

Saint Catherine Labouré, D.C.



Simplicity

Supernatural Visions

Silence

Patience

Humility

The stuff of Sainthood



The fact that Saint Catherine rested her hands on the lap of the Blessed Mother did not make her a saint.

She personally worked no miracles, nor did she practice externally heroic charity like other great saints.

The makings of a Saint



She was not materially poor as were the children of Fatima and Saint Bernadette... she sprang from upper middle class parents among the meadows and vineyards of Burgundy, France.

Consistent, faithful service



Her sanctity consists in half a century of faithful service as a simple Daughter of Charity.

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble...”



It had been almost 300 years since the last apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531. It is interesting that the Holy Mother of God began her plans with a 24-year-old novice in the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity.

From the start, consistently faithful



As a teenager, Catherine had arisen every morning at 4:00 a.m. and walked several miles to church in order to assist at Mass, and to pray.

Mother of Our Lord, and our Mother



When Catherine was nine years old, her mother died. After the burial service, little Catherine went to her room, stood on a chair, took our Lady's statue from the wall, kissed it, and said: "Now, dear Lady, you are to be my mother."

God's Revelations



From ancient times, God has relayed His messages through the power of the Holy Spirit, to His chosen servants by visions and dreams.

From "The Vision of Daniel"
painting by Willem Drost

An old priest with a message



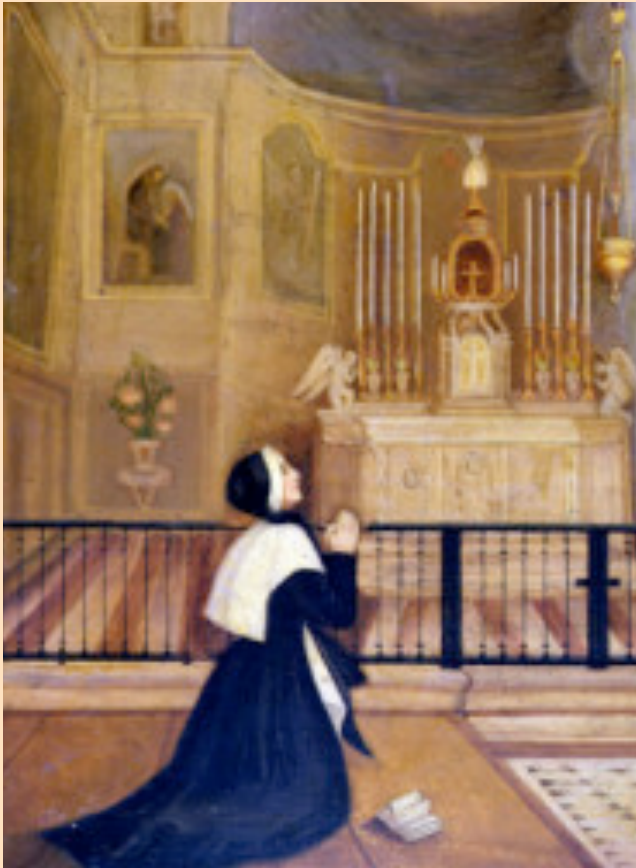
One day Catherine had a dream in which she watched an old priest say Mass. The vision moved to a sick room where she saw the same priest, who said: "My child, it is a good deed to look after the sick [...] God has designs on you-- do not forget it."

Astonishing realization



Sometime later, while visiting a hospital of the Daughters of Charity, she noticed a priest's picture on the wall. She asked a sister who he might be, and was told: "Our Holy Founder Saint Vincent de Paul." This was the same priest that Catherine had seen in the dream!

Extraordinary visions



In 1830, Catherine entered the Seminary at the Mother House of the Daughters of Charity. Shortly afterwards, God granted her several amazing visions. Three times she beheld the heart of St. Vincent above the reliquary in which his relics were exposed. At other times, she beheld our divine Lord in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Apparitions of Mary



Her first apparition of the Blessed Virgin was on July 19, 1830. She reappeared to Catherine on November 27, 1830, and said, "Have a medal struck in this form (which she described in detail). All who wear it will have great graces." Because of the power working through it, it came to be called the "Miraculous Medal".

Patience in the face of skepticism



When Catherine asked how she was to have the medal struck, Mary told her to go to her confessor, a Father Jean Marie Aladel. Father Aladel at first did not believe Catherine.

Waiting for two years



After two years' worth of investigation and observation of Catherine's normal daily behavior, the priest finally went to the archbishop, without revealing Sister Catherine's identity. The Archbishop listened carefully and questioned Fr. Aladel in detail, and finally gave his permission for two thousand medals to be made.

Miraculous spread of the devotion



When Catherine received her share of these first medals from the hands of the priest she said: "Now it must be propagated."

The spread of a devotion to the medal, urged by Saint Catherine, was carried out so swiftly that it was miraculous itself.

Humility



We might expect that praise and prominence would be the lot of one so favored by heaven. But Catherine sought none of it; rather, she fled from it. She wanted to be left alone to carry out her humble duties as a Daughter of Charity.

Forty-six year silence



Sister Catherine lived her remaining years as an ordinary nursing sister. For over forty years, she cared for the aged and infirm, not revealing to those about her that she had been the recipient of our Lady's medal. (She has sometimes been called "The Silent Saint".)

Catherine finally reveals her story



In 1876, Catherine began to feel a spiritual conviction that she would die before the end of the year. Mary Immaculate gave Catherine leave to speak, to break the silence of forty-six years. To her Sister Superior, Catherine revealed the fact that she was the sister to whom the Blessed Mother appeared.

Catherine reunited with Mary in heaven



On December 31, 1876, Saint Catherine passed on-- once again to the hands of Mary-- this time, however, in heaven. At the time of her death, very few people knew that Catherine was the one who brought the Miraculous Medal to the world.

[More at the Vincentian Encyclopedia](#)

Source

“The Story of St. Catherine”

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