

St Catherine Laboure – Feast Day 28 November

- Saint Catherine Laboure -



St. Catherine Laboure was born Zoe Laboure on May 2, 1806. She was one of 11 children and her mother died when she was just 9 years old. Catherine looked after her family from an early age and later entered the community of the Daughters of Charity, in Paris, France. In 1830 the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine, who then was a 24 year old novice.

The first apparition occurred on July 18 in the convent chapel. St. Catherine beheld a lady seated on the right side of the sanctuary. She told her "God wishes to charge you with a mission. You will be contradicted, but do not fear; you will have the grace to do what is necessary. Tell your spiritual director all that passes within you. Times are evil in France and in the world."

On November 27, Our lady showed St. Catherine the medal of the Immaculate Conception, now known as the "Miraculous

Medal." She commissioned St. Catherine to have one made, and to spread devotion to this medal. At that time, only her spiritual director, Father Aladel, knew of the apparitions. Forty-five years later, St. Catherine spoke fully of the apparitions to one of her superiors. She died on December 31, 1876, and was canonized on July 27, 1947.

Interesting Fact:
St. Catherine Laboure's body is incorrupt and can be seen in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in the Rue de Bac, Paris.