

# Saint Catherine Labouré

- Feastday: November 28
- Patron Saint of: the elderly, hospitalized people, and the Miraculous Medal
- Birth: May 2, 1806
- Death: December 31, 1867
- Canonized: in July 27, 1947 by Pope Pius XII



*"If you listen, God will also speak to you. For with the good Lord, you have to both speak and listen."*



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Saint Catherine Labouré was born in France, the ninth of 11 children. In 1815, her mother passed away, and after her mother's funeral, Catherine returned home and picked up a statue of the Blessed Virgin, saying, "Now you will be my mother."

Later, Catherine experienced a dream of an old priest motioning her to sick people saying, "It is a good deed to look after the sick. God has designs on you. Do not forget it." Years after, during a visit to the Daughters of Charity hospital, Catherine saw a picture of the old priest on the wall and discovered it was their founder, St. Vincent de Paul. She immediately knew she would become a member of St. Vincent's order.

In 1830, Catherine entered the novitiate of the Daughters of Charity. Months later, she woke from her sleep after hearing a child's voice calling her to the chapel. As Catherine approached the chapel, the door opened, revealing a brilliant light. The Blessed Virgin said, "God wishes to charge you with a mission. You will be contradicted, but do not fear; you will have the grace to do what is necessary. Tell your spiritual director all that passes within you. Times are evil in France and in the world."

Later that year, the Blessed Mother visited Catherine a second time. She showed herself inside an oval frame, standing on a globe with rays of light coming

from her hands toward the globe. Around the frame were the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Mary asked Catherine to take these images to her confessor, telling him they should be placed on medallions. "All who wear them will receive great graces." At first, the priest did not believe Catherine, but after two years, he brought her story to the Archbishop. The Archbishop ordered 2,000 medals struck.

Catherine Labouré spent the next 40 years of her life caring for the elderly, sick, and disabled, and she passed away at 70 years old. Her incorrupt body was encased in glass beneath the side altar in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris.

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Source: [www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?)

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