

Marie of the Incarnation

BY PATRICIA MATHSON

FEAST DAY: APRIL 30

Marie lived in France with her family. Even as a child she had great faith in God. Her parents planned an arranged marriage for her when she was 17. She and her husband had a son and named him Claude. Her husband died two years after their wedding. She then went to work in her brother-in-law's business.

Follows her heart

Marie had always wanted to be a nun and that desire was still there. She talked to her sister who agreed to take care of her son. She joined the Ursulines in 1631 and became Sister Marie of the Incarnation. In 1639 she fulfilled a dream and sailed to Canada which was not yet a country. Marie wanted to serve the French settlers and the native population in the new land.

Helps the people

Marie and another sister built a monastery to live in. Then she

started a boarding school that included girls of both French settlers and Native Americans. Marie learned several of the languages of the native peoples and taught the adults about Jesus too. She was the first woman missionary in this new country. In the meantime her son, Claude, became a priest.

Faces difficulties

A few years later a terrible fire destroyed the monastery, but she didn't give up. She trusted in God. Marie was committed to staying in her new country. She saw to the rebuilding and continued her work among the people. Marie never went back to France and died in Canada in 1672. She was canonized in 2014. We celebrate her feast day on the day she died, April 30.

What can we do?

- * Let's talk about her life. Why did Marie get married? What happened to her husband? What did Marie want to be? Where did she go to serve others? Who did she teach at her school? Why did she learn the native languages? What did she do after the fire? Why is it important not to give up? Why is April 30 her feast day?
- * Let's think of ways to help our teachers at school. St. Marie taught children because she knew that education is important. Students can help their teachers when they answer questions in class, volunteer to pass out papers, pay attention to teacher directions, turn in homework on

APRIL SAINTS

- 4 The Annunciation of the Lord
- 5 St. Vincent Ferrer
- 21 St. Anselm
- 25 St. Mark
- 29 St. Catherine of Siena

MAY SAINTS

- 3 Sts. Philip and James
- 10 St. Damien de Veuster
- 13 Our Lady of Fatima
- 26 St. Philip Neri
- 29 Corpus Christi

time, and listen when other kids are sharing their ideas.

- * Let's make Easter cards to share the good news. We can design colorful Easter cards and give them to others. Cut out flower or butterfly shapes and glue them to the front of a folded piece of paper. Add a greeting inside. In this way we share the good news of Jesus with others in our lives as St. Marie did in hers.

Prayer

God of light, we give you praise as the light of our world. Help us to not be afraid to go where we are needed. Guide us to trust in you always, even when times are difficult. May we do your will in our lives as St. Marie of the Incarnation did in hers and teach others about your love. Amen.

Patricia Mathson is the author of many books including *Prayers and Activities on Service* (Twenty-Third Publications).

