

SAINT OF THE MONTH



Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot



Heaven's Heroes: growing in faith with a little help from the saints

This month, we are inspired by

Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot

Feast Day

January 9

Beatified

May 22, 2022

Catholics are encouraged to pray to the saints, blesseds, and venerable people for strength and guidance.

Reading about their lives can serve as inspiration to us for our daily lives. May the following lesson, follow-up questions, prayer, and activities bring us closer to Jesus and help us to grow as missionary disciples.

Goals of the Lesson:

- To inspire children to have a love for saints
- To help students understand that we are all called to holiness
- To teach children to turn to saints in prayer

Materials Needed:

- This lesson plan
- A map or globe

It may be helpful to remind students that a saint is a person who lived their lives in a way that honored Jesus' teaching and by doing so, taught others about Him. Also, it is important for them to know that it is not only those whom the Church has proclaimed a saint who are in Heaven. The official recognition simply allows us to venerate them.

In the Classroom

Prepare students to listen to Blessed Pauline's story by inviting them to remember that she was holy because she lived in a way that respected the Gospel of Jesus. Read, or have read as much of the story as you deem appropriate for children of your grade level.

Use the suggested follow-up questions to begin or enhance your discussions about Blessed Pauline. Stress to the children that Pauline was just 18 years old when she began a movement that revolutionized the way our Church supports missionaries!



Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot



Pauline Marie Jaricot was the youngest of seven children born to Antoine and Jeanne Jaricot in Lyon, France on July 22, 1799. By all accounts, as the youngest, Pauline was a bit spoiled by her parents and her older siblings and developed a headstrong personality. She was someone who was used to getting her own way and her temper could flare when she did not! Pauline loved to sing - her father called her his "nightingale." Although Pauline loved pretty clothes, dancing, and parties, she was a young girl of great faith. Her family attended Mass daily, which was not common in those days.

Pauline grew up in a very close family. She loved her parents very much and favored one brother in particular - Phileas. Her love of writing would help her to stay connected to him when he left to attend the seminary to become a missionary priest. In the letters he wrote to his sister, he shared the stories of the missions that he learned while studying. They deepened Pauline's faith and inspired her to become more devout.

As a young teen, Pauline's happy, easy-going life took a turn for the worse. First, while perched on a step stool and reaching for something up high, she lost her balance and fell. Pauline hit her head hard and was bed-ridden for a time. It was the beginning of many difficult health problems for her. Pauline's eyesight, which had never been perfect, worsened.

Then, Pauline's beloved mother died. The whole family was devastated. Pauline's main consolation became the letters she received from her brother, Phileas.

Pauline began to experience God more directly in her life after hearing a priest preach on vanity and the importance of focusing on others instead of one's self.

Pauline began to dress plainly, sold her good jewelry to help support the missions, and even apologized to her family for being such a demanding child. She consecrated herself to God, promising never to marry and have children so as to serve Him fully.

When she was 18 years old, Pauline had an idea while praying: she put it into action by going into the silk mills of Lyon and organizing the workers into "Prayer Circles" of 10 people each. She asked the members to come together once a week to do 2 things for the missions: first, they should pray and second, they should sacrifice a "sou" a week (about a penny). In her diary, Pauline wrote, "It astonished me that no one had thought of such a simple plan before!" By 1822, there were over 1,000 people involved, sending their pennies to Pauline! The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, "big brother" to the Missionary Childhood Association, was born!

Soon, Prayer Circles were popping up across France and then all of Europe. Catholics were coming together to pray and sacrifice for the missions and sending their pennies to Pauline for distribution. Her vision was that all the missions of the world should be helped, not just one or two places. Some of the first donations sent out to missionaries came to one of the largest mission lands of the time - the United States.

As Pauline's health declined, others took over the management of her work. Pauline died penniless on January 9, 1862, having spent her life and her life savings in support of the missions. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith became Pontifical, that is belonging to the Holy Father, in 1916, as did the Missionary Childhood Association. Pauline's work continues in every (Arch)diocese in the world!



Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot



Pray

Blessed Pauline, at a very young age, you were inspired to make Jesus known by supporting His missionaries around the world. You continued the work throughout your life. Help us to hear the call of the Holy Spirit, as you did, and to act for others every day, so that the name of Jesus may be known to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Think

1. Pauline Jaricot had many advantages as a child: a loving family, a good school, a proper house to live in, and enough to eat. When tragedy struck her, she turned to God and began to think of what others did NOT have. How did her family's faith prepare her to act in this way?
2. Are you surprised that Pauline was able to start something so big at such a young age? Why or why not? Discuss what you might do to make a mark on the world with your faith.
3. What personality traits do you think Pauline had that helped her accomplish all she did? Do you share any of them? What will you do with these talents from God?

Act

All students: Form "Prayer Circles" in your classroom. Gather once a week to pray - say a decade of the rosary - for the missions and sacrifice. Skip a snack, find spare change, etc. Put the gifts in a classroom bank, even if its just a penny. Pauline knew every penny counts! Need a classroom bank? Make one from a plastic container or shoe box. Or contact our office at 617-542-1776 or info@propfaithboston.org

Younger students:

Pauline liked to make actions she called "chain reactions." Her good actions encouraged others to do the same. Go out of your way to do acts of kindness for others this month; write them on a colored strip of paper and form a chain in your classroom. Let us know how long your chain becomes!

Older students:

A penny in 1822 is worth about \$.25 in today's money. Plan a 'Pennies for Pauline Walkathon.' Ask people to pledge a quarter for each time you walk around the place of your choice - your school, church, or neighborhood. Say the rosary as you walk! Form a Prayer Circle and do it together!