to join an order?

She was intrigued by the missions, and the Sisters of Loretto were known for their missionary work in India. She also went there to learn English.

Couldn't it be said that she just joined the convent to get away from a hard life?

Life as a religious sister is extremely difficult. No one can read the story of her life and say that it became easier for St. Teresa after she joined religious life.

What is a postulant?

A postulant is someone seeking entrance into a religious order or someone who is spending time with an order to determine if it is truly his or her vocation.

Why did she get sent to India?

That was one of the places where the Sisters of Loretto had a novitiate, which is special year of training for people living the vocation of religious life. She went there for novitiate because she wanted to work in India. She was sent to do her training where she was going to work.

Why is it called a “medium” school?

It is a school where English is used as the “medium of instruction.” There are many areas where English is not the first language of the students, and yet the school’s classes are taught in English.

Can anyone start a religious congregation?

The Holy Spirit can move any person in the Church to found a new religious congregation, but as in the case of St. Teresa, that person must receive permission from the Church, which comes usually from the local bishop, to begin the community.

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Likely Student Questions Continued:

What kind of health problems did she have?

Starting in 1983, when she was 73, she had multiple heart attacks, pneumonia, malaria, and a broken collarbone (one year before her death).

Why did she choose those countries to open new communities?

Perhaps she felt that was where there was the most need and where she felt the Spirit calling them to serve. For example, her community came to the United States, even though it was the richest country in the world materially. St. Teresa said it was poor spiritually as a result of its material wealth.

Discussion Questions:

Imagine leaving your family, your first language, your country, and your culture just to follow a “call” or a feeling that you are doing what God wants of you. What kind of faith or courage would that take?

St. Teresa must have been a very prayerful person to be able to have the faith and trust in God to embark on such an adventure. Only in frequent conversation with God can we come to know His voice and hear His call.

How many of you have thought, “That’s too hard. God wouldn’t want that of me ...”? Or: “I just don’t feel like I can. God will understand...”? How does this compare to the giant choices that St. Teresa made?

Frequently! We are programmed to justify our actions – one more cookie won’t hurt ... – and to strive for comfort. Catholicism is counter-cultural and encourages us to practice discipline and to challenge ourselves for the sake of building God’s kingdom by making God known, loved, and served.

Imagine feeling as if you have followed your call and you are living your vocation, only to be called to a different way of serving in that vocation. In what way could that be confusing? How could that be an extra challenge?

It would be very confusing as we sometimes consider our discernment about what God’s will is for us to be over once we “discover our vocation.”

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Discussion Questions Continued:

St. Teresa had already joined an order. For her to take another scary, giant step seems like an unexpected challenge. In these times, it is important to remember our vocation is more about who God is calling us to be, rather than what God is asking us to do. What we do might change many times within the course of our vocations.

What is it that could have driven St. Teresa on to serve so generously and tirelessly, despite many obstacles? Do you think you have the same kind of drive? Could you?

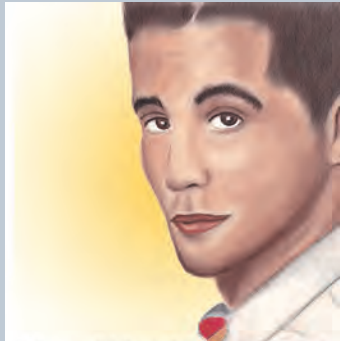
St. Teresa had great determination, faith, and a strong prayer life. She and her sisters used to measure distances by rosaries. For example, it might take them three rosaries to get to the city center from their home. They also spent a set time in prayer daily. They could not go out to serve others if they did not know for whom they were serving. If we are to have the same drive to serve, we must have the same personal relationship with Jesus by coming to know and love Him.

How does St. Teresa's life show that one person's choice to be faithful to God can impact so many others in bringing them closer to God?

Like Mary, St. Teresa said "yes" to each of God's calls to serve those in greatest need, so many people were helped. She was able to be the driving force and the conduit of God's grace, mercy, and love in the world. She inspired many others to know, love, and serve God in religious life.

Supplemental Materials on Sainly Models

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati



Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Born: April 6, 1901

Died: July 4, 1925

Beatified by
Pope John Paul II
May 20, 1990

Interesting Facts

- Although Blessed Pier Giorgio was a serious student, he was not a “straight- A” student. He sometimes struggled in school and needed to even switch schools at one point because of his struggles.
- He loved his family’s dogs.
- So widely recognized was his holiness that the cause for his canonization was opened in 1932, only seven years after his death.

Likely Student Questions:

Did Blessed Pier Giorgio really get into fights? Like fist fights?

They were more like skirmishes. During one “church-organized demonstration” against Fascism, there was some violence from the authorities. Blessed Pier Giorgio came to the aid of a fellow protester and was able to fend off the blows from the police with the banner they were carrying.

What is the deal with the “Third Order” and the “Tertiary Order”?

The term “third order” is in reference to religious orders. Usually the first order are professed men and women (depending upon the order) who have taken vows and become religious priests, religious brothers, or religious sisters. The second order is composed usually of contemplatives who are associated with the first order. The third order is composed of lay men and women who do not take religious vows but have a special relationship with the order, seeking to live out its spirituality and charism in their own daily lives and vocations.

What other ways was Blessed Pier Giorgio involved in the Church?

How else did he try to serve those in need?

Blessed Pier Giorgio was also a part of Catholic Action, which was a group of Catholics that came together to work in society and politics on issues of social justice. It was a group guided by the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church. It sought not just to alleviate poverty, but make wider structural changes as well that would help end poverty and other injustices. He was also a part of Pax Romana, which sought to bring students together to promote peace.

What is Poliomyelitis?

Poliomyelitis is more commonly known as polio or infantile paralysis. It is an acute viral disease that is spread from person to person. As in the case of Blessed Pier Giorgio, it can be a deadly disease, but vaccines developed in the 1950s have almost eradicated the disease.

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Interesting Facts Continued

- Fifty-six years after his death and burial, his remains were “exhumed and found to be perfectly intact and incorrupt.”

Discussion Questions:

Blessed Pier Giorgio seemed like he was loved by his family, he had friends, he was an active person, and he really spoke freely about his faith and acted upon it. What do you think prevents us from really speaking freely about our faith? Or acting on it?

There might be many reasons why, including peer pressure and societal norms. We don't see others speaking freely about their faith, so it may be strange for us. We are taught by the world around us that faith is something to be kept personal, not something to be shared so that God might be known, loved, and served by others.

The time he spent doing works of charity and acts of service, Blessed Pier Giorgio could have been doing other things. What are some things we consider to be more important to do apart from service? What are some things that we could choose not to do so that we could spend a little bit of time in service of others?

There again might be many things that we do that for ourselves, like playing video games, listening to music, surfing the Internet, and watching TV. It is not that we cannot spend time enjoying life, as Blessed Pier Giorgio showed, as he had many favorite free time activities. The key is also to find time to devote to know, love, and serve God, especially in the poor.

Blessed Pier Giorgio died at such a young age, so what sort of impact do you think his life can have?

Even though he died young, Blessed Pier Giorgio already had made a big impact in his short life. He is only one of many canonized saints who died very young, such as Blessed Laura Vicuna and St. Francis Xavier. They remind us that it does not take a lot of time to become a saint; we just have to do each day what God is asking us to do right now. In fact, there are Frassati Societies around the world now in which young people take their inspiration from Blessed Pier Giorgio to try to be the saints of today.

Supplemental Materials on Sainly Models

Saints Louis & Zélie Martin



Saints Louis & Zélie Martin

Louis Born: August 22, 1823

Zélie Born: December 23, 1831

Married: July 13, 1858

Louis Died: July 29, 1894

Zélie Died: August 28, 1877

Canonized by
Pope Francis
October 18, 2015

Interesting Facts

- Zélie (pronounced: Zeh-lee) was a member of the Third Order of the Poor Clares.
- Zélie died from cancer when she was only 46 years old. Louis then moved the family to Lisieux to be by family (which is how Therese was able to be named St. Therese of Lisieux).
- The Mass during the week that they went to started at 5:30 am.

Likely Student Questions:

Did all the sisters go into the same convent?

No, four of the sisters became Carmelites, but one was a Visitation nun.

If they were that religious, why didn't Saint Louis or Saint Zélie enter the religious life?

Before marriage, Zélie wanted to become a nun. The novice master told her that she did not have a vocation for it. Louis wanted to join the Hermitage of the Great Saint Bernard of the Canons Regular of Saint Augustine, but was turned away based on his lack of knowledge of Latin. Yet, both of them saw that they could also aspire to holiness and give their lives in making God known, loved, and served as a married couple in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Was it difficult for Louis after his wife died?

Yes, Louis struggled after his wife had died, just like many married people can struggle when they lose their spouse. He was able to find help and support from other family members and the Church.

Discussion Questions:

Besides prayer, what might some of the daily habits of the Martin family have been?

Many of the family's daily habits were similar to other families, including playing together, doing their studies, completing their chores, etc. These are all normal things but done in love, they can become acts of service for others and for God.

Do you think the siblings ever fought?

Siblings, even ones who love each other, will always have differences of opinions. The difference in the Martin household might have been how those discussions looked. Arguing with respect and love is very different from trying to hurt the other person. In a prayerful, loving family, sometimes the arguments take on a less hurtful form.

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Discussion Questions Continued:

Saints Louis & Zélie were very spiritual people on their own before they met each other. How do you think that their spirituality and their prayerful practices affected their marriage, their children, and their life at home?

Good habits begin with the individual. A person should not expect that all of his or her habits will magically change when they marry. Since Saints Louis and Zélie had already formed good, prayerful habits, they were more likely to be able to support the other if one faltered.

This personal and paired commitment to prayer would have spilled over to their children. They created a house where prayer and belief in God were the strong undercurrent in all things. In this way, Saints Louis and Zélie were able to foster in their children the gift of faith. This, in turn, creates a family environment that cannot be artificially manufactured. Only through the personal discipline of prayer can one hope to encourage faith in others.

Scriptures for Reflection

Old Testament

- Genesis 12:1-9** **Call of Abram:** The Lord said to Abram: “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you. “I will make of you a great nation, ...”
- Genesis 22:1-19** **The Testing of Abraham:** God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, “Abraham!” “Ready!” he replied. Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust ...”
- Exodus 3:1-12** **Call of Moses:** There an angel of the Lord appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. When the Lord saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, “Moses! Moses!” He answered, “Here I am.” ...
- 1 Samuel 3:1-10** **Call of Samuel:** ... When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel answered, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” ...
- 1 Kings 19:11-13** **God in a whisper:** After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, “Elijah, why are you here?” ...
- Isaiah 43:1-7** **Reassurance to Isaiah:** O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. ...
- Jeremiah 1:1-10** **Call of Jeremiah:** The word of the Lord came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations ...

New Testament

- Matthew 4:18-22** **Call of the first disciples:** As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ...
- Matthew 14:22-33** **Peter walking on water:** Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. ...
- Matthew 16:24-28** **Call of discipleship:** Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ...”
- Matthew 19:16-30** **Call of a rich young man:** “Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?” He answered him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ...
- Matthew 26:36-46** **Agony in the Garden:** Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ... Remain here and keep watch with me.” He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.” ...

Scriptures for Reflection

New Testament Continued

- Mark 4:35-41** **Calming of the Storm:** A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. ...
- Luke 1:26-56** **Call of Mary:** The angel Gabriel was sent from God ... to the virgin Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." ... Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." ...
- Luke 5:27-32** **Call of Levi:** After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him. ...
- Luke 9:57-62** **Call of Discipleship:** As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." ...
- Luke 22:1-38** **The Last Supper:** Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. For who is greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves. ...
- John 1:35-51** **Call of first disciples:** The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. ...
- John 15:9-17** **Call of Fruitfulness:** As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ...
- John 21:15-19** **Call to Love by Feeding the Sheep:** Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ...
- Acts 8:26-40** **Call of Philip to Evangelize Ethiopian:** The Spirit said to Philip, "Go and join up with that chariot." Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ...
- Acts 9:1-19** **Call of Saul:** He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ...
- Romans 8:28-39** **The Inseparable Love of God:** We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ...
- 1 Cor 12:4-11** **Spiritual Gifts:** There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; ...
- Phil 3:8-14** **Focus on Christ:** More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. ...

The above Scripture verses are quoted from the New American Bible.