

HOLY HEROES

November

ST. CATHERINE LABOURE'

Feast Day, Nov. 28



Zoe Laboure' grew up on farm in France in the early 1800's. Zoe's mother died when she was just nine years old, and she was then left to run the household of her large family. Zoe wanted to become a nun, but because of her duties at home, had to wait until she was 24 to join the Sisters of Charity, where she took the name, Catherine.

Sister Catherine always felt a special closeness to her heavenly mother, Mary, ever since her own mother died. In 1830, the Blessed Mother appeared to Catherine. She showed herself standing on a globe with streams of light coming from her hands, with the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." This means; pray for us who turn to you in trust. Holy Mary then told Catherine to have a medal made of this picture, and that those who wore this medal would receive many graces and blessings from Jesus, through her. Catherine told her priest, who then told the bishop of Paris. He then allowed the medal to be made. It soon became known as the 'Miraculous Medal' because of the many miracles that happened to those who wore it.

We must be careful not to think of this medal as magic, but when we wear it, it reminds us that we can always turn to Mary and ask her to pray for us to her Son. Her prayers are very special to Jesus. It is the same when we pray to any saint; we are asking them to pray for us to God, just as we ask our friends here on earth to pray for us. How wonderful it is to have so many friends in God's kingdom on earth, and in Heaven which we can turn to!

Our friend Catherine Laboure' lived the rest of her life happily serving God by caring for the sick and elderly. She was proclaimed a saint by Pope Pius XII in 1947.