

The Miraculous Medal

OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saint Catherine Labouré was a novice in the community of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, France. In 1830, she had a vision of the Blessed Mother in which she presented Saint Catherine with the design, saying, "Have a medal struck upon this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck." Since then, devotion to the Miraculous Medal has spread throughout the world.

These words surrounded Mary in St. Catherine's vision in 1830.

The rays projecting out from Our Lady's hands symbolize the graces shed upon those who ask for them.

She stands upon the globe, as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her feet crush the serpent to proclaim Satan and all his followers are helpless before her.

The year of 1830 is the year the Blessed Mother gave the design of the Miraculous Medal to Saint Catherine Labouré.

The twelve stars can refer to the Apostles, who represent the entire Church as it surrounds Mary. They also recall the vision of Saint John in Revelation 12:1 - "a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars."

The cross can symbolize Christ and our redemption, with the bar under the cross a sign of the earth. The "M" stands for Mary, the Mediatrix who presents our prayers to her son to seek His graces.

The Sacred Heart on the left is adorned with crown of thorns, symbolizing Jesus' Passion and Love for us. The Immaculate Heart on the right represents Mary's heart pierced by a sword.

