

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

- Feastday: October 16
- Patron Saint of: those suffering with polio, devotees of the Sacred Heart, loss of parents
- Birth: July 22, 1647
- Death: October 17, 1690
- Canonized: by Pope Benedict XV on May 13, 1920



*"Cling to God,
and leave all
the rest to Him:
He will not let
you perish. Your
soul is very dear to
Him. He wishes to
save it."*

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Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque was born in 1647 in France. In her youth, rheumatic fever confined her to her bed for four years. After making a vow to the Blessed Virgin Mary to consecrate herself to religious life, she instantly returned to perfect health. She experienced visions of Jesus Christ for most of her life but thought they were a normal part of life and continued to practice austerity.

After the death of her father, Margaret and her family were forced into poverty when a relative refused to hand over the family's assets. At 17 years old, Margaret's mother encouraged her to find a suitable husband. One night, after attending a ball, Margaret had a vision of Christ, scourged and bloody. He accused Margaret of forgetting about him. He showed her that His heart was full of love for her because of the promise she made to His Blessed Mother as a child. After this vision, Margaret entered the convent in May 1671 to become a nun.

During this time, Margaret received several private revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These visions showed her the "form of the devotion, the chief features being reception of Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month, Eucharistic adoration during a 'Holy hour' on Thursdays, and the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart."

In December 1673, Jesus appeared to Margaret Mary again and allowed her to rest her head on His heart. He explained to her that he wished to make these wonders known to all the world and that He chose her for His work. However, she struggled with convincing others of the validity of her apparitions, even those in her own community. Eventually, Margaret Mary led the monastery in observing the Feast of the Sacred Heart privately and inspired the construction of a chapel built to honor the Sacred Heart. Margaret Mary died a couple of years later, at the age of 43. She spoke the words, "I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus." When her tomb was opened in the late 1800s, two immediate cures took place and her body lay incorrupt.

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Source: www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?

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