

THE CHASTE HEART OF
St. Joseph
A GRAPHIC NOVEL



By FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

Illustrated by SAM ESTRADA

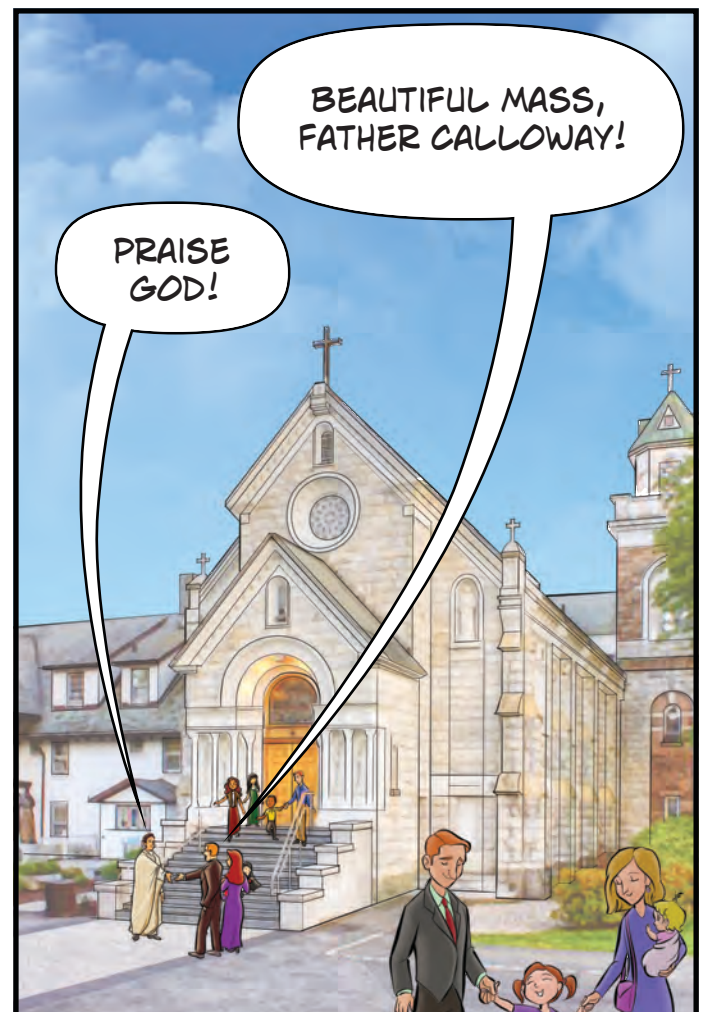
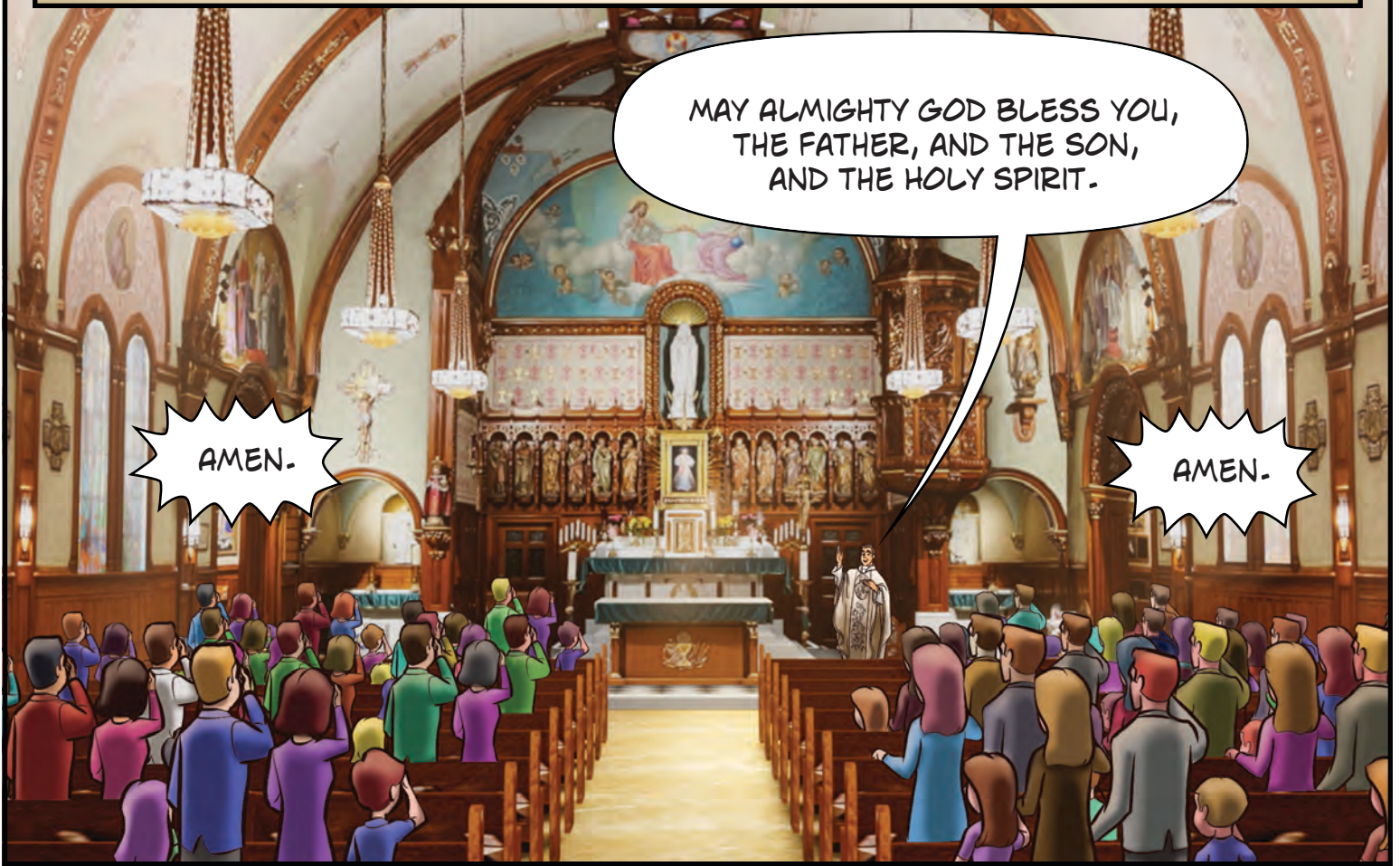
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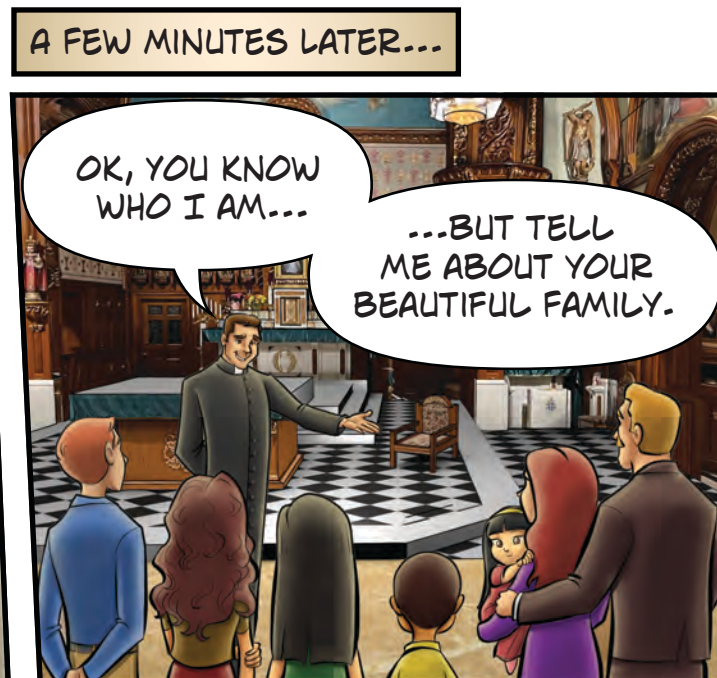
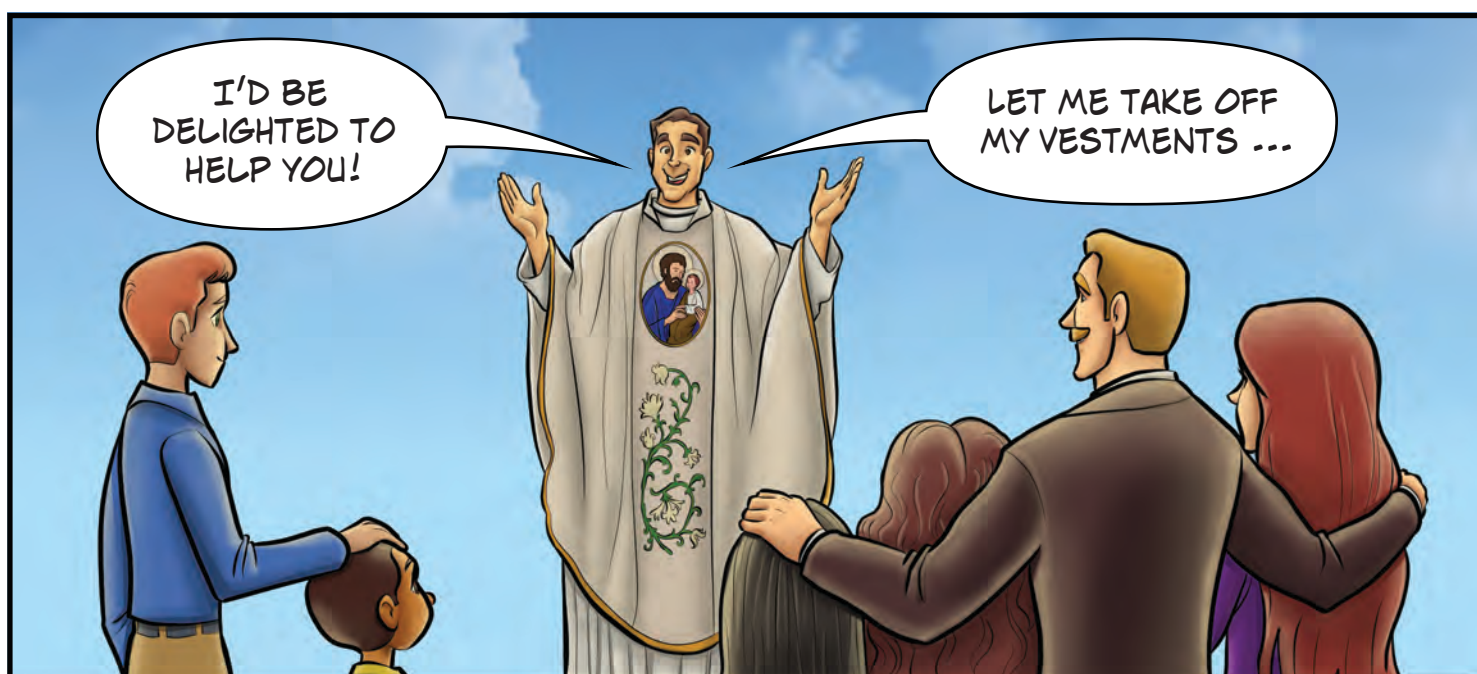
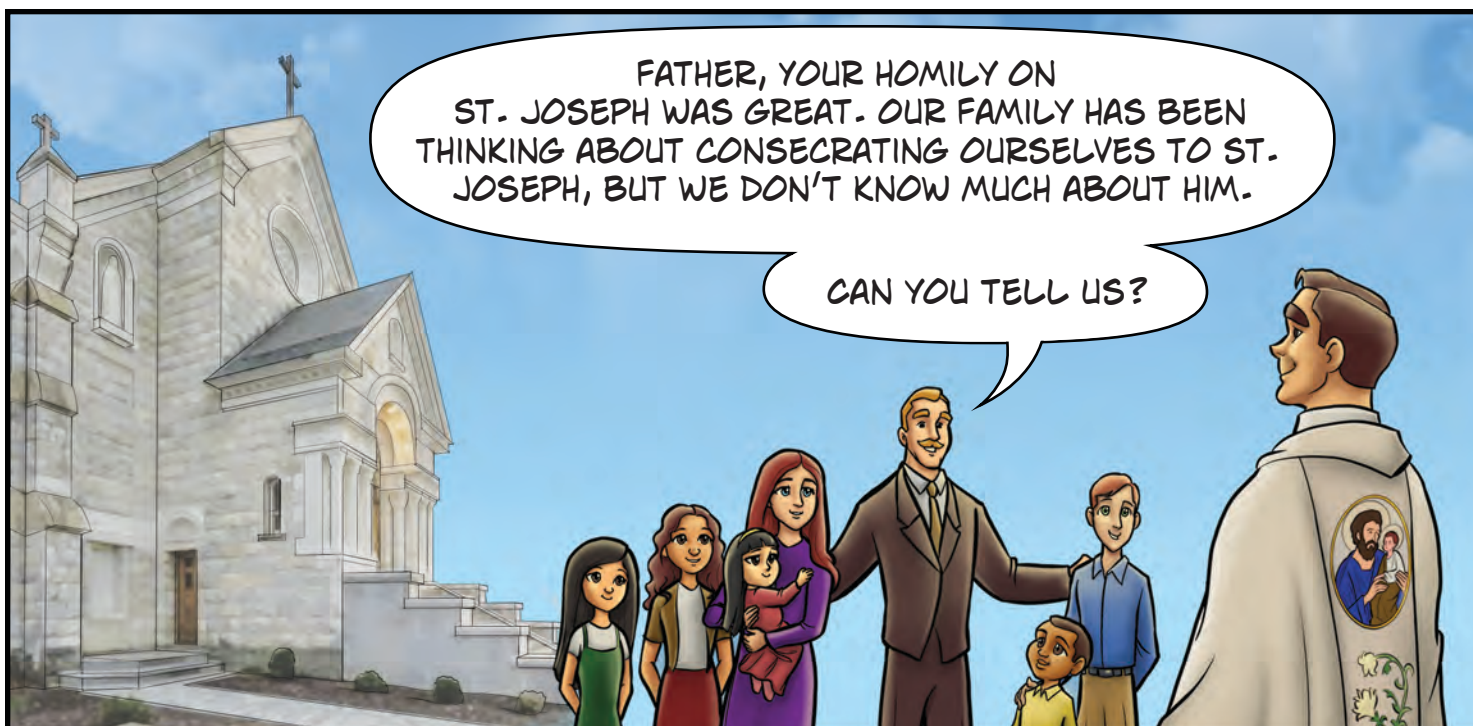
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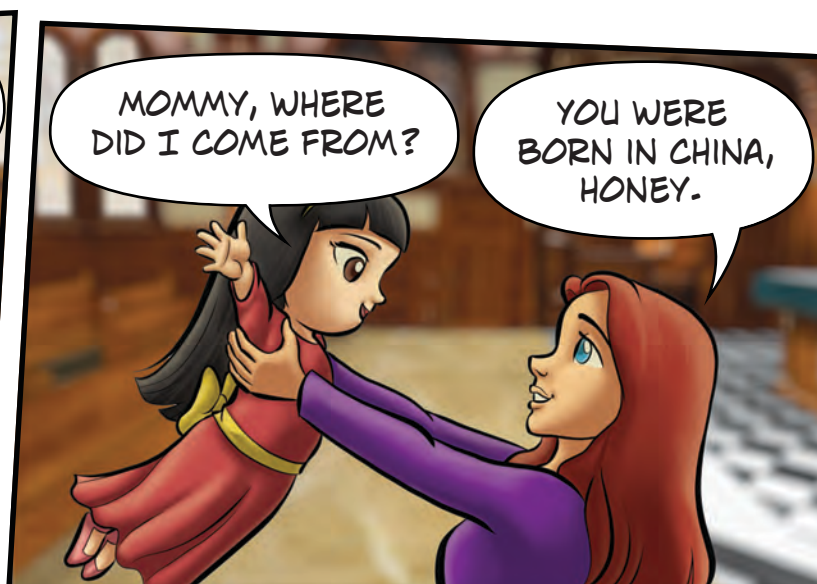
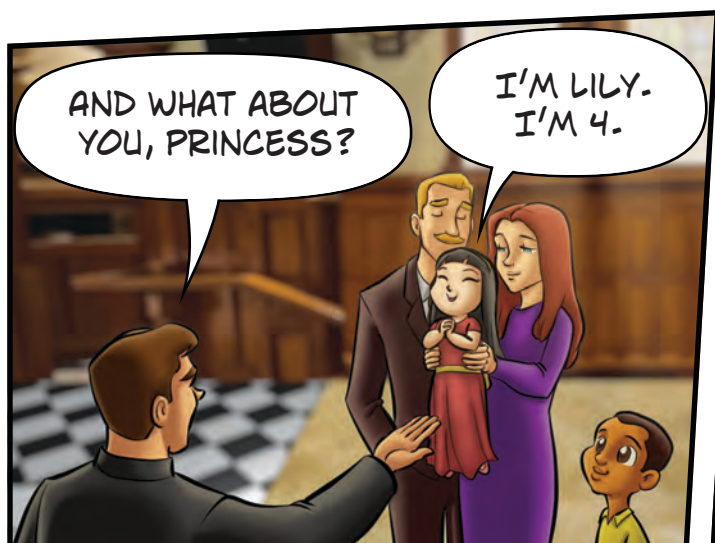
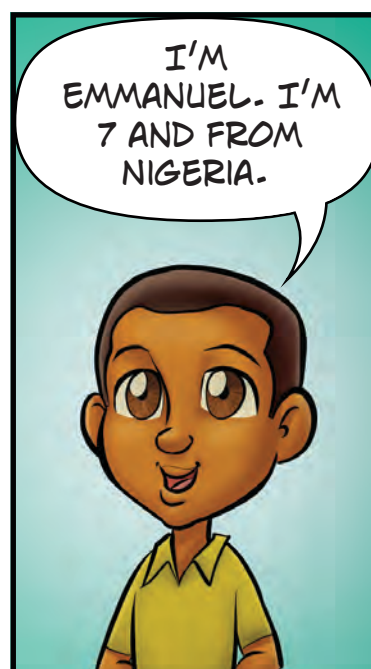
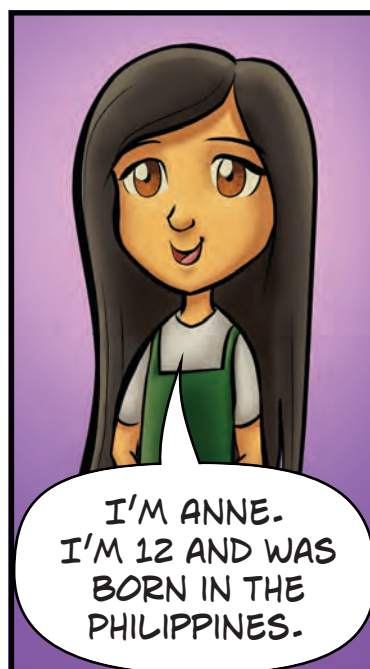
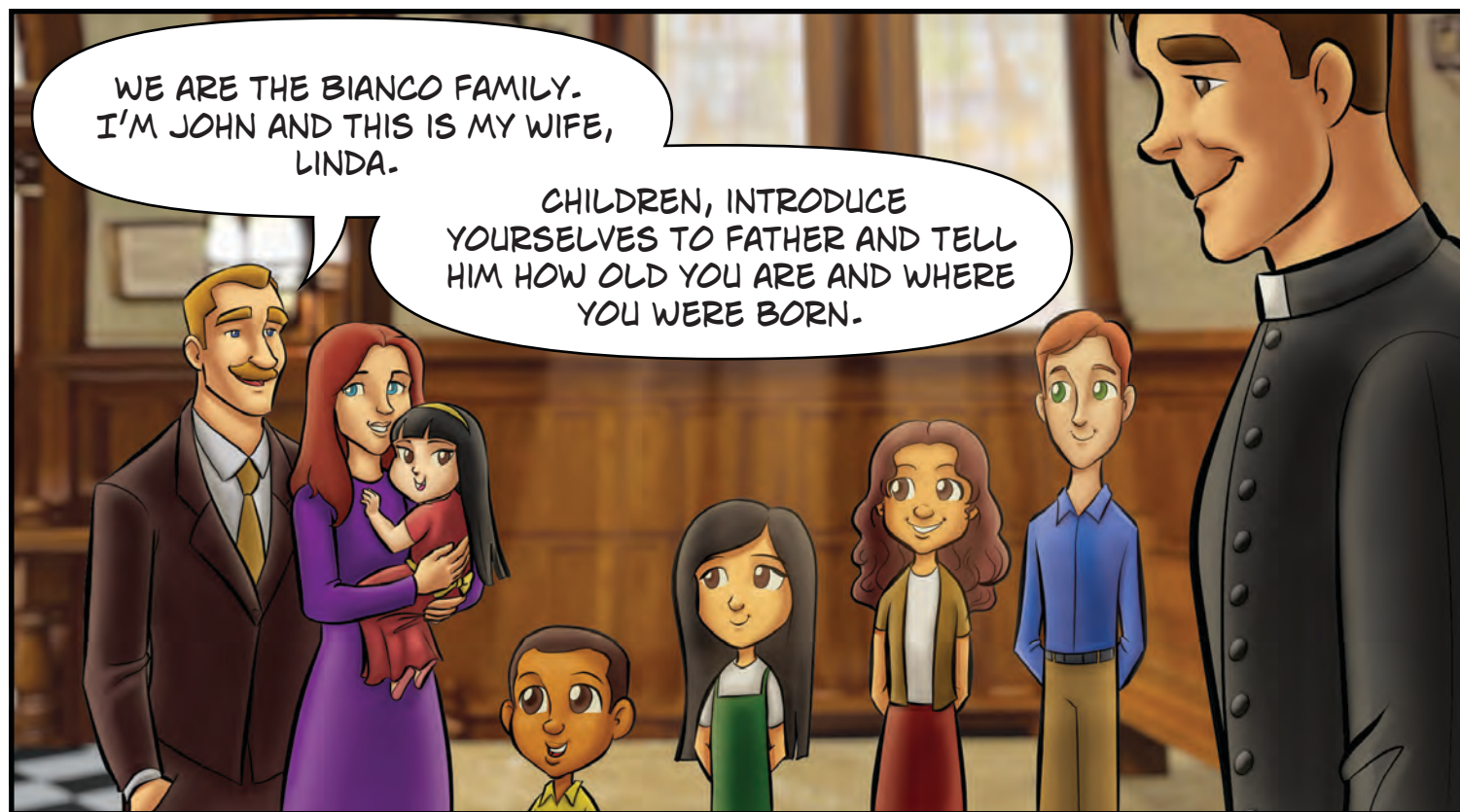
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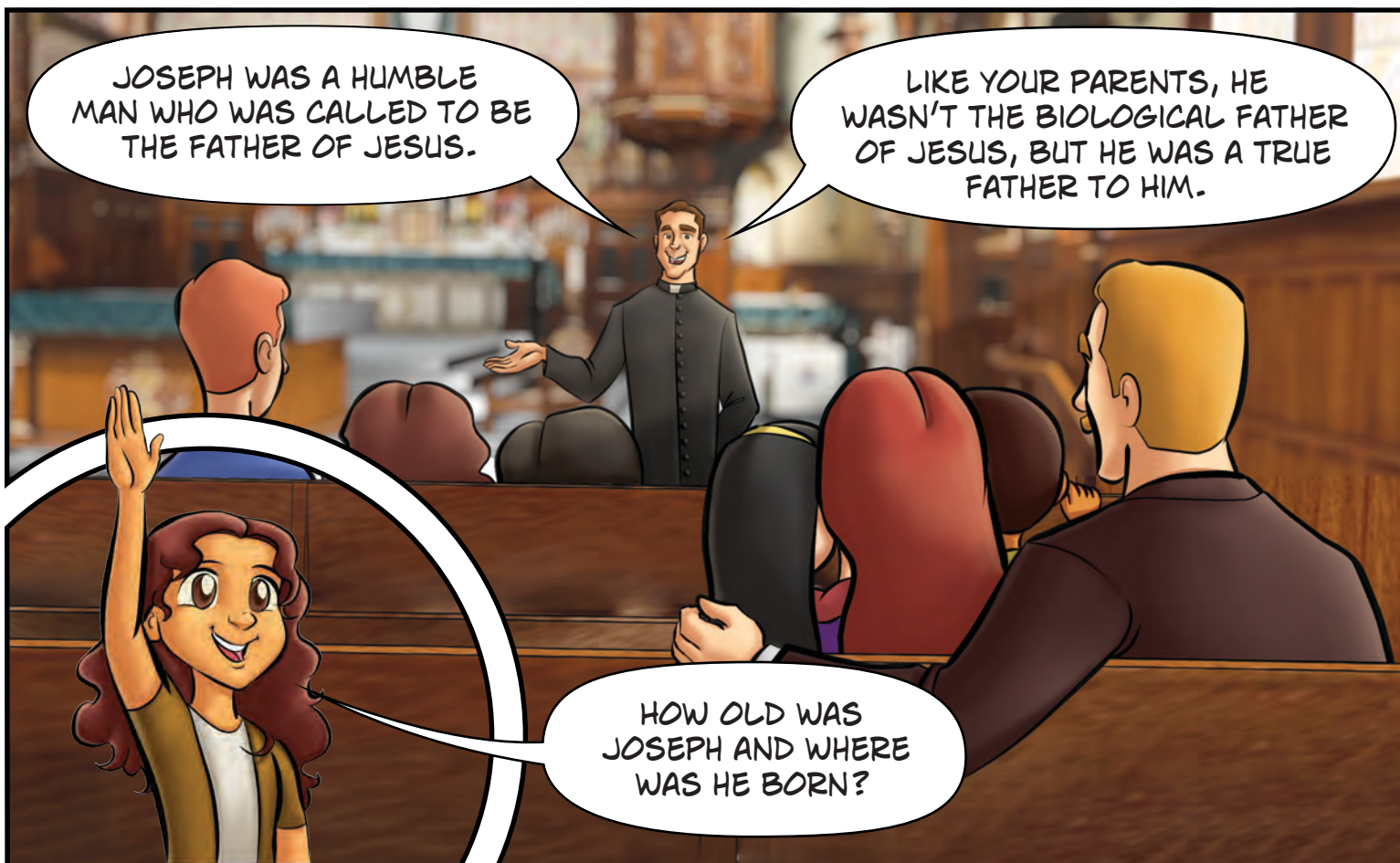
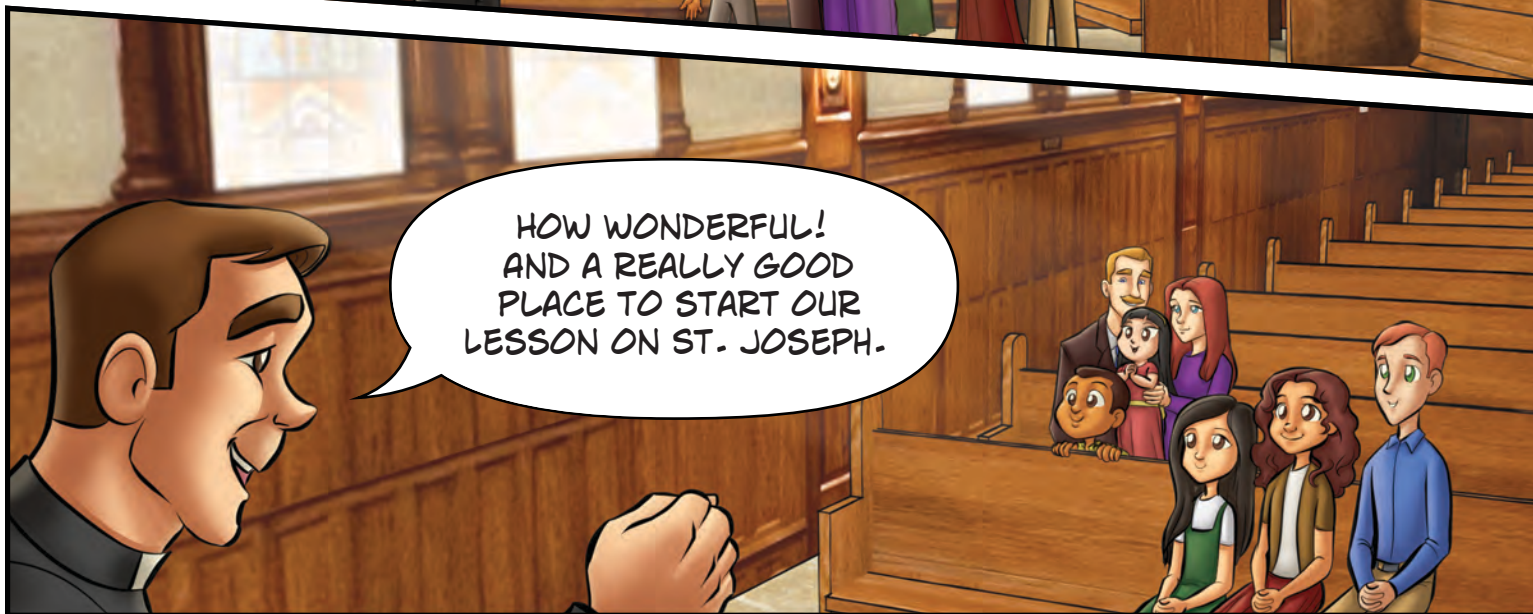
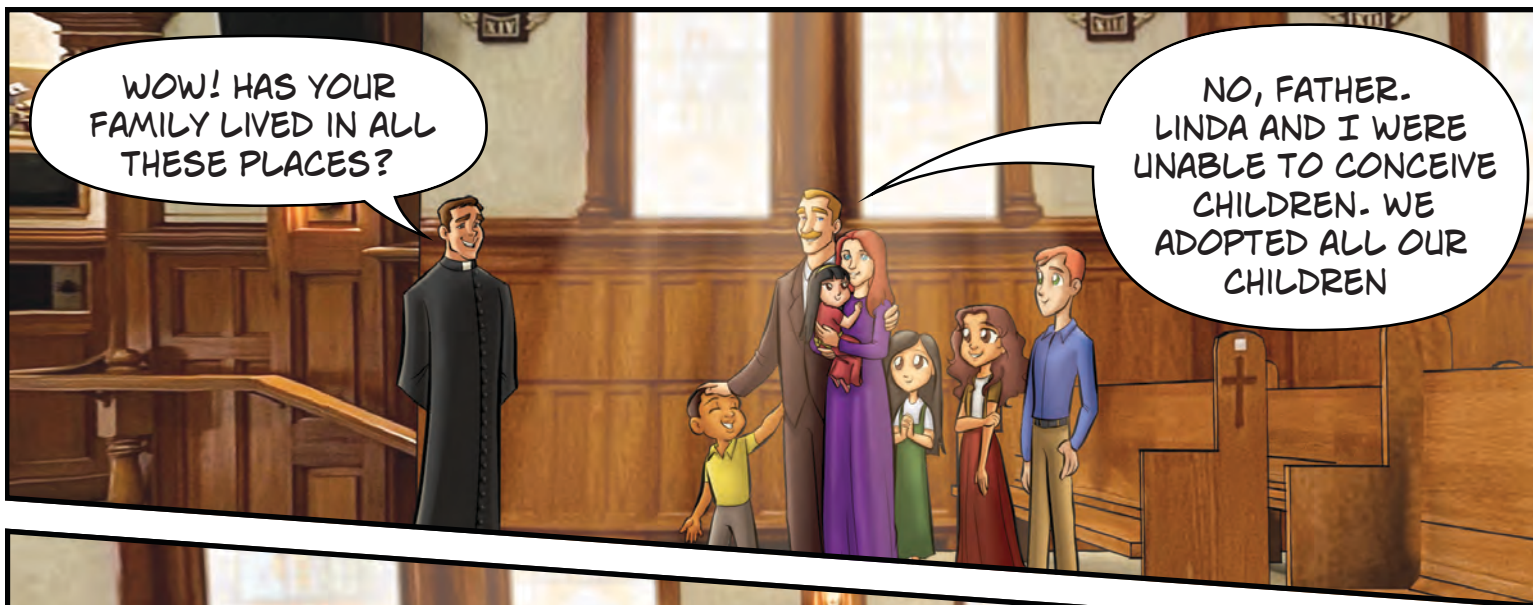
Cover by JOE SPADAFORD

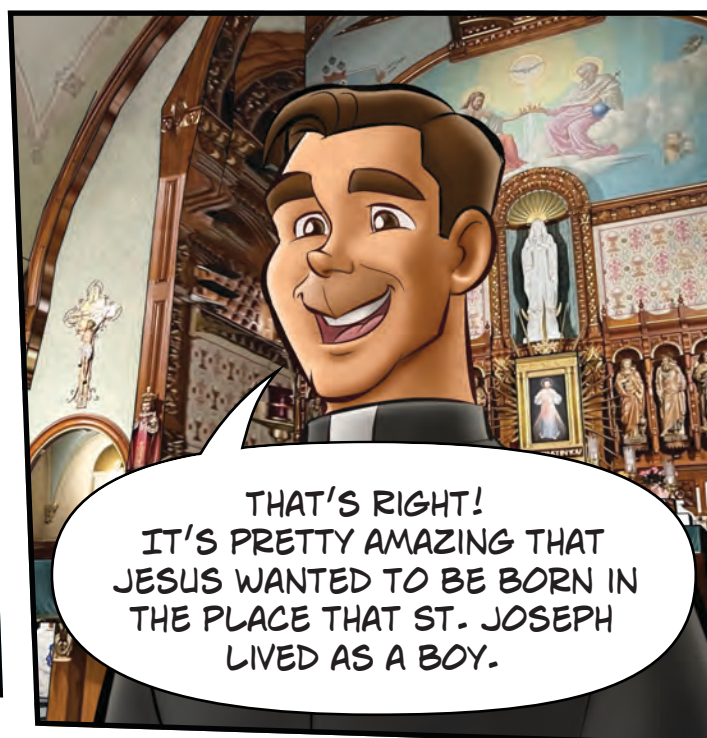
THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY, Stockbridge, Massachusetts

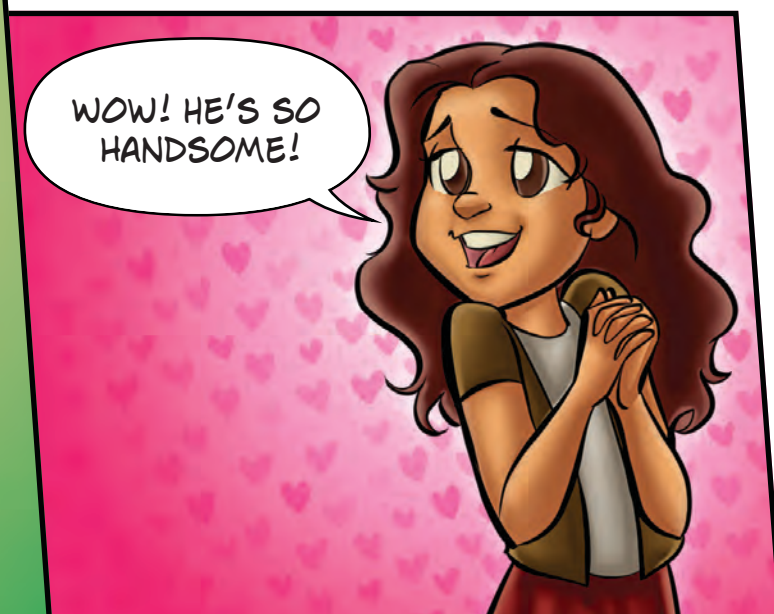
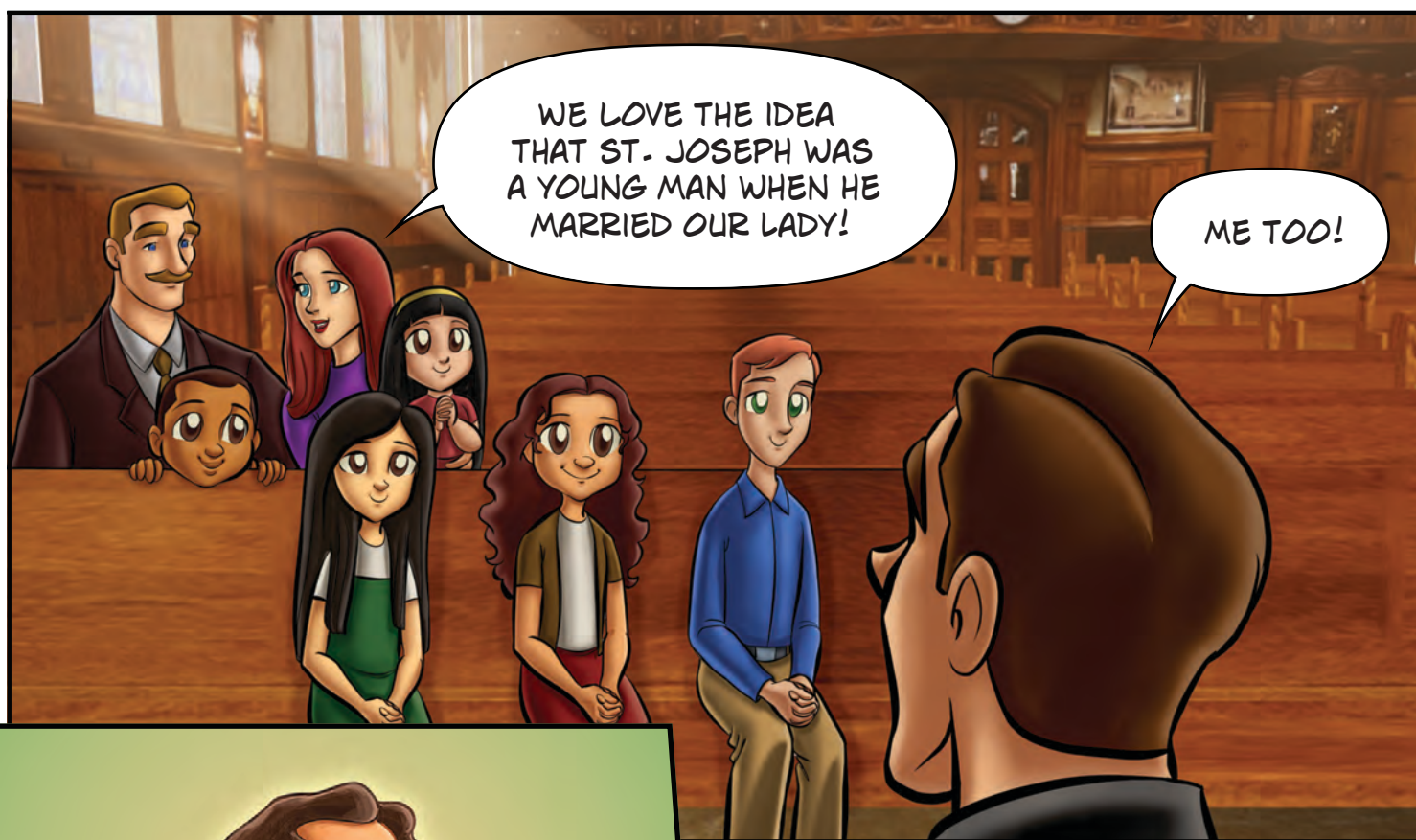














“Joseph was probably a young man, strong, virile, athletic, handsome, chaste, and disciplined. Instead of being a man incapable of loving, he must have been on fire with love. Just as we would give very little credit to the Blessed Mother if she had taken her vow of virginity after having been an old maid for fifty years, so neither could we give much credit to a Joseph who became her spouse because he was advanced in years. He was not in the evening of life, but in its morning, bubbling over with energy, strength, and controlled passion.”

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen



“I see St. Joseph as a strong, young man, perhaps a few years older than Our Lady, but in the prime of his life and work.”

St. Josemaría Escrivá



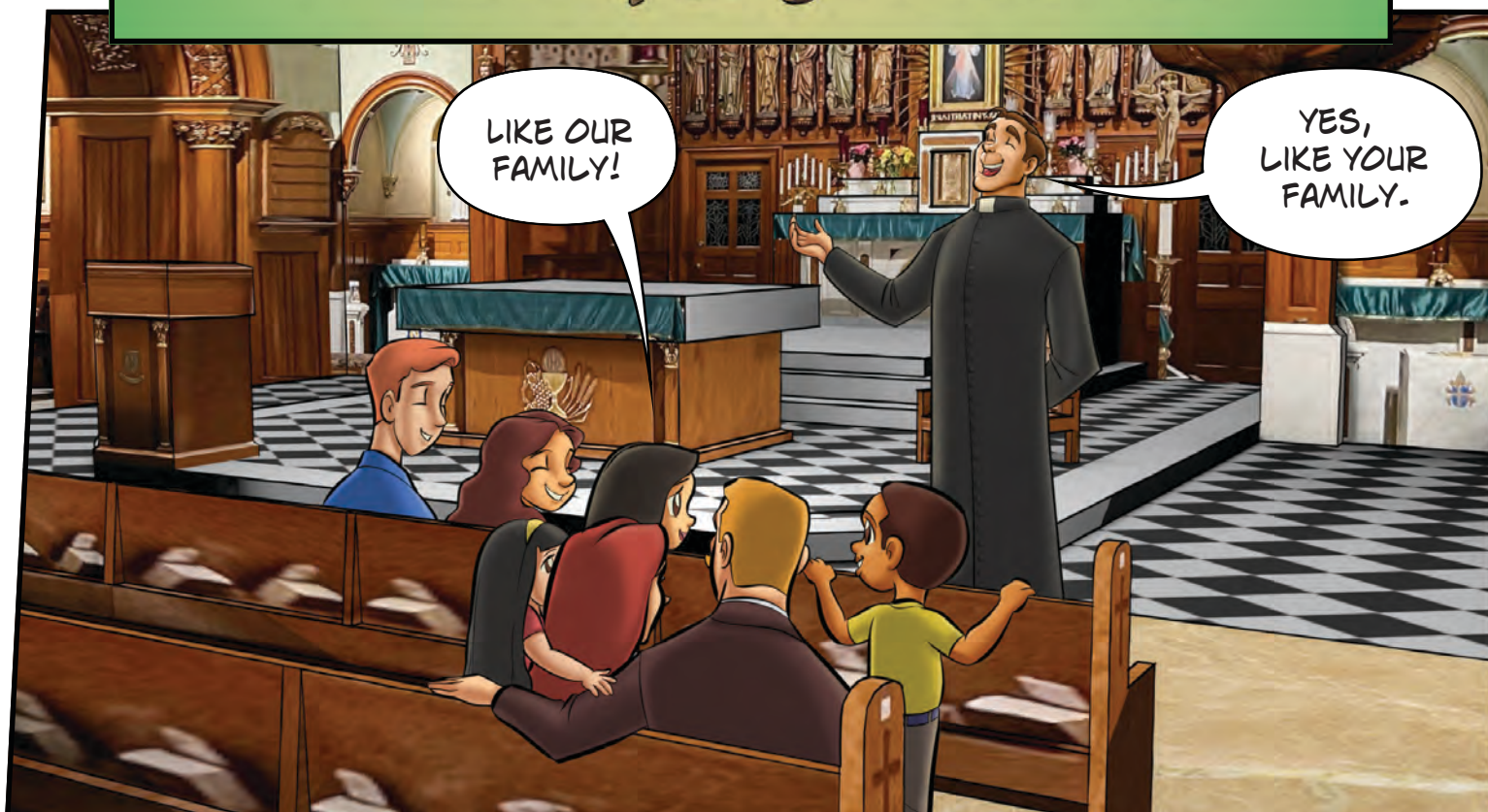
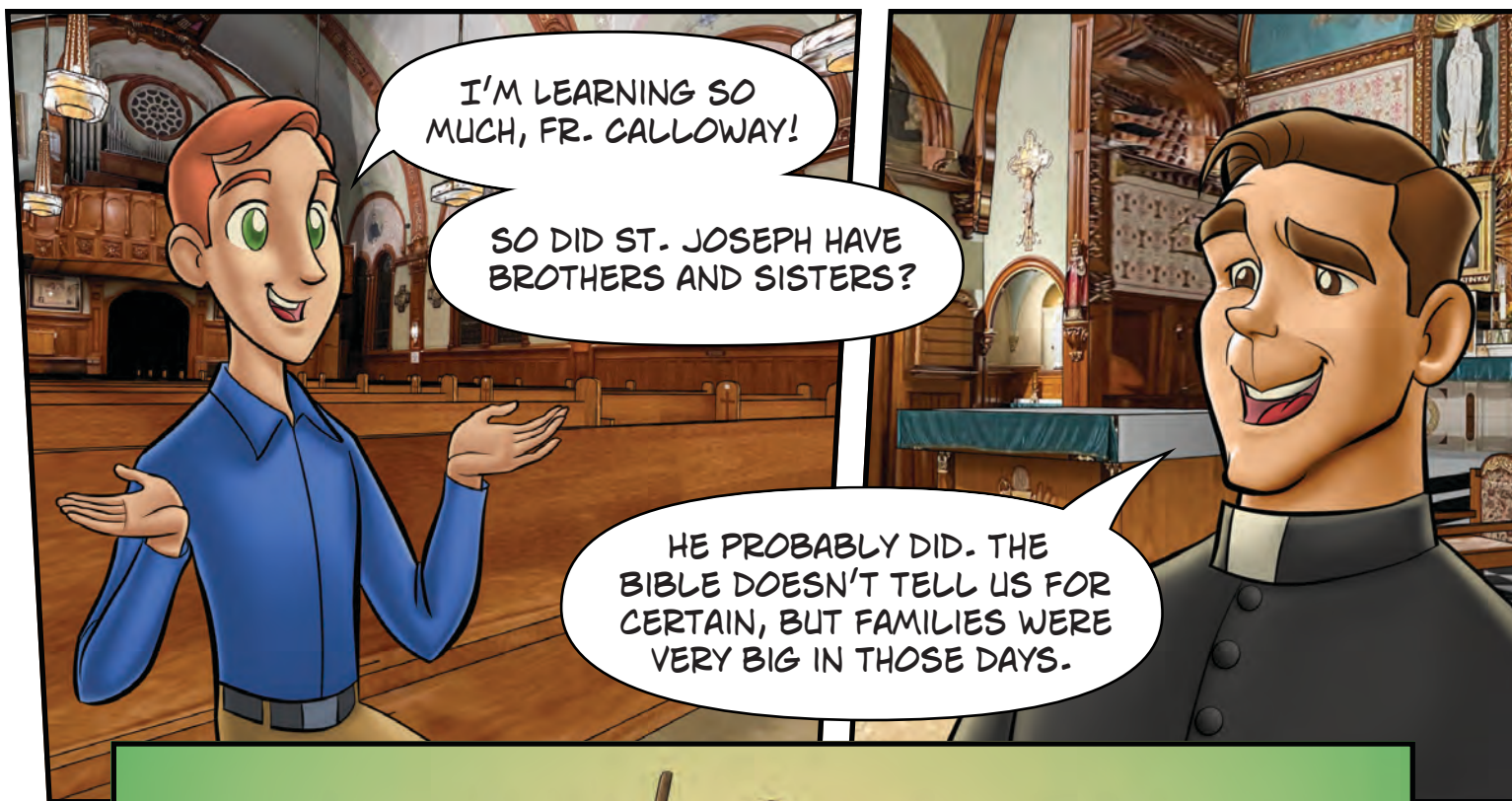
“To imagine St. Joseph as a decrepit old man next to a beautiful young woman, the tender and virginal Mary, is an error. Saint Joseph was a handsome and elegant man.”

Blessed Concepción Cabrera de Armida



“Saint Joseph was very strong and handsome in his youth and, even as he aged, he remained quite youthful. He was venerable in appearance, full of comeliness and majesty, having a chivalrous presence, a rare modesty, and a manner in which a marvelous disposition and strength shone. Goodness and holiness shone so brightly on the face of the saint that it could not be seen without the heart feeling wounded by his wonderful attractiveness. Endowed with a gentle manner, a noble and compassionate heart, extreme sanctity, distinguished manners and a most sweet temper, Joseph never let Mary experience a need that he could not remedy.”

St. Enrique de Ossó





SOMETHING THE BIBLE **DOES** TELL US ABOUT ST. JOSEPH IS THAT HE HAS A ROYAL LINEAGE. HIS BLOOD IS FROM THE LINE OF KING DAVID.

WOW!
WAS HE A KING IN THE HOLY LAND?

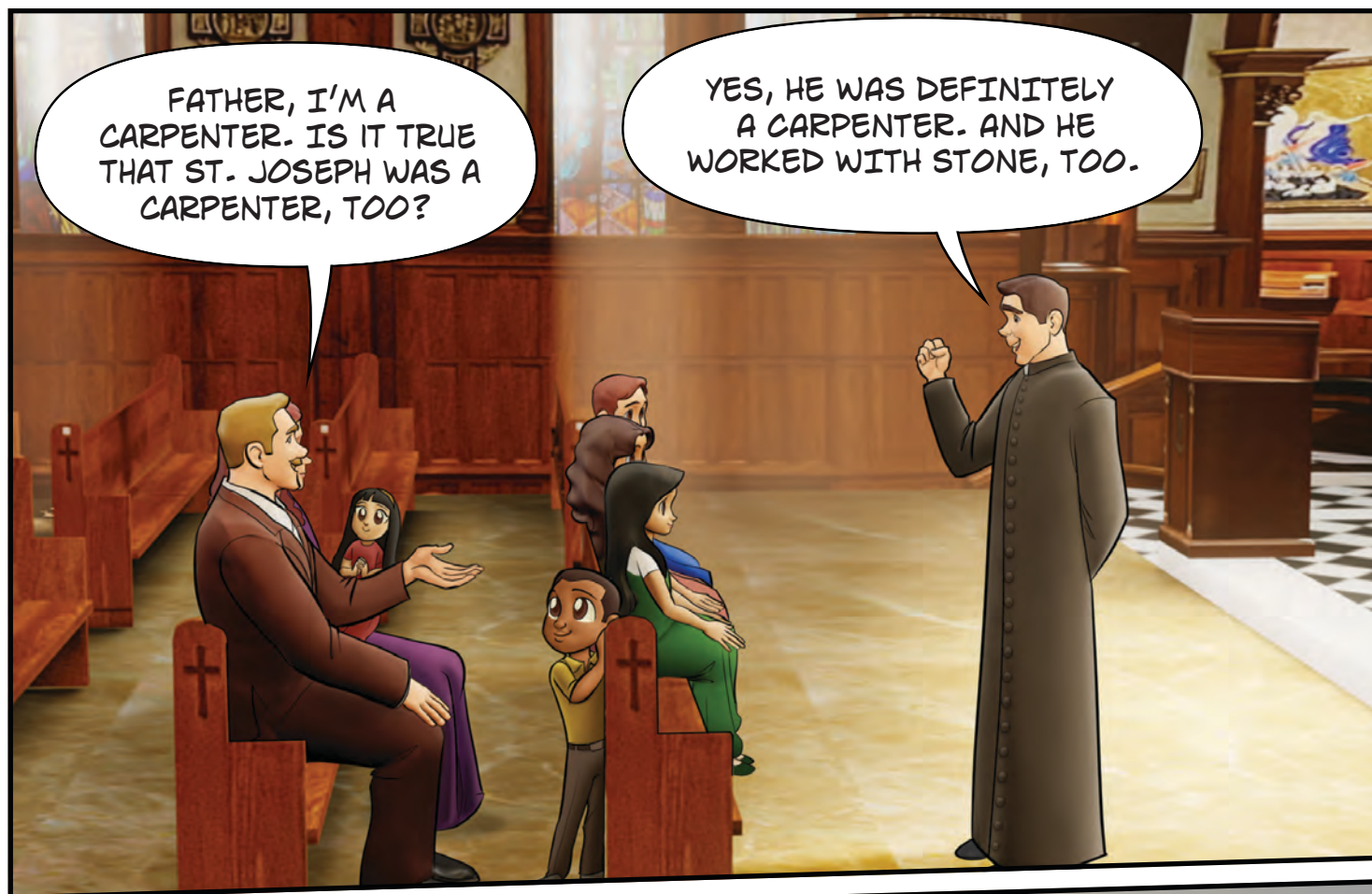


NO, BUT HE COULD HAVE BEEN. YET HE WAS SOMETHING BETTER!



HE WAS LIKE A KING IN THE HOLY FAMILY!



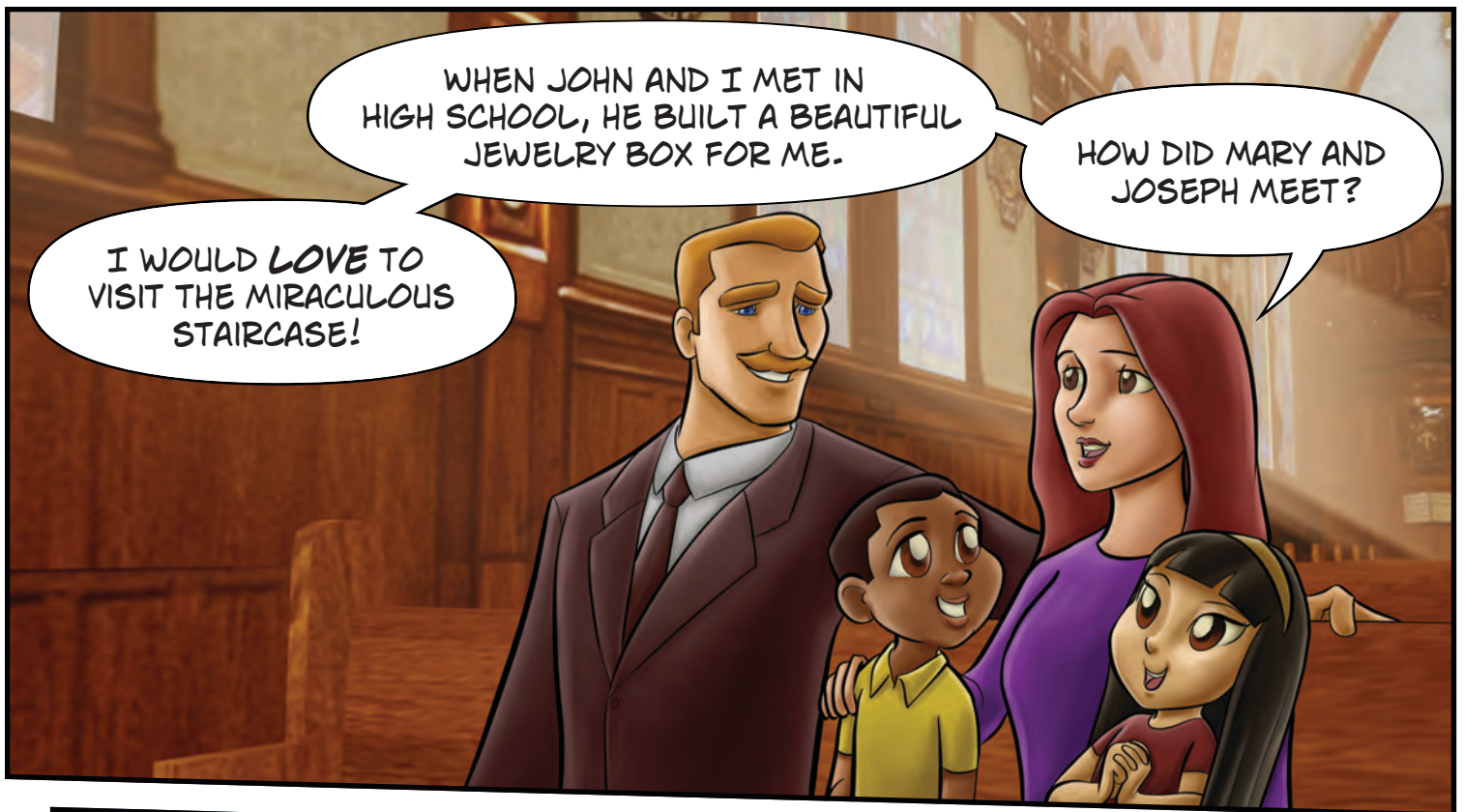


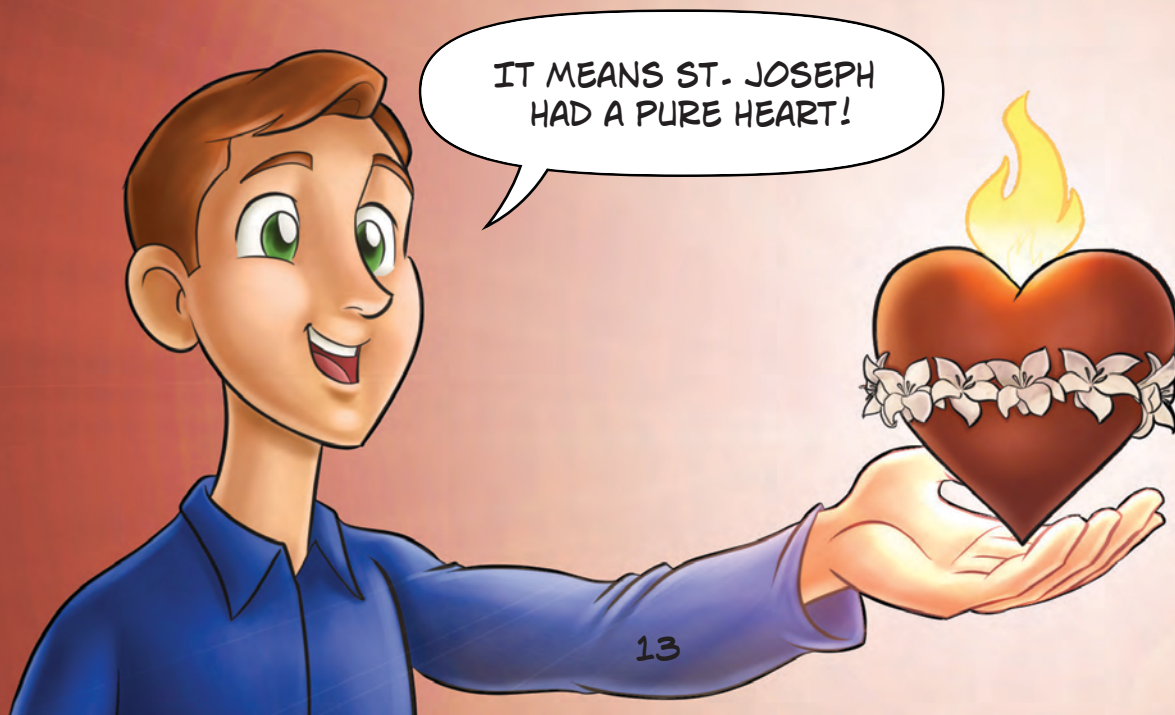
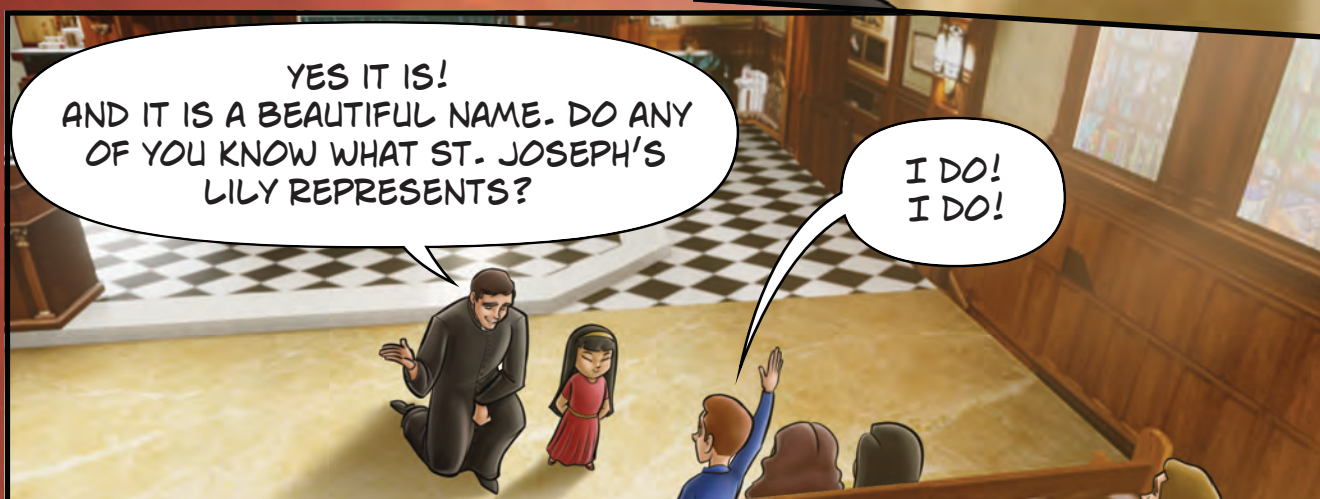
THE MIRACULOUS STAIRCASE IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

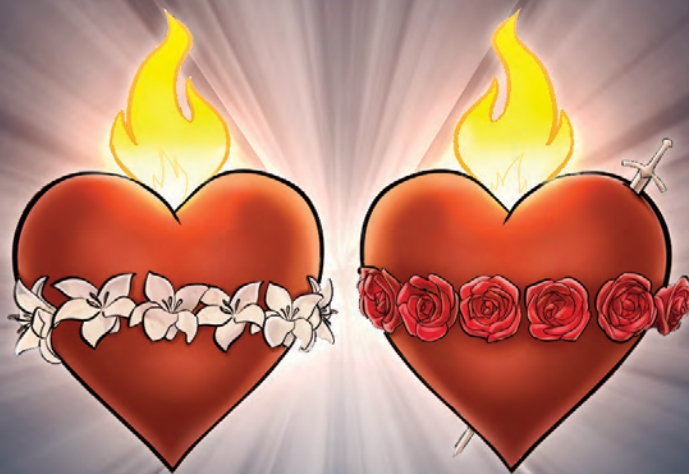
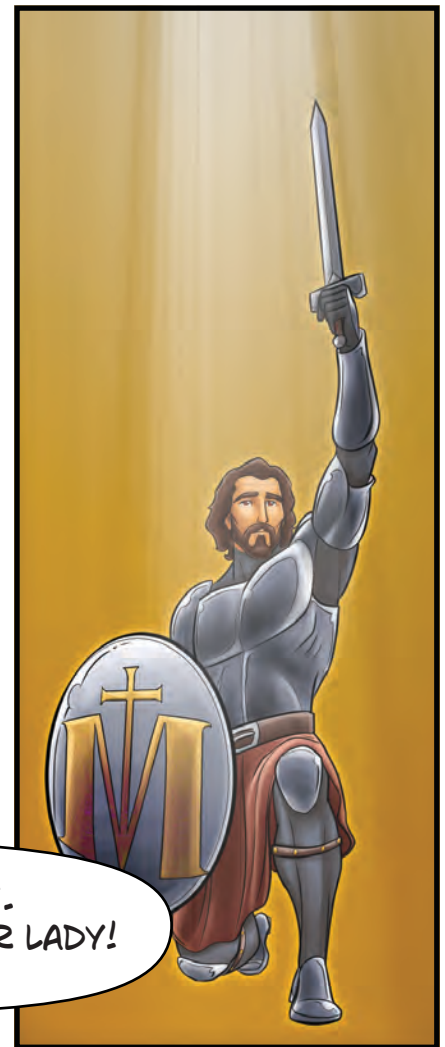
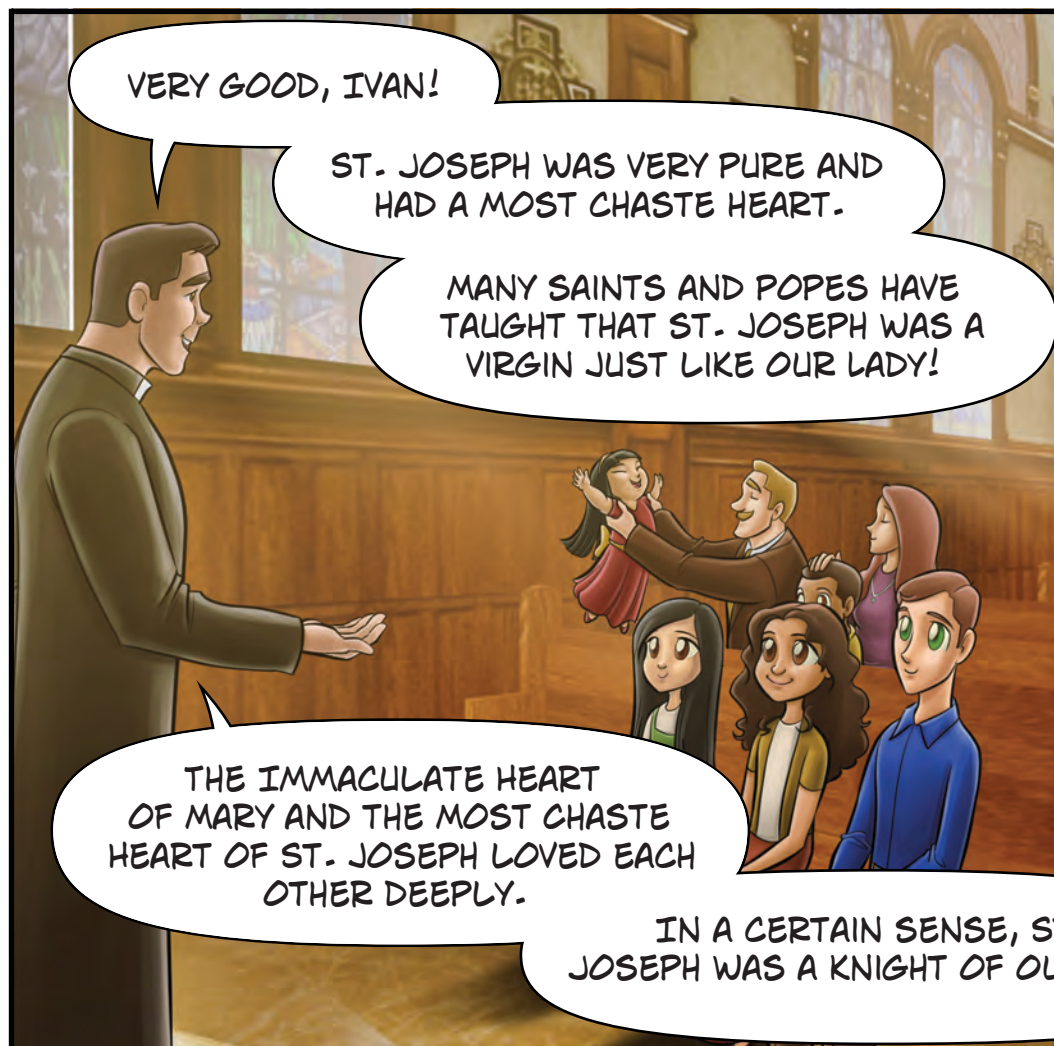
In 1878, the Sisters of Loretto prayed a novena to St. Joseph because they needed someone to build them a staircase for their chapel. A mysterious man came to the convent and offered to build the staircase. Once the staircase was finished, the man was nowhere to be found and was never seen again.



The sisters believe it was St. Joseph who responded to the novena and built the miraculous staircase. It's a miraculous staircase because it has no center column and no nails. And it's still there to this day!

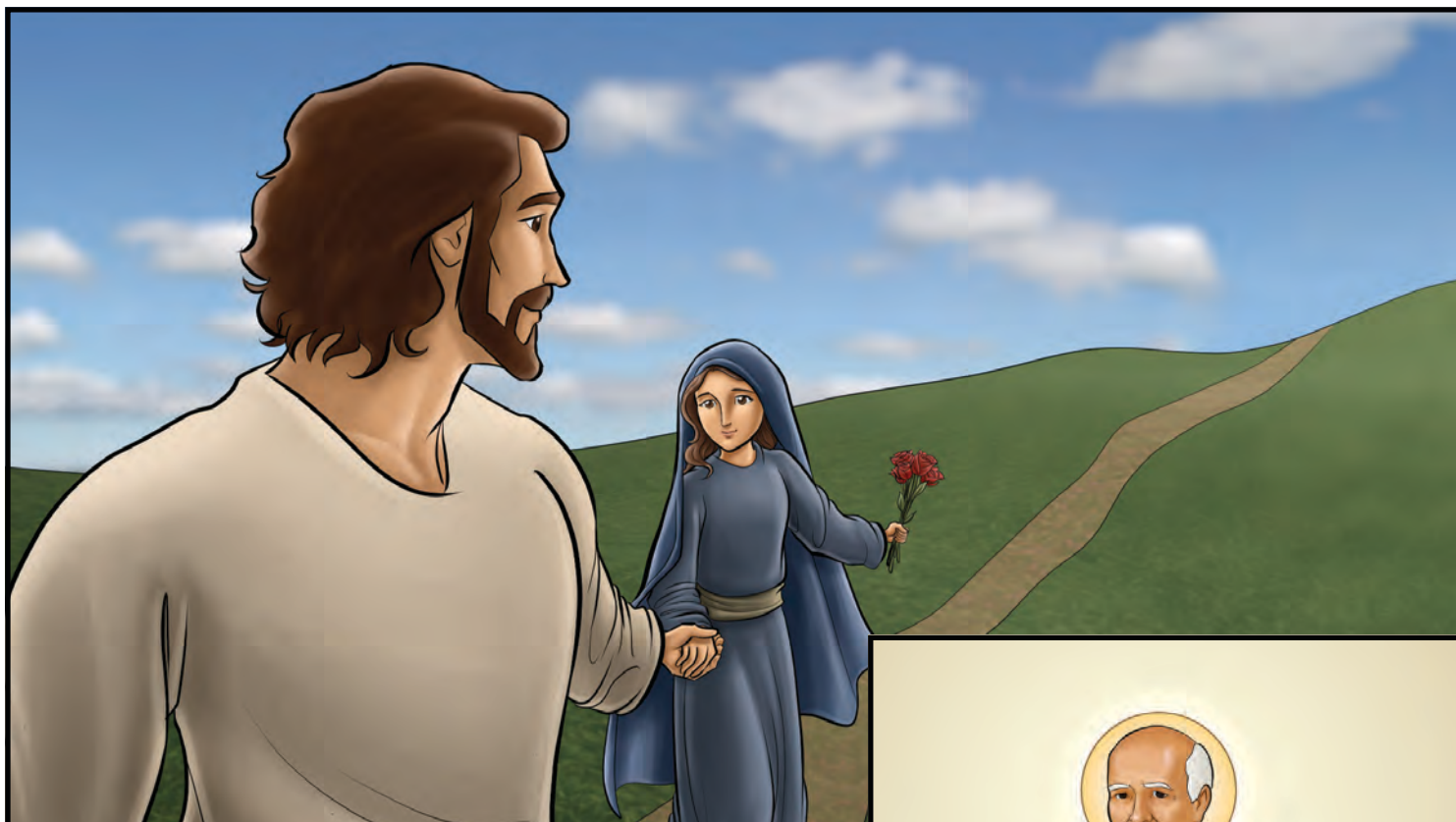






Prayer of St. Pope Pius X

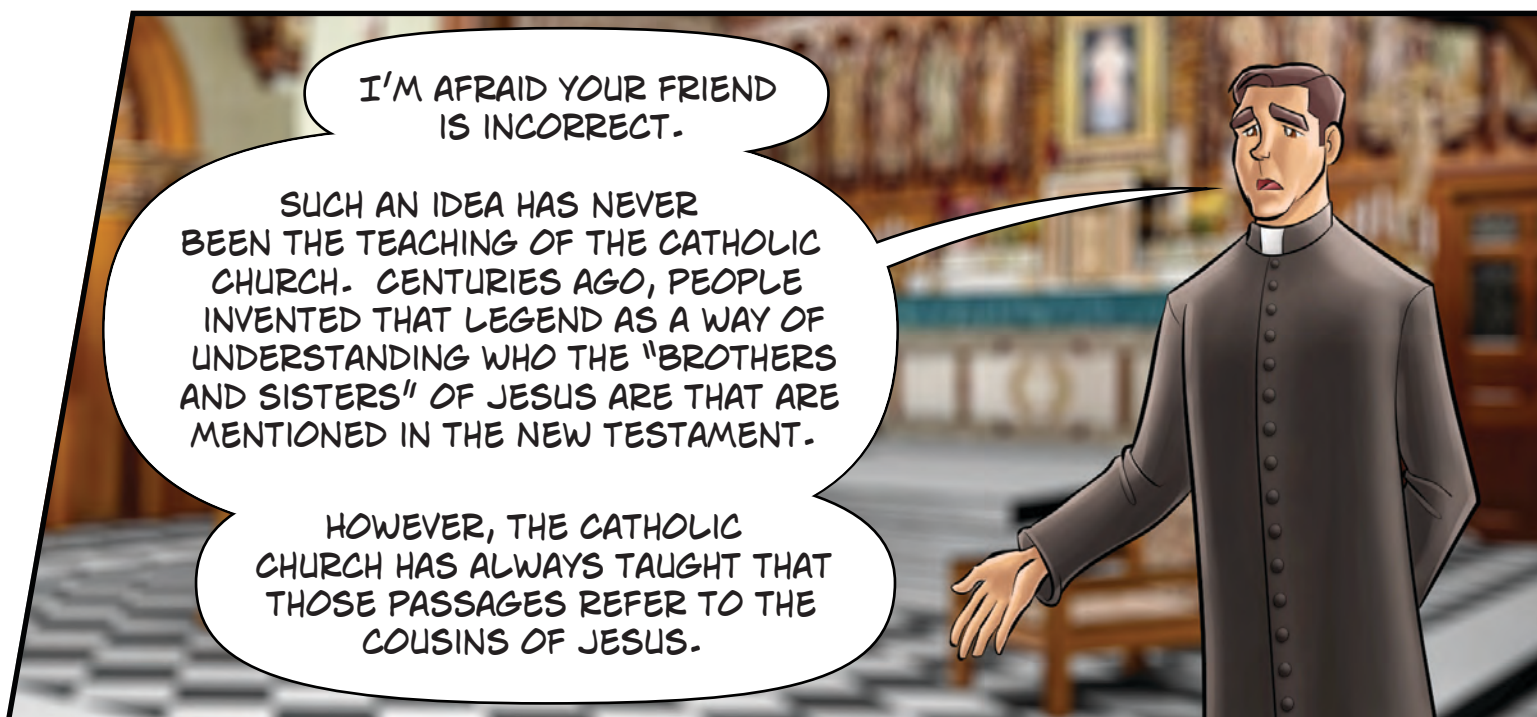
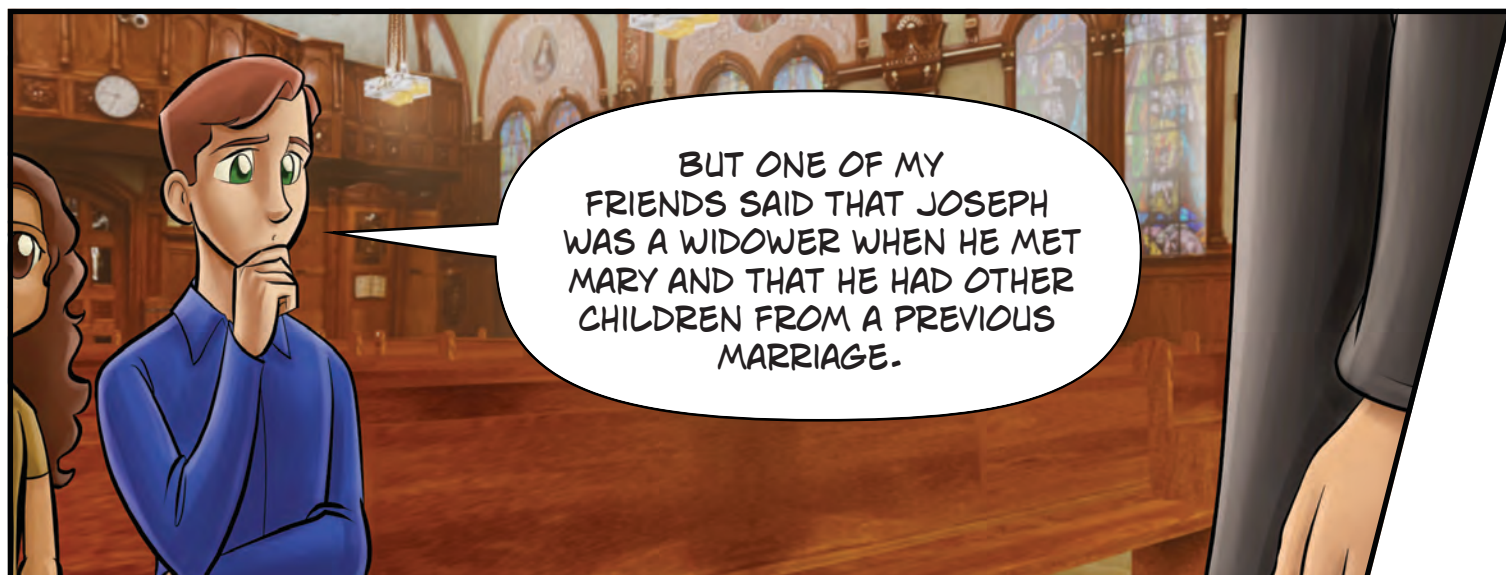
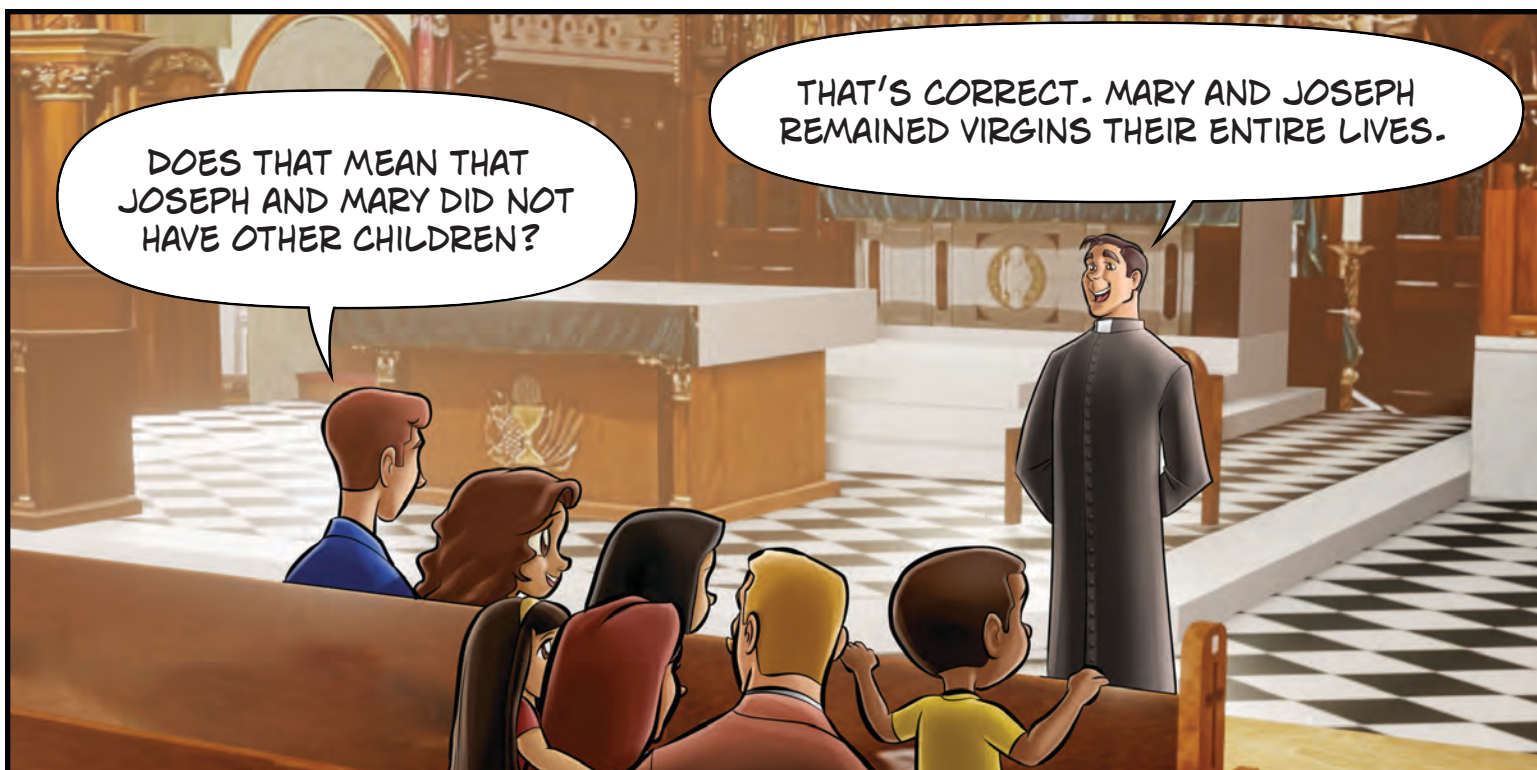
O Joseph, virgin father of Jesus, most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us daily to the same Jesus, the Son of God, that armed with the weapons of his grace, we may fight as we ought during life, and be crowned by him at the moment of our death. Amen.

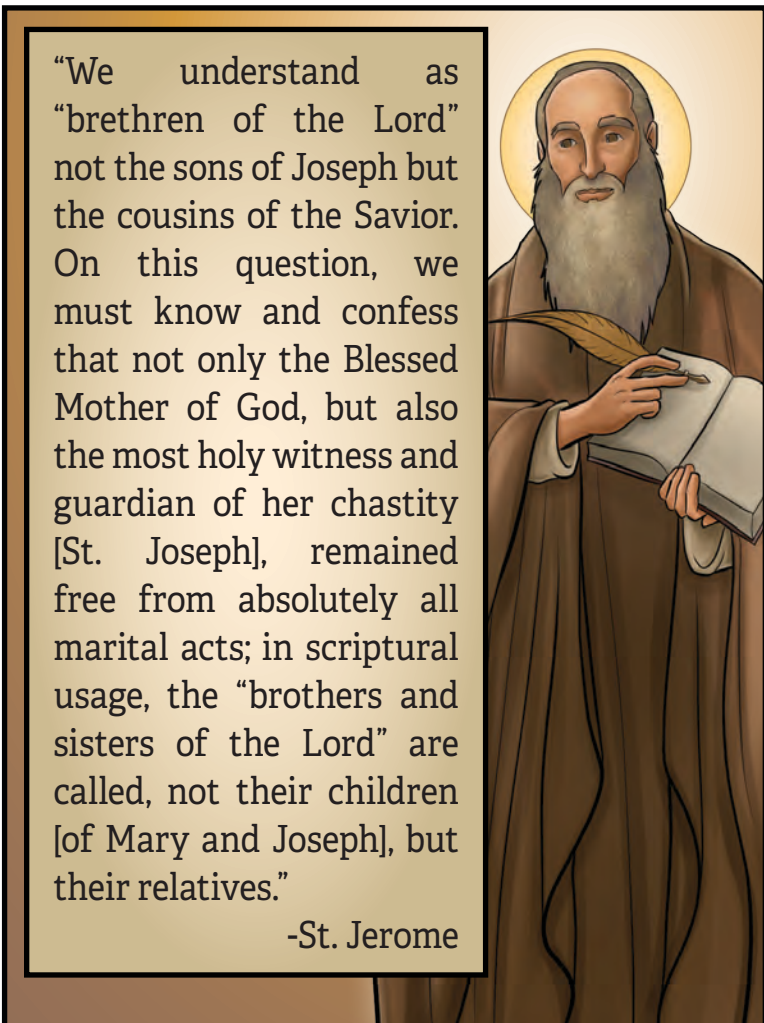
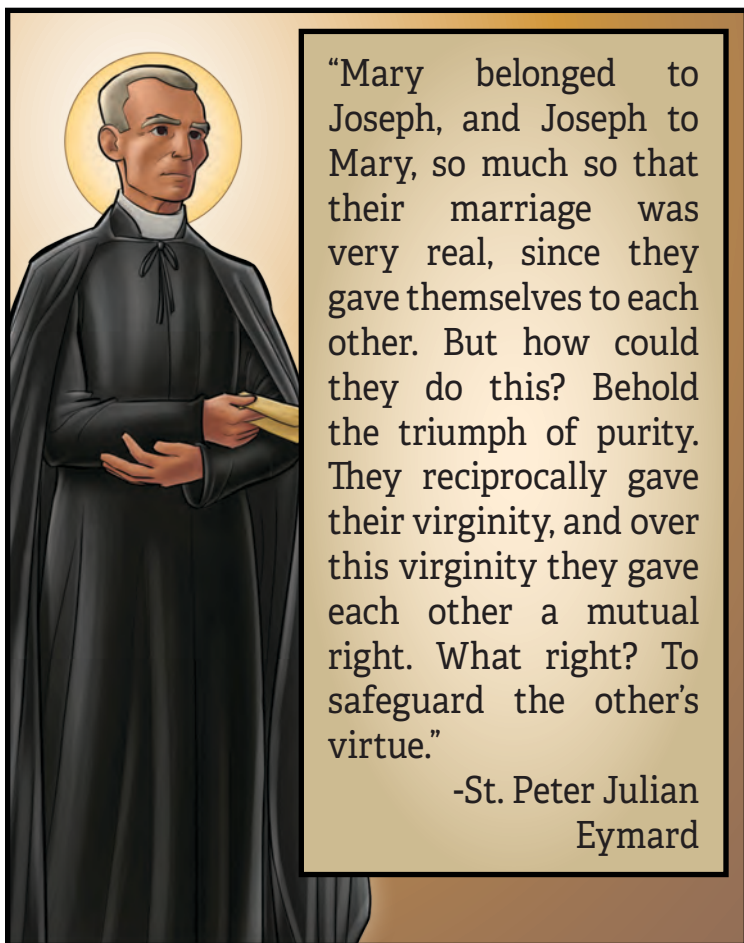
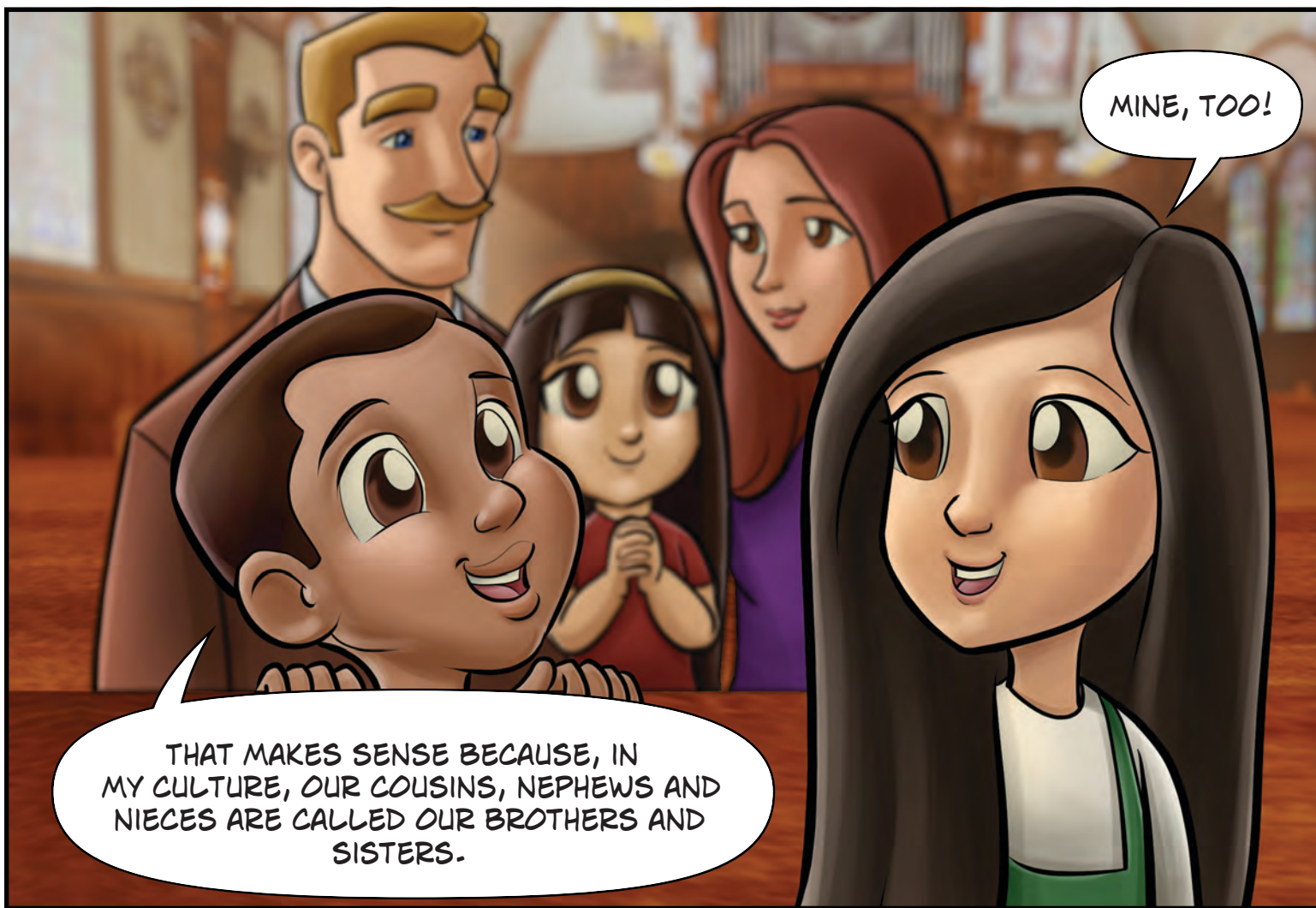


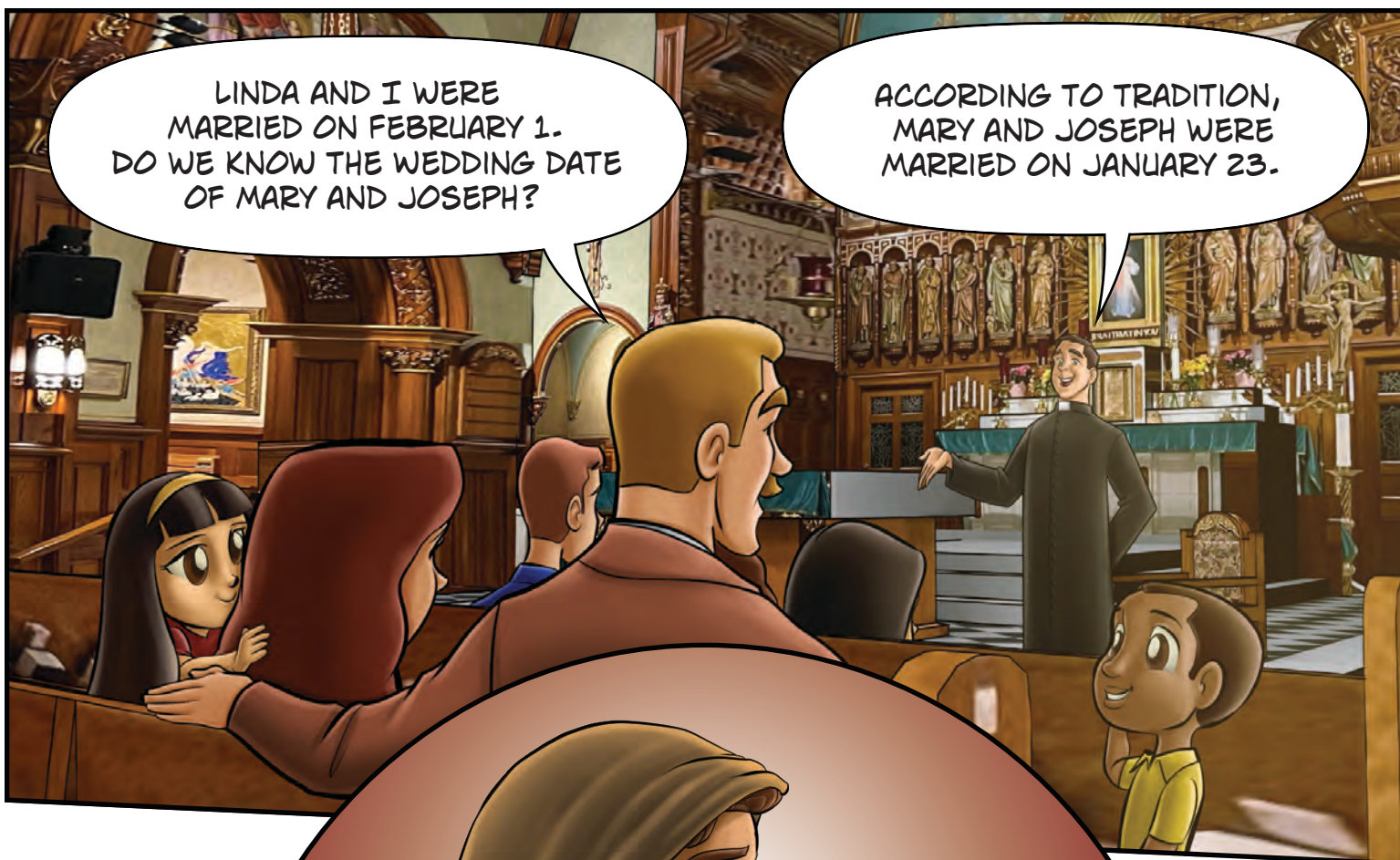
“The Virgin Mary has been wed to the virginal bridegroom Joseph. Yet she — who married Joseph out of obedience to her elders — has no fear for her virginity under Joseph’s protection. Having placed her trust in God, she delegated to a man the safeguarding of the greatest treasure. She — who had dedicated the flower of virginity to God earlier in a solemn ceremony — had no doubt that she would have a virginal spouse.”

-St. Stanislaus Papczyński







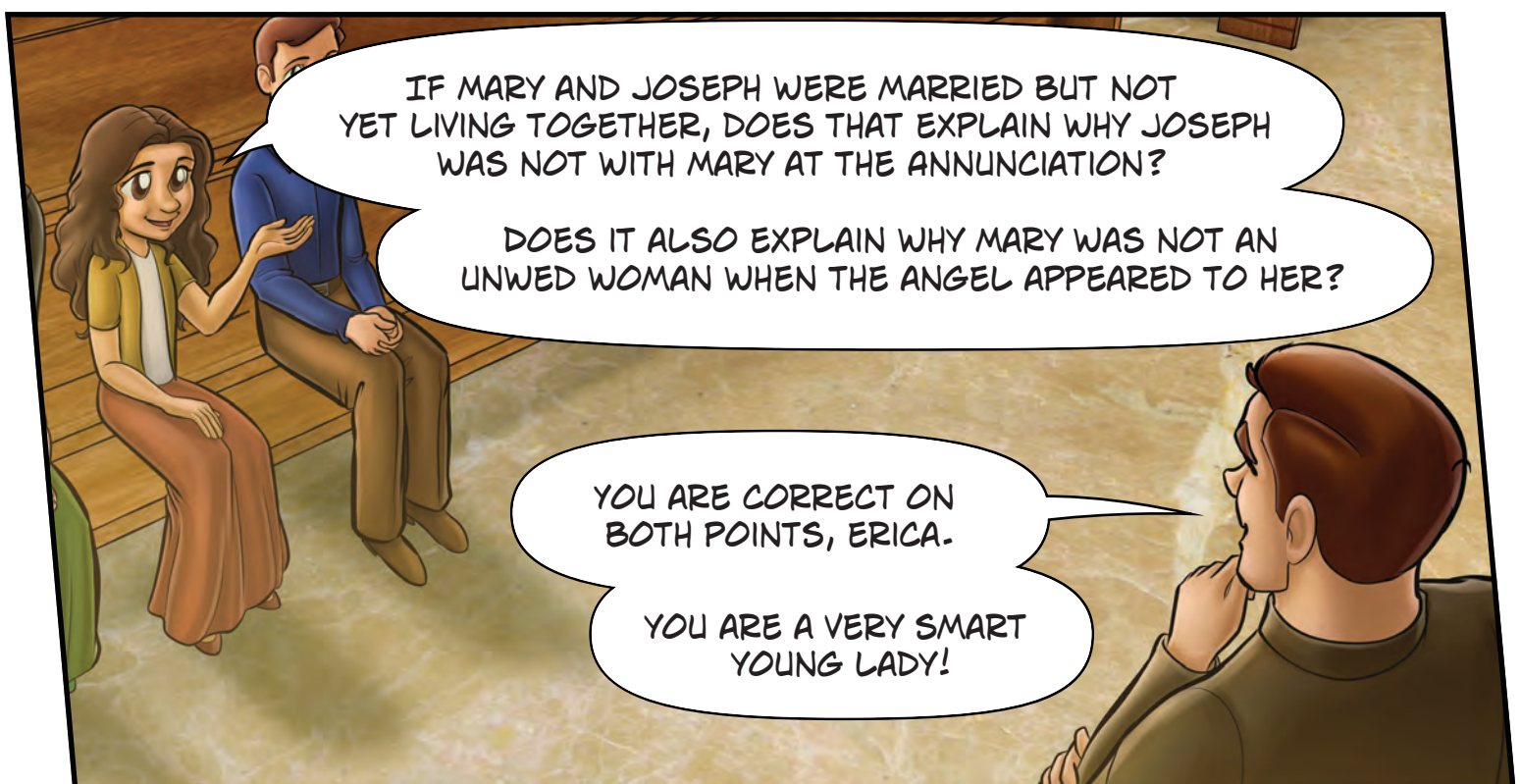
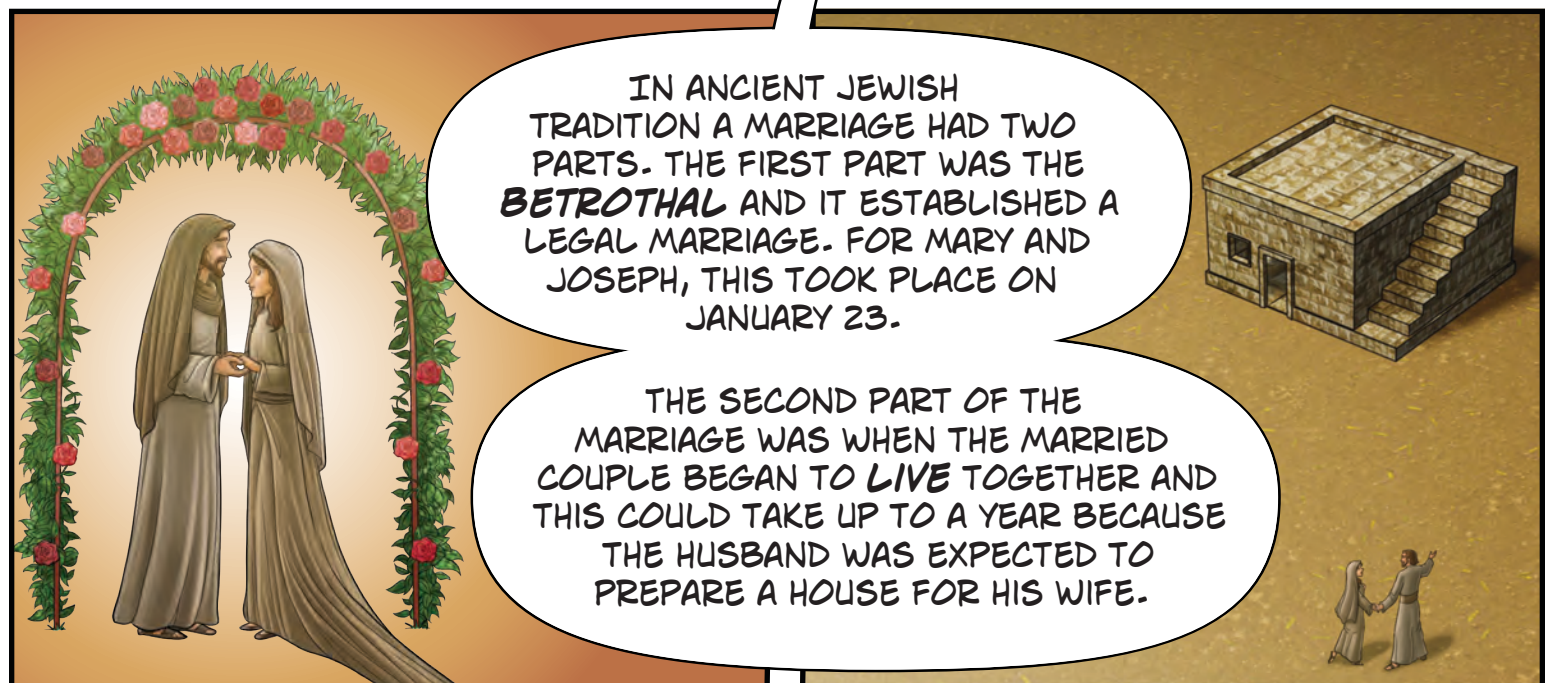
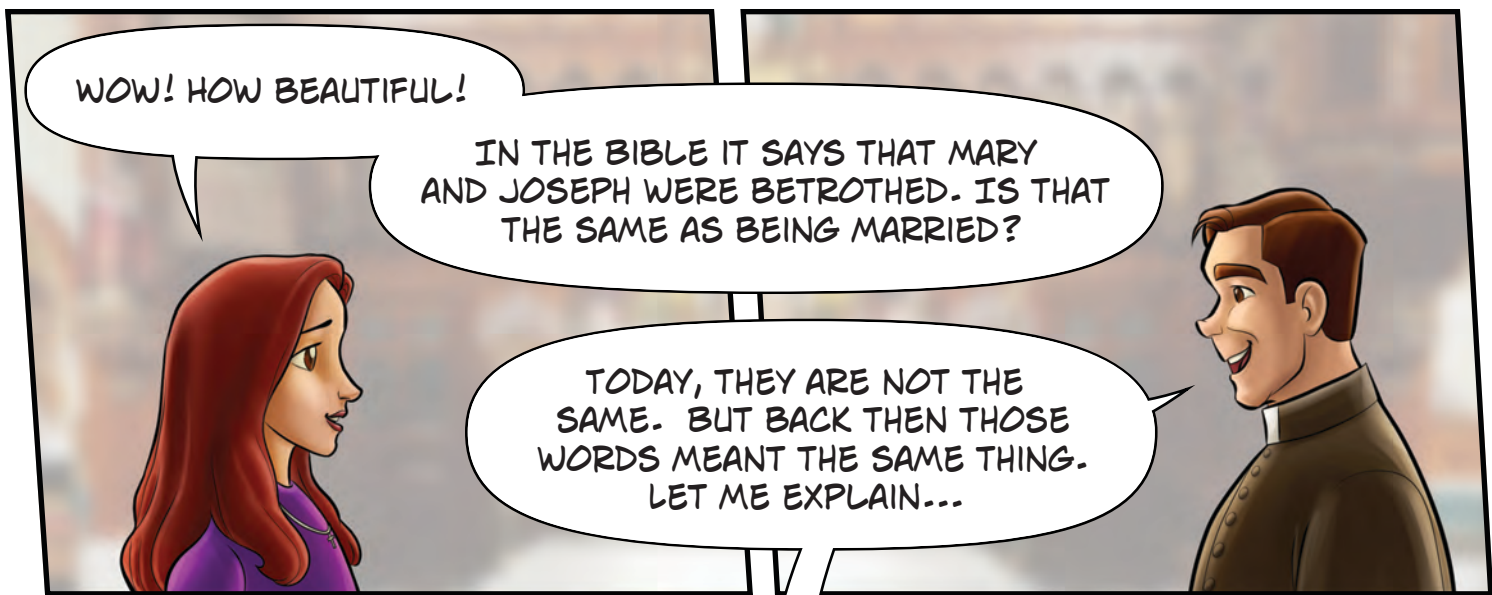


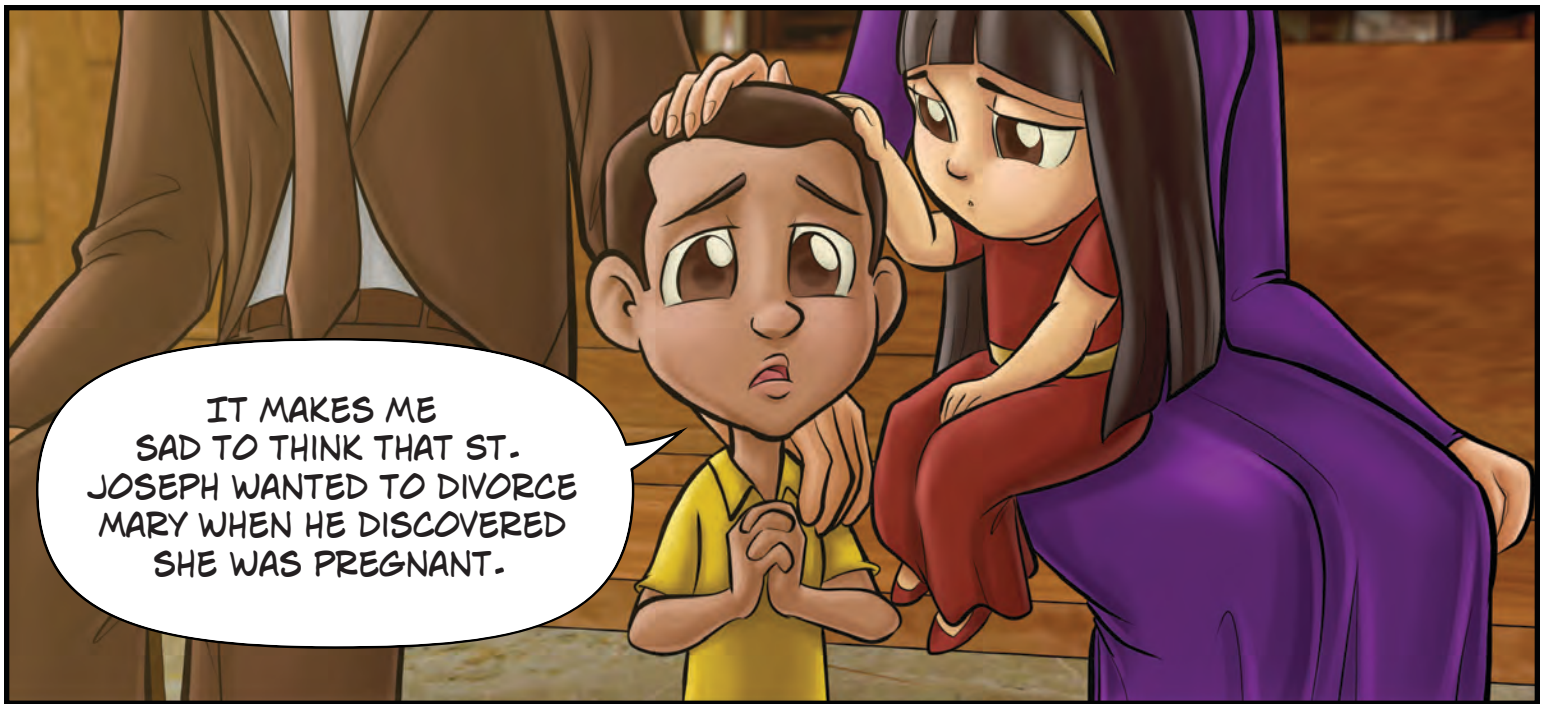
LINDA AND I WERE
MARRIED ON FEBRUARY 1.
DO WE KNOW THE WEDDING DATE
OF MARY AND JOSEPH?

ACCORDING TO TRADITION,
MARY AND JOSEPH WERE
MARRIED ON JANUARY 23.



IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WE HAVE A
LITURGICAL FEAST CELEBRATED ON JANUARY 23
CALLED THE **FEAST OF THE HOLY SPOUSES**.





Three Theories

1. The Suspicion Theory

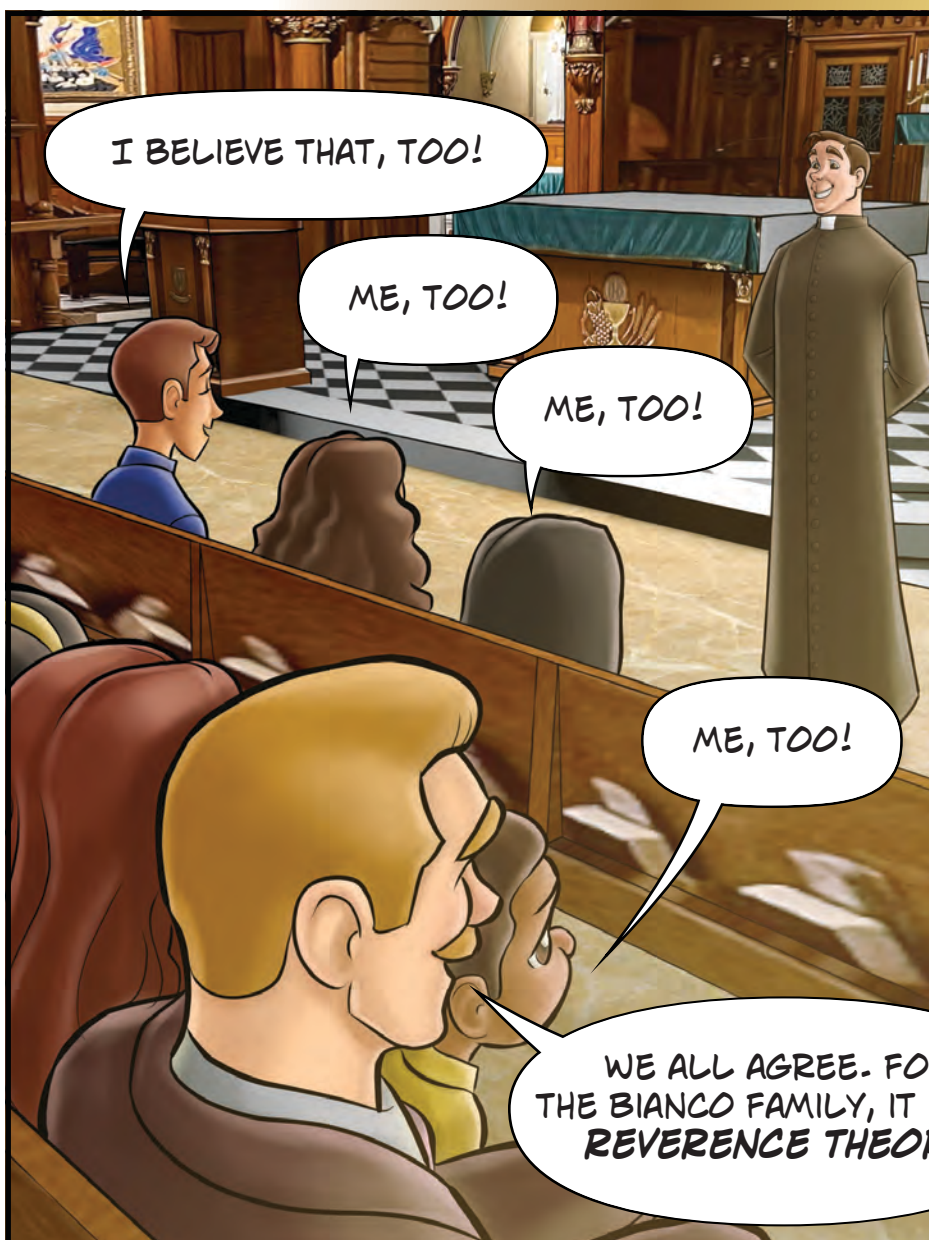
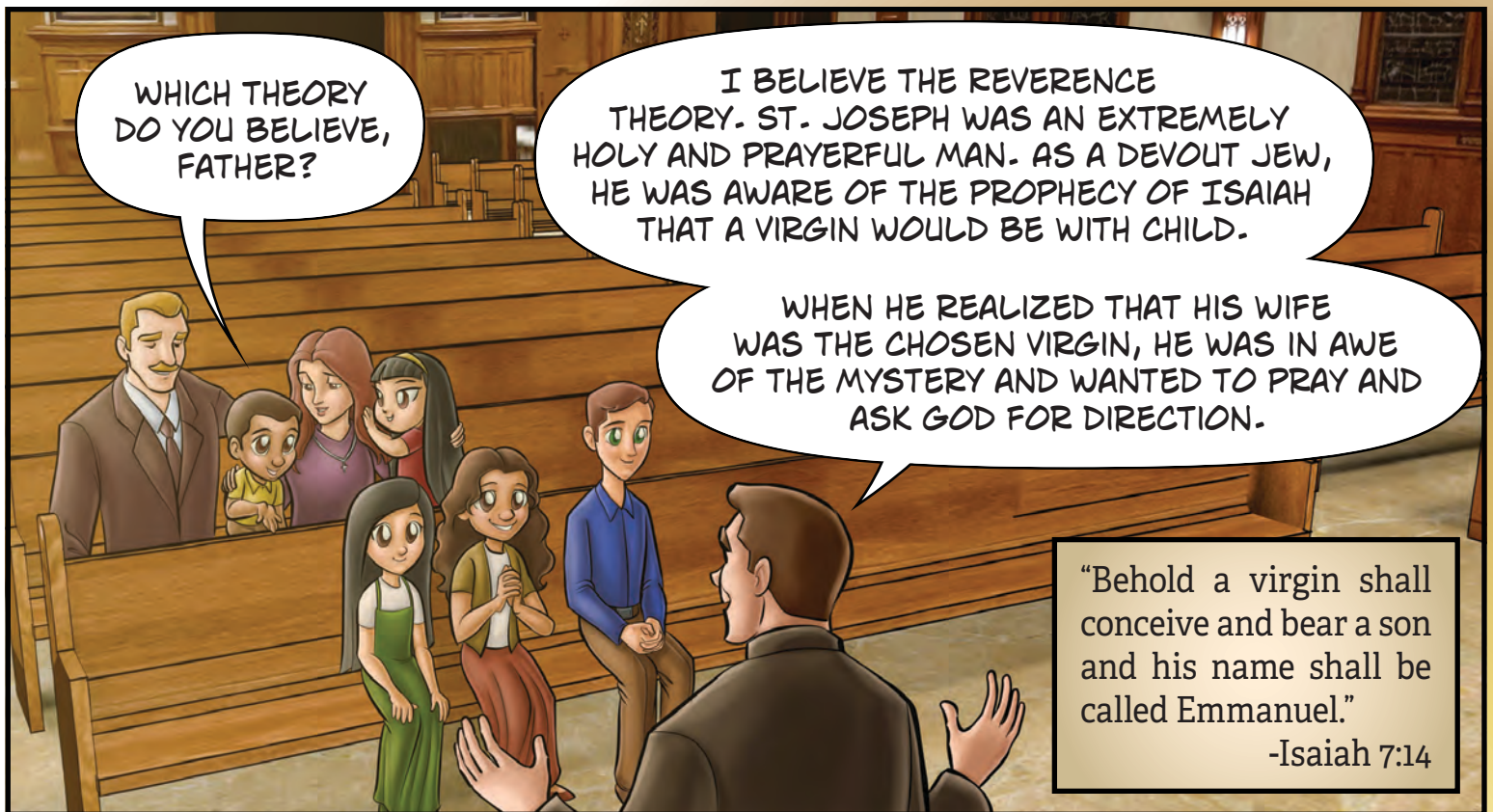
St. Joseph suspects Mary of adultery and decides to obtain a divorce.

2. The Stupefaction Theory

St. Joseph is stupefied by Mary's pregnancy, but does not doubt her innocence. Confused, he decides to divorce Mary.

3. The Reverence Theory

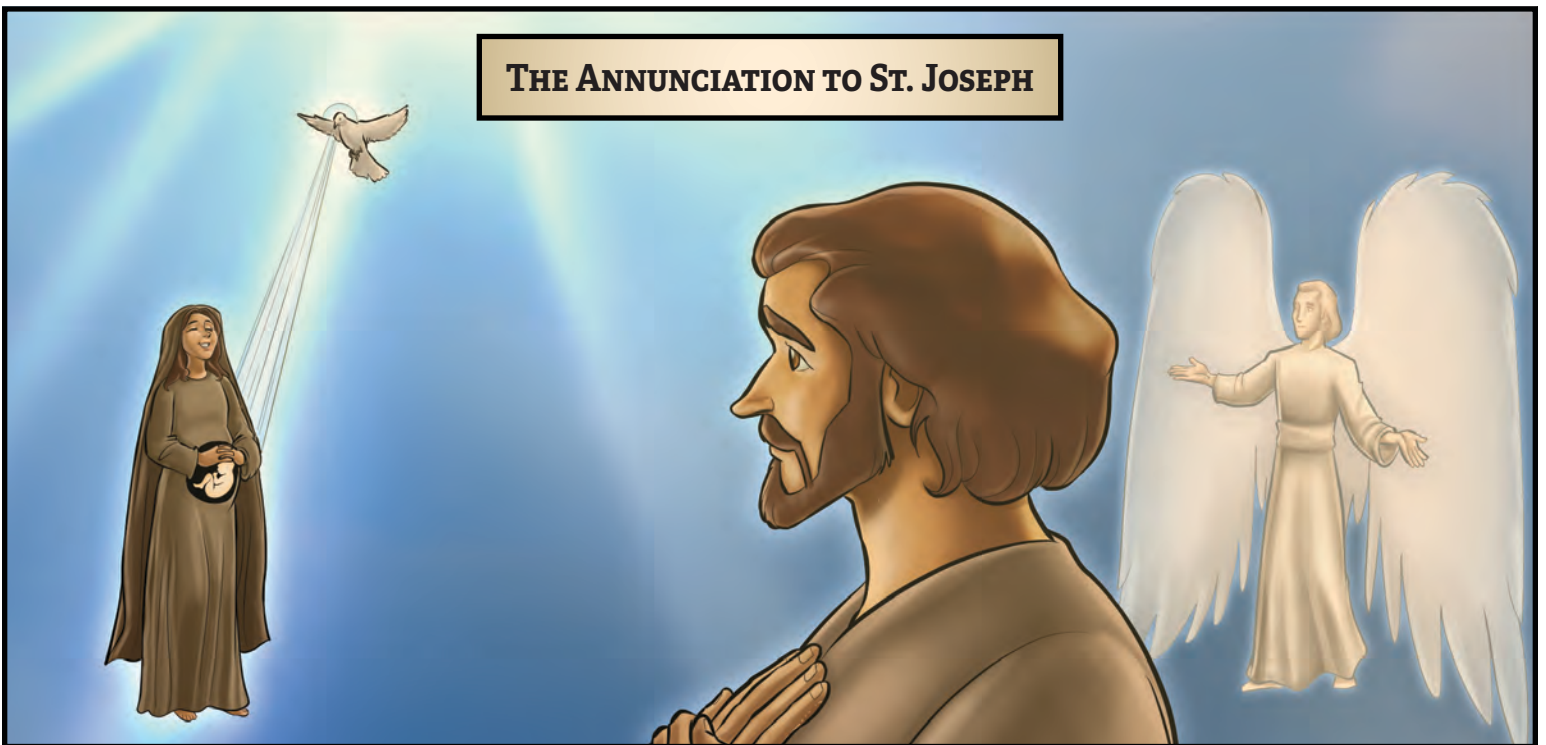
St. Joseph discovers that Mary is pregnant, but does not doubt her purity and innocence. Believing himself to be unworthy, he decides to distance himself out of reverence for Mary and the child in her womb.



ST. JOSEPH DISCOVERS THAT MARY IS PREGNANT



THE ANNUNCIATION TO ST. JOSEPH



“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they lived together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to unveil her mystery, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife.”

-Matthew 1:18-24



“Joseph discovered both Mary’s pregnancy and its cause, namely, that it was of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, he feared to be called the husband of such a wife, and wished to put her away privately since he did not dare to reveal what had taken place in her. Yet because he was just, he desired a revelation of the mystery.”

-St. Basil the Great

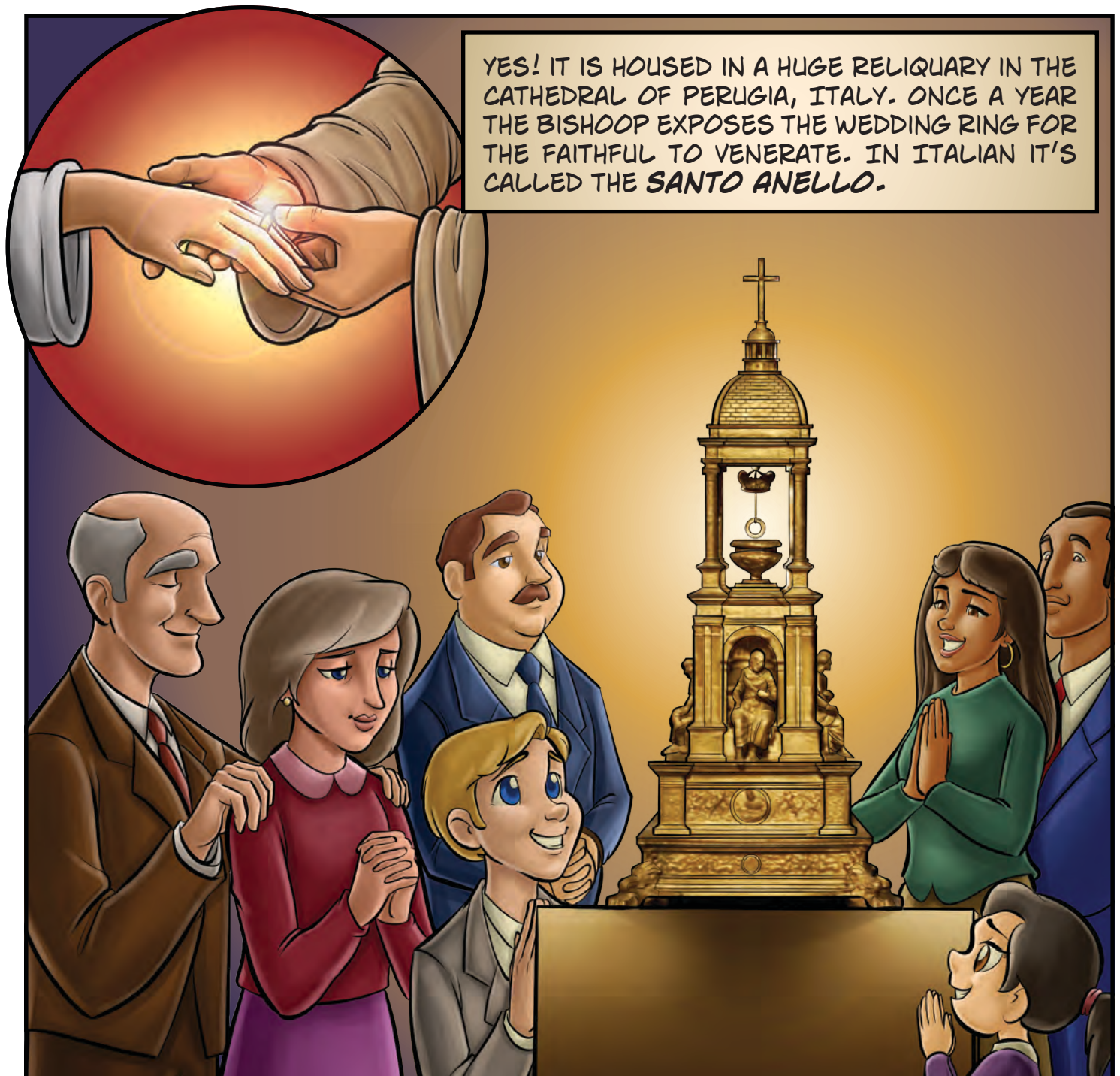
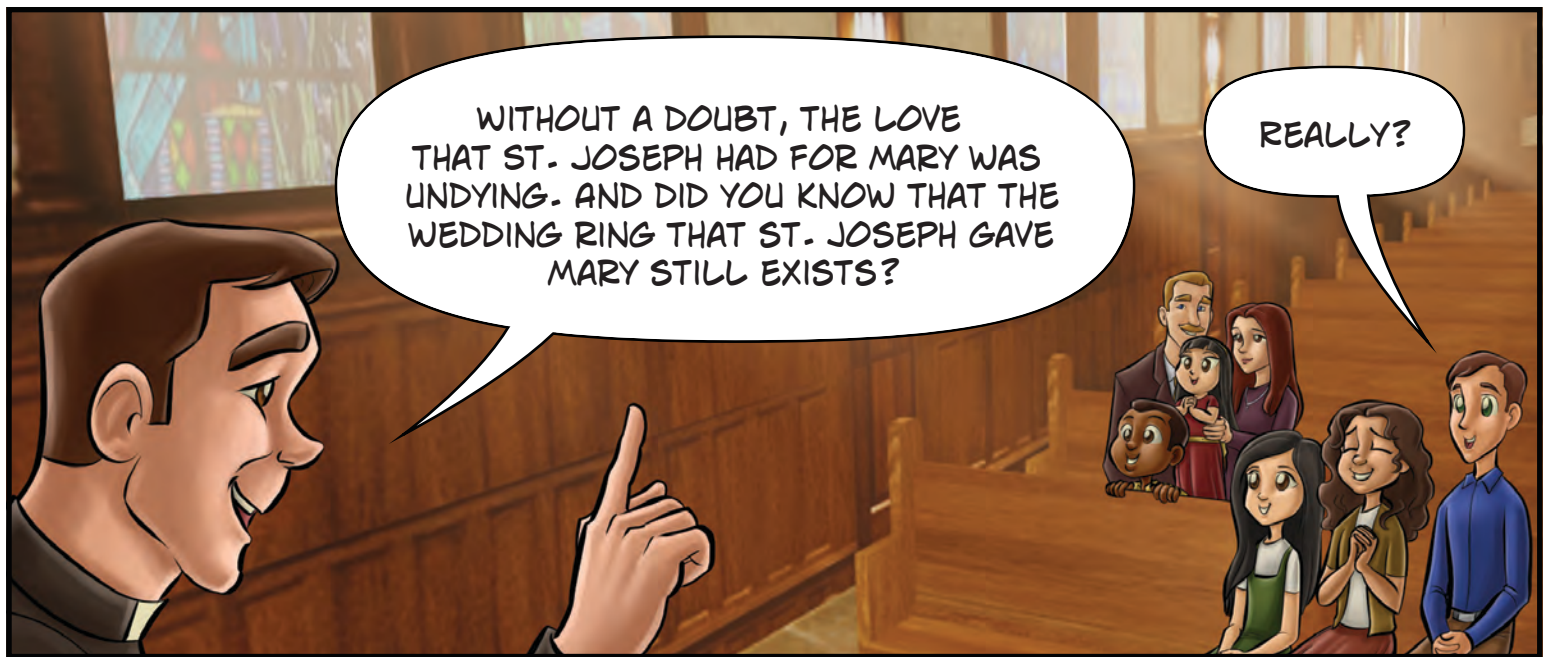
“Joseph had no suspicion of adultery because he knew the modesty and chastity of Mary. Moreover, he had read in Scripture that the virgin would “conceive” and that “a shoot shall sprout from the stock of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.” He knew also that Mary was descended from the line of David. Thus it was easier for him to believe that Isaiah’s prophecy had been accomplished in her than to think that she could have let herself descend into debauchery. This is why, considering himself unworthy to live with a person of such great sanctity, he wanted to send her away secretly — like when Peter says to Jesus, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”

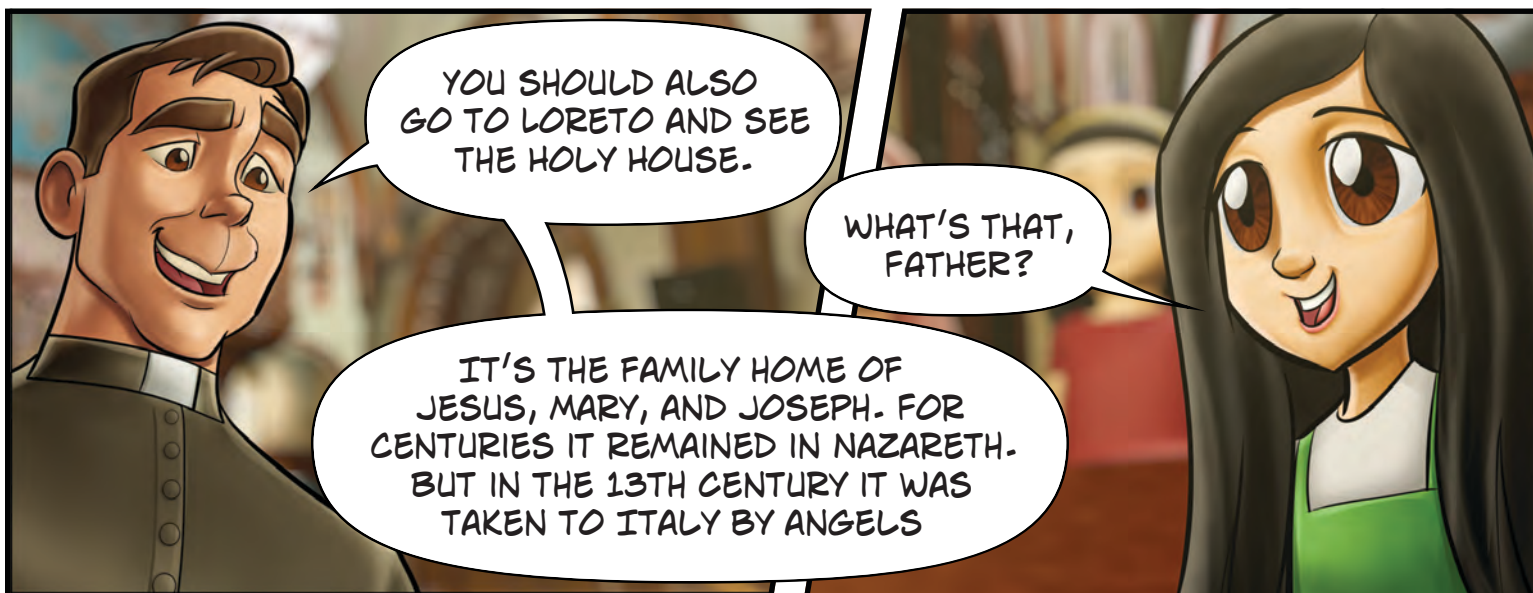
-St. Thomas Aquinas



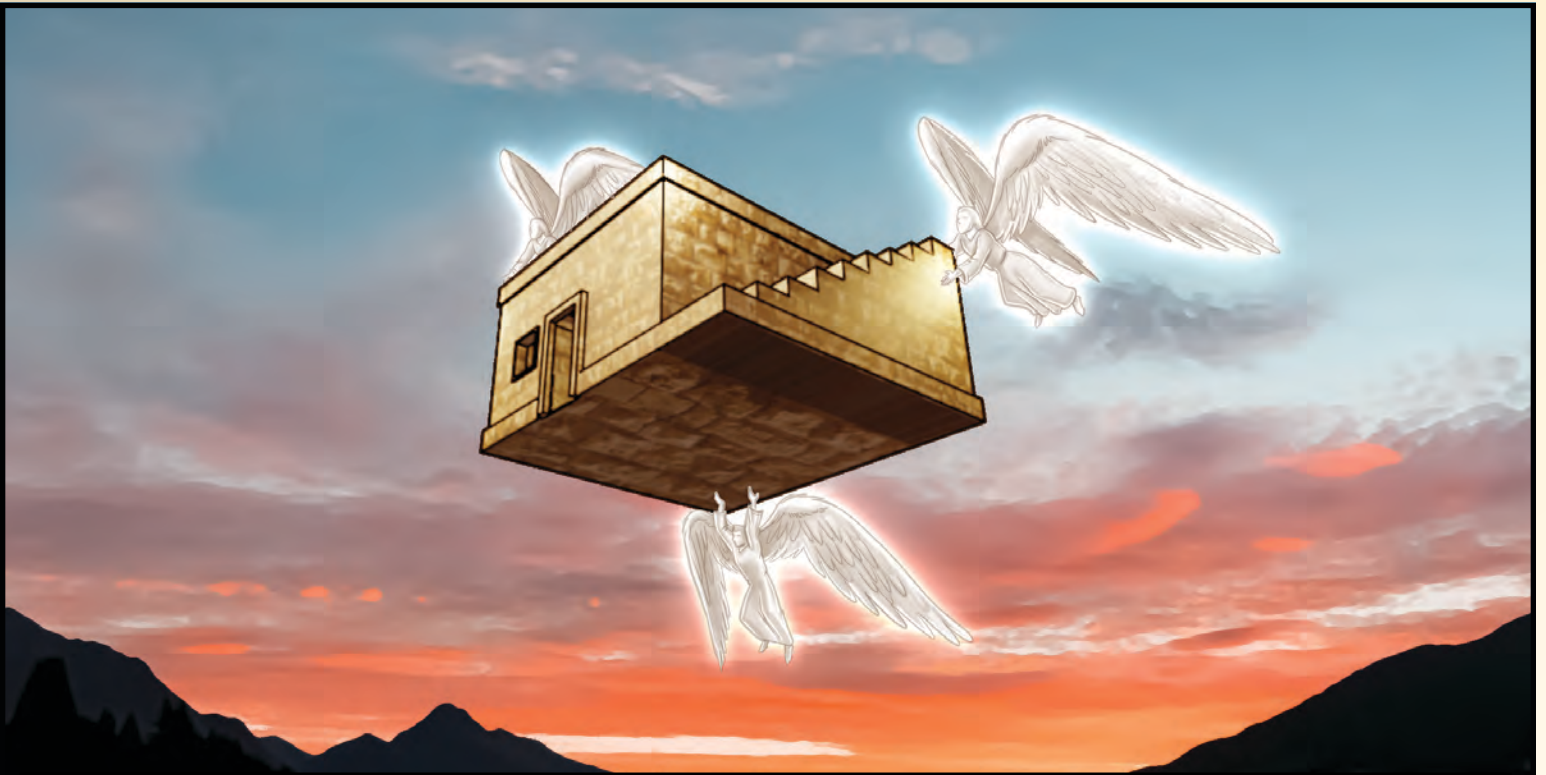
“Why did Joseph wish to leave Mary? Listen, now, no longer to my opinion, but to that of the Fathers of the Church. Joseph wanted to leave her for the same reason Peter begged the Lord to leave him, when he said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man,” and for the same reason the Centurion kept him from his house, saying, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.” Thus Joseph, considering himself unworthy and a sinner, said to himself that a man like him ought not to live under the same roof with a woman so great and exalted, whose wonderful and superior dignity filled him with awe. He saw with fear and trembling that she bore the surest signs of the divine presence, and, since he could not fathom the mystery, he wanted to depart from her. Peter was frightened by the greatness of the power; the Centurion feared the majesty of the presence. Joseph, too, as a human being, was afraid of the newness of the great miracle, the profundity of the mystery, and so he decided to leave her quietly. Are you surprised that Joseph judged himself unworthy of the pregnant Virgin’s company? After all, have you not heard that St. Elizabeth, too, could not endure her presence without fear and awe? As she says, “Whence is this to me that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?” This then is why Joseph decided to leave her.”

-St. Bernard of Clairvaux





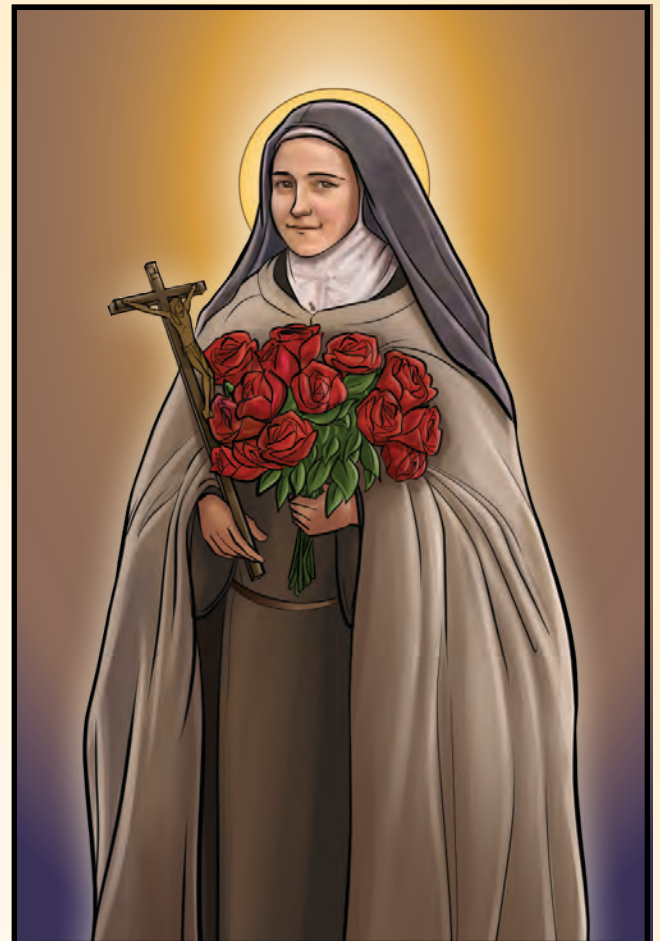
The Holy House of Loreto



May 10, 1291: God sends His angels to Nazareth to transport the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to another location. In a few years, muslims invade Nazareth and destroy the town. The angels first take the Holy House to Croatia where it remains for several years.

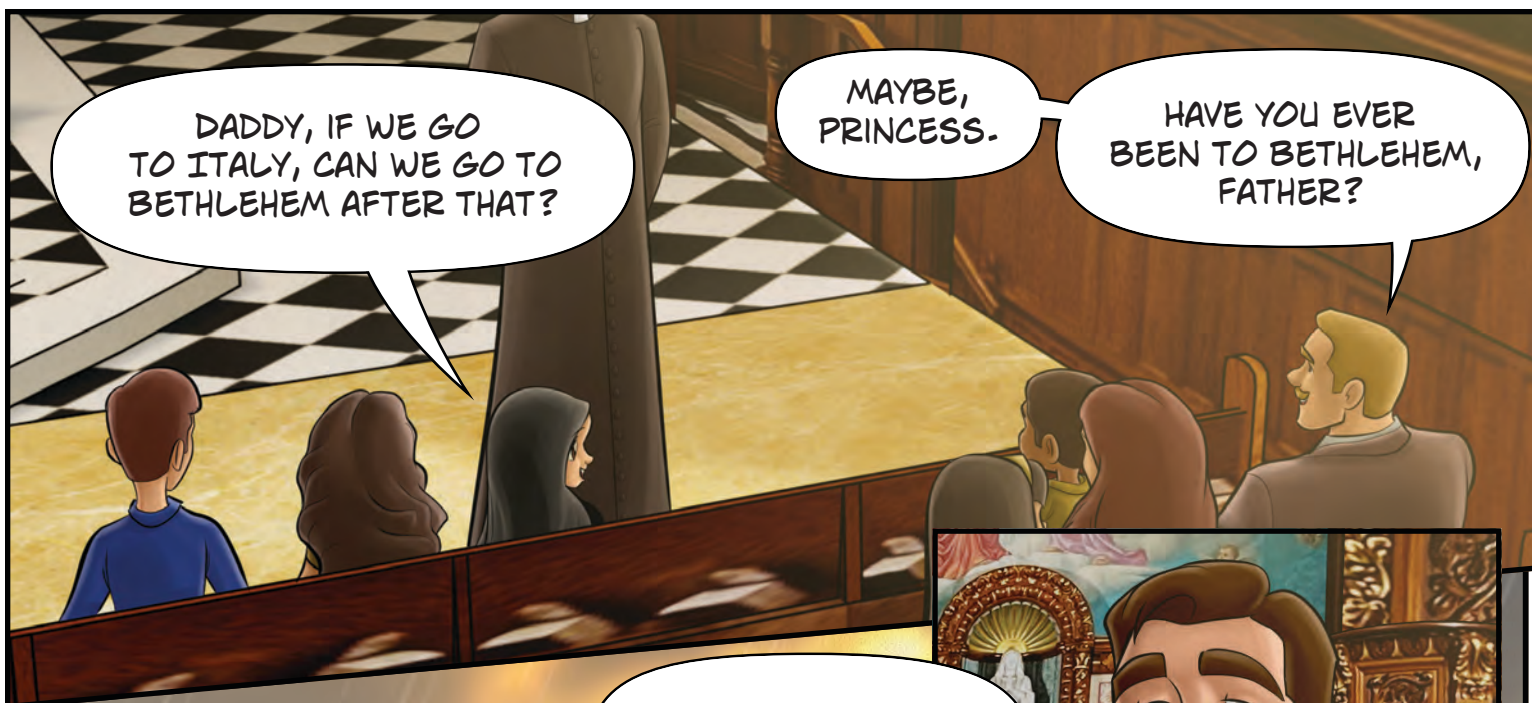


December 10, 1294: God's holy angels take the Holy House to its final resting place in Loreto, Italy where it remains to this day. It is now encased in Carrara marble to protect it from invasion. Many saints and popes have visited the Holy House. Our Lady of Loreto has been declared the Patroness of Aviation and the liturgical feast of the Holy House is celebrated on December 10.



"I was indeed happy when on the way to Loreto. Our Lady had chosen an ideal spot in which to place her Holy House. Everything is poor, simple, and primitive; the women still wear the graceful dress of the country and have not, as in the large towns, adopted the modern Paris fashions. I found Loreto enchanting. What shall I say of the Holy House? I was overwhelmed with emotion when I realized that I was under the roof that had sheltered the Holy Family. I gazed on the same walls Our Lord had looked on. I trod the ground once moistened with the sweat of St. Joseph's toil, and saw the little chamber of the Annunciation. I even put my rosary into the little porringer used by the Divine Child. How sweet these memories!"

-St. Thérèse of Lisieux



DADDY, IF WE GO TO ITALY, CAN WE GO TO BETHLEHEM AFTER THAT?

MAYBE, PRINCESS.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO BETHLEHEM, FATHER?

YES, MANY TIMES. IT'S A VERY SPECIAL PLACE.



The Journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem

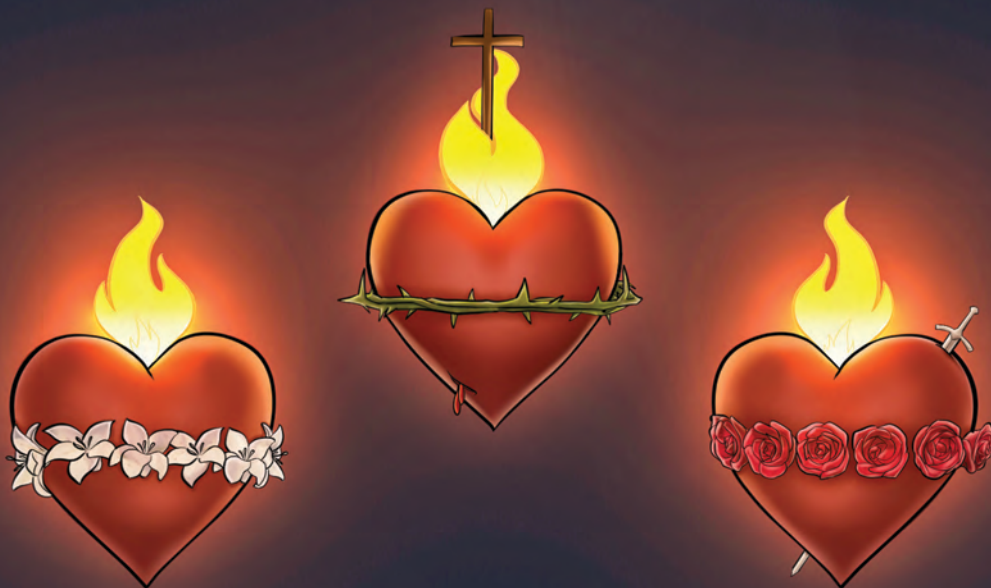
The Birth of Jesus

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

-Luke 2:1-7

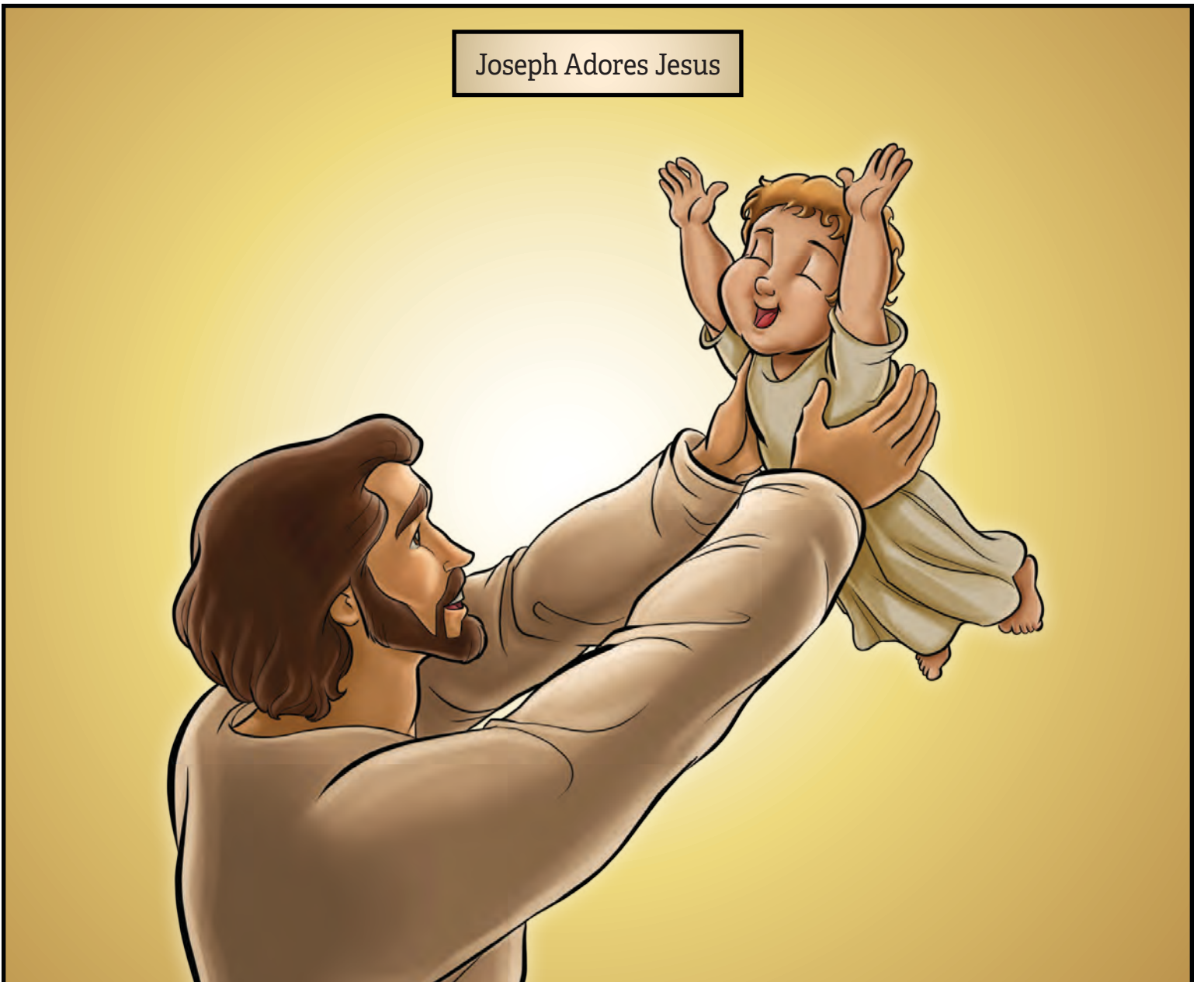


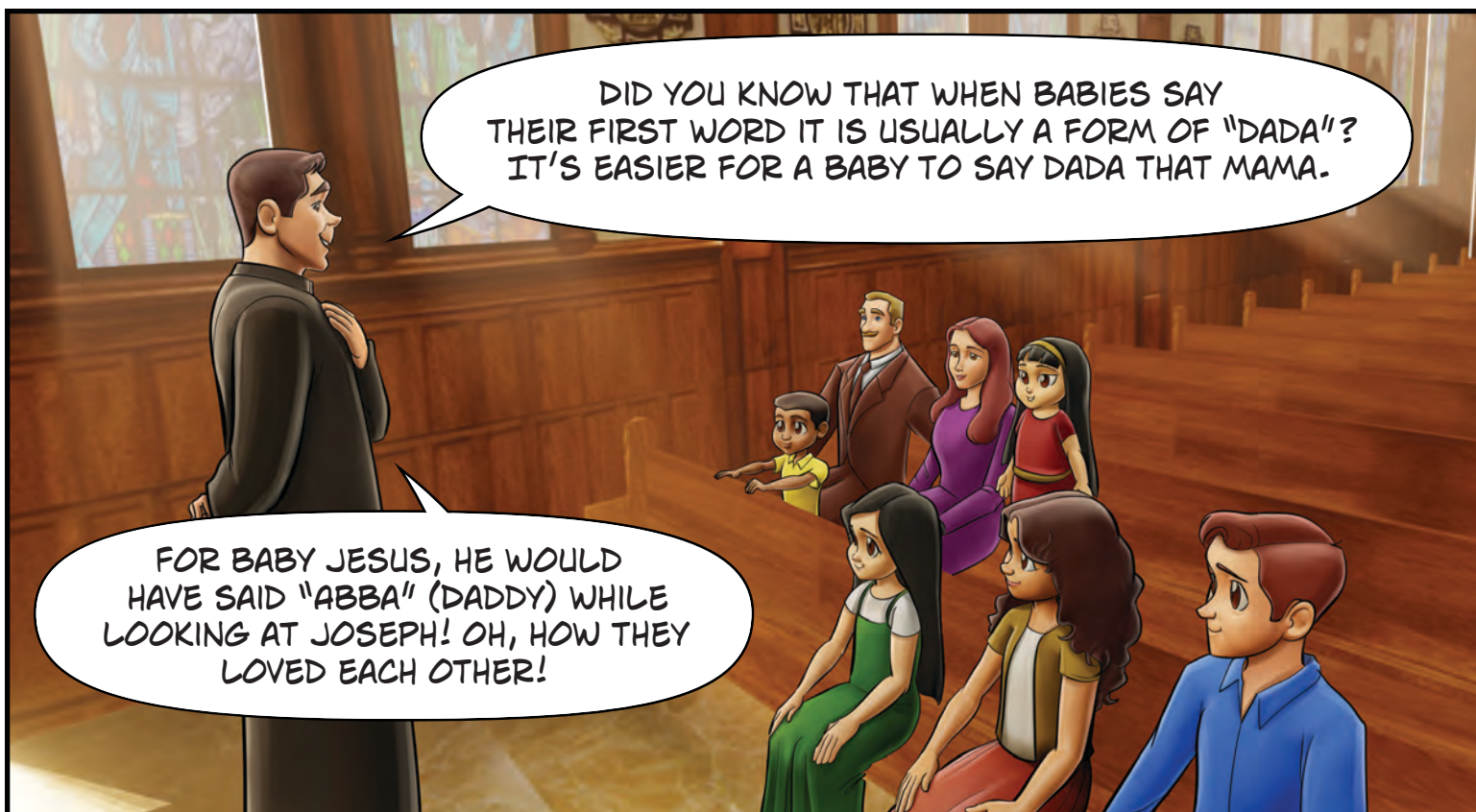
The Union of the Three Hearts





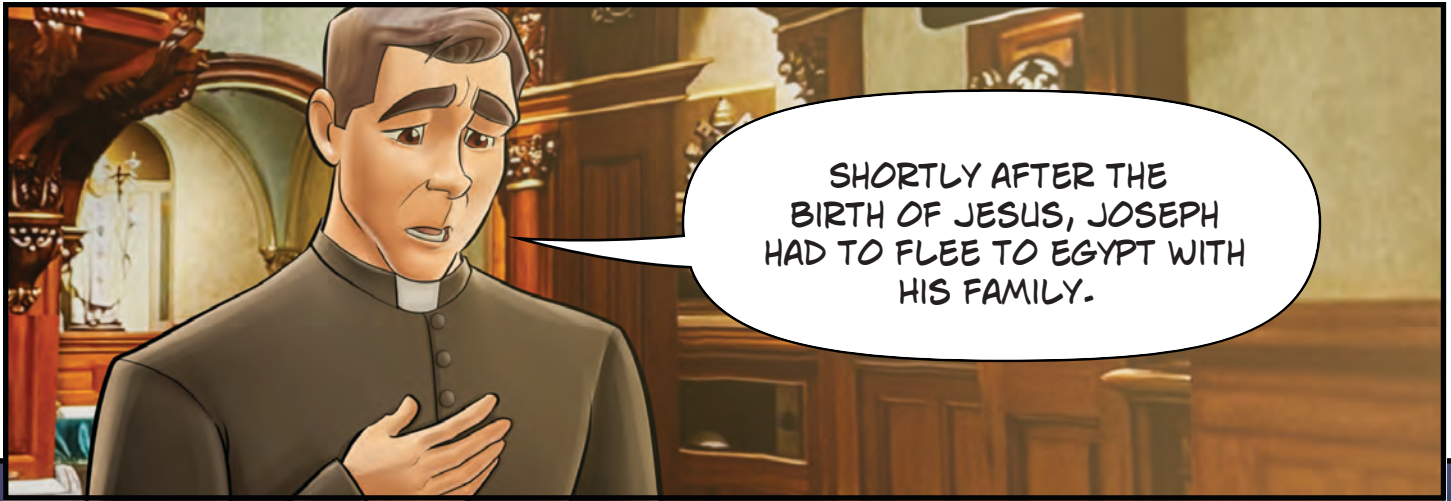
Joseph Adores Jesus





St. Joseph Tickled Baby Jesus



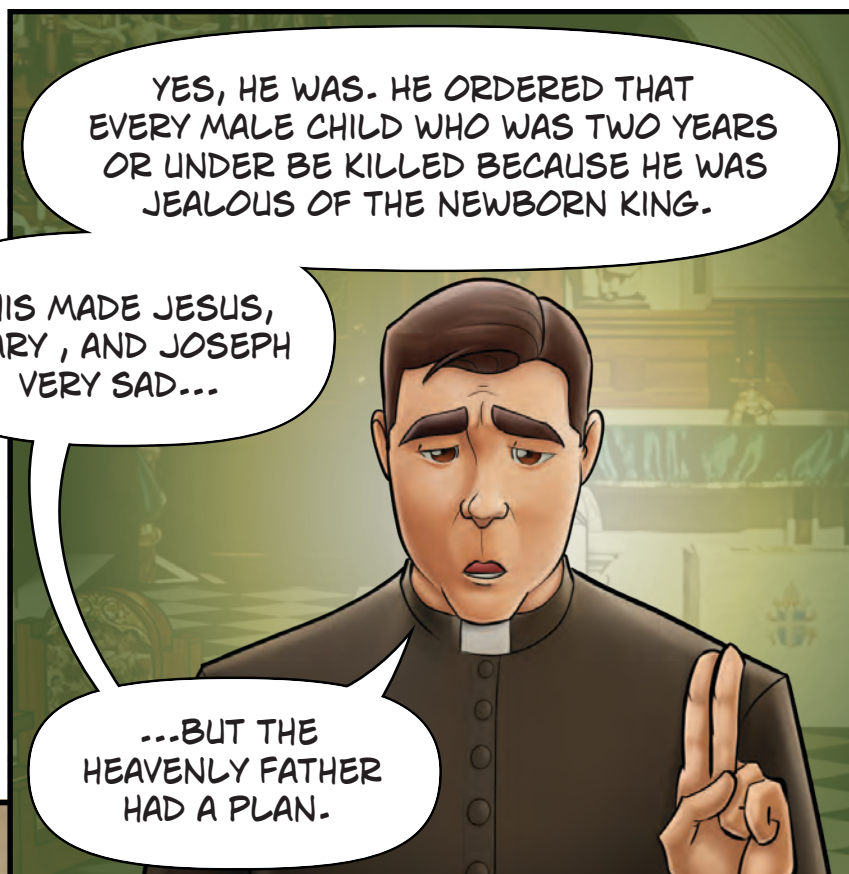
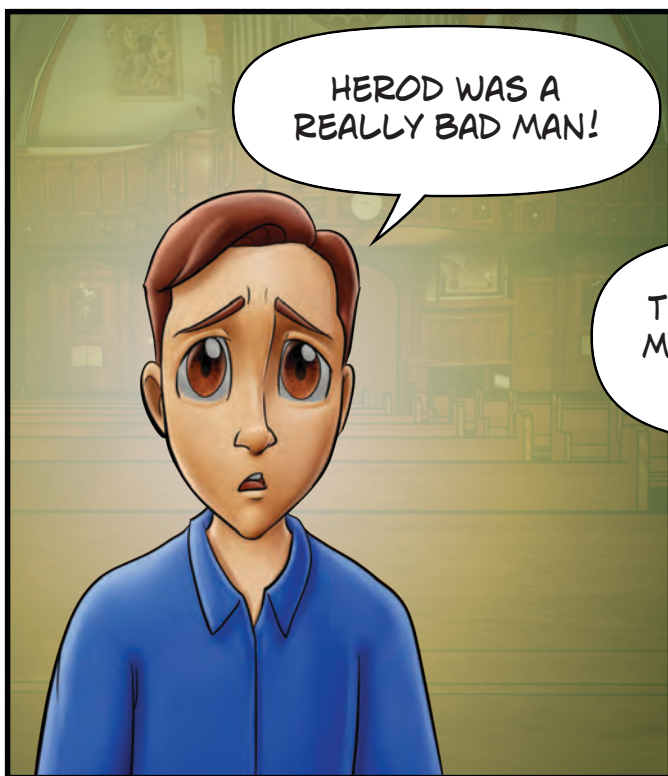


The Escape To Egypt

"Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son.""

-Matthew 2:13-15





THE STORY OF THE PATRIARCH JOSEPH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS A PREFIGUREMENT FOR A MUCH GREATER JOSEPH WITH A MUCH GREATER BREAD, JESUS!

WHEN JESUS, THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN, CAME TO EARTH, ST. JOSEPH PROTECTED HIM FROM HEROD BY TAKING HIM TO EGYPT.

THEN, AFTER MANY YEARS, ST. JOSEPH BROUGHT JESUS, OUR BREAD, OUT OF EGYPT TO FEED THE NATIONS.

THIS IS AMAZING!

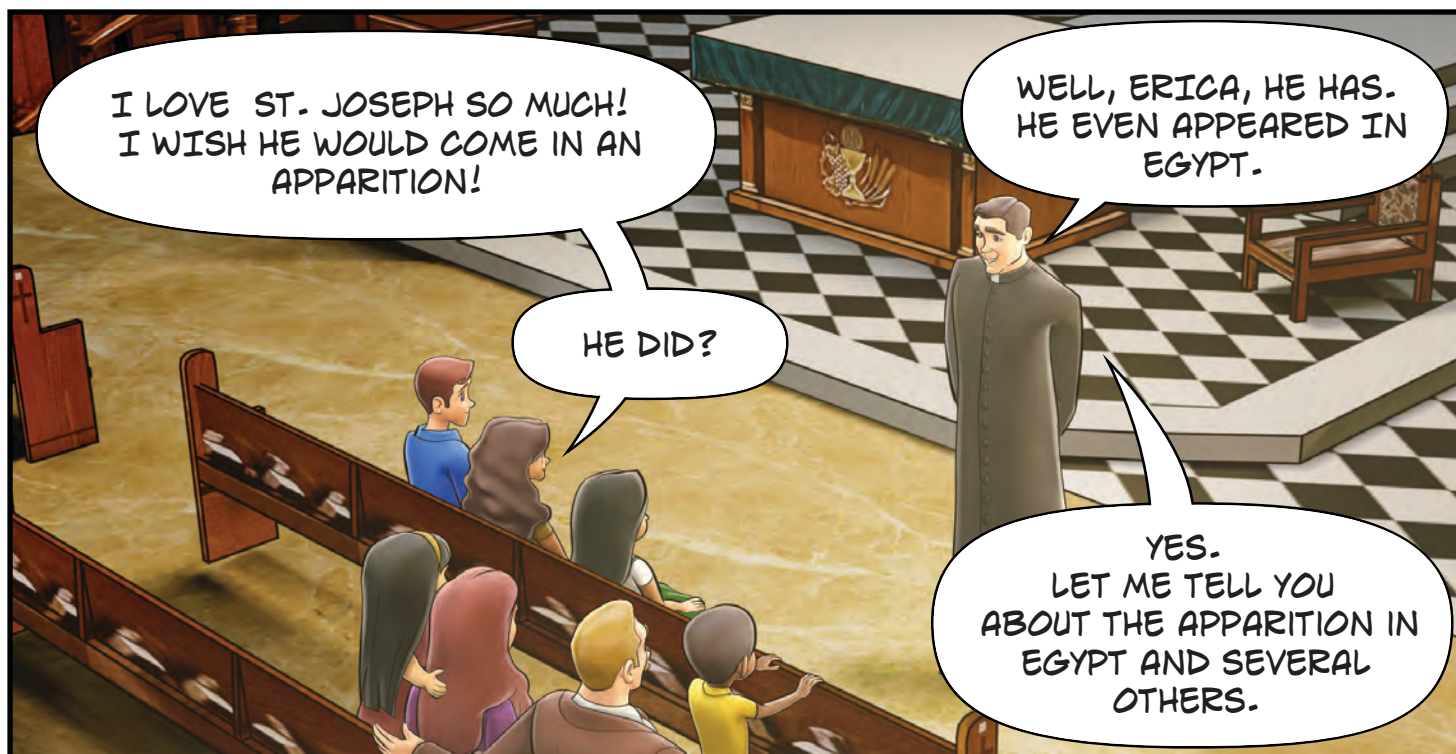
IN ARAMAIC, "BETHLEHEM" MEANS "HOUSE OF BREAD."

IN ITALIAN, THE FAMOUS WORD "MANGIARE" (EAT) COMES FROM THE WORD MANGER.

JESUS, THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN, WAS PLACED IN A MANGER. A MANGER IS A PLACE USED TO FEED ANIMALS.

ITE AD IOSEPH!

GO TO JOSEPH!



1968-1970

Zeitoun, Egypt

In the town of Zeitoun, a suburb of Cairo, a series of apparitions of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph took place above and around a Coptic church. The town of Zeitoun is believed to have been one of the places the Holy Family visited during their sojourn in Egypt centuries earlier. Thousands of Zeitoun's inhabitants witnessed the apparitions and they were approved by the local Coptic church authorities.

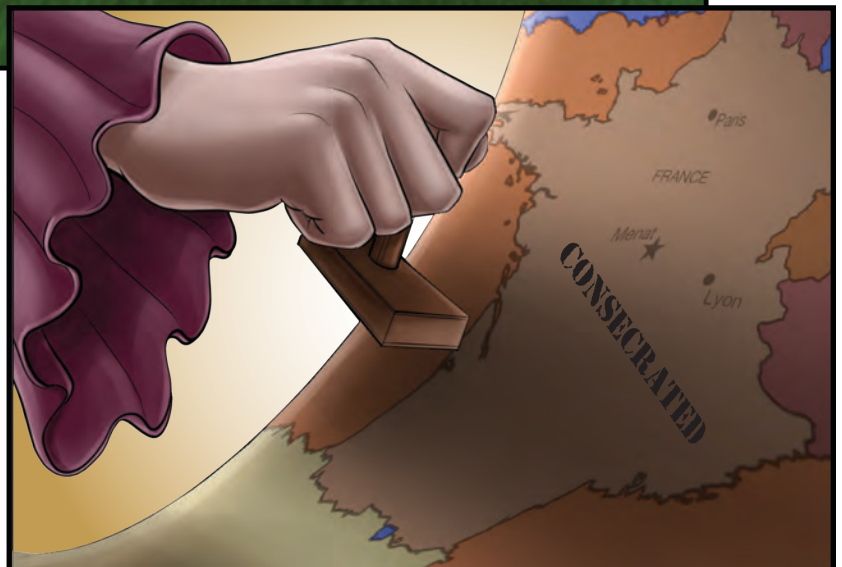


June 7, 1660
Cotignac, France

In the middle of a scorching hot day, a shepherd named Gaspard Ricard sought refuge in the shade under the trees. Extremely thirsty, Gaspard did not know what to do to quench his thirst. Suddenly, a man of dignified appearance appeared to him, pointed to a rock, and said to him: "I am Joseph. Lift this rock and you shall drink." The rock was extremely large, and Gaspard told the man that he would not be able to lift it by himself. Undeterred, the man repeated his order for Gaspard to move the rock. Gaspard reluctantly approached the rock and, to his astonishment, was able to move it. Immediately, clear water began to gush out from the spot where the rock had been. It was then that it dawned upon Gaspard that he had been visited by the great St. Joseph!



As word got out about what had taken place, people began to come to the spring from all over France. They prayed to God for healing, and God worked wonders through St. Joseph and the miraculous spring. The king of France, King Louis XIV, heard about what was happening and was deeply impressed. He was so moved that he consecrated all of France to St. Joseph on March 19, 1661.



August 21, 1879
Knock, Ireland

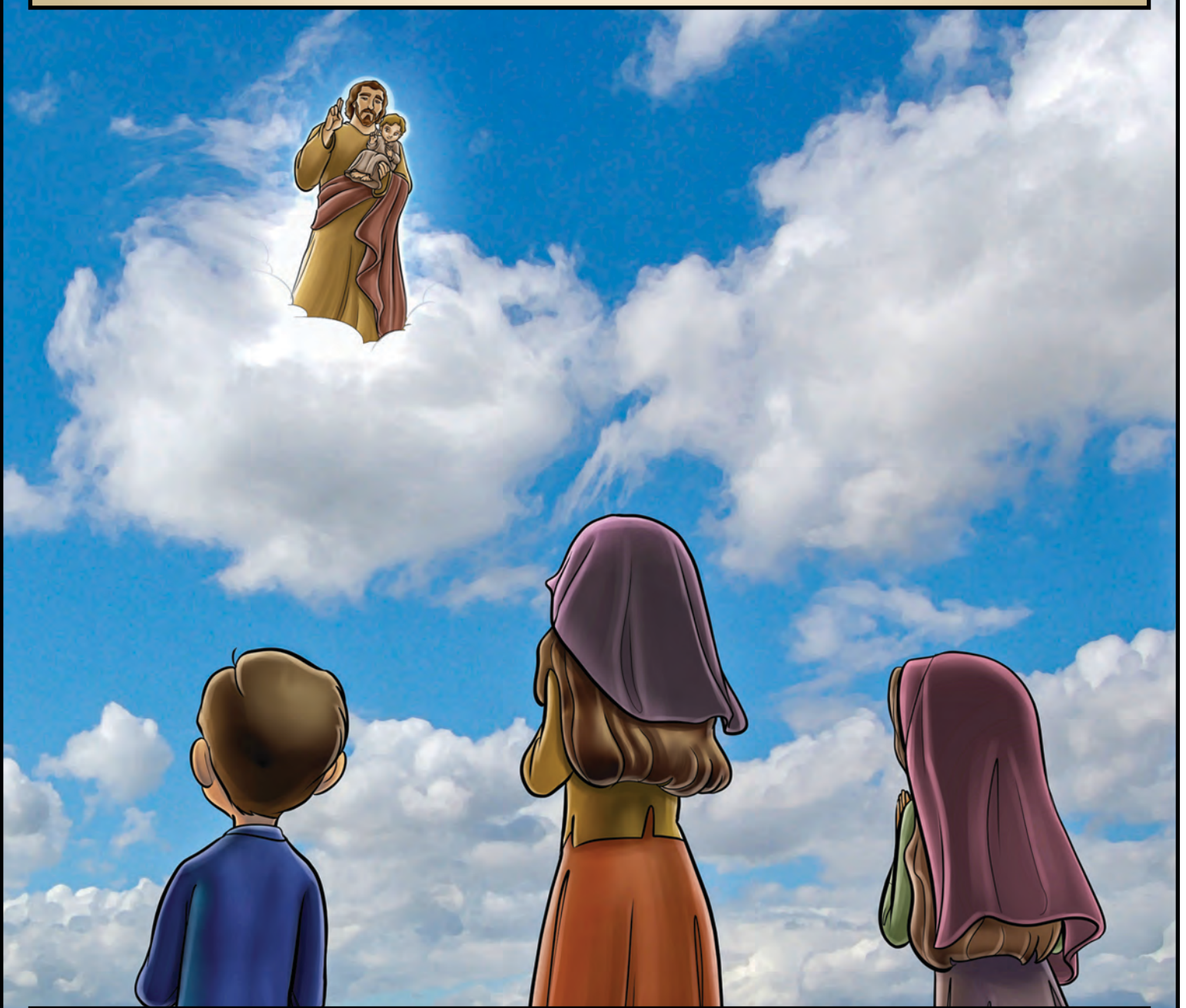
In a year when many people in Ireland were suffering from famine, the Virgin Mary appeared to 15 people in the village of Knock. The apparition is popularly known as Our Lady of Knock, but St. Joseph, St. John the Apostle, and a lamb on an altar – representing Our Lord as the Lamb of God – were also present. The lamb on the altar was surrounded by many angels.



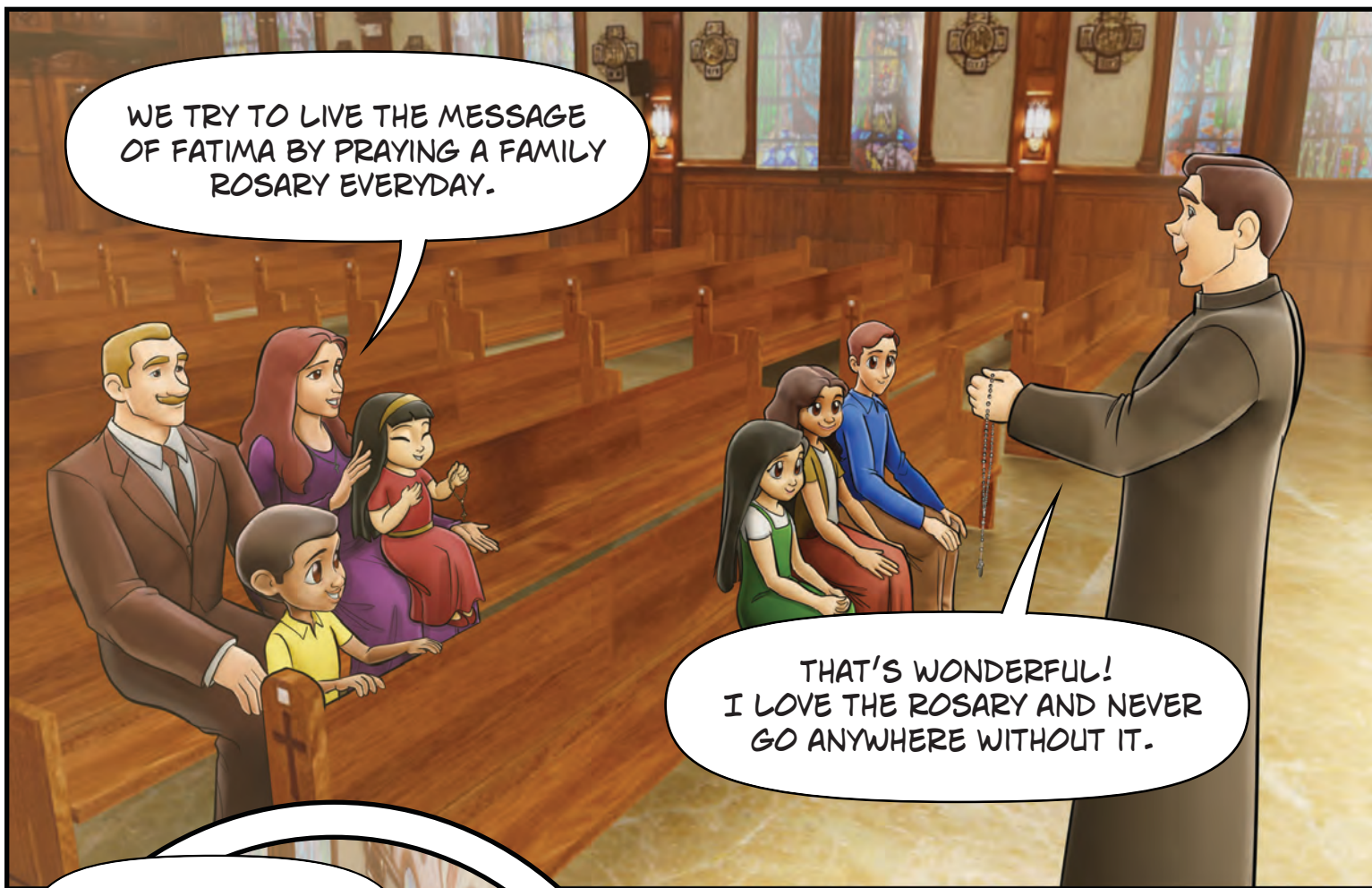
No words or messages were given by Our Lady or the other heavenly visitors. The apparition occurred in the pouring rain and lasted for many hours. According to the sworn testimony of those who witnessed the apparition, St. Joseph wore white, was barefoot, and had his hands folded in prayer with his head slightly bent toward Mary as if honoring her great dignity as the Mother of God.

October 13, 1917
Fatima, Portugal

In 1917, the Virgin Mary appeared in Fatima, Portugal. On October 13, 1917, during the last of the six Marian apparitions given to the three young visionaries, St. Joseph made an appearance as well. Similar to Knock, the skies were pouring rain on October 13 when St. Joseph made his appearance. It was also on that day that the famed Miracle of the Sun took place. More than 70,000 people witnessed the sun gyrate and spin as though it were going to crash into the earth. At one point, St. Joseph appeared, holding the Christ Child, and together they blessed the world. All three visionaries of Fatima testified that St. Joseph and the Christ Child simultaneously blessed the world.



The message of Fatima has great significance for our times. Sister Lucia Dos Santos, the longest-lived visionary of the Fatima apparitions, stated that the final battle between good and evil would be over marriage and the family. What St. Joseph's presence at Fatima signifies is that a crucial component of the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary — a promise Our Lady made during the July 13 apparition — is for the world to receive the simultaneous blessing of St. Joseph.

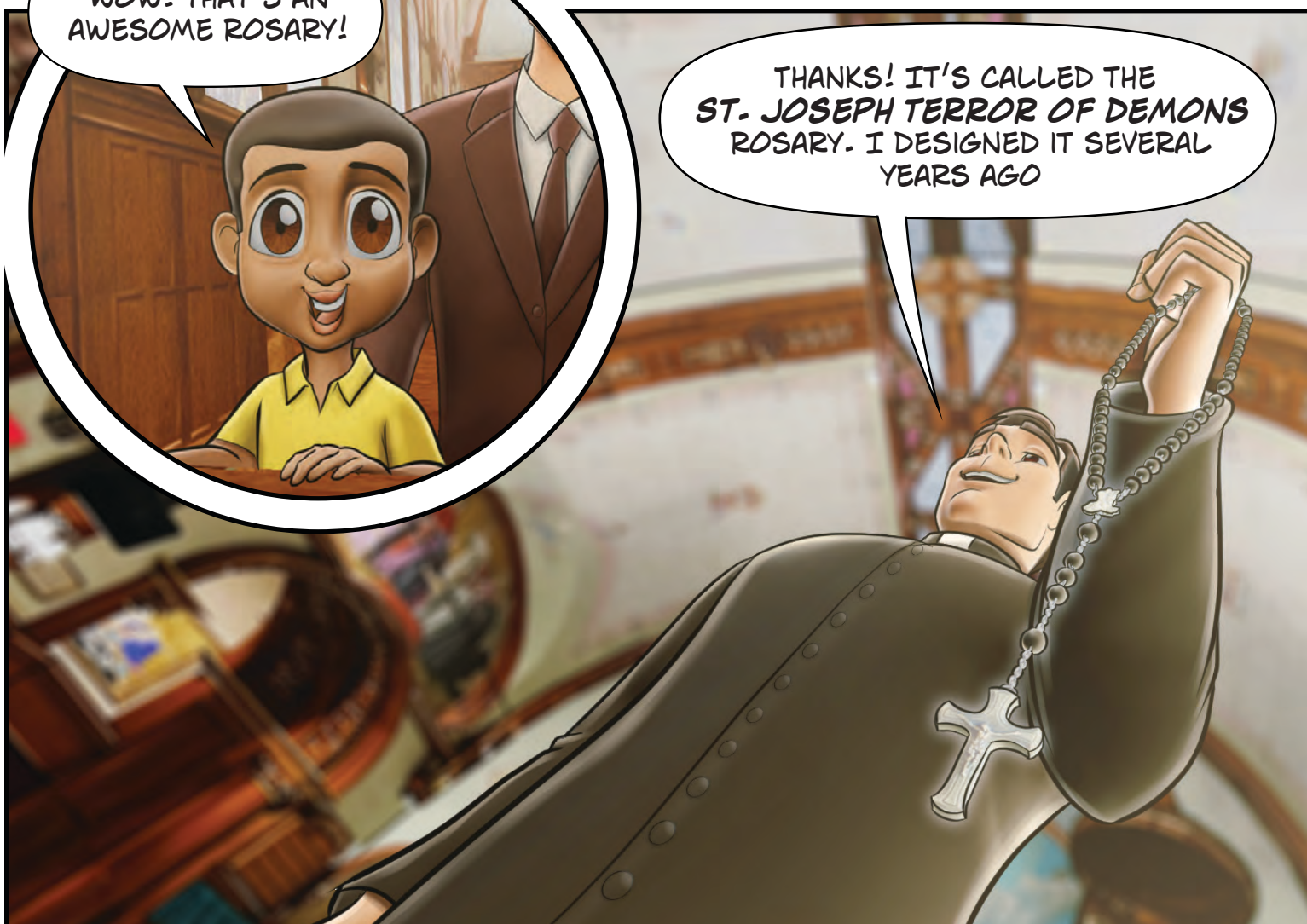


WE TRY TO LIVE THE MESSAGE OF FATIMA BY PRAYING A FAMILY ROSARY EVERYDAY.

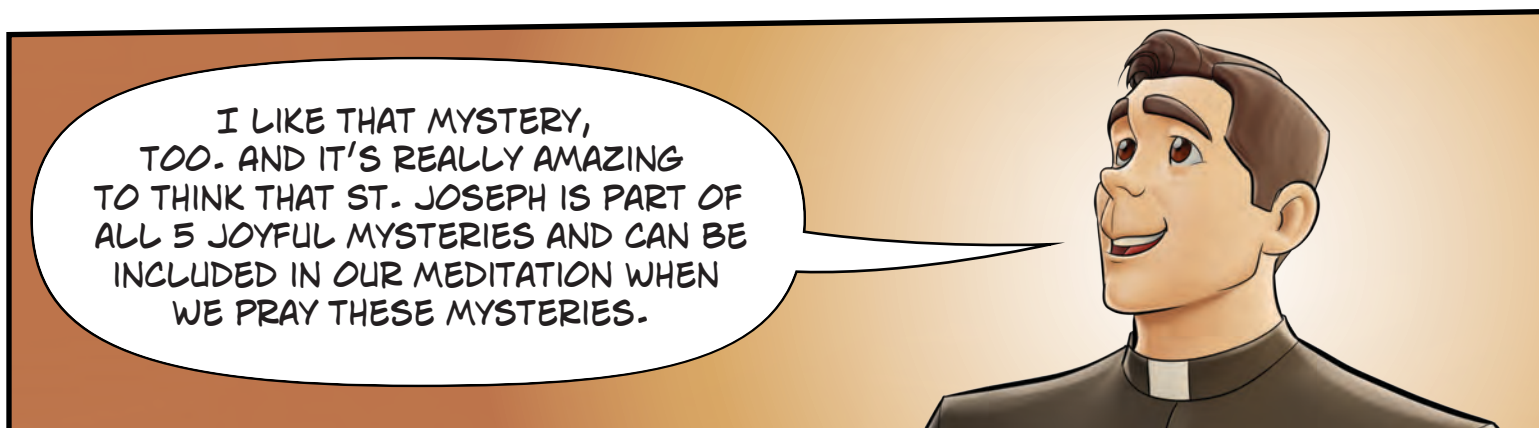
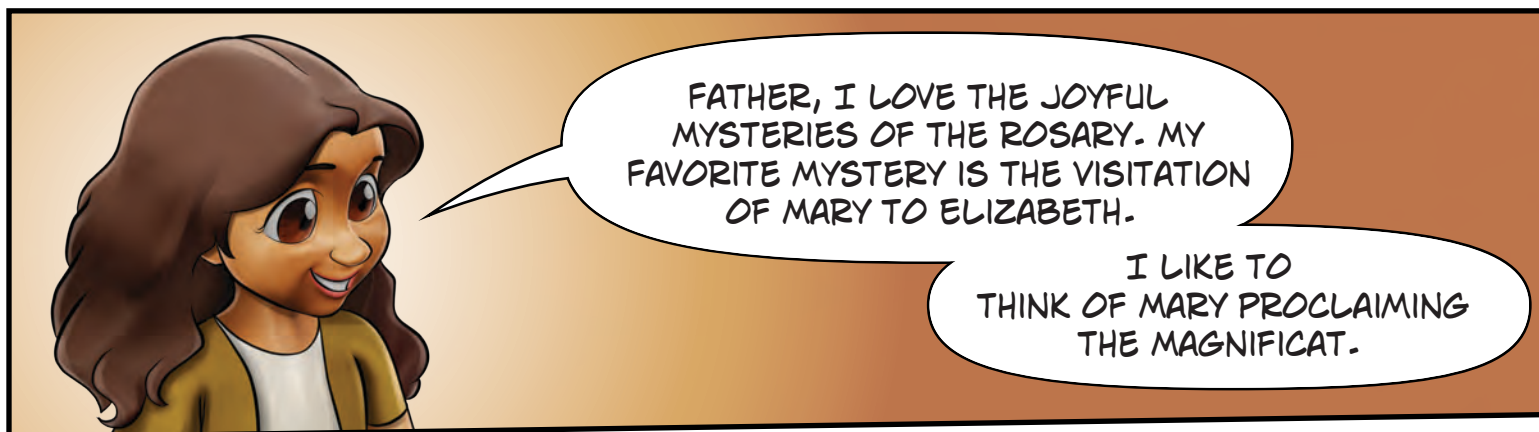
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
I LOVE THE ROSARY AND NEVER
GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT IT.



WOW! THAT'S AN
AWESOME ROSARY!



THANKS! IT'S CALLED THE
ST. JOSEPH TERROR OF DEMONS
ROSARY. I DESIGNED IT SEVERAL
YEARS AGO



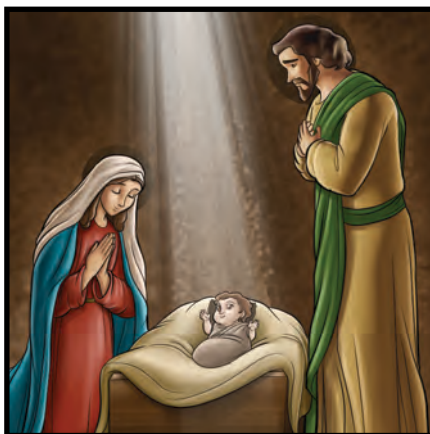
THE 5 JOYFUL MYSTERIES



The Annunciation



The Visitation



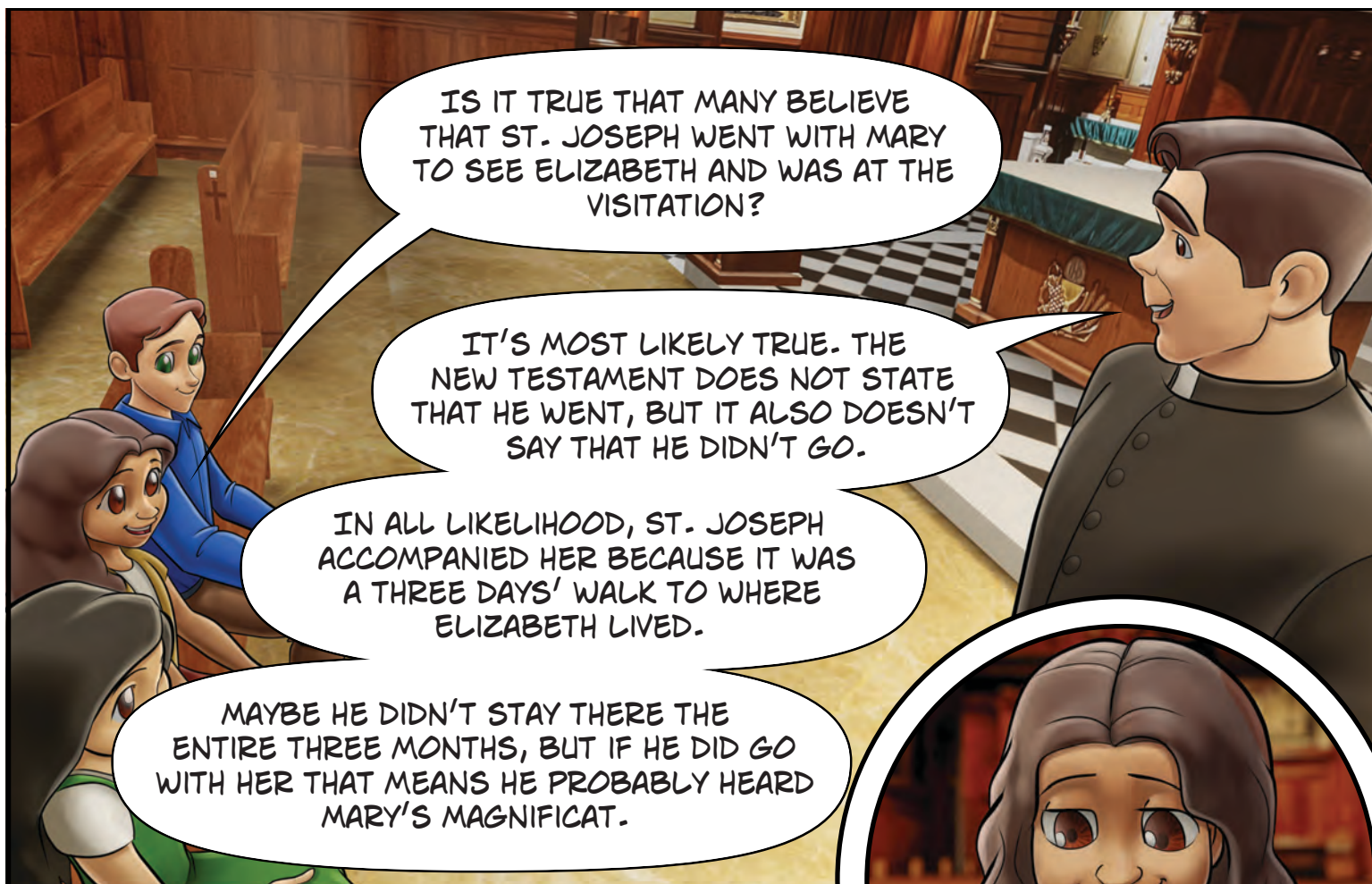
The Birth of Jesus



The Presentation in the Temple



The Finding in the Temple

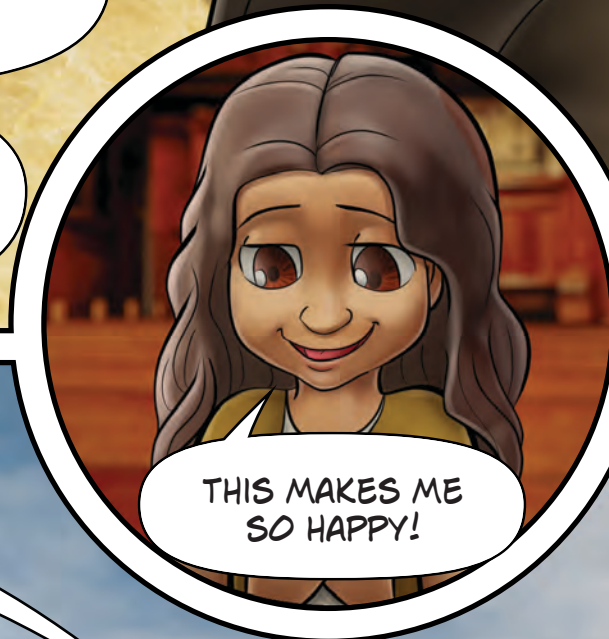


IS IT TRUE THAT MANY BELIEVE THAT ST. JOSEPH WENT WITH MARY TO SEE ELIZABETH AND WAS AT THE VISITATION?

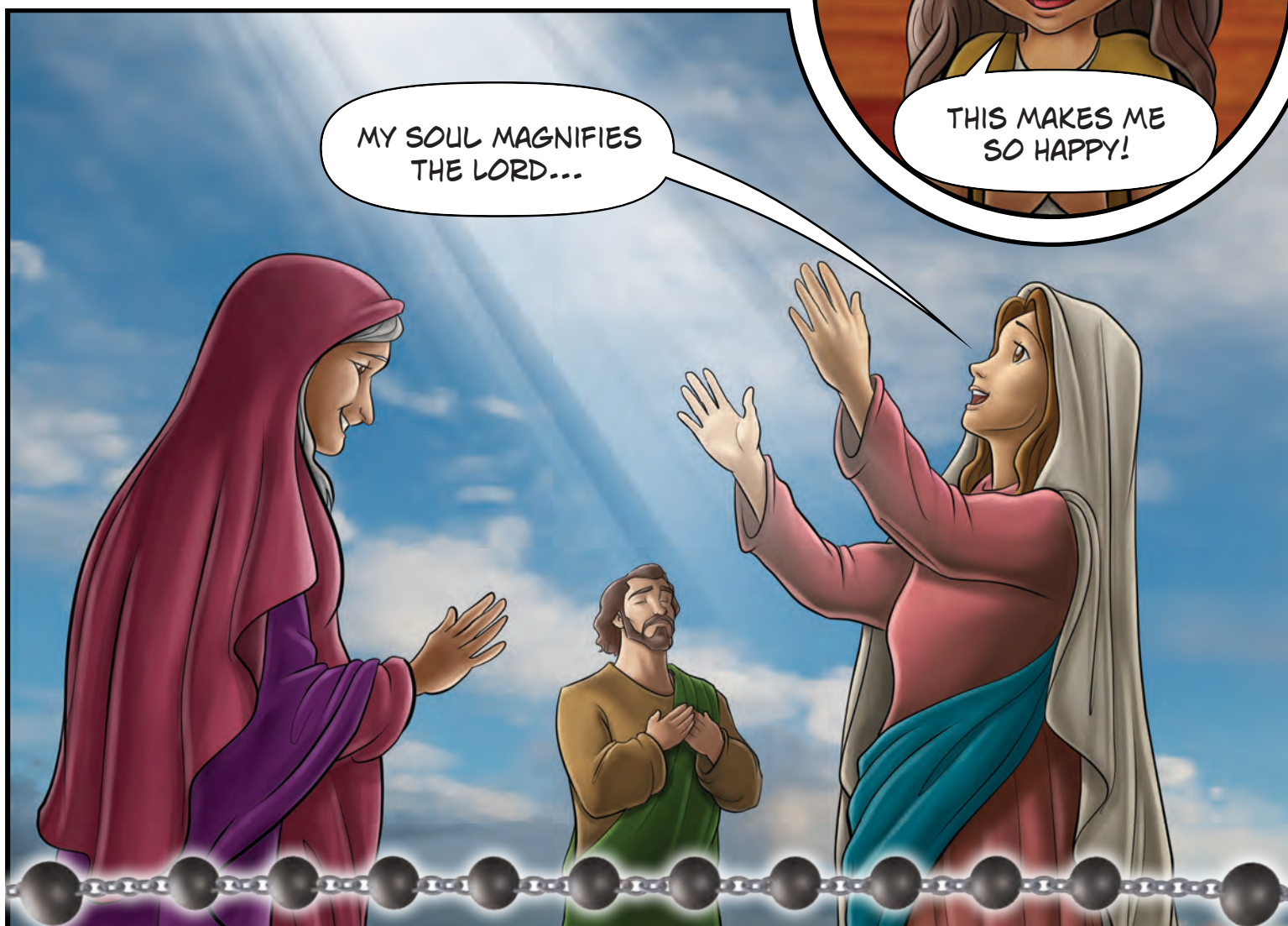
IT'S MOST LIKELY TRUE. THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES NOT STATE THAT HE WENT, BUT IT ALSO DOESN'T SAY THAT HE DIDN'T GO.

IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, ST. JOSEPH ACCOMPANIED HER BECAUSE IT WAS A THREE DAYS' WALK TO WHERE ELIZABETH LIVED.

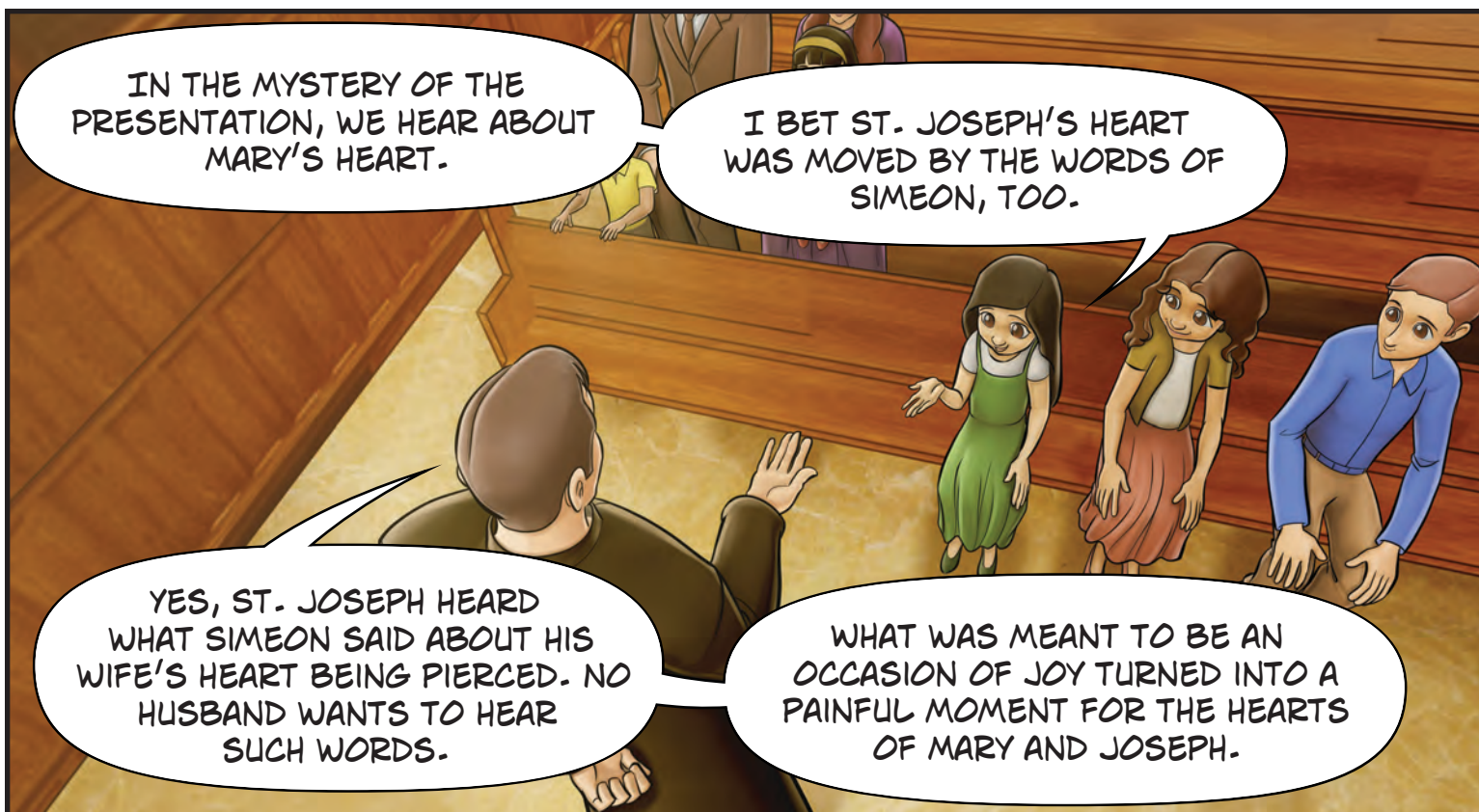
MAYBE HE DIDN'T STAY THERE THE ENTIRE THREE MONTHS, BUT IF HE DID GO WITH HER THAT MEANS HE PROBABLY HEARD MARY'S MAGNIFICAT.



THIS MAKES ME SO HAPPY!



MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD...

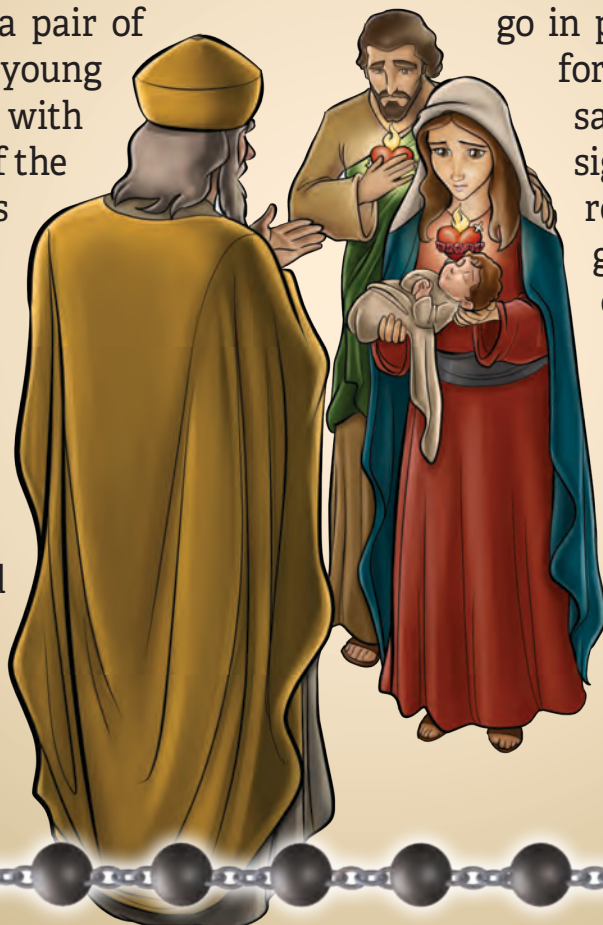


"When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had

seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

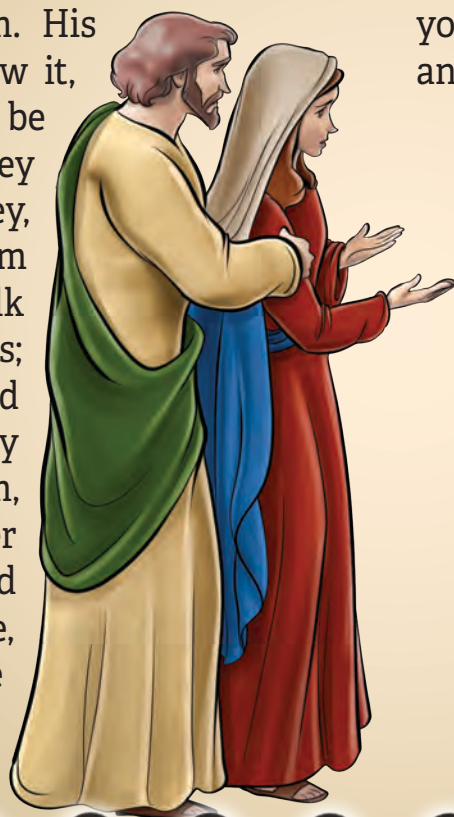
"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted, and you yourself a sword will pierce, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Luke 2:22-35





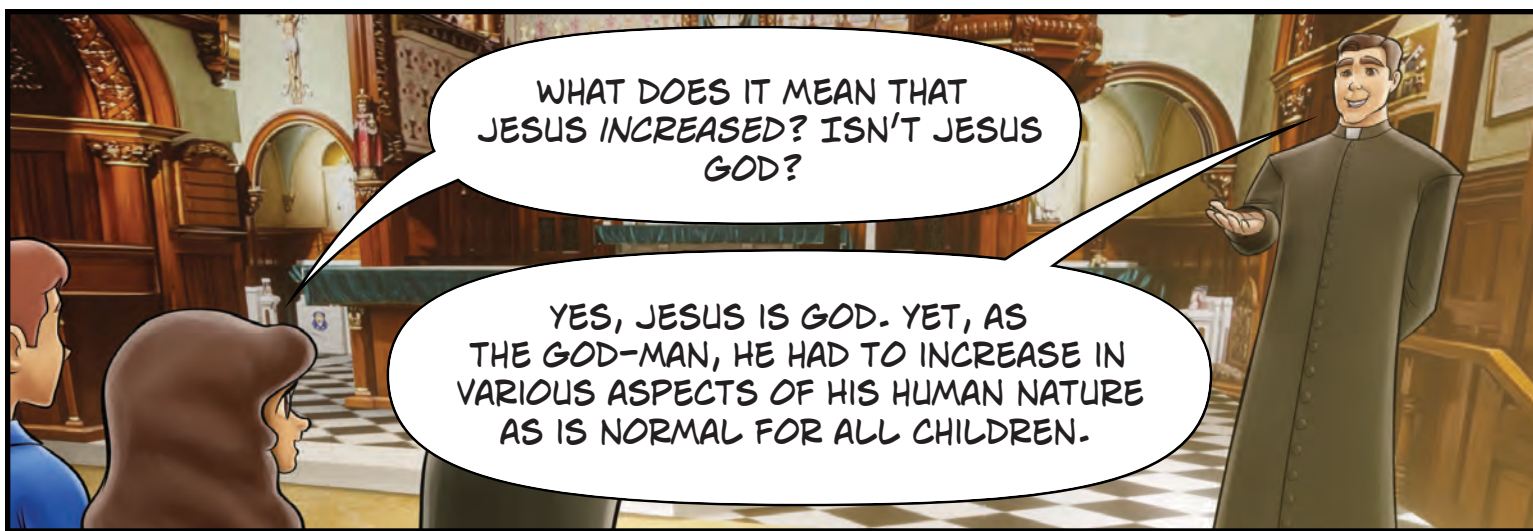
"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in their company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to



them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature before God and man."

Luke 2: 41-52





ST. JOSEPH DAILY LED HIS FAMILY IN PRAYER AND WAS SUCH A MODEL OF MANHOOD THAT JESUS WANTED TO IMITATE AND BE LIKE HIM. JESUS WANTED TO HAVE A HEART JUST LIKE THE MOST CHASTE HEART OF ST. JOSEPH!

The Most Chaste Heart of St. Joseph

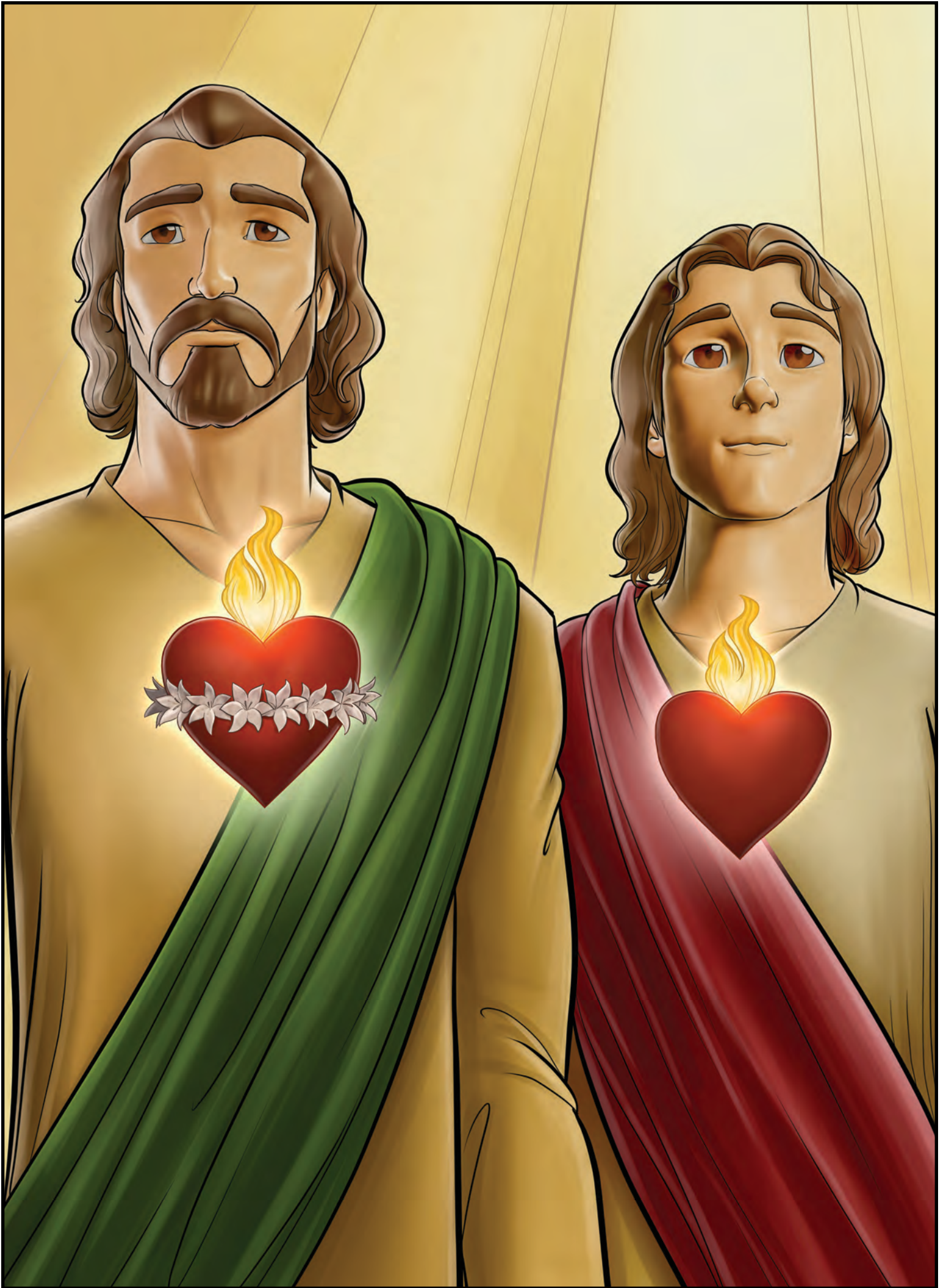


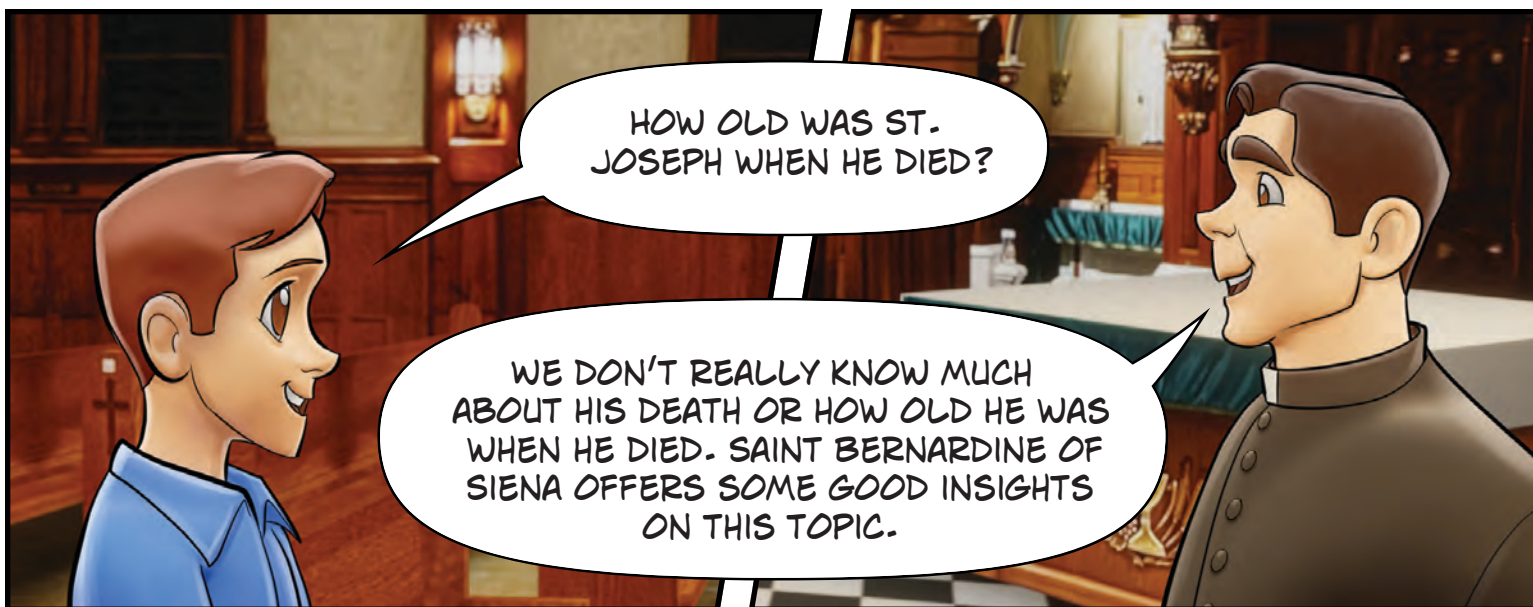
“How your breast must have burned, O blessed father of my Savior, how fast your heart must have beat, and how living and intoxicating your emotions must have been when Jesus smiled at your paternal solicitude and rewarded it with new caresses. Heart of Joseph, most pure and most faithful, pray for us!”

-Blessed Basil Moreau

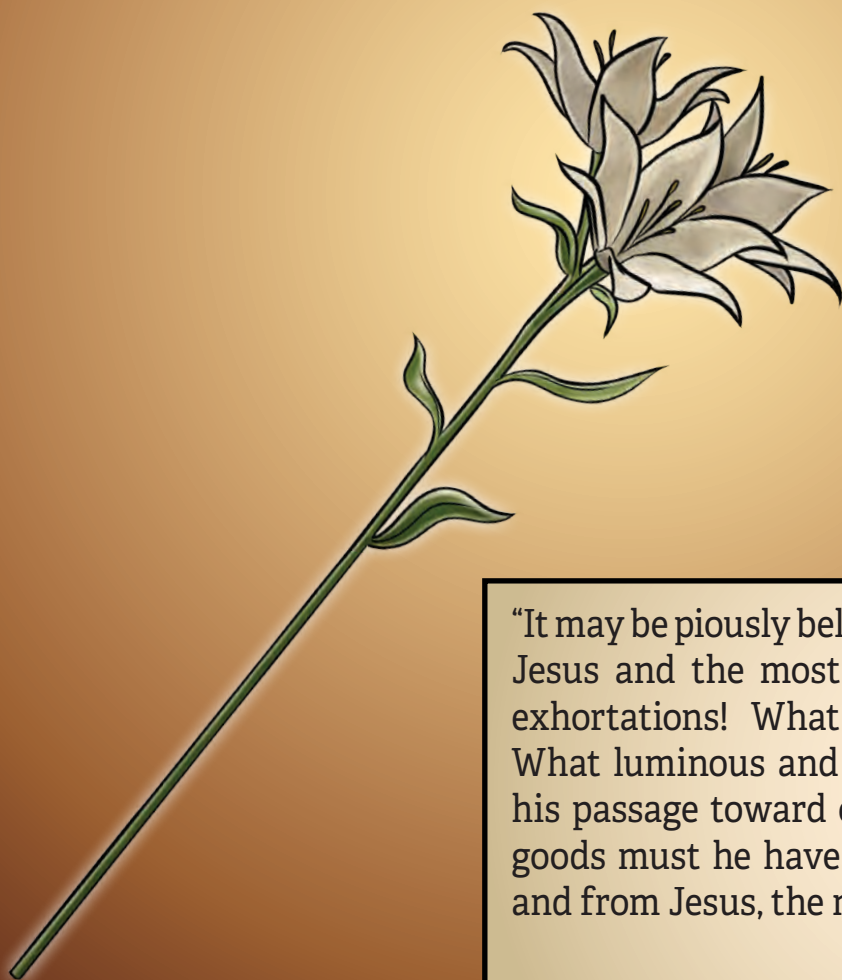
The Hidden Years







"Though we do not read in Scripture when St. Joseph died, yet it may be believed that he probably died before our Lord's Passion. For he would not have been absent from the Savior's Cross had he been alive; nor would it have been becoming for Christ, from his cross, to have placed Mary in another's care."

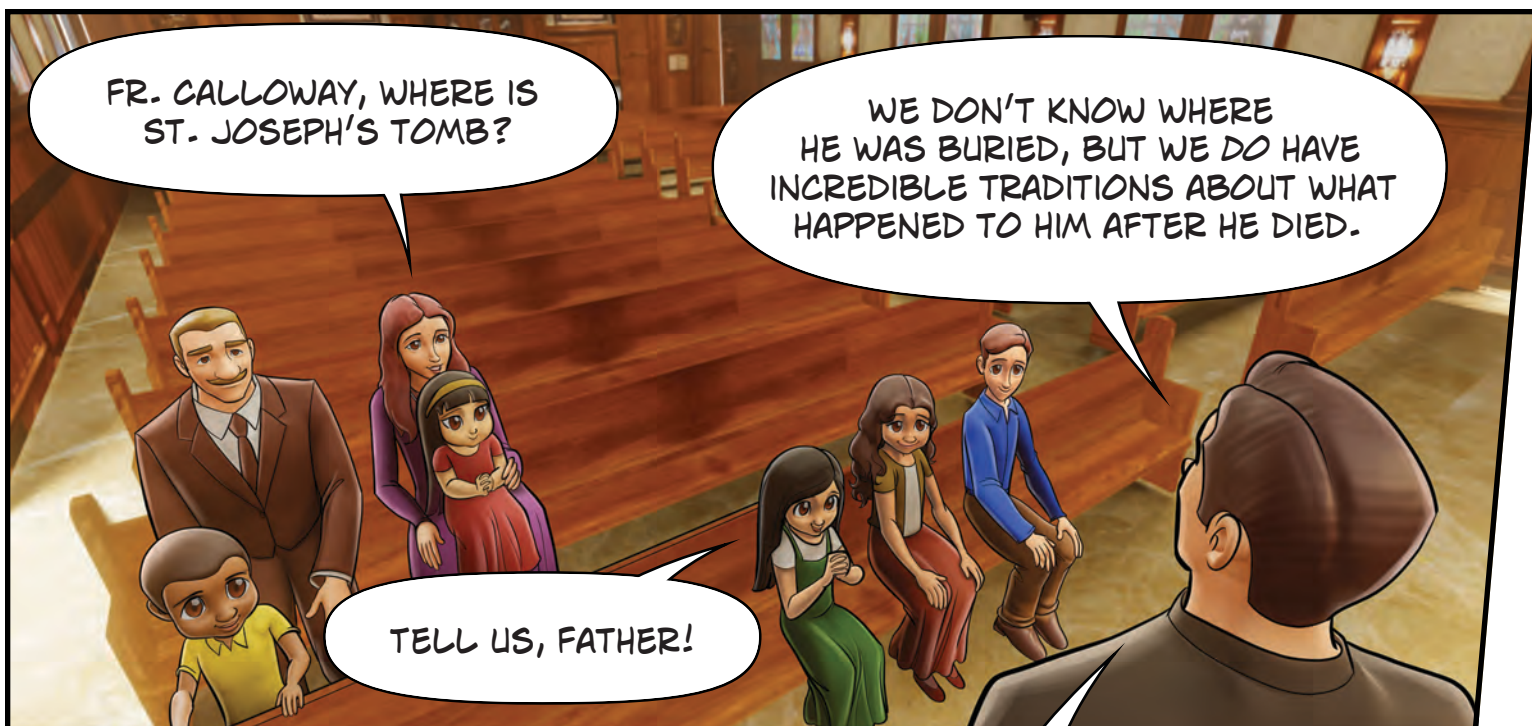


"It may be piously believed that at the moment of his death, Jesus and the most Blessed Virgin were present. What exhortations! What consoling words! What promises! What luminous and enflamed words! In this moment of his passage toward eternity, what revelations on eternal goods must he have received from his most holy spouse and from Jesus, the most loving Son of God!"

-Saint Bernardine of Siena



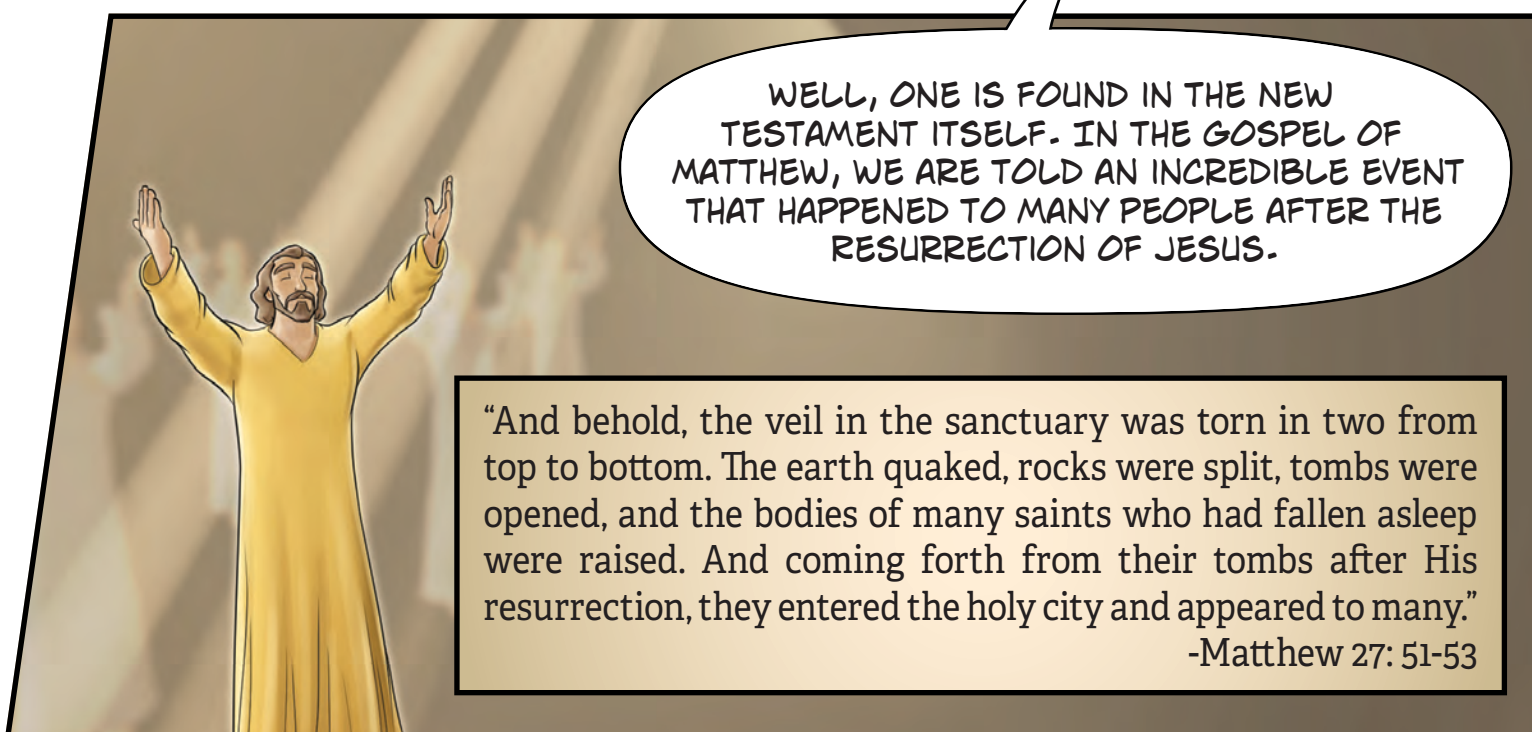
***St. Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death,
pray for us!***



FR. CALLOWAY, WHERE IS ST. JOSEPH'S TOMB?

WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE WAS BURIED, BUT WE DO HAVE INCREDIBLE TRADITIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AFTER HE DIED.

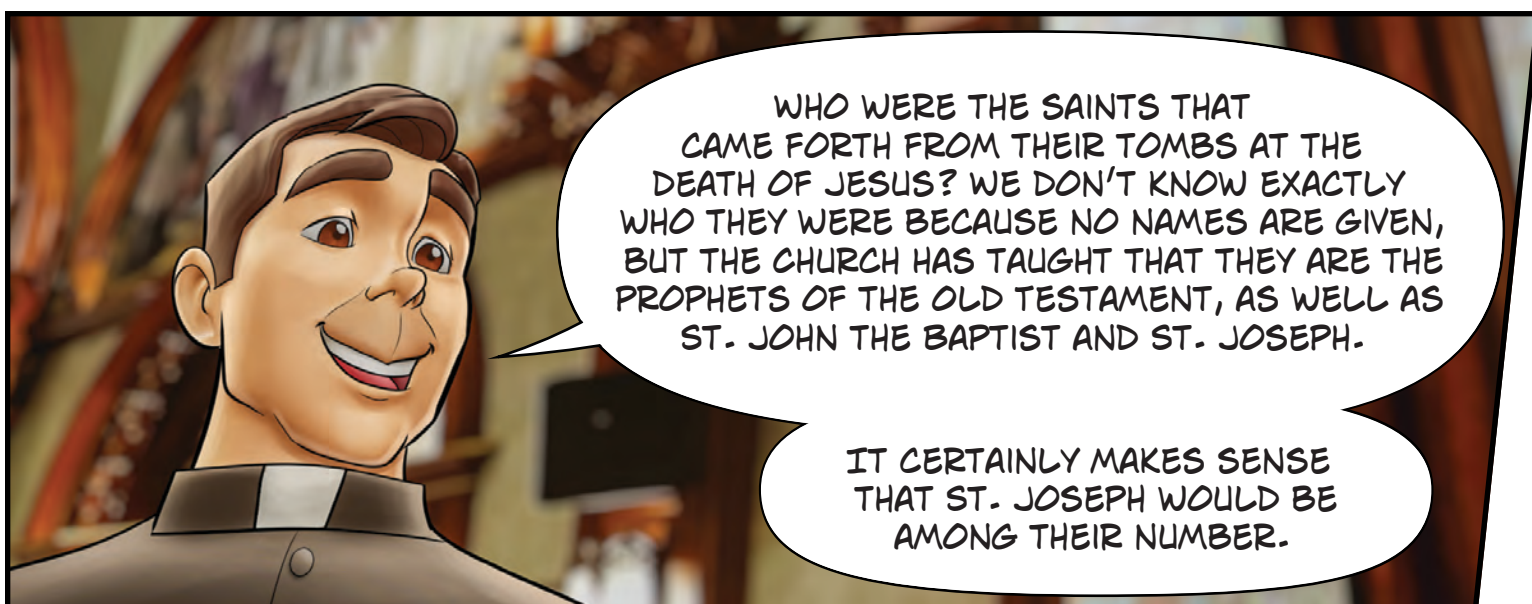
TELL US, FATHER!



WELL, ONE IS FOUND IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ITSELF. IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, WE ARE TOLD AN INCREDIBLE EVENT THAT HAPPENED TO MANY PEOPLE AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

"And behold, the veil in the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after His resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many."

-Matthew 27: 51-53



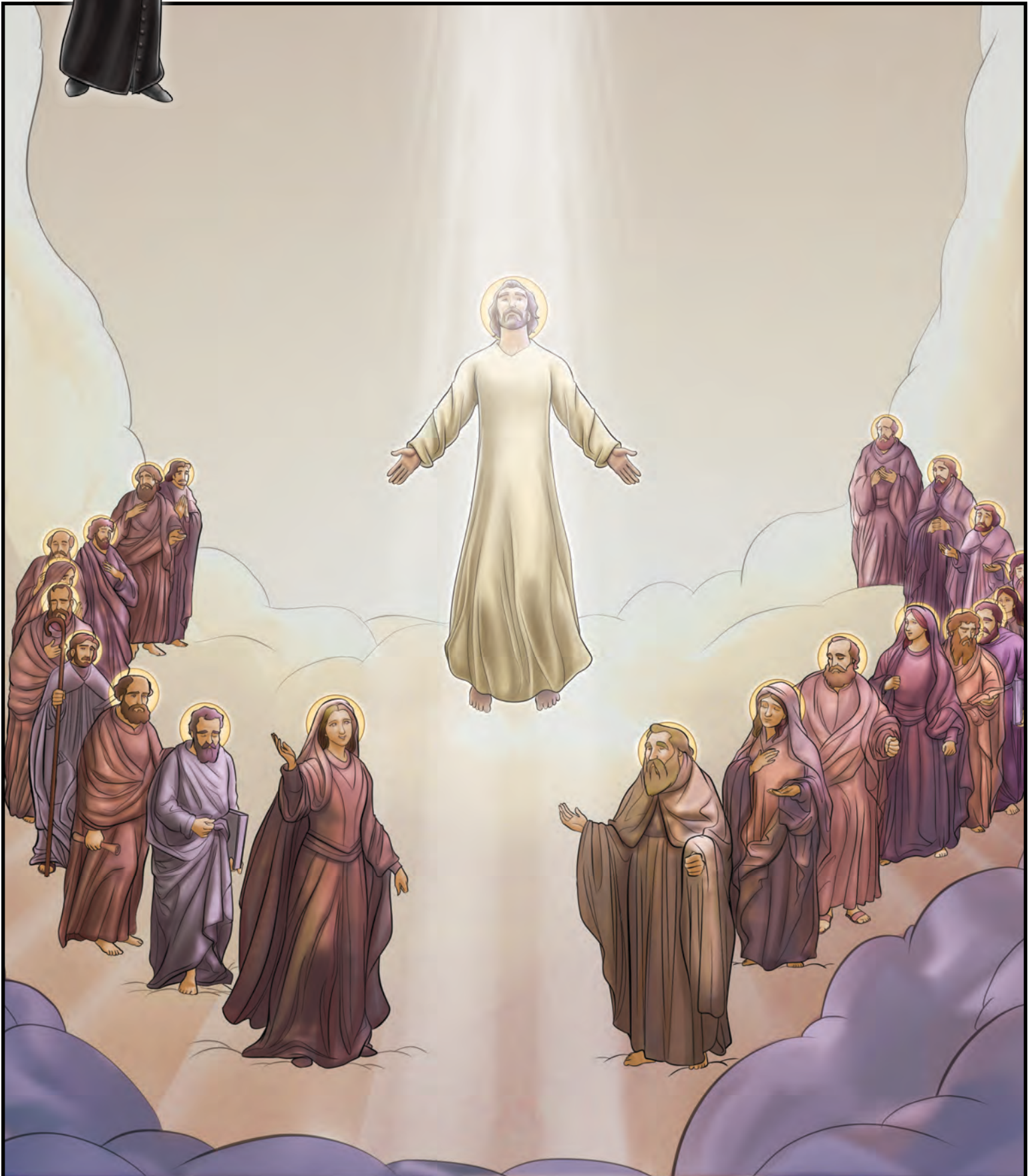
WHO WERE THE SAINTS THAT CAME FORTH FROM THEIR TOMBS AT THE DEATH OF JESUS? WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHO THEY WERE BECAUSE NO NAMES ARE GIVEN, BUT THE CHURCH HAS TAUGHT THAT THEY ARE THE PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, AS WELL AS ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND ST. JOSEPH.

IT CERTAINLY MAKES SENSE THAT ST. JOSEPH WOULD BE AMONG THEIR NUMBER.



“If the Resurrection of Christ, as we read in the Gospel of Matthew, caused the bodies of certain saints to rise and appear to many, isn't it likely that St. Joseph shared in this privilege since he died before Christ?”

-St. George Preca





“The Ascension of Jesus corresponds, also, to those deceased from the Old Testament who were closest to Jesus. We name two who were the most intimate in his life; John the Baptist, the Forerunner; and Joseph of Nazareth, his putative father and custodian. The Ascension corresponds to them, as well, and can be piously believed. It is an honor and a privilege for them to experience this admirable path to heaven.”

-St. Pope John XXIII

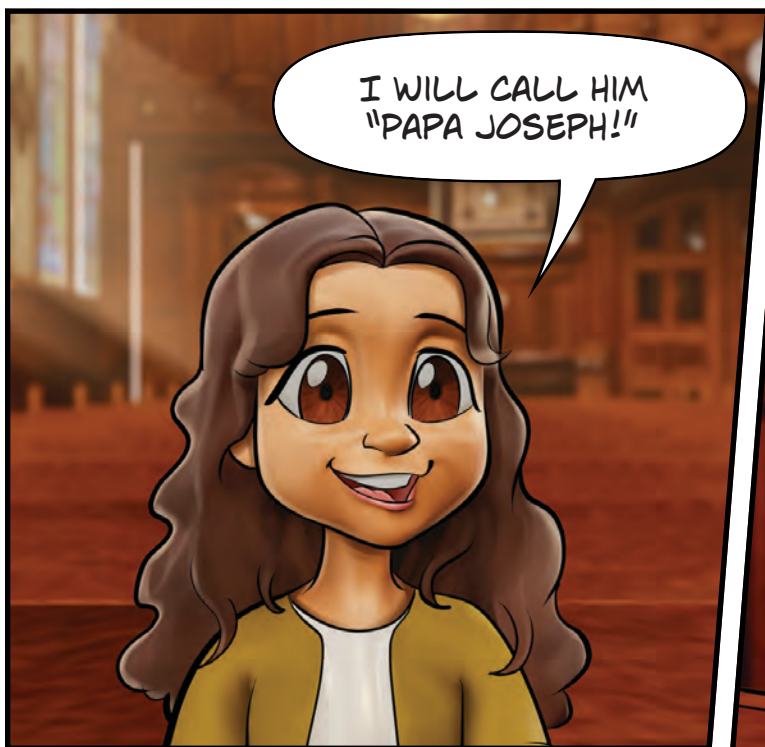
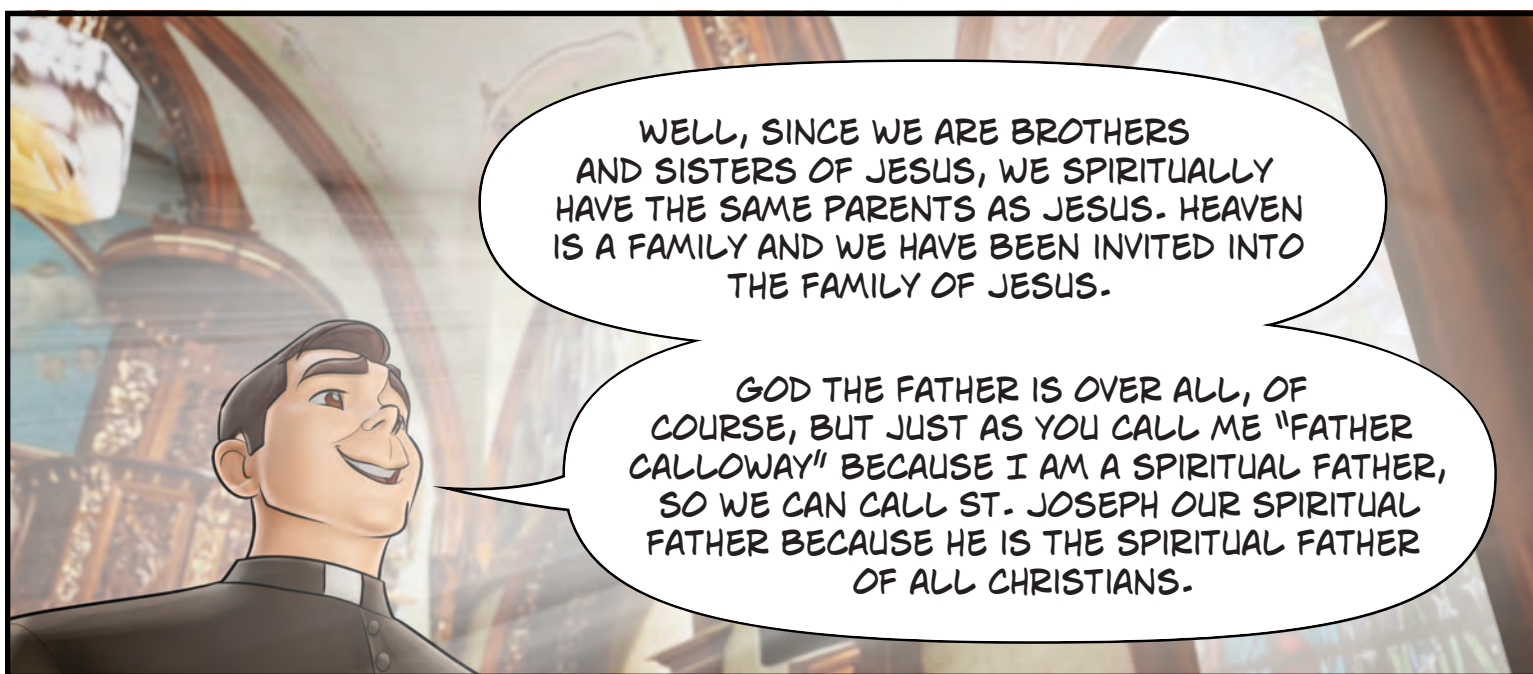
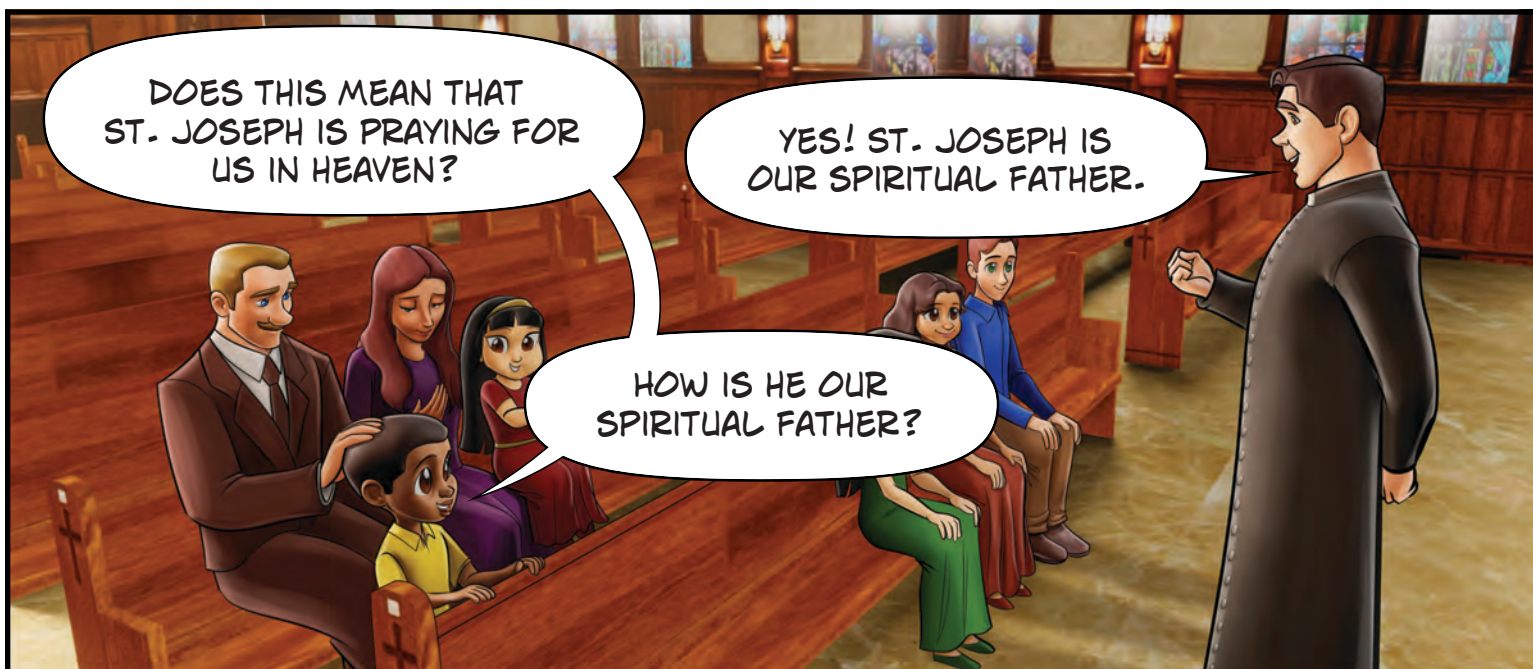


“We can never for a moment doubt that this glorious saint has great influence in heaven with him who raised him there in body and in soul — a fact which is the more probable because we have no relic of that body left to us here below! Indeed, it seems to me that no one can doubt this as a truth, for how could he who had been so obedient to St. Joseph, all through his life, refuse him this grace?”

“If it is true, as we are bound to believe, that in virtue of the Blessed Sacrament which we receive, our bodies will come to life again on the day of judgment (Jn 6:55), how could we doubt that Our Lord raised up to heaven, in body and soul, the glorious St. Joseph? For he had the honor and the grace of carrying him so often in his blessed arms, those arms in which Our Lord took so much pleasure.”

-St. Francis de Sales





Papa Joseph

"What confidence should we not have in the unfailing intercession of him whom our good and merciful God has given us as a father and protector. May our beloved patron and father, St. Joseph, watch over us and obtain for us the spirit he wishes to see in his children."

-St. Mary MacKillop



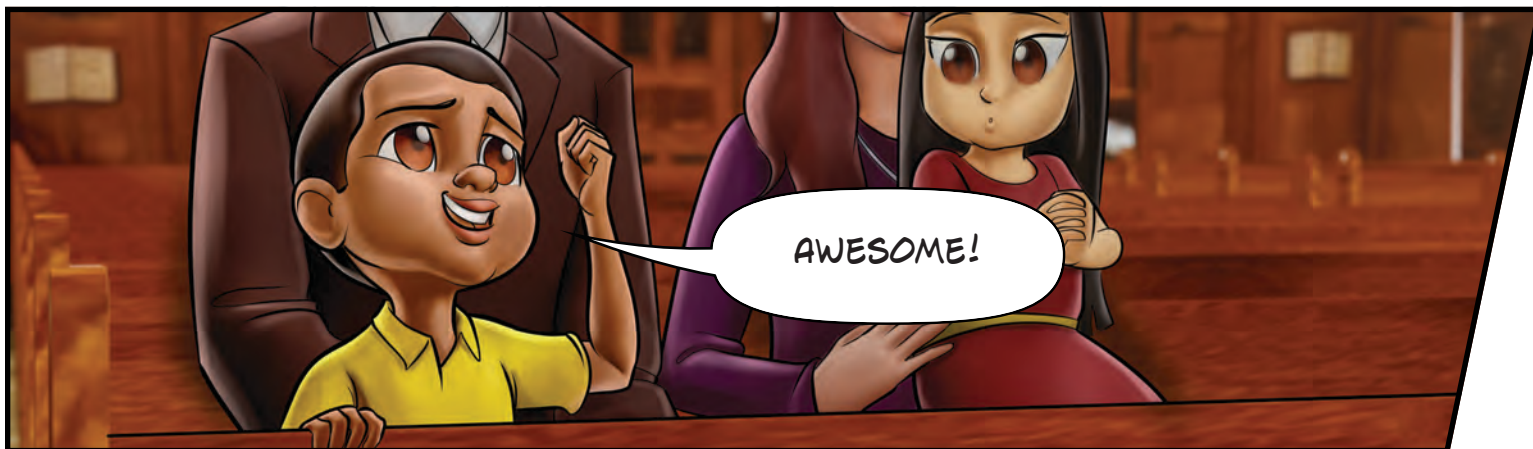
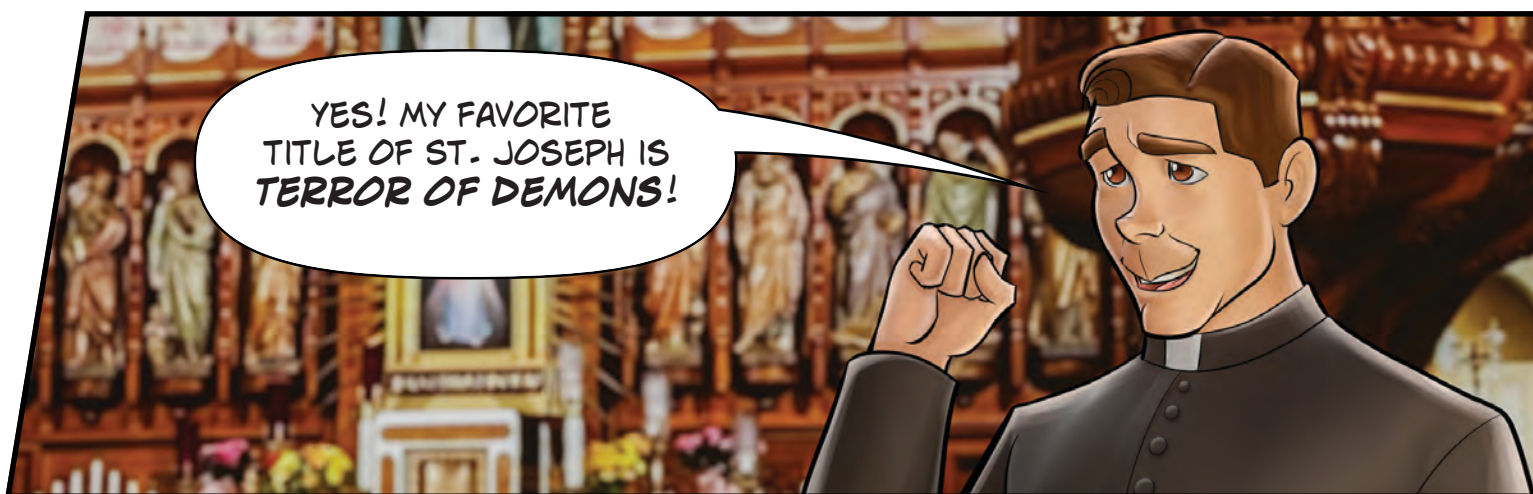
"St. Joseph is not only the guardian of the Holy Family; for as Mary under the Cross was given us by Christ himself to be our mother, so St. Joseph was given us to be our father. Is it not natural then that if I love and honor Mary as my mother I should also love and honor St. Joseph as my father, that I entrust myself to his protection, and that I ask him to be my father now as once he was foster father to the Child Jesus? Indeed, what better and holier a father could we ask for?"

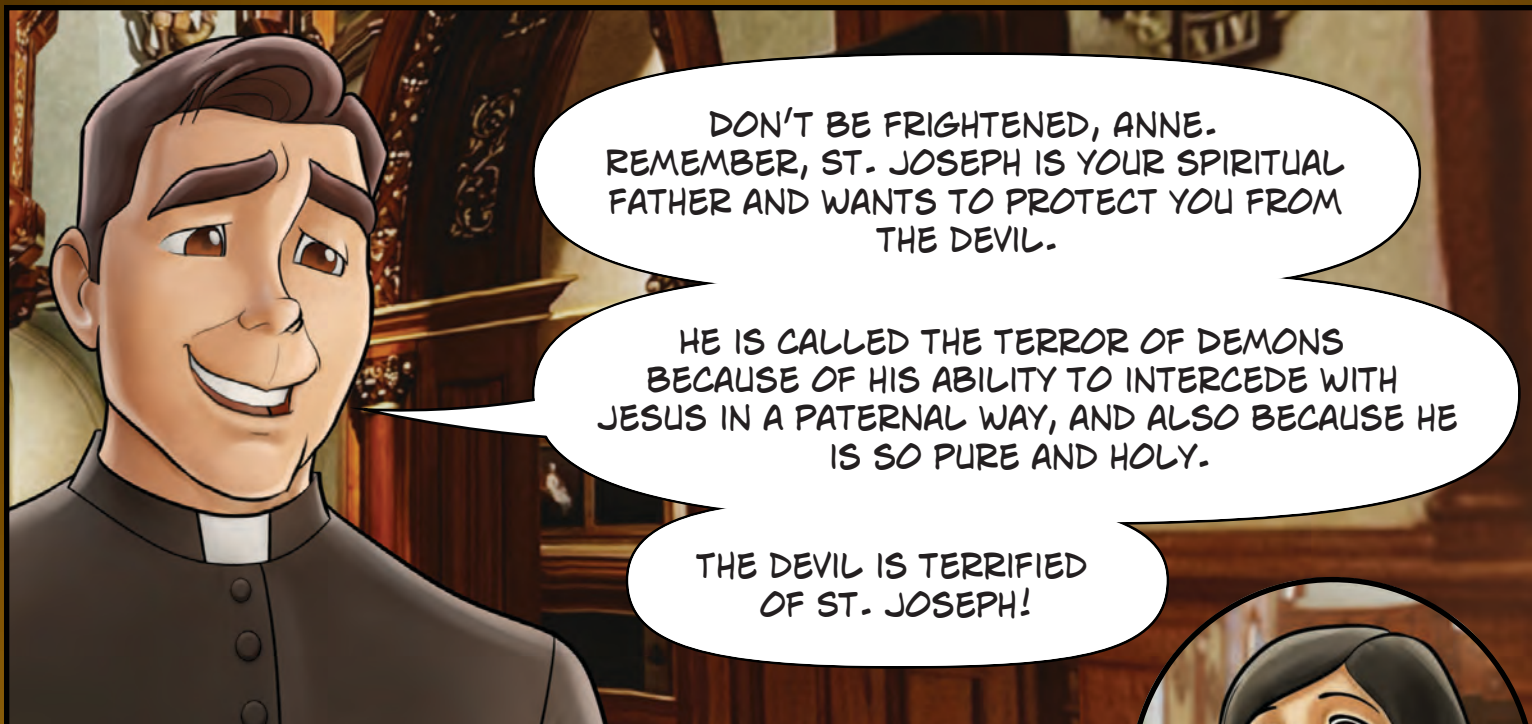
-St. Teresa of St. Joseph



"We are undoubtedly children of Mary, and this is our glory and our consolation. But we are also adopted children of St. Joseph and this is no small reason for the confidence that we have in him. He is the father of Christians, since he is the depository of the seed of grace which begot Christians. Now if St. Joseph is our father, let us imitate his deeds."

-Blessed William Joseph Chaminade





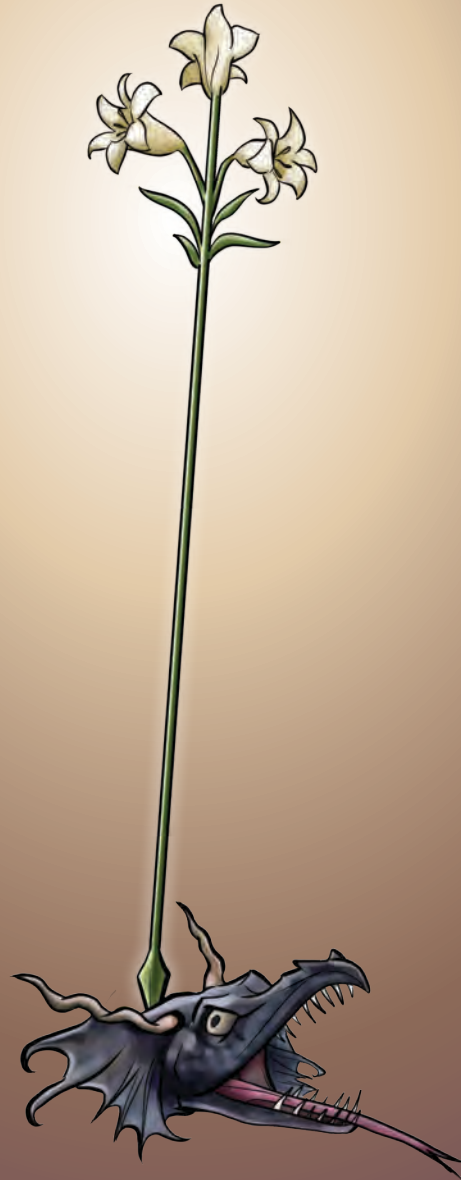
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, ANNE.
REMEMBER, ST. JOSEPH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL
FATHER AND WANTS TO PROTECT YOU FROM
THE DEVIL.

HE IS CALLED THE TERROR OF DEMONS
BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITY TO INTERCEDE WITH
JESUS IN A PATERNAL WAY, AND ALSO BECAUSE HE
IS SO PURE AND HOLY.

THE DEVIL IS TERRIFIED
OF ST. JOSEPH!



The lily of St. Joseph is a spiritual weapon!

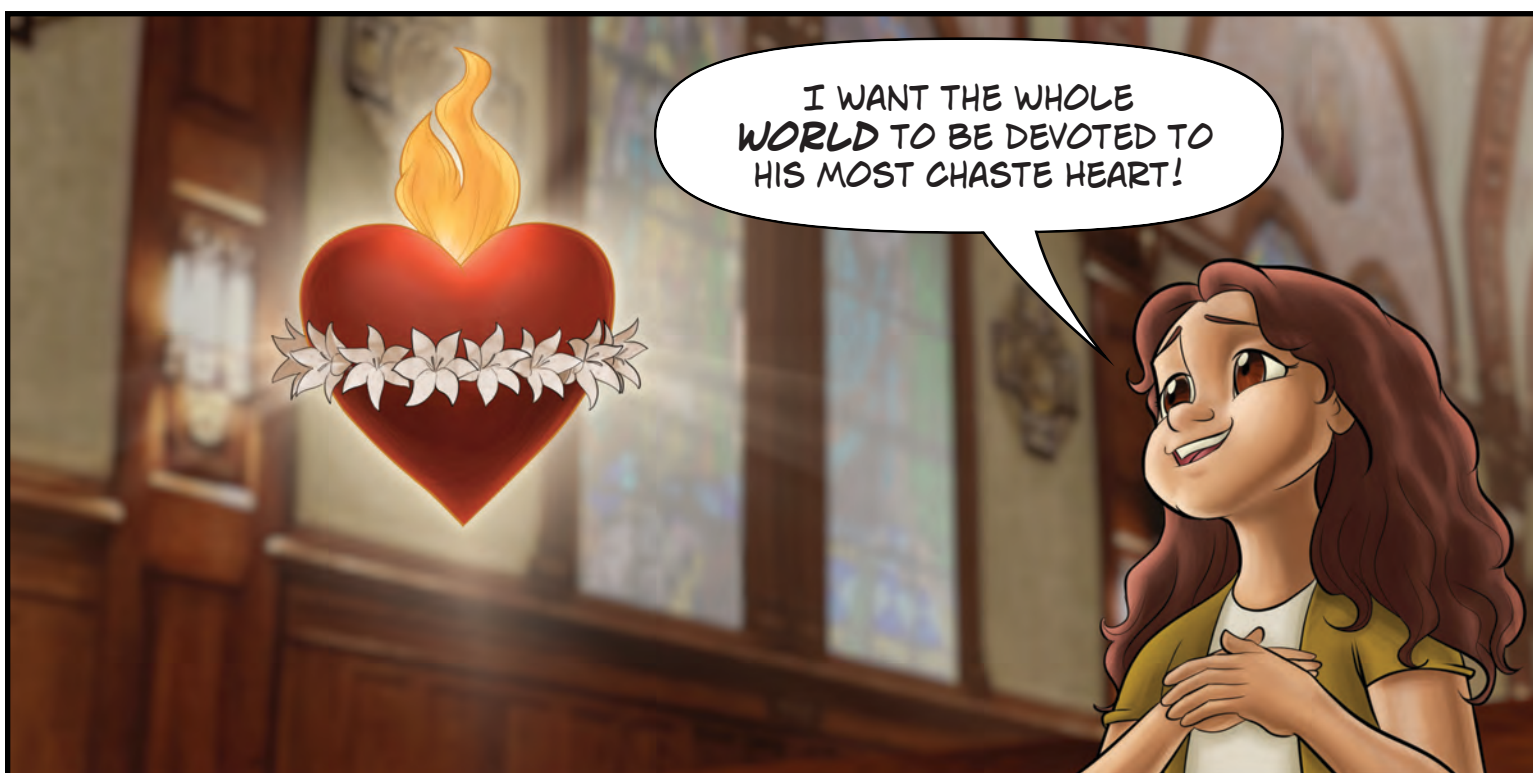
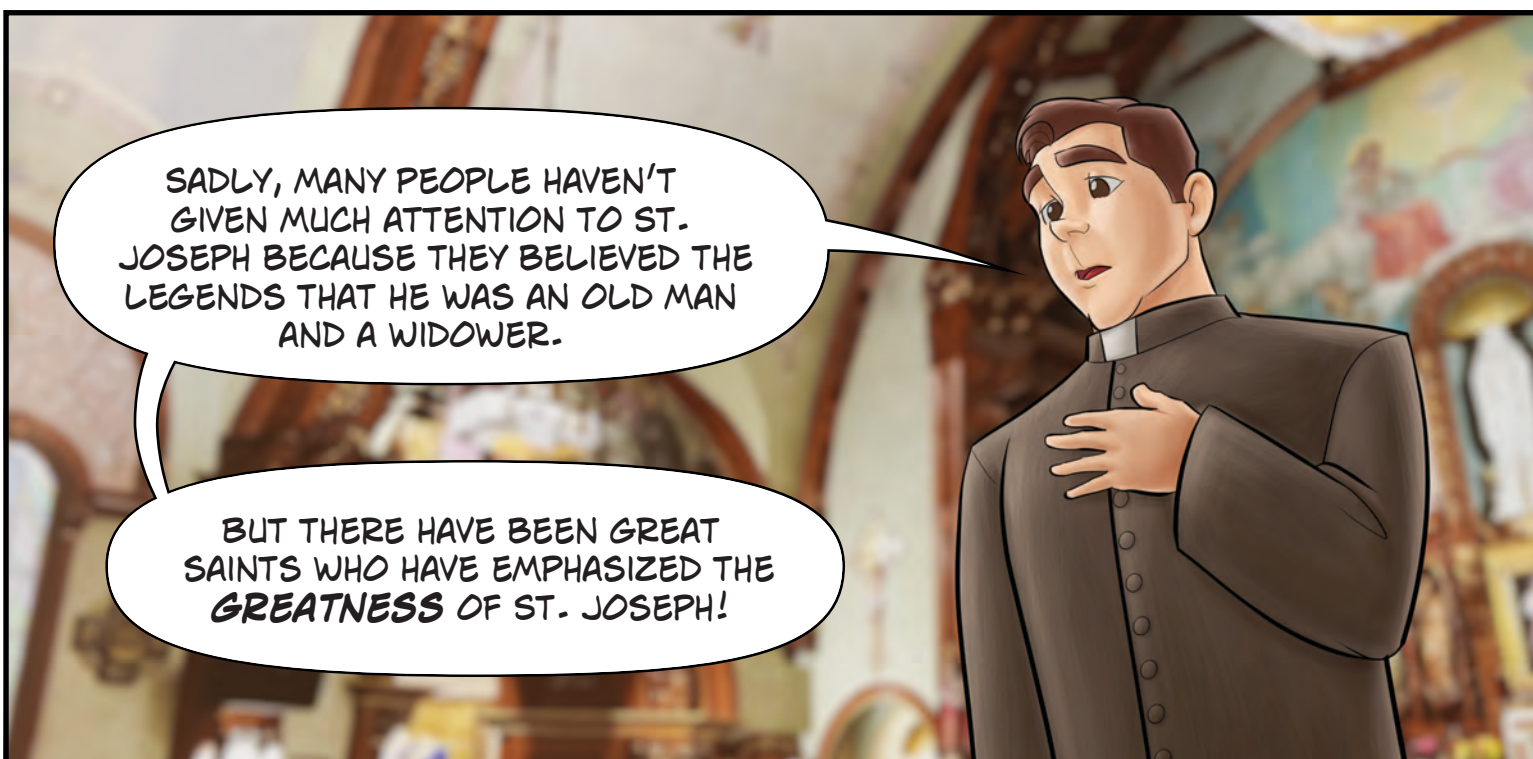
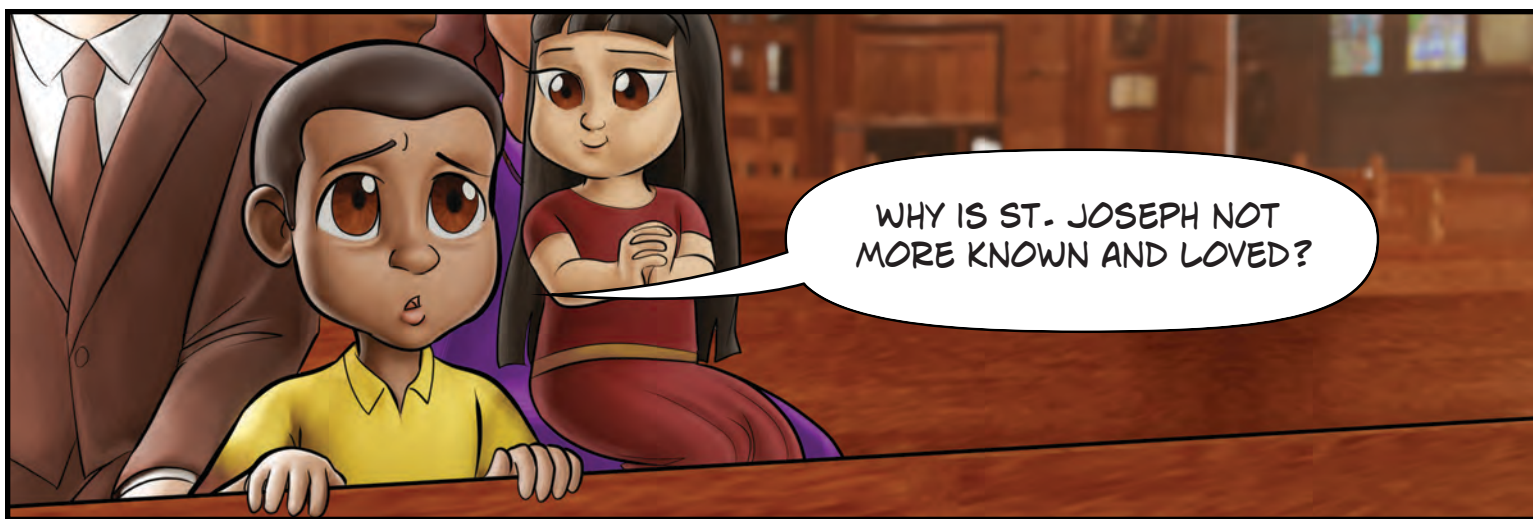


"It is a great blessing for souls to be under the protection of the saint whose name makes demons tremble and flee. Pronounce often and with great confidence the names of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Their names bring peace, love, health, blessings, majesty, glory, admiration, joy, happiness, and veneration. Their holy names are a blessing to angels and men, and a terror to demons."

-Blessed Bartolo Longo

"Saint Joseph, with the love and generosity with which he guarded Jesus, so too will he guard your soul, and as he defended him from Herod, so will he defend your soul from the fiercest Herod: the devil!"

-St. Pio of Pietrelcina





"I wish I could persuade everyone to be devoted to the glorious St. Joseph, for I have great experience of the blessings which he can obtain from God. I do not remember that I have ever asked anything of him which he has failed to grant. I am astonished at the great favors which God has bestowed on me through this blessed saint, and at the perils from which he has delivered me, both in body and in soul. To other saints, the Lord seems to have given grace to help us in some of our necessities. But my experience is that St. Joseph helps us in them all; also that the Lord wishes to teach us that, as he was himself subject on earth to St. Joseph, so in heaven he now does all that Joseph asks. This has also been the experience of other persons whom I have advised to commend themselves to the saint. I only request, for the love of God, whoever will not believe me will test the truth of what I say, for he will see by experience how great a blessing it is to recommend oneself to this glorious patriarch and to be devoted to him."

-St. Teresa of Avila



“It is natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family of Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.”

-Pope Leo XIII

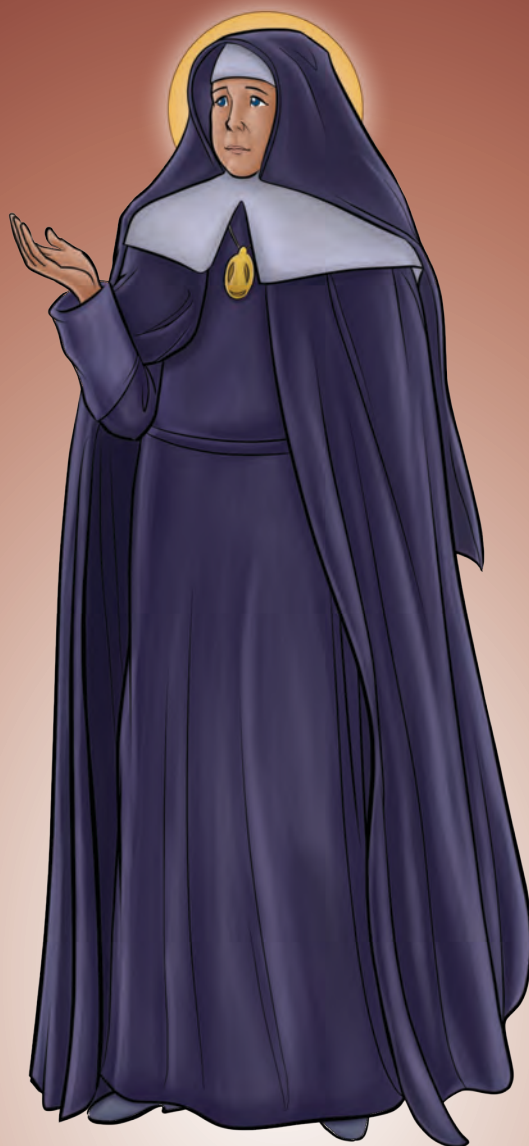
“Inspired by the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church from the earliest centuries stressed that just as St. Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ’s upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ’s Mystical Body, that is, the Church.”

-St. Pope John Paul II



"Be in good spirits under the fatherly mantle of St. Joseph, a place of safest refuge in trials and tribulations."

-St. Joseph Marello



"Be still, tranquil, and have no fear because St. Joseph is with us and he will conquer."

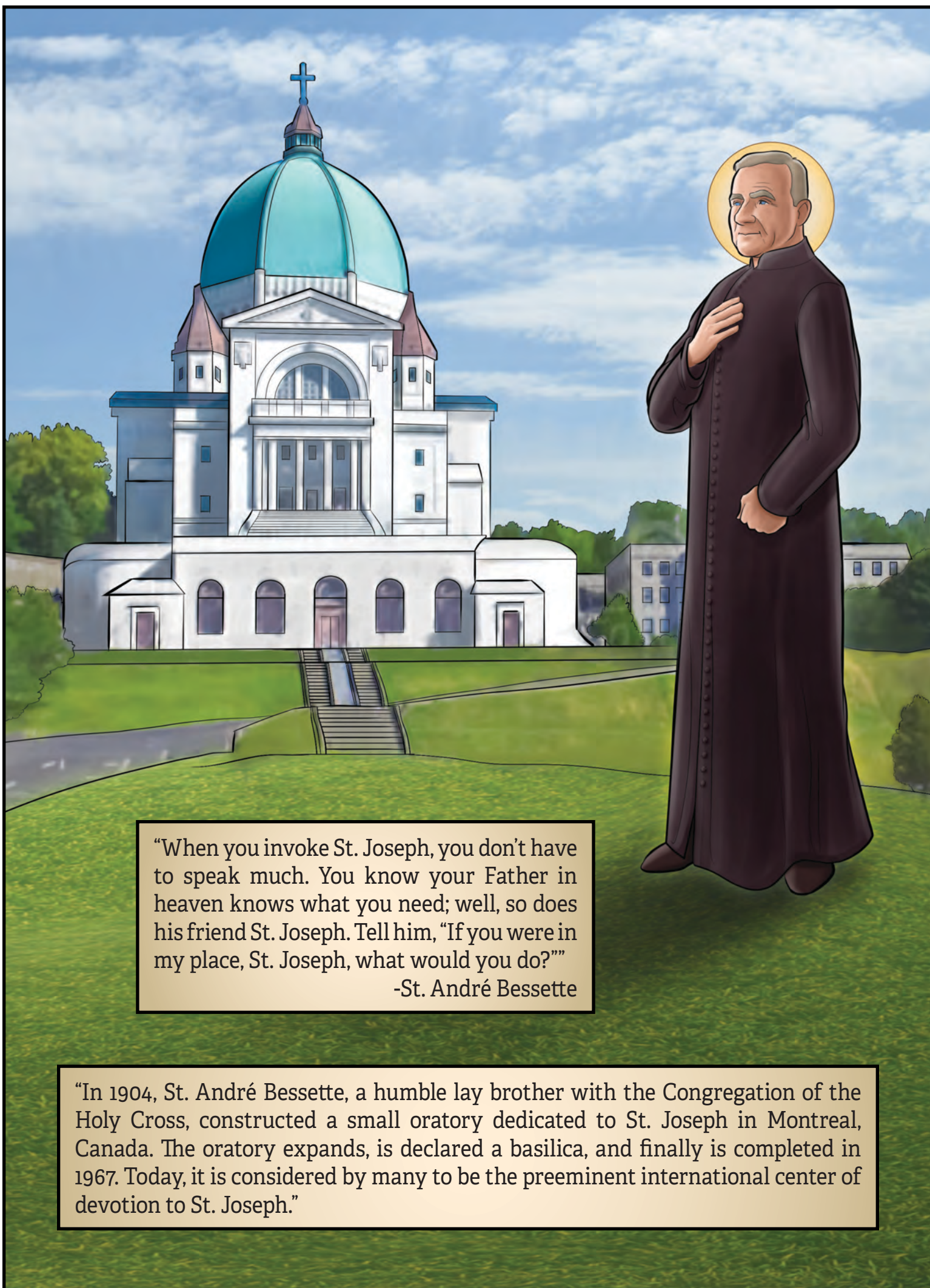
-Blessed Petra of St. Joseph



"God demands much from you, but he will favor you generously on this earth, and will exalt you, if you will but imitate St. Joseph in his virtues."

-St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar

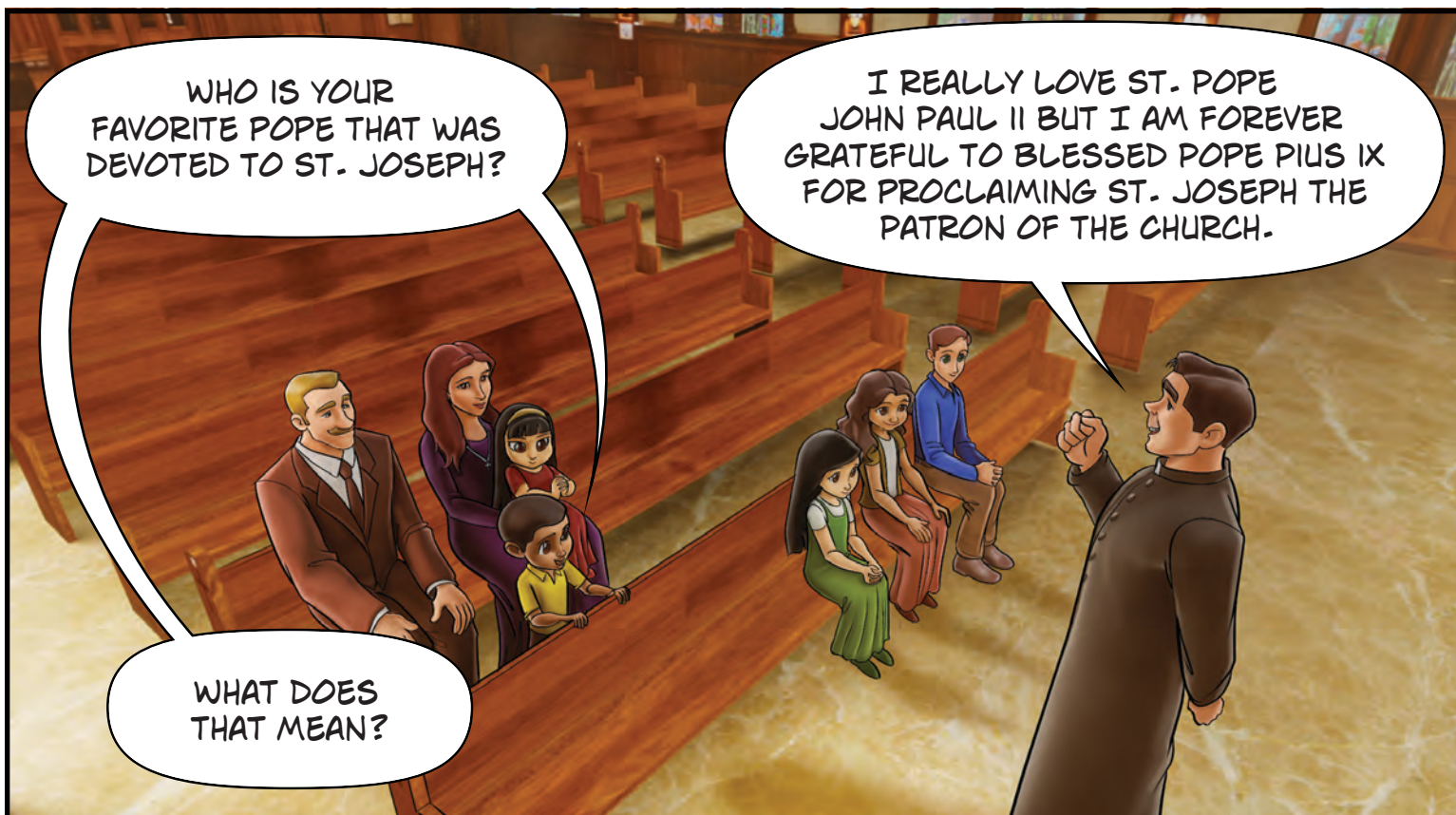




"When you invoke St. Joseph, you don't have to speak much. You know your Father in heaven knows what you need; well, so does his friend St. Joseph. Tell him, 'If you were in my place, St. Joseph, what would you do?'"

-St. André Bessette

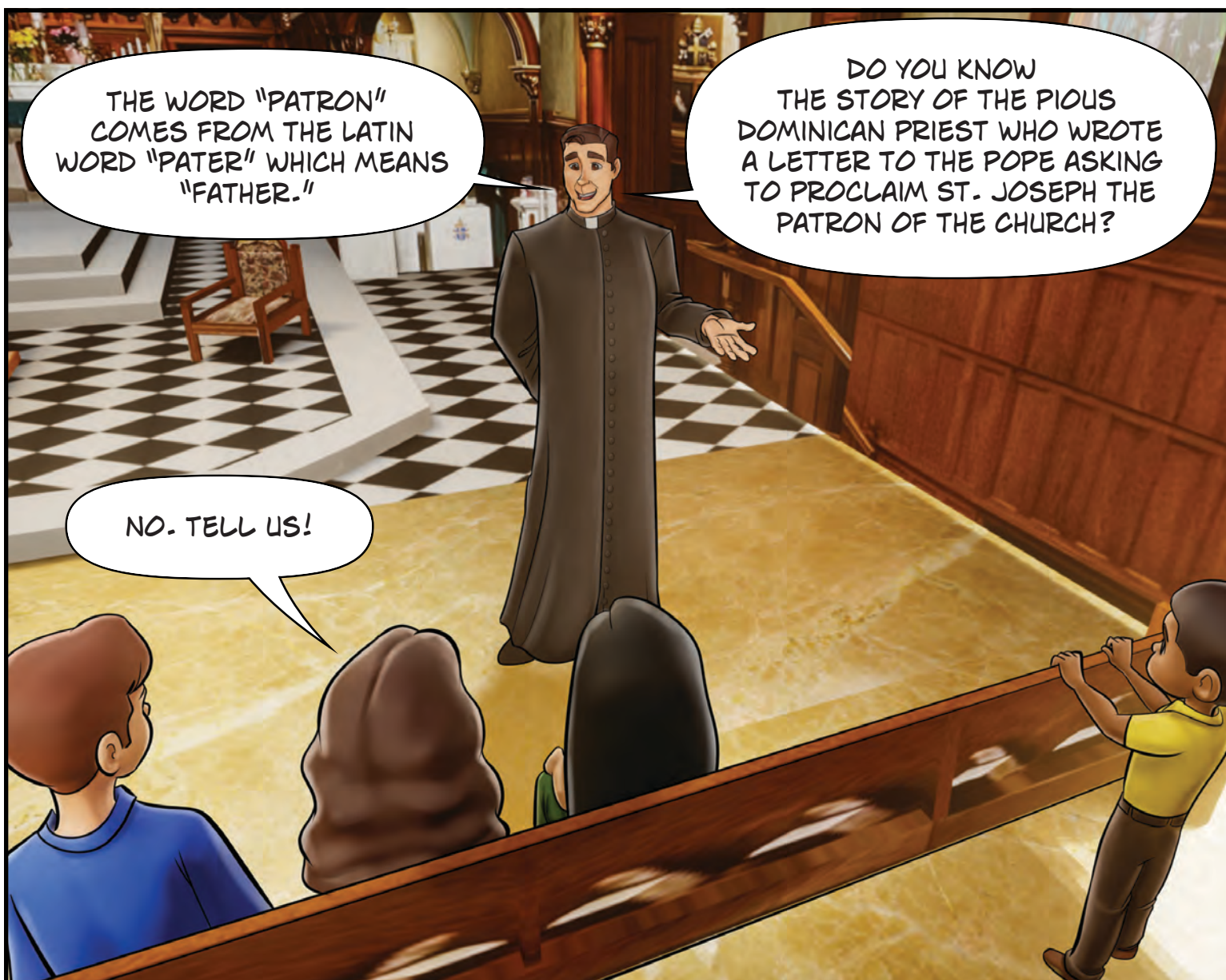
"In 1904, St. André Bessette, a humble lay brother with the Congregation of the Holy Cross, constructed a small oratory dedicated to St. Joseph in Montreal, Canada. The oratory expands, is declared a basilica, and finally is completed in 1967. Today, it is considered by many to be the preeminent international center of devotion to St. Joseph."



WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE POPE THAT WAS DEVOTED TO ST. JOSEPH?

I REALLY LOVE ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II BUT I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL TO BLESSED POPE PIUS IX FOR PROCLAIMING ST. JOSEPH THE PATRON OF THE CHURCH.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



THE WORD "PATRON" COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD "PATER" WHICH MEANS "FATHER."

DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF THE PIOUS DOMINICAN PRIEST WHO WROTE A LETTER TO THE POPE ASKING TO PROCLAIM ST. JOSEPH THE PATRON OF THE CHURCH?

NO. TELL US!

"In the 19th century, devout Catholics around the world were writing letters to the pope asking him to proclaim St. Joseph the Patron of the Church. Like many others, Fr. Jean-Joseph Lataste had written a letter too. He wrote his letter in 1868. The pious Dominican priest was so convinced that God wanted this proclamation for the good of the Church that he made a promise to God to offer his life as a sacrifice to bring about the patronage of St. Joseph for the entire Church."



"This good religious is offering the sacrifice of his life to obtain that St. Joseph be declared Patron of the Universal Church. Father Lataste will shortly be granted his wish. We have received more than five hundred letters requesting that we declare St. Joseph patron of the Church, but Fr. Lataste is the only one who offered his life."

-Blessed Pope Pius IX

"Fr. Lataste (now Blessed Jean-Joseph Lataste) died in 1869. In 1870, the pope proclaimed St. Joseph the Patron of the Church!"

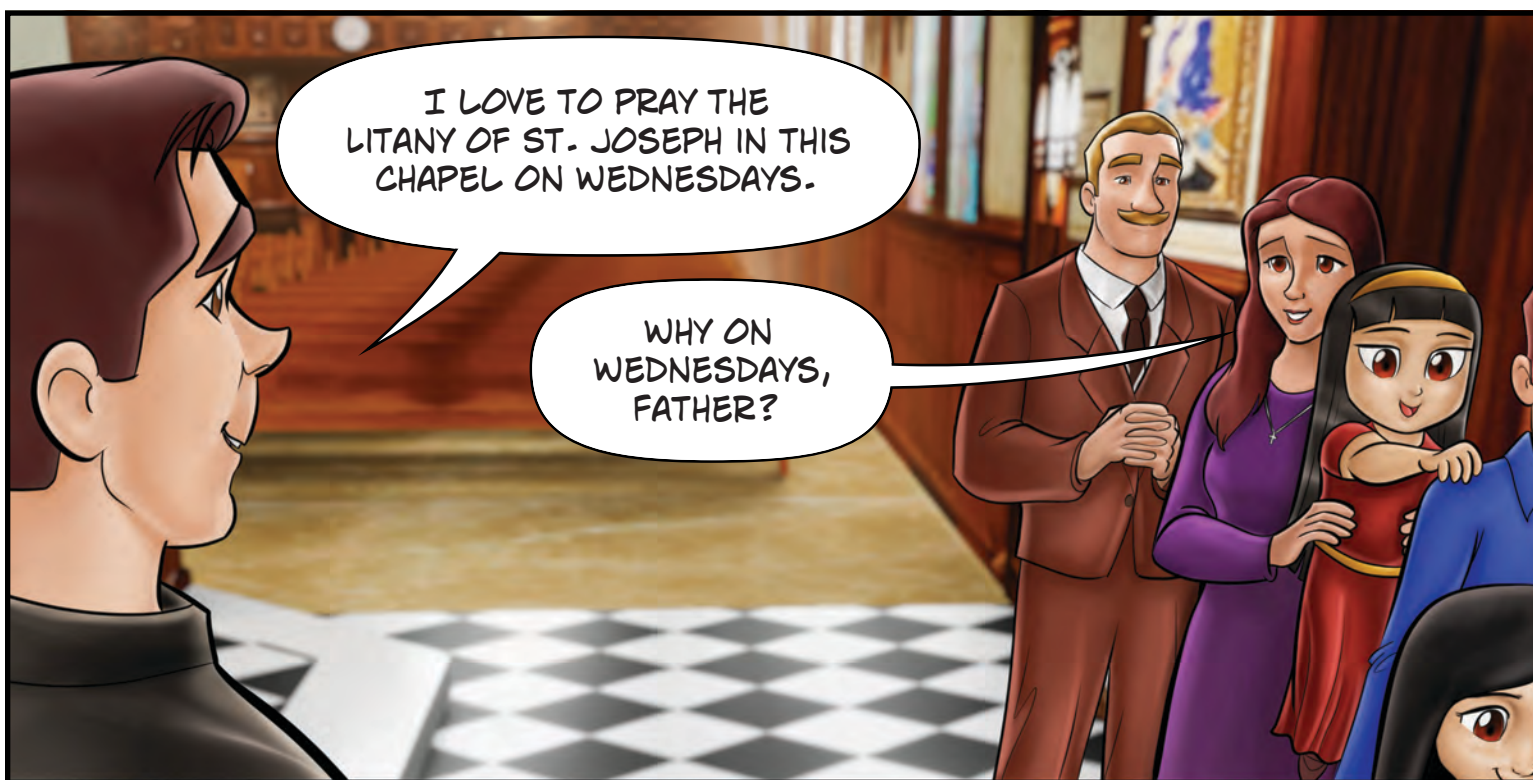






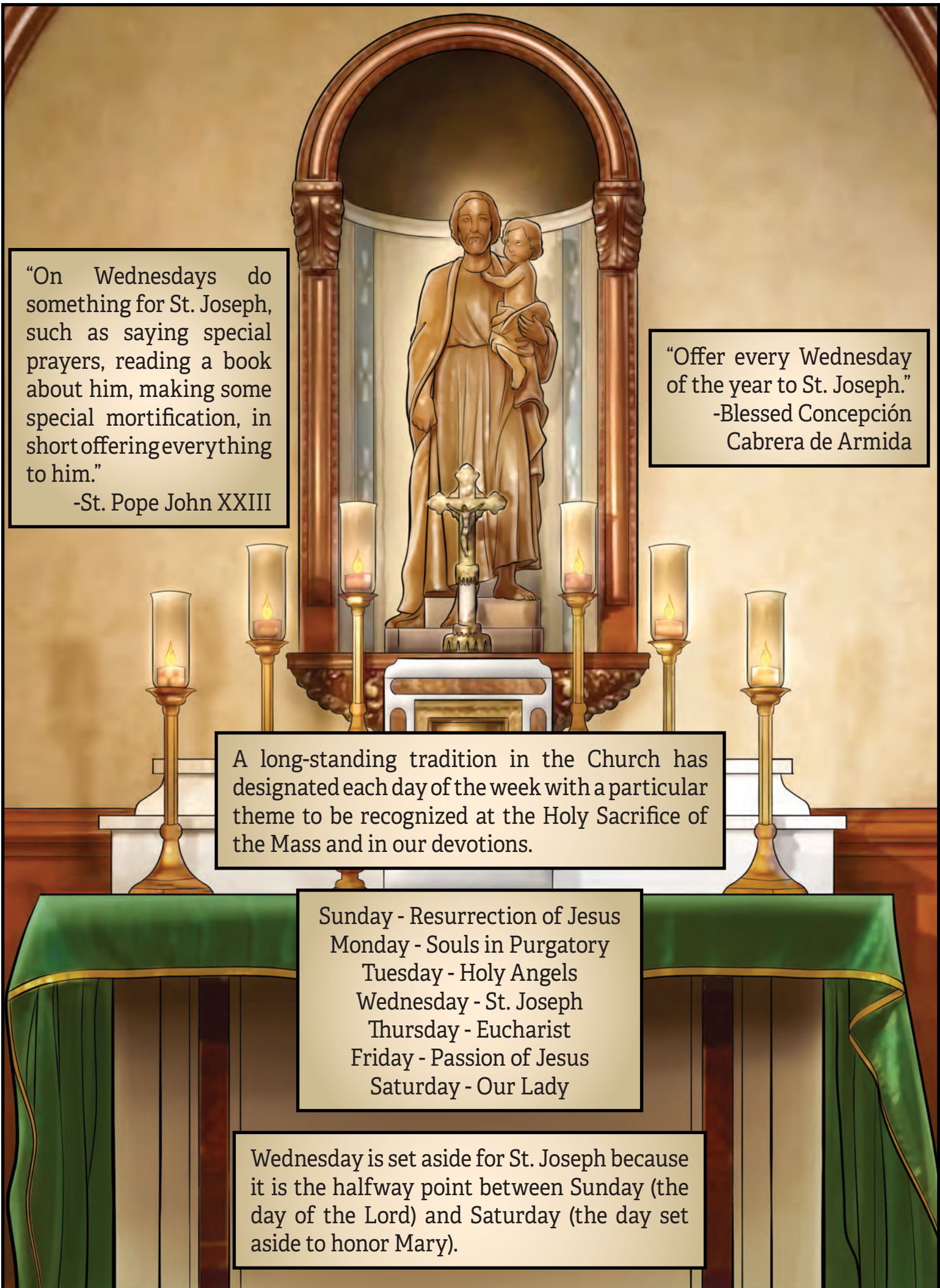
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

YES, IT IS!



I LOVE TO PRAY THE
LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH IN THIS
CHAPEL ON WEDNESDAYS.

WHY ON
WEDNESDAYS,
FATHER?



"On Wednesdays do something for St. Joseph, such as saying special prayers, reading a book about him, making some special mortification, in short offering everything to him."

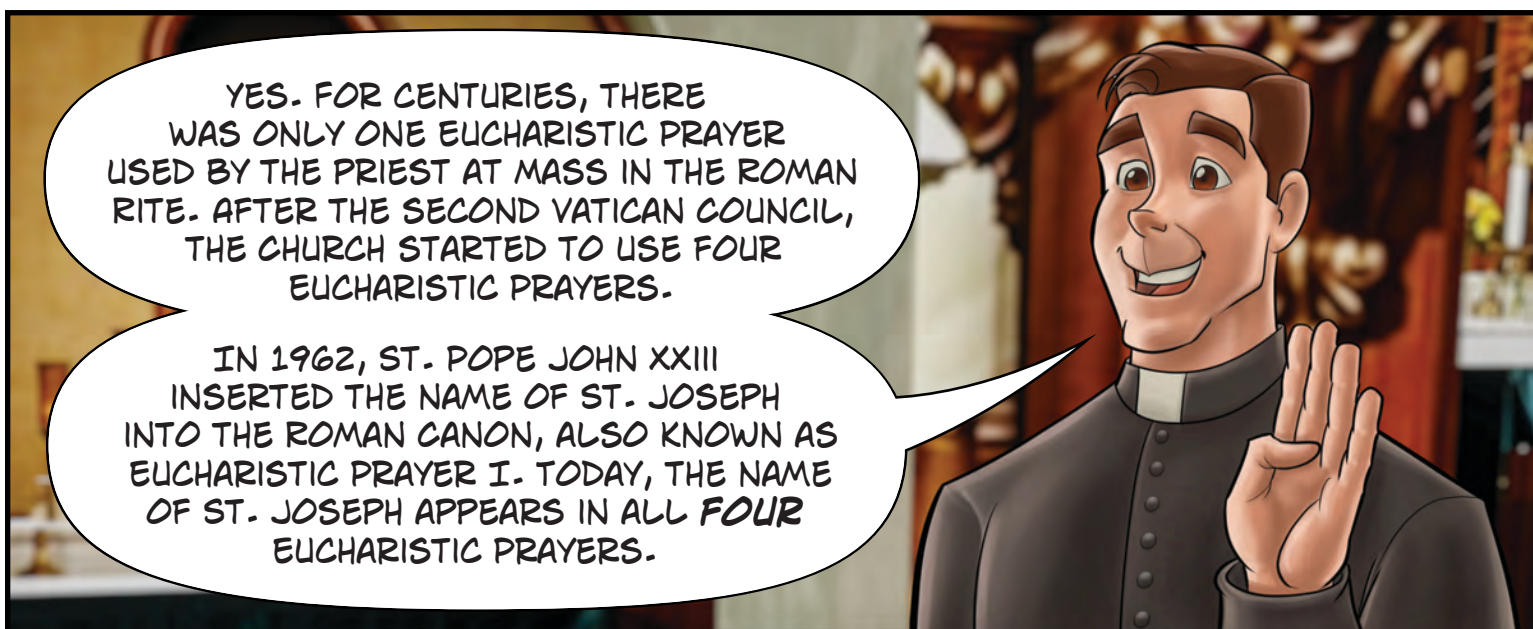
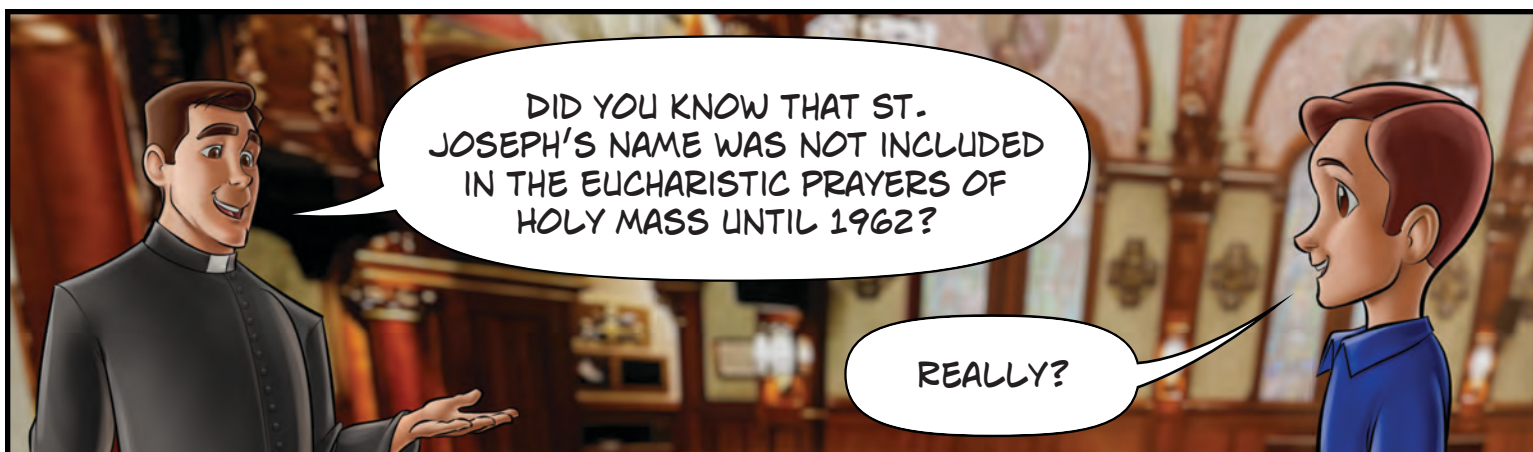
-St. Pope John XXIII

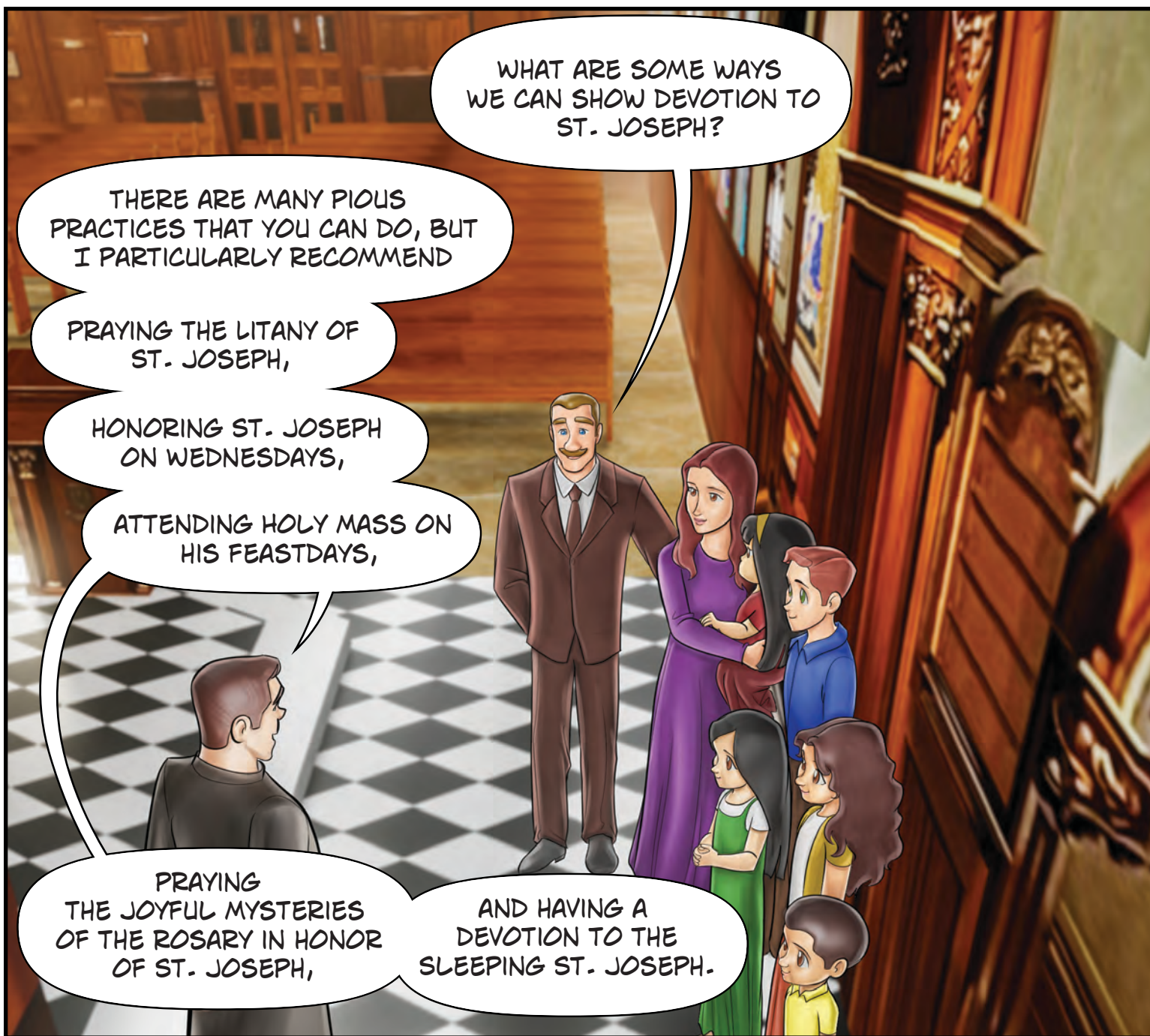
"Offer every Wednesday of the year to St. Joseph."
-Blessed Concepción
Cabrera de Armida

A long-standing tradition in the Church has designated each day of the week with a particular theme to be recognized at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in our devotions.

Sunday - Resurrection of Jesus
Monday - Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday - Holy Angels
Wednesday - St. Joseph
Thursday - Eucharist
Friday - Passion of Jesus
Saturday - Our Lady

Wednesday is set aside for St. Joseph because it is the halfway point between Sunday (the day of the Lord) and Saturday (the day set aside to honor Mary).





Sleeping St. Joseph

"In recent times, a popular devotion to St. Joseph under the title "Sleeping St. Joseph" has developed in the Church. It involves obtaining a statue depicting St. Joseph asleep, asking St. Joseph's intercession for a particular intention, writing the intention on a piece of paper, and

placing the piece of paper underneath the statue of Sleeping St. Joseph. In doing this, a person is asking St. Joseph to bring his or her intention to God. The Sleeping St. Joseph devotion is a wonderful way to stay connected to your spiritual father and ask him to pray (sleep) on your intentions."



7 Privileges of Devotion to St. Joseph by Venerable Mary of Ágreda

"I have been informed concerning certain privileges conferred upon St. Joseph by the Most High on account of his great holiness, which are especially important to those who ask his intercession in a proper manner. In virtue of these special privileges the intercession of St. Joseph is most powerful:

First, for attaining the virtue of purity and overcoming the sensual inclinations of the flesh;

Second, for procuring powerful help to escape sin and return to the friendship of God;

Third, for increasing the love and devotion to most holy Mary;

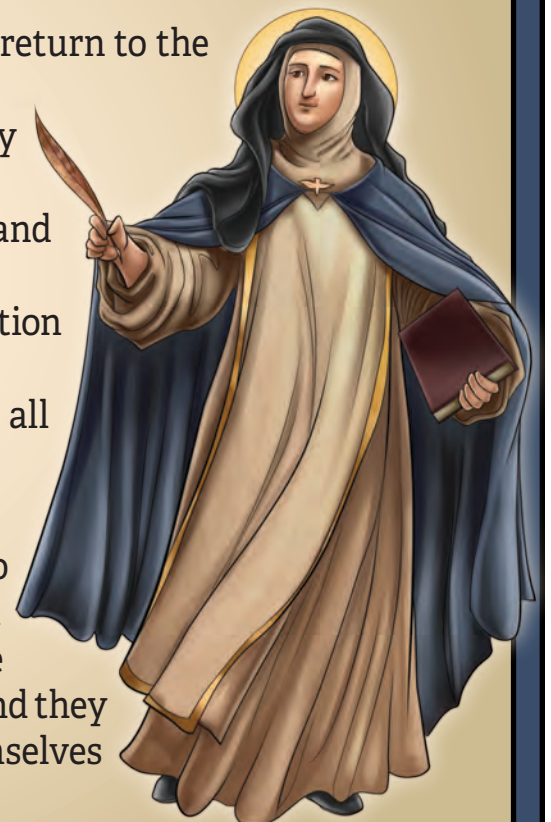
Fourth, for securing the grace of a happy death and protection against the demons in that hour;

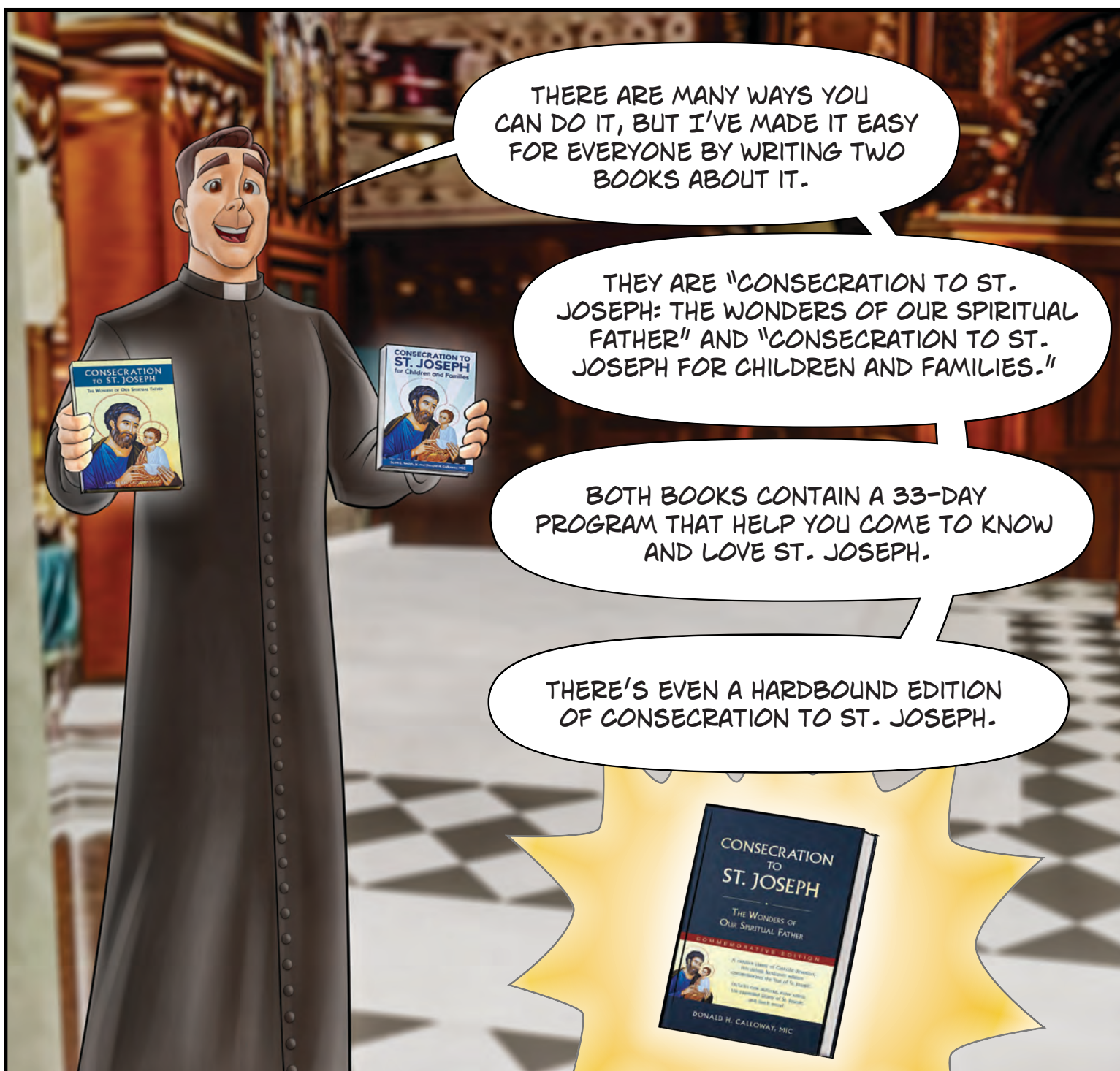
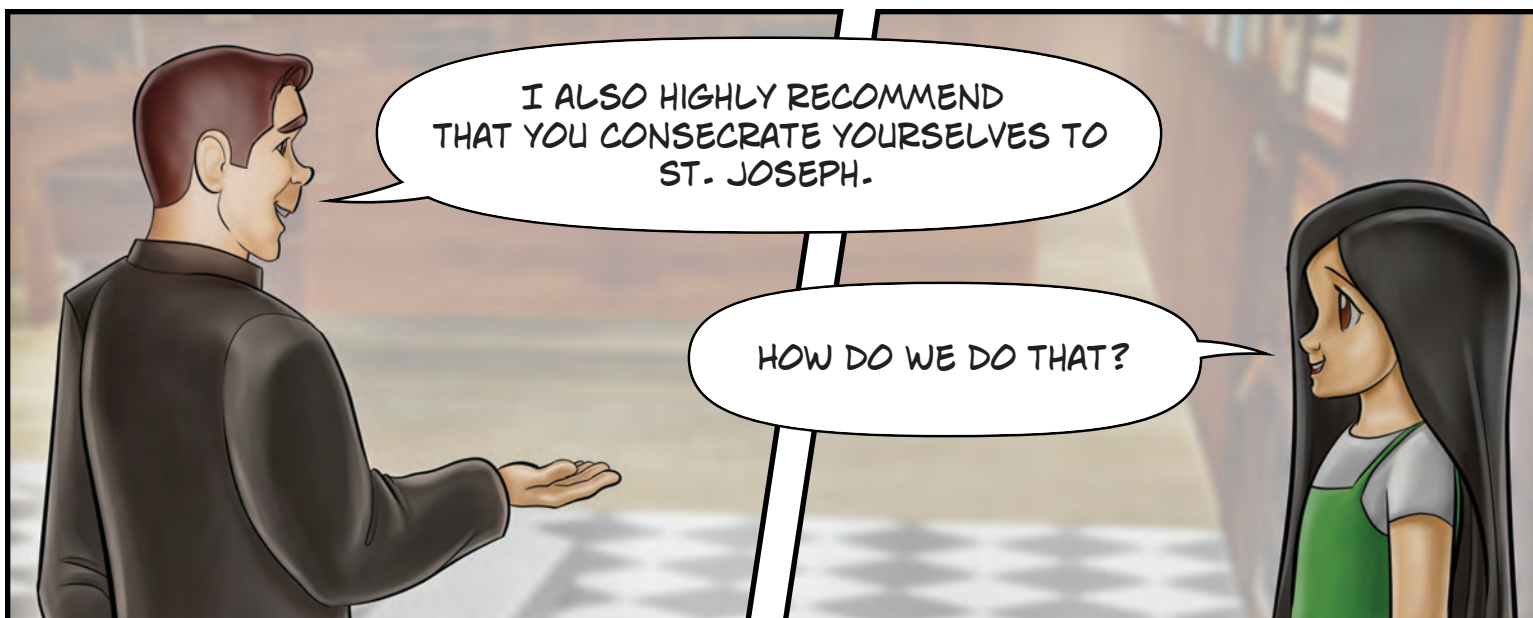
Fifth, for filling the demons with terror at the mere mention of his name by his clients;

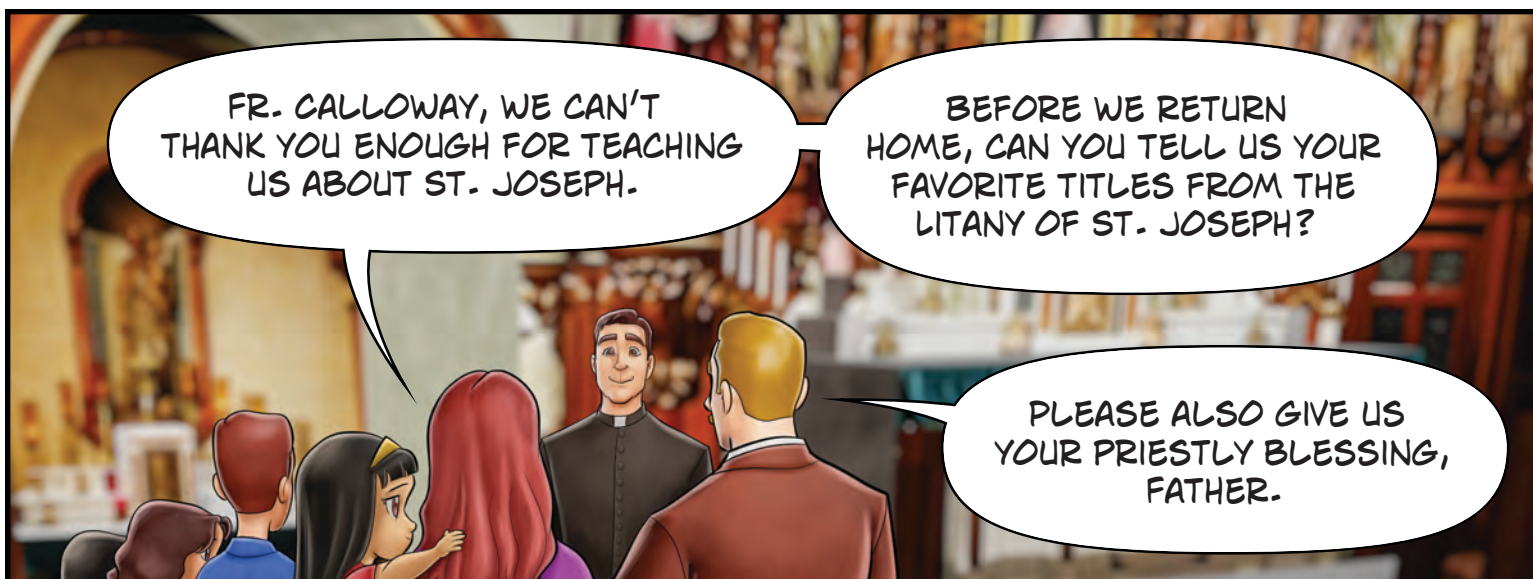
Sixth, for gaining health of body and assistance in all kinds of difficulties;

Seventh, for securing issue of children in families.

These and many other favors God confers upon those who properly and with good disposition seek the intercession of the spouse of our Queen, St. Joseph. I beseech all the faithful children of the Church to be very devoted to him and they will experience these favors in reality, if they dispose themselves as they should in order to receive and merit them."







FR. CALLOWAY, WE CAN'T
THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR TEACHING
US ABOUT ST. JOSEPH.

BEFORE WE RETURN
HOME, CAN YOU TELL US YOUR
FAVORITE TITLES FROM THE
LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH?

PLEASE ALSO GIVE US
YOUR PRIESTLY BLESSING,
FATHER.



YOU ARE VERY WELCOME. IT'S
BEEN A DELIGHT SPENDING TIME
WITH YOUR BEAUTIFUL FAMILY.

MY FAVORITE TITLES ARE
"GUARDIAN OF VIRGINS," "GLORY
OF DOMESTIC LIFE," "PILLAR OF
FAMILIES" AND "TERROR OF
DEMONS."

I'VE COME UP WITH A FEW
OF MY OWN PERSONAL TITLES FOR
ST. JOSEPH, TOO. WOULD YOU LIKE
TO HEAR THEM?

YES!

THEY ARE RELATED TO THE
MYSTERY OF GOD'S MERCY AND SINCE
WE ARE AT THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF
DIVINE MERCY, I'LL SHARE THEM
WITH YOU.

I LOVE TO REFER TO ST.
JOSEPH AS THE "PATRIARCH OF MERCY,"
"CITADEL OF MERCY," "ADVOCATE OF
MERCY," "APOSTLE OF MERCY," AND THE
"GUARDIAN OF THE DIVINE MERCY."

THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF OUR LADY
AND ST. JOSEPH, MAY ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS YOU, THE
FATHER, AND THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN!

AMEN!

AMEN!

The Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

Holy Mary,
Saint Joseph,
Noble Offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Guardian of the Redeemer,
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-Father of the Son of God,
Zealous Defender of Christ,
Servant of Christ,
Minister of Salvation,
Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph Most Just,
Joseph Most Chaste,
Joseph Most Prudent,
Joseph Most Courageous,
Joseph Most Obedient,
Joseph Most Faithful,

Mirror of Patience,
Lover of Poverty,
Model of Workmen,
Glory of Domestic Life,
Guardian of Virgins,

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, graciously
hear us.*

*have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.*

*pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.*

*pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.*

*pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.*

Pillar of Families,
Support in Difficulties,
Comfort of the Afflicted,
Hope of the Sick,
Patron of Exiles,
Patron of the Afflicted,
Patron of the Poor,
Patron of the Dying,
Terror of Demons,
Protector of the Holy Church,

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. He has made him lord of his household,

R. And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray. *O God, who, in your loving providence, chose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother, grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.*



Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

O Glorious Patriarch and Patron of the Church! O Virgin Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God! O Guardian and Virginal Father of the Word Incarnate! In the presence of Jesus and Mary, I choose you this day to be my father, my guardian, and my protector.

O great St. Joseph, whom God has made the Head of the Holy Family, accept me, I beseech you, though utterly unworthy, to be a member of your “Holy House.” Present me to your Immaculate Spouse; ask her also to adopt me as her child. With her, pray that I may constantly think of Jesus, and serve him faithfully to the end of my life. O Terror of Demons, increase in me virtue, protect me from the evil one, and help me not to offend God in any way.

O my Spiritual Father, I hereby consecrate myself to you. In faithful imitation of Jesus and Mary, I place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. To you, after Jesus and Mary, I consecrate my body and soul, with all their faculties, my spiritual growth, my home, and all my affairs and undertakings. Forsake me not, but adopt me as a servant and child of the Holy Family. Watch over me at all times, but especially at the hour of my death. Console and strengthen me with the presence of Jesus and Mary so that, with you, I may praise and adore the Holy Trinity for all eternity. Amen.

Daily Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary, virginal father of Jesus, and my spiritual father, I consecrate myself entirely to you. I lovingly embrace your fatherhood and take refuge under your paternal cloak. Help me to pray and be virtuous today. Instruct me in the wisdom of the saints, protect me from the snares of the enemy, and keep me from sinning. Should I take my last breath today, be by my side, and take me to heaven to be with Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Family Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

We, the _____ family, take you, St. Joseph, to be our spiritual father. We are confident that Jesus and Mary have led us to you; to know you, to love you, and to be totally consecrated to you.

Therefore, having come to know and love you, we consecrate our family entirely to you, St. Joseph. We want you in our lives; we need you in our lives. Take us as your spiritual children, O great St. Joseph! We desire to hold nothing back from your protective fatherhood.

As the husband of Mary, you provided for our spiritual mother. Thank you for always being faithful to her. Thank you for loving her and giving your entire life for her service.

As the virginal father of Jesus, you cared for our Lord and protected Him from evil men. Thank you for guarding the life of our Savior. Thanks to you, Jesus was able to shed His Blood for us on the Cross. Thanks to you, St. Joseph, we have hope of everlasting life in Heaven.

As our spiritual father, we know that you will guide and protect us, too. Please instruct us in the ways of prayer, virtue, and holiness. We want to be like you, St. Joseph. We want to be pure, humble, loving, and merciful.

Now that we are yours and you are ours, we promise never to forget you. We know that you will never forget us, and this gives us boundless joy! We are loved by St. Joseph! We belong to St. Joseph! Amen!

Children's Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

I, [state your name], a child of God, take you, St. Joseph, to be my spiritual father. I know that Jesus and Mary have brought me to you. Jesus and Mary want me to know you, to love you, and to be totally consecrated to you, St. Joseph, my father forever.

I have spent many days coming to know and love you better. Now, I consecrate myself to you, St. Joseph. I want you in my life more and more. I need you in my life. Take me as your spiritual child, O great St. Joseph! Please take all that I am and give it to Jesus. I do not want to hold anything back.

As the husband of Mary, you provided for my spiritual mother. Thank you for always being faithful to her. Thank you for loving her. Thank you for giving your entire life to serving Mary and Jesus.

As the virginal father of Jesus, you cared for my Lord. You protected my Lord from evil men. Thank you for guarding the life of my Savior. Thanks to you, Jesus was able to sacrifice His life for me on the Cross. Thanks to you, St. Joseph, I can hope for everlasting life in Heaven.

As my spiritual father, I trust that you will guide and protect me, as you guided and protected Jesus and Mary. Please increase in me virtues and holiness and prayerfulness. I want to grow to be more and more like you, St. Joseph. I want to be pure, humble, loving, and merciful, like you.

Now that I am yours and you are mine, I promise never to forget you. I know you will never forget me. This gives me such great joy! I am loved by St. Joseph! I belong forever to St. Joseph!

Praise to the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – who has blessed you and raised you to be the greatest saint after the Virgin Mary.

