

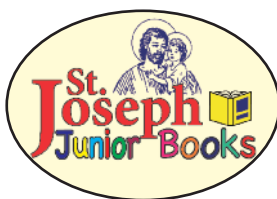
ST. JOSEPH ILLUSTRATED

BOOK OF SAINTS

CLASSIC LIVES OF THE SAINTS
FOR CHILDREN

By Rev. Thomas J. Donaghy

ILLUSTRATED IN FULL COLOR



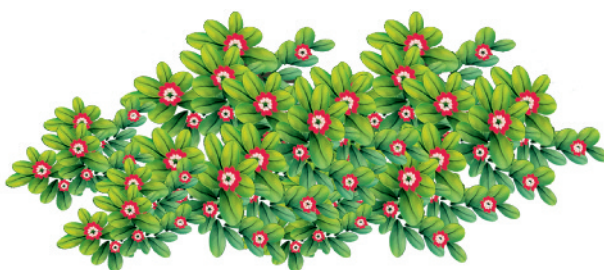
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Foreword

In a small country church where I first attended Mass and received First Reconciliation and Holy Communion, I was fascinated by two rather large statues of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. One could easily understand that these were images of holy people. As we grew older, we came to realize that Our Lady, St. Joseph, and thousands of others live with God in heaven.

In school, we learned more and more about the Saints, and we began to realize that their pictures and statues gave us a good idea of where and when they lived. In hearing and reading their stories, we came to know and understand that even though the Saints grew up in different countries and cultures, the way they lived and loved God and neighbor was something we could do.

Today, we have many role models in a variety of different fields and professions, as well as, of course, our parents and siblings. Adults often ask children the age-old question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” It is a reasonable question. Sometimes it starts us thinking about our personal futures. The beauty is that no matter what we want to be, we can carry out our plans and dreams and still strive to be Saints.

It is important to read and recall the good lives of Saints, and to pray to one or several of these holy people each day. This book can easily help us follow the Saint or Saints we really want to imitate.

—*Father Thomas J. Donaghy*



Our Lady, Queen of Heaven and Earth

On October 11, 1954, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, in his encyclical letter, *Ad Caeli Reginam*, decreed and instituted the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be celebrated throughout the world every year. He declared that the Church has believed in Mary's Queenship from the earliest centuries and that this belief rests on Holy Scripture and tradition.

Mary is Queen of all “since she brought forth a Son, Who at the very moment that He was conceived, was . . . King and Lord of all things.” Further, “as Christ is our Lord and King by a special title because He redeemed us, so the Blessed Virgin [is our Lady and Queen] because of the unique way in which she has cooperated toward our redemption by giving of her own substance, by offering Him willingly for us, and by desiring, praying for, and bringing about our salvation in a singular manner.”

The significance of Mary's Queenship for contemporary times is that her participation in the work of her Son rouses hope and expresses a merciful and ongoing love. In looking to Mary, the faithful can find in her the secret to their own royal identity as children of God and the model for giving the Lord a greater place in their lives.



August 22



St. Francis of Assisi

Francis Bernardone was born at Assisi, Italy, in 1181. His father was a wealthy merchant there. During a time of imprisonment and then illness, Francis became aware of a vocation to a life of extraordinary service to the Church.

Inspired at twenty-five by Matthew's Gospel passage commanding the disciples to evangelize the world without possessions, Francis abandoned his affluent lifestyle and began to live a life of radical poverty. His example soon drew followers to his way of life.

In 1210, with twelve companions, he sought and received the approval of Pope Innocent III to lead a life according to the Rule of the Holy Gospel. Thus began the "Friars Minor," or "Lesser Brothers." Francis himself never became a priest out of humility, and at first only some of his band received Holy Orders.

Francis's practice of poverty and devotion to the humanity of Christ deeply touched a cold and weary world. Soon a vast Franciscan movement swept through Europe. By 1219, over five thousand Franciscans gathered at Assisi for the famed Chapter of Mats. Responding to this commitment to the Faith, Francis founded a Second Order for cloistered nuns through St. Clare and a Third Order for religious and laity of both sexes.

Francis died at sunset on October 3, 1226, and was canonized two years later.

October 4