

Discover the Saints

This book
belongs to:



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saint mary's press



to

Discover the Saints

What is a saint? A saint is a holy person, someone who lived an extra-loving life on Earth and now is close to God in Heaven. The saints are close to us because they share God's great love for us. That is why we ask them for their prayers. They are our friends—friends want the best for us!

Just like every person is different, every saint is also different. Each saint was an ordinary person with both strengths and weaknesses. Ordinary people become saints by using the gifts and talents God has given them to follow Jesus and to live according to the Gospel.

In this book, you will read some of their stories. As you read about each saint, remember that you too are called to be a saint by following Jesus and loving God and others in your own original and unique way!

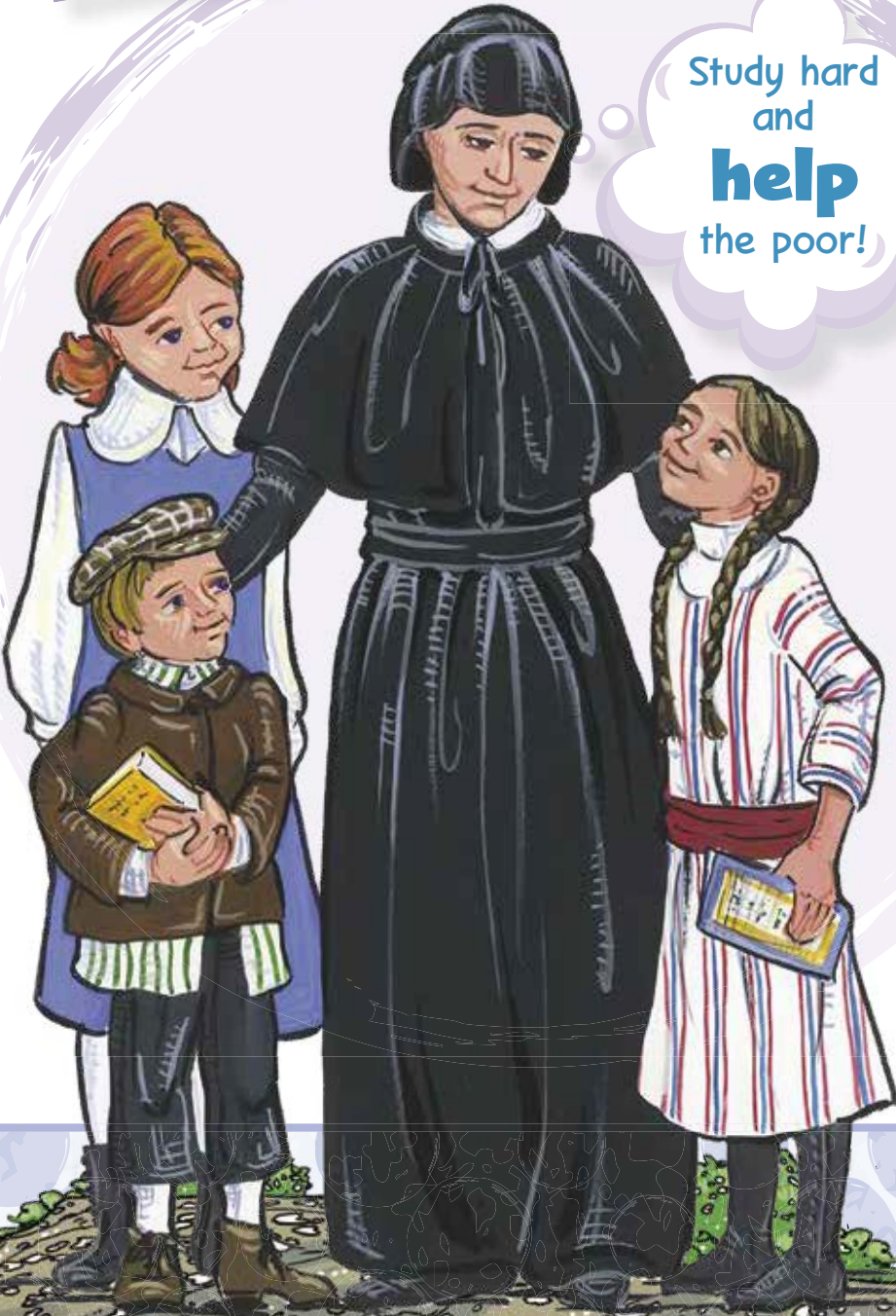
Blessings from Saint Mary's Press!



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

(1774-1821)

Study hard
and
help
the poor!





Elizabeth Ann Seton known to her family and friends as Betty, was born in New York City in 1774. Her mother died when she was three years old. When Betty was a young girl, her stepmother took her to bring food and clothing to poor families. When Betty was older, she started a society to help poor mothers and children.

Betty married William M. Seton in 1794, and they lived happily with their five children until William became ill. The family thought that a trip to Italy would help him heal. Yet he died shortly after their arrival.

While in Italy, Betty went to Mass with her Catholic friends and learned that Jesus was really and truly present in the Eucharist. Returning to New York, she studied the Catholic faith and was received into the Church. When she started a school for girls in Baltimore, several young women joined her. They began the Sisters of Charity—a community dedicated to educating poor children. From then on, Betty became known as Mother Seton.

Mother Seton died in 1821. She is the first native-born American saint and is recognized for beginning the Catholic school system in the United States.



Prayer

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, you met the challenges of your life with courage and faith. Pray to God for me, that I may be strong and courageous too.



Write a prayer asking God, through the prayers of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, to bless your favorite teacher.



Saint Agnes

(d. 304)

Be
strong
and live
for Jesus!





Agnes was only twelve years old when she became a martyr, a person who died for her faith. It happened something like this:

Agnes was brought up in a faithful Christian family. At that time, Christians had to remain hidden because Christianity was outlawed in the Roman Empire. Agnes received many proposals of marriage, but declined them all, preferring to be free to dedicate her life to Christ. It is thought that one of her suitors (someone who is asking for marriage) denounced her as a Christian and handed in her name to the Roman authorities.

The name Agnes means “pure” and sounds a lot like the Latin word *agnus*, which means “lamb.” This is why Agnes is often pictured holding a lamb. The lamb reminds us of Jesus, the Lamb of God, for whom Agnes gave her life. Saint Agnes is honored as the patron saint of girls.



Prayer

Saint Agnes, ask God to help me make good choices in freedom, love, and peace.

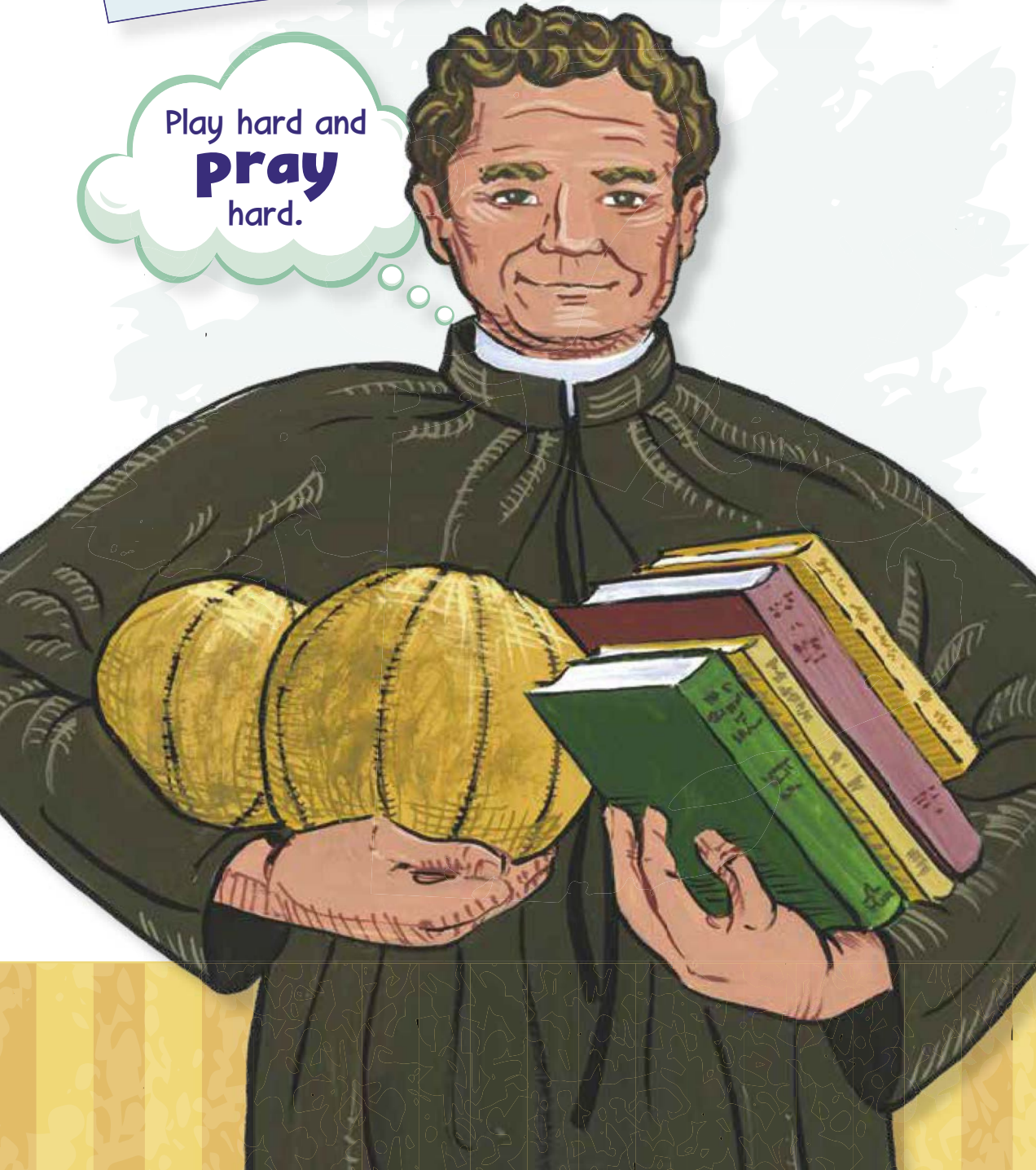


Write a prayer asking Saint Agnes to pray for a girl you know. You might choose a girl who needs extra help at this time.

Saint John Bosco

(1815-1888)

Play hard and
pray
hard.





John Bosco was born to a farming family in Italy. He was a fun-loving boy, and he used his fun-loving ways to teach other children about God. He put on shows for the neighborhood children. He did magic tricks, juggled, and walked the tightrope. The "ticket" to the show was one Rosary, recited by the spectators on the spot! At the very end, John would repeat the parish priest's Sunday sermon for all to hear!

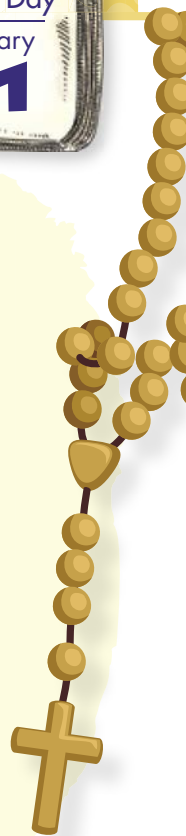
When John grew up, he became a priest. He founded religious communities of both men and women to work with him in teaching and helping children, and he had special concern for the young boys he found living on the streets. He gave these boys a home and prepared them to live good and honest lives through education and work training. Saint John is now honored as the patron saint of young people.



Prayer

Saint John Bosco, pray for me, so that I may use my gifts and talents to bring the love of God to others. Amen.

How can you use your gifts and talents to bring joy and love to others? Share your thoughts with Saint John Bosco below.



Saint Katharine Drexel

(1858-1955)

Stand up
for justice and fairness.

