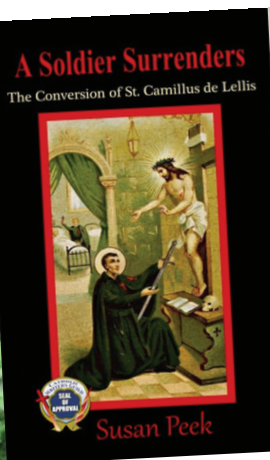
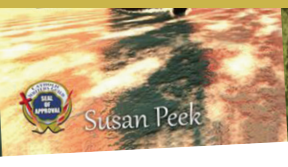
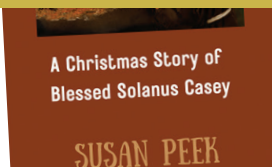


# CONTENTS

## Spring 2024

Me, Thee, and TV <i>From Father's Desk</i>	4
The Wonder of Reading <i>Magazine Theme Piece</i>	5
The Chapterhouse <i>Cultural Considerations</i>	6
The Conservatory <i>Victimae Paschali Laudes</i>	8
Susan Peek: Saint Story Scribe <i>with Caroline Malton</i>	9
Masterclass <i>Sunlight in the Blue Room</i>	14
It Ain't Arbitrary <i>Adolescent Advice with Father Sherry</i>	16
The Story of St Therese <i>Story by Penelope Archer, Illustrated by David Lloyd</i>	17
The Library <i>A Starter Library</i>	21
The Colosseum <i>Back Cover - Please submit!</i>	24



## What's this Symbol?

Folded or joined hands symbolise obedience, submission, sincerity and repentance. It is a posture of recollection. As a custom, it stretches so far back that it is difficult to pinpoint its origin. The posture was popularized by Albrecht Durer through his drawing "Praying Hands" (1508), which has become the most enduring image of this practice.

A favoured interpretation of this posture is related to feudal times, when one pledged allegiance to one's lord, and even before that, in the era of the Anglo-Saxons, when warriors entered the service of a ring-giver by the custom of placing their folded hands within their lord's and swearing allegiance. After every battle, the warrior was expected to surrender all his spoils of war to his lord, who would then award him with treasures that acknowledged his prowess, exalting him among his brethren. The parallel for the Christian, a follower to the death of the Crucified King of Heaven, is clear, for we are called to give all to God, Who will one day award us justly before all. In this spirit, consider this prayer, a private oblation for after Holy Communion:

"O Sovereign and true leader, O Christ, my king, I kneel before Thee here like a vassal in the old feudal times to take my oath of fealty. I place my joined hands within Thy wounded hands and promise Thee inviolable loyalty. I dedicate to Thee all the powers of my soul, all the senses of my body, all the affections of my heart.

Take O Lord, all my liberty. Receive my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am, all that I have, Thou hast given me, and I restore it all to Thee, to be disposed of according to Thy good pleasure. Give me only Thy love and Thy grace: with these I am rich enough, and I desire nothing more."



# The Chapterhouse

## Architecture



### CASTLE NEUSCHWANSTEIN BAVARIA, GERMANY

Commissioned by the “Mad King” Ludwig II in 1868, this fairy tale castle was a vanity project, built long after such medieval structures were considered obsolete as fortifications. It was also modern, having toilets, hot water, telephones and central air. The castle would never be finished, but has survived thanks to tourism. Forever intriguing, it has served as the inspiration for the Sleeping Beauty Castle found in the Walt Disney logo and theme park.

## Etymology

### “WRITE / BOOK”

The word “write” comes from Old English *writan* and means “to scratch,” referring to the practice of etching characters into tree bark or stones. It thus follows that our word *book*, also from the Old English, comes from *bōc*, meaning “beech” as in beech tree, as this was at one time the preferred bark or wood on which to *writan*!



## Anecdote of Virtue

From *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers* comes the story of Abba Isaac who, upon visiting a monastery, beheld a brother committing a sin and condemned him. When he returned to the desert, he found an angel of the Lord before the door to his cell who said to him, “I will not let you enter.”

Confounded, Abba Isaac asked, “What is the matter?” The angel replied, “God has sent me to ask where you want to throw the guilty brother whom you have condemned.” Immediately, Abba Isaac fell to his knees and, repenting, said, “I have sinned, forgive me.” The angel replied, “Arise, God has forgiven you. But, from now on, be careful not to judge someone before God has done so.”



# Music

## Sure on this Shining Night By Morten Lauridsen

Based on a poem by James Agee, “Sure on this Shining Night” by Morten Lauridsen is a song recommendation for those who appreciate moving poetry and delightful choral harmonies. Lauridsen sets the descriptive text to the lower and upper registers of an SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass) choir, with soaring melodies and subtle dissonances transporting the listener to a place of shining stars and shadows, kindness and health, uncertainty, hope, and wonder.



“Sure on this shining night of star-made shadows round,  
kindness must watch for me this side the ground,  
on this shining night...”

# Custom

One of our readers writes that, while growing up in a village in Yugoslavia in the 1930s, it was the custom on St Catherine’s day (25 November) that no wheels be turned – this meant no buggies, no sewing machines, no mills, etc. This was to honour the martyrdom of St Catherine of Alexandria (305 AD), who was beheaded after her first implement of execution, a spiked breaking wheel, shattered upon her touching it. This devotion to St Catherine was cemented in Europe after the discovery of her body around the year 800 AD. She was considered one of the great virgin martyrs and pilgrimages to her shrines were very popular.



*Have a Catholic custom to share? Email [catholichomecustom@gmail.com](mailto:catholichomecustom@gmail.com) to share!*



## ELISEUS

Famed wonder-worker of the Old Testament, the prophet Eliseus (or Elisha) was a disciple of the great prophet Elias. When Elias was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot, Eliseus is recorded as having received his mantle as well as a double-portion of his master’s power, which he put to use as the wonder-worker extraordinaire of the Old Testament. Eliseus’ mission was to turn Israel from the idolatry that had taken root among God’s Chosen people under King Solomon a century earlier. Eliseus is still honoured today, most prominently by the Carmelite Order that was founded by hermits in the twelfth century; they gathered to the fountain of Elias at Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, the better to imitate Christ, and there took residence, as Eliseus had over two thousand years previous +

# historical figure



# Mine Too

By Frances Grey  
with illustrations by David Lloyd

My parents named me Frances after Saint Francis of Assisi – the joyful singing Saint – who would go around cheerfully reciting poetry and praising God. What a misnomer! I am very quiet and shy and love to spend time alone in my little room. My Grandma calls it my happy place. All my books are neatly arranged and I have a big desk where I can draw and do my crafts. I call it my cell – it is quiet and peaceful. Or at least it used to be!

I was preparing for my First Communion and I read a story of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus. While on a walk with her father, Thérèse saw an old man dragging himself around on crutches and she offered him a coin. The man refused and Thérèse thought she might have offended him. Thérèse vowed to pray for this poor old man on the day of her First Holy Communion, as her sister Pauline had told her that Our Lord grants everything we ask Him on our First Communion Day. *Everything* we ask Him on our First Communion Day! I knew exactly what I was going to request. I am sandwiched between four brothers – two older and two younger. My Dad calls me his jam in his sandwich. At church there are two sisters, Maddie and Margaret. They braid each other's hair, walk around arm in arm, and wear beautiful matching dresses. I feel lonely when I see them together. So among other things, I begged God for a little sister.

I always wondered about the big wound in the Sacred Heart. My mother told me that love and suffering go together and sometimes, when you feel a strong emotion like love, it can even hurt. I asked her if her heart ever hurt. "Yes, Frances, the first time I saw you I was so filled love that it hurt."

A little time passed, and God answered my prayers. I had a sister! Dad took me to the hospital to meet my sister Judith. I was so nervous. I hoped she would like me. I fixed my hair and dressed myself in a blue tartan skirt and matching tam. Then I started to worry. St. Therese did not like people in hats when she was a baby. My baby sister might be frightened by hats too. I snatched off my hat – then nervously put it back on – then off – that was the longest trip I had ever made, and my hair was such a mess when we arrived. Mommy sat me down and nestled Judith in my arms. My heart was beating so strong and



loudly, I hoped I wouldn't scare the baby. I could not speak or move and looked up at my mother. "Mommy," I was barely able to whisper, "My heart ... it hurts." Mommy understood. "Mine too ... mine too," she said.

A few months later, my joy turned to horror. The baby was going to be moving into my room – my oasis – my happy place – my cell! Baby Judith was not what I had imagined as a sister. She did not sit quietly braiding my hair. Judith was a bundle of bounciness and noise. She was cheerful, smiley, messy, and loud. I was horrified and stressed. I loved her red curls, bright blue eyes, and cheerful ways, but not in my room – all the time. I tried to explain to my mother about my calm little room I called my cell. I could be quiet there and talk to God and it was so peaceful. Mommy explained that there was no room elsewhere and I should try





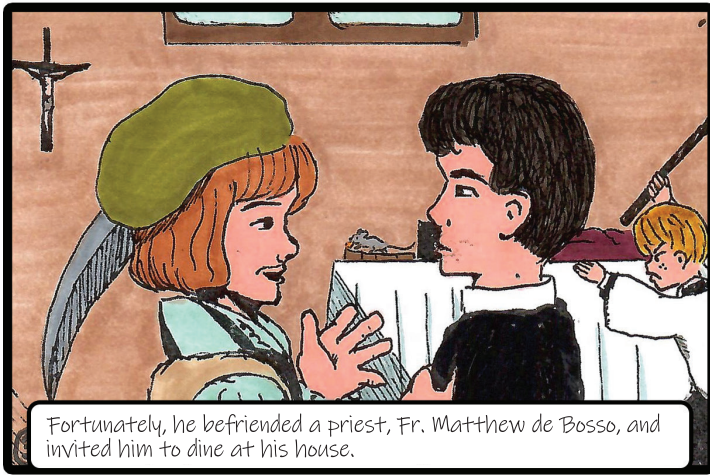


It is related that in Venice there was a famous lawyer who, by the use of fraudulent dealings and evil practices, had become rich and lived in sin. So wicked was his life that none would have believed him to be Catholic.

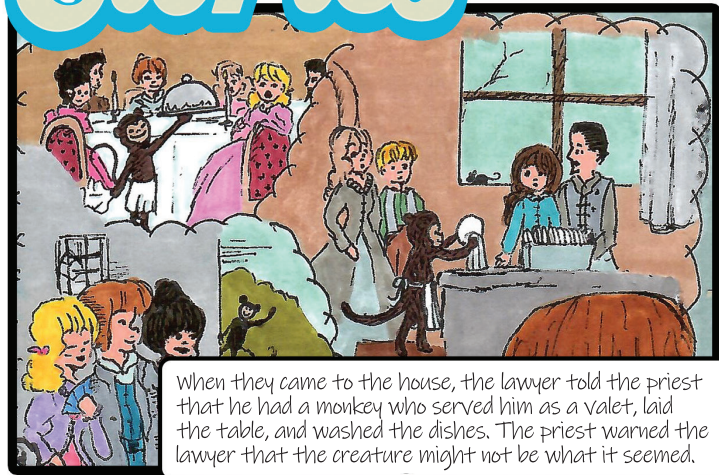


Probably the only good he ever did was the daily recitation of a prayer to the Blessed Virgin.

# Saint Stories



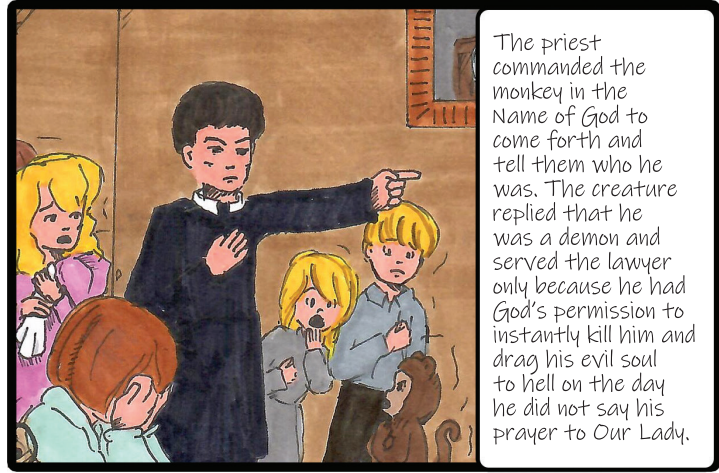
Fortunately, he befriended a priest, Fr. Matthew de Bosso, and invited him to dine at his house.



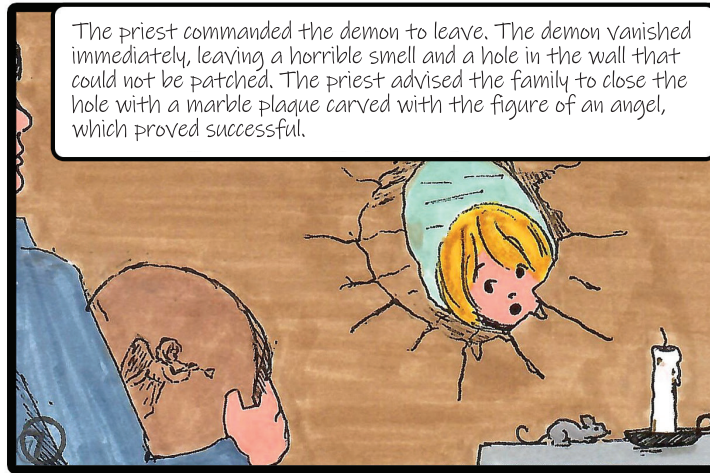
When they came to the house, the lawyer told the priest that he had a monkey who served him as a valet, laid the table, and washed the dishes. The priest warned the lawyer that the creature might not be what it seemed.



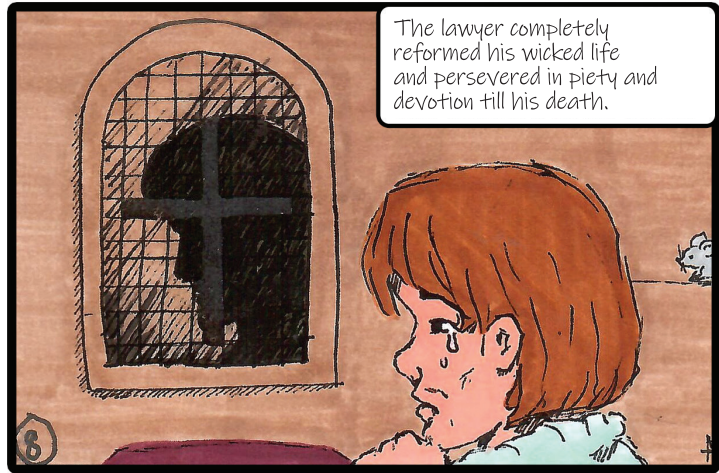
The lawyer called the monkey, but it did not come. They searched the house, but it could not be found. Finally, it was located hidden under a bed.



The priest commanded the monkey in the Name of God to come forth and tell them who he was. The creature replied that he was a demon and served the lawyer only because he had God's permission to instantly kill him and drag his evil soul to hell on the day he did not say his prayer to Our Lady.



The priest commanded the demon to leave. The demon vanished immediately, leaving a horrible smell and a hole in the wall that could not be patched. The priest advised the family to close the hole with a marble plaque carved with the figure of an angel, which proved successful.

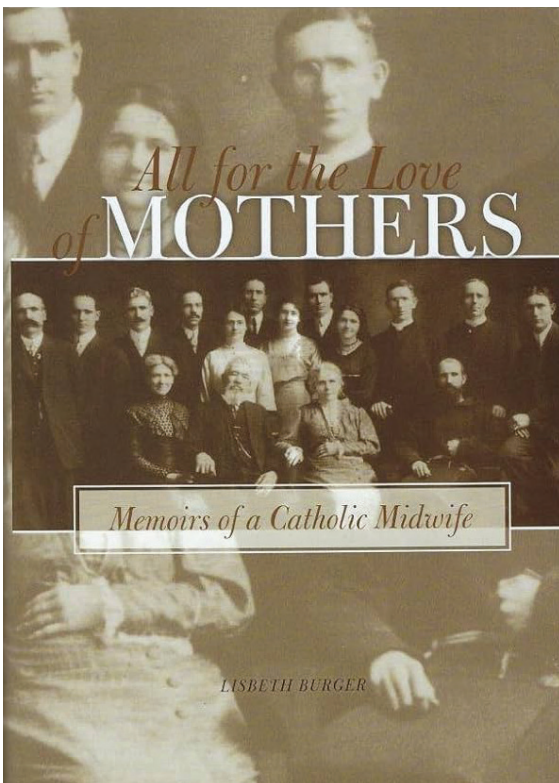
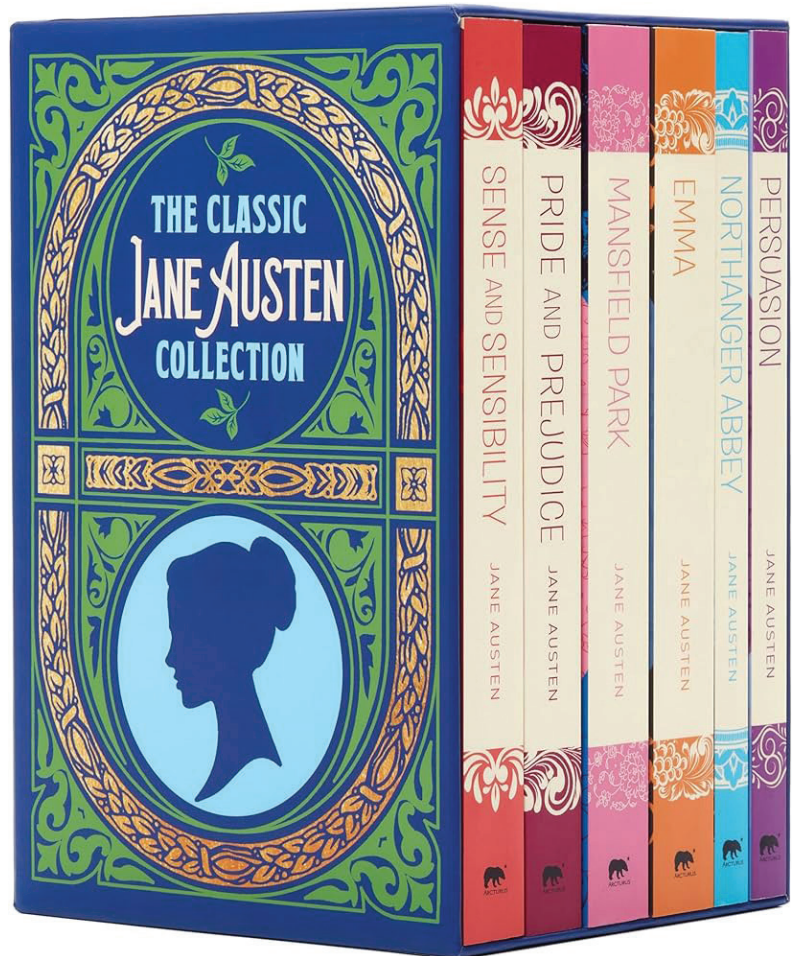


The lawyer completely reformed his wicked life and persevered in piety and devotion till his death.



## The Complete Works of Jane Austen

Everyone must read at least one of the works of the brilliant Miss Austen. Unlike what the movie adaptations may suggest, Austen is not concerned with romance so much as satirical social commentary; she writes comedy the way Shakespeare writes comedy: mistaken identities, assumptions, villains, heroes, and happily-ever-after marriages. Her books are set in Regency England, a time when upper class morality was at a low and social status revolved around money and appearances. Austen builds from the principle that human nature is fallen and that it is only through habits of virtue that one can lead a good life and be worthy of one's vocation. As such, she creates flawed characters who either fight to be good or who give themselves over to evil. Ultimately, her stories are redemptive and hopeful. G.K. Chesterton described Jane Austen as a "shrewd and solid psychologist" and said he felt "inclined to rewrite the whole of *Pride and Prejudice* to suit the politics of to-day". Austen is a student of the human condition – her keen wit and insight are not to be missed!



## All for the Love of Mothers: Memoirs of a Catholic Midwife

Lisbeth Burger

Lisbeth Burger was a Catholic midwife in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Germany. Her life and work saw the changes brought about by the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution and the First World War. She saw how these events directly and negatively impacted family life. Her book is collection of wonderfully narrated stories; with these Burger describes the most intimate details of family life and shows how true love, chastity, and reverent care for new life create beautiful, joyful homes and how the opposite so quickly destroys first the family and then the culture at large. The book has some troubling passages where we see sin and its effects described, so it would be best suited to an adult and mature teen audience.



# Pure Advice

## Adolescent Advice

Father David Sherry

I hadn't seen Bob for a while. Yes, he's kind of annoying, but I guess I missed him. Had I upset him? I wasn't trying to. I was just trying to reason with him. Anyway, I'm sure he'll show up again. When he does, there is one thing that I better get ready for. He's already said it several times. "You Catholics are obsessed with 'purity' as you call it."

"What do you mean?" I said.

"Very simple," he said "you can't do this, you can't do that, impure thoughts, impure desires, modesty in dress and behaviour. It's crazy! It's 2024 for goodness' sakes!"

Now to be honest, I didn't really say anything at the time because I was kind of shocked. But afterwards I thought to myself, "If he wants to see somebody who's obsessed with the *opposite* of purity, all he needs to do is look around."

Anyway, I took myself off to the chapel to see Father O'Reilly. This sort of thing, you don't really have a lot of time to talk about in confession, so I thought the best thing to do would be to tell Father I had some questions and make an appointment.

I told him about Bob: Bob was interested, he was asking questions; now how was I going to talk to him about this one?

Father thought about it for a minute. "First things first," he said, "go easy on Bob. The reason why he says some things that aren't true about the Catholic Faith is not because he's trying to offend you. It's because he's not a Catholic so he doesn't know. God's grace is moving him towards God and so he's interested. That's why he's asking questions. Be patient with him and never think for a minute that you are better than he is. Think to yourself that if Bob had all the grace you do, he'd be better than you are; and that if you were in Bob's situation, you'd probably be far worse than he is."

"The other reason why Bob says these things is because there is an awful lot of propaganda out there. People believe all sorts of weird things about the Catholic religion that are not true, but they think they are. Your job is to dislodge the fallacies as best you can."

"Here's the thing about purity," continued Father, "non-Catholics

think that we have all these rules about modesty and purity because we think that the body and procreation are bad things. It's exactly the opposite. We believe that procreation is a divine thing, because it shares in God's very own power, and that's why we must treat it with respect."

"Think about this: imagine your dad has cancer (God forbid!) and then you went around laughing and joking about it, calling out on the street 'Dad's got cancer! Dad's got cancer!' That would be terrible because you're making fun of a very serious thing. Procreation is not just a serious thing, it's a divine thing and so we have to treat it with the utmost respect. The devil hates *everything* divine and he especially hates women because Our Lady is a woman. That is why he tries to reduce procreation to something that we make fun of and demean, and he tries to reduce women to just their bodies."

"Tell that to Bob and he'll have something to think about."

Hmmm, come to think of it myself, it's not only Bob who might benefit from pondering on it. ✚

*continued from page 8*

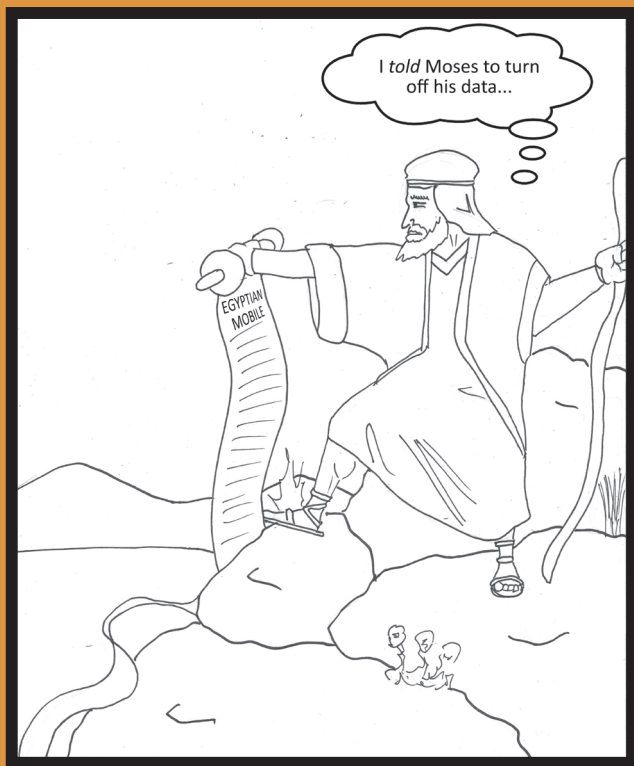
St Thomas would begin his day with an early visit to the Blessed Sacrament followed by frequent visits throughout the day, in addition to saying Mass. He was frequently moved to tears over the thought of the Christ's Passion and would find consolation in resting his head against the tabernacle. God blessed Thomas with a special knowledge of the Blessed Sacrament, in addition to gifts of infused contemplation, levitation, and ecstasies. Some of the Brothers witnessed Christ appearing to Thomas on the altar and telling him that He was pleased with the saint's writings on the Blessed Sacrament. Another time, a sacristan witnessed St Thomas levitating before a crucifix from which Christ spoke, saying that Thomas had

written well about His Passion and Resurrection. Pope Pius XI bestowed upon St Thomas the title "Eucharistic Doctor" in acknowledgement of his teachings regarding the Eucharist.

On his deathbed, as he was about to receive Communion for the last time, Thomas declared his love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and stated that all of his studying, teaching, writing was done out of love for Our Lord. He died on 7 March 1274.

We can increase our own devotion to the Holy Eucharist and find much to meditate upon by simply by reading the text of the Eucharistic hymns of this great Saint and teacher. ✚

# Grain of Salt



Joshua receives Moses' staff, cloak, and roaming fees.



Never skip the head count coming home from High Mass.

# Catholic Q's

- 1 How many books are contained in the Holy Bible?
- 2 What is the name of the container a consecrated host is placed within for transport or benediction?
- 3 How many candles are traditionally lit on the altar for a bishop at low mass?
- 4 Who composed the prayer to St Michael?
- 5 Which Asian country has the most Catholics?
- 6 What are the canonical digits?
- 7 What is a titular see?
- 8 Saints were initially proclaimed by popular devotion, but who was the first person to be formally canonised?
- 9 What major world event was going on when the Rabbi of Rome, Israel Zolli, converted to Catholicism?
- 10 Where did St Simon Stylites have his pillar? +

1. 73.
2. A pyx.
3. Four.
4. Pope Leo XIII in 1886.
5. India, with over 13 million.
6. These refer to the thumbs and index fingers of a priest, necessarily to confer the sacrament of the Eucharist.
7. It is an episcopal see of a former diocese that no longer functions, often due to schism or invasion.
8. St Ulrich of Augsburg was the first saint to be formally canonized by Pope John XV in 993.
9. World War II.
10. Simon watched for 37 years atop his pillar in Telanissa (Taladah), Syria.



# The Colosseum

## Wild Arrangements Challenge

Ages 17 and Under



Using only flowers, branches, or greenery found growing wild, **make a floral arrangement**. Put it in a vase or some kind of decorative holder. You might like to add a ribbon, or put pretty rocks in the water.

**PRO TIP:** Use different lengths of stem. Short stems to the front, long stems to the back!

**ADVANCED:** Contrast brings out beauty! Put one or two large blooms with many small ones. Spiky grasses, thistles and pine needles contrast well with smooth, wide leaves and soft petals. Long, skinny tendrils can stick out high above a tightly packed bunch.

Email **one** photo to [catholichomecontests@protonmail.com](mailto:catholichomecontests@protonmail.com) Include the artist's name, age, and mailing address. Only first name and age will be published.

**DEADLINE: 30 July 2024**

**PRIZES:** A £15 gift card for Hobbycraft will be awarded in each of 3 age groups: 8 and under, 12 and under, 17 and under. The best entires will be published in the next issue.

## Stick Man Contest, Spring 2024 And The Winners Are...



Loretta (age 10) made this friendly caped character. **WINNER, ages 9-12.**

This lovely little lady, complete with a polka-dotted dress & acorn fascinator, was made by **Sophie (age 13)**. **WINNER, ages 13-17.**



Each winner will be sent a \$25 gift card for Michaels. Congratulations to Sophie, Loretta & Christopher!

It looks like **Christopher (age 8)** whittled the shape of this pensive stick man, before adding details with marker. **WINNER, ages 8 and under.**

