



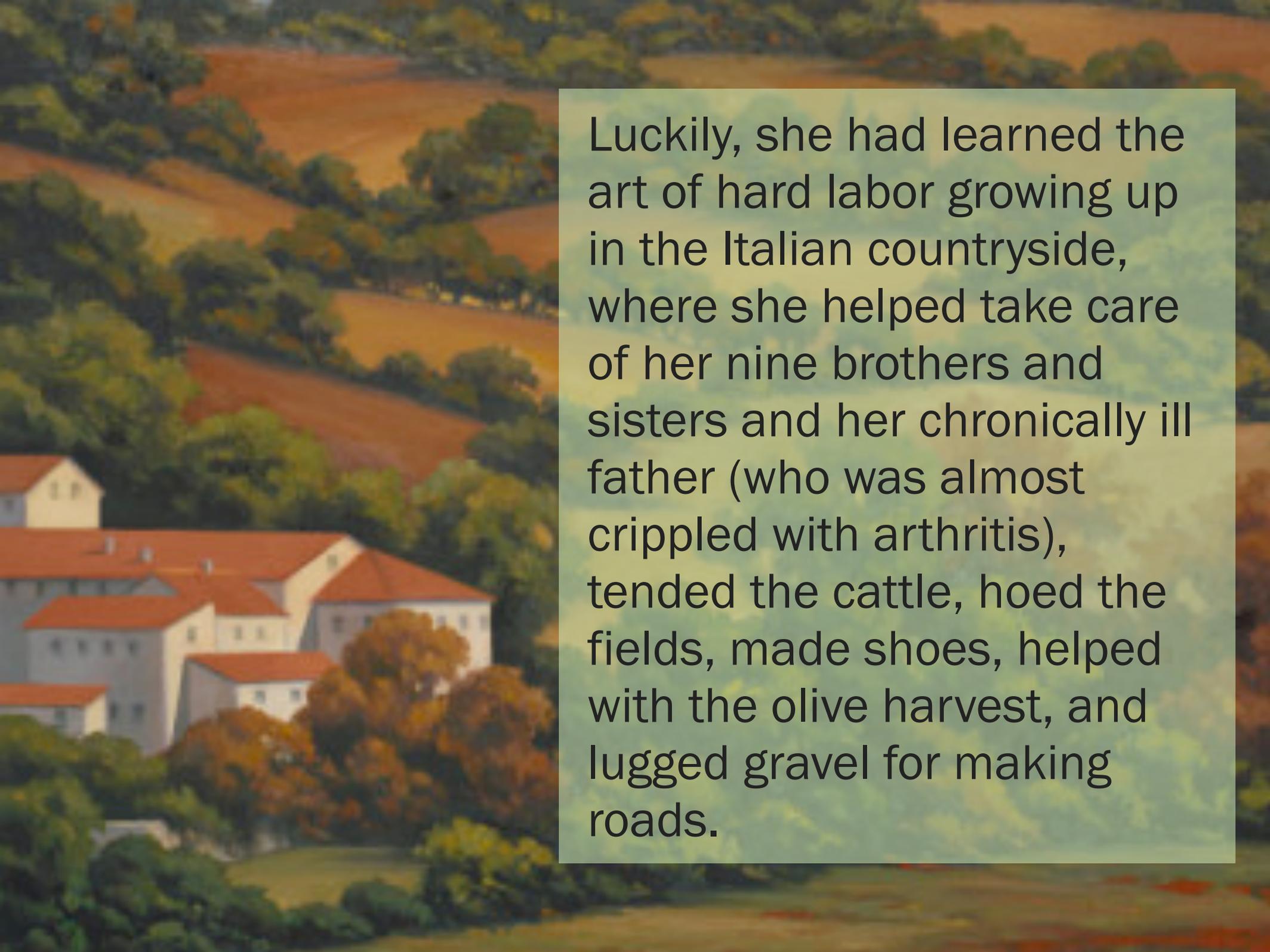
St. Agostina Pietrantoni

who set an example for us by loving Christ in all that she did

Suora della Carità
di Santa Giovanna Antida Thouret



Agostina was a Sister of Charity,
and she worked in the tubercular
ward of the Santo Spirito hospital
in Rome.

A painting of a village in the Italian countryside. The scene features rolling hills with patches of green trees and brownish-orange fields. In the foreground, a cluster of white buildings with red-tiled roofs is visible, including a prominent church with a white dome. The overall atmosphere is warm and pastoral.

Luckily, she had learned the art of hard labor growing up in the Italian countryside, where she helped take care of her nine brothers and sisters and her chronically ill father (who was almost crippled with arthritis), tended the cattle, hoed the fields, made shoes, helped with the olive harvest, and lugged gravel for making roads.

Although leaving her family behind to join the convent made her cry, her love for Christ compelled her, and she entered religious life at age 21.





When she was assigned to work at the hospital in Rome, her challenges only increased. The state authorities had tried to secularize the hospital: they had removed all crucifixes and forbidden the sisters from speaking about God with their patients (so Sr. Agostina had to let her actions do her talking).



Then she contracted tuberculosis, though she recovered after receiving viaticum. From then on, she asked to work in the tubercular ward, so she wouldn't infect the other sisters.

The tubercular ward was the most difficult. The majority of patients were men, and criminals at that. They spat at her, insulted her, and even beat her, but she continued serving them, undaunted.



Her lesson for us was that she had a deep prayer life, but it wasn't separate from her activity. Her whole life formed a seamless act of love to Christ. For instance, she would write little notes to the Blessed Virgin and "mail" them by putting them behind a picture of Mary near her ward. They were prayers for her patients, e.g. "Most Holy Lady, convert that wretched man whose obstinate heart I am not able to change, and I promise to do two or three extra night duties in your honor." That was her attitude.

Everything she did had one, unifying purpose: to glorify God and save souls. And that gave her peace, courage, and boundless energy. (She once commented to the sisters, “We will lie down for such a long time after death that it is worthwhile to keep standing while we are alive. Let us work now; one day we will rest.”)





Reflection Questions

Do you have a lot to do, or is your schedule overloaded as Sr. Agostina's was?

Can you find a unifying principle for all your activities?

Why is it important to offer all your work for the love of Christ?



Source: catholic.net

For more about St. Agostina, visit

<http://vinformation.famvin.org/door-of-faith-st-agostina-pietrantonio/>

