

MINIATURE
STORIES
of the
SAINTS
BOOK ONE



BY REV. DANIEL A. LORD, S.J.

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NIHIL OBSTAT: Arthur J. Scanlan S. T. D., Censor Librorum
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Saint Aloysius

GONZAGA

Aloysius was the son of a very famous and noble family.

They expected him to make a name for himself in the world.

Instead, he promised God he would never marry. He asked to love God and Our Lady alone.

When he was very young, he became a Jesuit. From the very start, he was as holy as he could be. He kept his soul as pure as the whitest snow.

He loved Mary with all his heart. He stayed for hours on his knees before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

But he was a brave young man. When a terrible sickness came over the city, Aloysius went out to care for the sick. Once he brought home a very sick old man and nursed him in his own bed.

He wanted very much to be a priest.

But God wanted to show young people that even the very young can be saints. So he took Aloysius early with him to Heaven.

He is the special patron of boys and girls.

Boys and girls can all study as hard as he did. They can love Christ and Mary with all their hearts.

But most of all, they can be very pure.

His Feast is June 21st.



Saint Anthony

of PADUA

When Anthony of Padua died, the children cried in the streets.

“Our dear father, Anthony is dead,” they wept.

And all the bells of the churches rang of their own accord. Angels came to earth to ring the bells for the death of the saint.

Anthony wanted to be a martyr. He wanted to die for the love of Christ.

Instead, Our Lord asked him to work among the poor and needy.

So Anthony went about Italy working wonderful miracles for the people. He gave them miraculous food. He healed their sicknesses.

Whenever he spoke of Jesus, everyone listened and loved the Savior, too.

One night the Divine Child came to visit Anthony. He kissed the saint gently and told him how much He loved him. You have often seen statues of Saint Anthony with the Child in his arms.

Ever since his death, he has done wonderful things for those who pray to him. He is still the Franciscan Miracle-worker.

His Feast is June 13th.

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Saint Agnes

MARTYR

Agnes was only twelve when the Roman soldiers arrested her.

They were killing all Christians in those days. But first they dragged her to the statue of a false goddess.

Offer prayers and incense to Minerva," they ordered her.

Instead, brave little Agnes lifted her arms and prayed aloud to Jesus Christ.

So they put handcuffs on her. She was so tiny that the cuffs slipped off her wrists.

Then they whipped her cruelly. They said they would stop if she gave up Jesus Christ. Even the pagans wept to see her tortured that way.

Next they dragged her through the streets for the people to laugh at. Instead, some of them tried to save her.

Then a young man asked her to marry him.

"I will save you if you do," he promised.

I belong to my Savior alone," she answered.

With one stroke of the sword, the soldiers killed this brave little girl.

Her Feast is January 21st.



Saint Catherine

of ALEXANDRIA

Catherine was a very rich child, being the daughter of noble parents. She was able to go to school and studied very hard.

She was always very holy. During her studies she found time to pray quietly to God.

In the days of Catherine, the Christians were being persecuted.

When Catherine was 18 years old, she went to the Emperor, who was violently persecuting the Christians and told him that he must stop attacking the good people and also stop serving false gods.

The Emperor was insulted and put her in jail. He said that she must die by being tortured on a spiked wheel.

A miracle happened when she touched the wheel. It fell apart.

The Emperor then ordered her head to be cut off. When her head was cut off, the angels from heaven carried her body to Mount Sinai, where later a church and convent was built in her honor.

Her Feast is November 25th.

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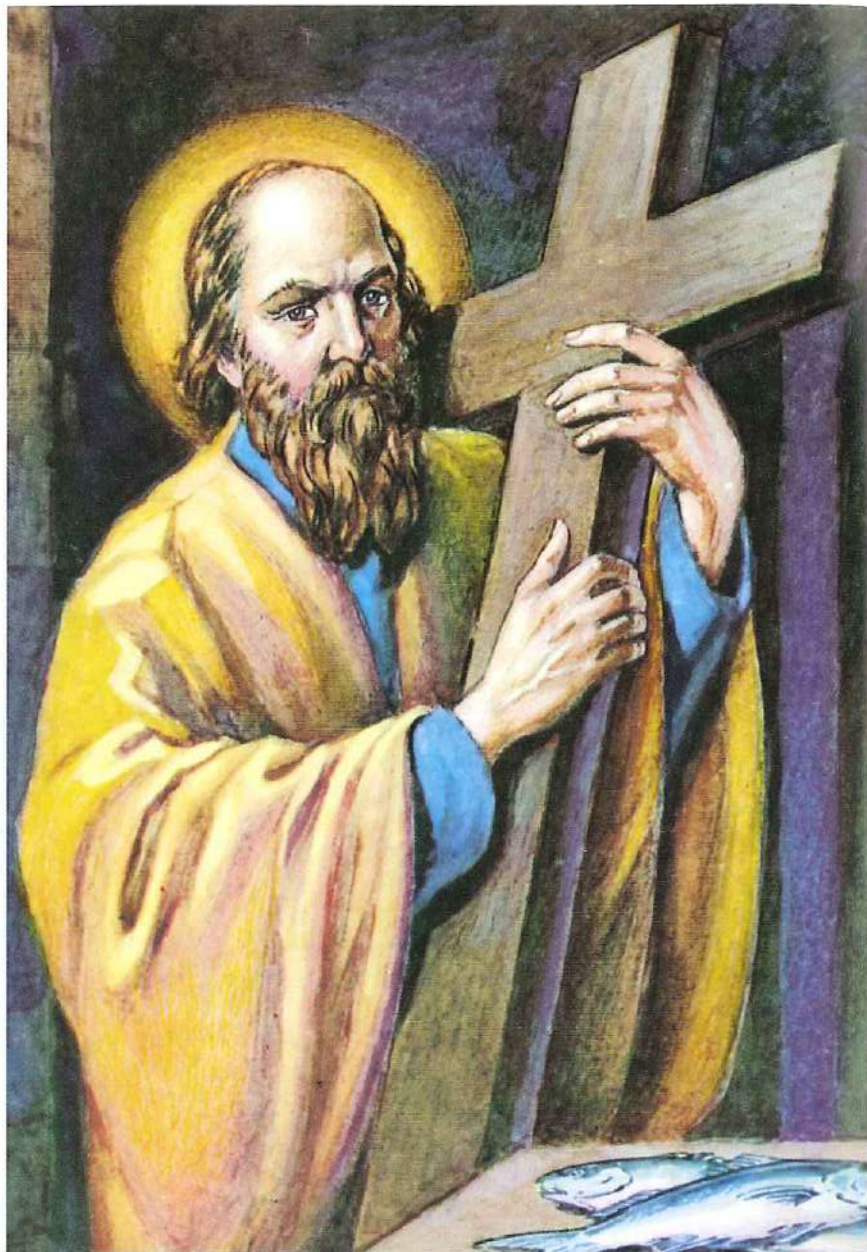


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Saint Andrew

APOSTLE

Andrew was just a poor fisherman in Galilee. He had a brother whose name was Simon Peter.

One day he heard a great preacher, John the Baptist. He left his boats and fishing nets, and followed John.

And John said, "Someone is coming who is greater than I."

So when Jesus came, Andrew left John to follow Jesus. He ran and told Simon Peter. Peter went to Jesus too. Andrew and Peter both became Apostles.

Andrew was the Apostle who found the little boy with the loaves and fishes. Our dear Lord used these to feed thousands of people. That was a great miracle.

Jesus made Andrew one of His first Bishops.

"Go, teach everyone the Good News," Jesus said.

So after the Ascension of our Lord into heaven, Andrew went to Greece.

Some listened and became Christians.

But some hated Andrew because they hated Jesus.

So they nailed Andrew to a Cross. Andrew sang with joy because, like Jesus, he could die on the Cross.

He hung for two days on the Cross telling everyone about Jesus.

Then he went gloriously to heaven.

His Feast is November 30th.



Saint Augustine

BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

When Augustine was a young man, he was very clever and bright. His mother, Monica, was a good Catholic. But Augustine couldn't be bothered.

He didn't want to believe what Christ taught. He knew that what Christ taught was the truth, but he did not want to be good.

He led a very wicked life.

All this time, his mother, Monica, wept and prayed.

"Make my son a good man," she begged God. "Please make him believe and give up his sins."

One day Augustine heard that some of his friends had become Catholics. They were not nearly as bright as he was.

"How silly and foolish I am," he thought. "They will go to heaven. But I, to whom God gave such a fine mind, will lose my soul."

He ran to his mother and told her he wished to be good henceforth. She was very glad.

So he repented of his sins. He studied to be a priest.

He became a great Bishop. He did penance for his sins. And he wrote many wonderful books about God and the soul and goodness.

He fought untruth and he hated sin.

The young man who had been a sinner became the man who was a wise and holy saint.

His Feast is August 28th.

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Saint Agatha

THE PURE VIRGIN

Saint Agatha was very beautiful. People looked at her and said, "Oh, she is the fairest girl alive."

But Agatha was also very pure and good.

She loved Jesus Christ very much. She promised God she would never marry. "All my love is Yours," she said. "I will live and die for You."

Now it happened that the Governor of Sicily where Agatha lived heard of her beauty.

So he sent for her. Soldiers came and arrested her.

"You are a Christian," they said. "So you must go to jail."

"Dear Lord Jesus," she prayed, "I belong to You. Do not let this tyrant have power over me."

He made love to her. But she refused him.

So he threw her into prison. The governor was sure Agatha would be so afraid of prison that she would consent to love him.

Instead, she made the wicked woman who was her jailer love God too.

So the Governor ordered her to be tortured. She was not afraid. Then he ordered her to be beaten.

"Dear Jesus," she cried, "come and take me."

And Jesus came and took her home to heaven.

Her Feast is February 5th.



Saint Angela

FRIEND OF GIRLS

Angela de Merici was a lovely young Italian woman. She knew many poor girls.

Most of them did not know about Jesus Christ.

Many of them had never heard much about the lovely Mother of God.

Many of them were sinful and bad. But Angela knew this was because no one had taught them to be good.

So she gathered children around her and taught them about Jesus and Mary.

She helped sinful girls to become good once more.

She built houses where they could live and be safe from temptation.

She found fine, pure, wise young women to teach the children. She wanted sinless girls to help save sinful girls. She took Saint Ursula for her patron.

Then she invited good young women and pure, sweet girls to help her.

They became the first Ursuline Sisters.

They went all over the world teaching and helping little children and girls and young women.

Today there are thousands of these Sisters. They all call Saint Angela their Patroness and Holy Mother.

Her Feast is January 27th.