

- Jesus light our way on our faith journey. Be our guide, our joy and our

hope, as we learn, live, love and pray together

St. Catherine Labouré

1806 - 1876

Zoe Labouré, was born at Burgundy in France as the bells of the Angelus sounded. She was the ninth of eleven children of Peter and Louise Labouré, When Zoe was just nine years old her mother died. Zoe was her father's favourite and he depended on her, so she devoted her time to helping him to run the farm and look after the family. When she was twelve, she received her First Holy Communion. From that day on she got up at 4:00 am every morning and walked many miles to church to attend Mass. When Zoe was 24, she became a Sister of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and took the name of Catherine.

Catherine had a vision of Our Lady soon after joining the convent. Later on, in another vision, the Blessed Mother showed herself standing on a globe with streams of light coming from her hands. Underneath were the words: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who turn to thee!" The Virgin this time gave her a direct order: "Have a medal struck as I have shown you. All who wear it will receive great graces." Sister Catherine told her confessor and he later told the bishop. So it was that the medal, which we call the miraculous medal, was made. Soon many, many people all over the world were wearing it. Yet no one in the convent knew that humble Sister Catherine was the one to whom Our Lady had appeared.

She spent the remaining forty-five years of her life doing ordinary convent tasks. She answered the door. She looked after the hens that provided the nuns with eggs. She also took care of elderly and sick people. She was happy to keep her special privilege hidden, and was only interested in serving God as best she could. Then before she died in 1876, Mother Mary gave her permission to reveal her secret, which she shared with her Sister Superior. After she died, many miracles were reported at her tomb.



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