

In the life of every Saint, you will find the Blessed Mother. Once when Saint Margaret Mary was seriously ill, her superior ordered her to pray to the Blessed Virgin to intercede with the Lord for a healing. Our Lady, accompanied by Angels, appeared to Margaret Mary and she was healed of her illness, immediately.

On another occasion, with other nuns present in the convent garden, Saint Margaret Mary had a vision of the Sacred Heart of Jesus surrounded by Seraphic Angels. The Angels made a pact with Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque at that time: they would suffer in her, she in turn would rejoice in them. To remember this, the garden was renamed Yard of the Seraphim.

With the Miracle of the Eucharist of Lanciano, the Host turned into a Human Heart. Therefore, it is only fitting that, one day, at the very moment Margaret Mary received Holy Communion from Father Claude Columbiere, the Sacred Heart of Jesus united itself forever with her own heart and that of Father Claude. Father Claude later became her spiritual director and confessor. He has been beatified and his shrine is in a church a few blocks from the church of the Visitation, in Paray le Monial, France, where our Lord appeared to Margaret Mary many times.

*(excerpted from: Saint of the Day; www.catholic-saints-resource-center.com)

PRAYER TO SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

Saint Margaret Mary, thou who wast made a partaker of the divine treasures of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, obtain for us, we beseech thee, from this adorable Heart, the graces we need so sorely. We ask these favors of thee with unbounded confidence, May the divine Heart of Jesus be pleased to bestow them upon us through thy intercession, So that once again He may be loved and glorified through thee. Amen.

V. Pray for us, O blessed Margaret;

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst wondrously open the unsearchable riches of Thy Heart to blessed Margaret Mary, the virgin; grant unto us, by her merits and our imitation of her, that we may love Thee in all things and above all things, and may be worthy to have our everlasting dwelling in the same Sacred Heart; who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

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Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

Feast Day: October 17



***" I need nothing but God,
and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus."***

Saint Margaret Mary

SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

*Margaret Mary was chosen by Christ to arouse the Church to a realization of the love of God symbolized by the heart of Jesus.

Her early years were marked by sickness and a painful home situation. "The heaviest of my crosses was that I could do nothing to lighten the cross my mother was suffering." After considering marriage for some time, she entered the Order of Visitation nuns at the age of 24.

A Visitation nun was "not to be extraordinary except by being ordinary," but the young nun was not to enjoy the anonymity. A fellow novice (shrewdest of critics) termed Margaret humble, simple and frank, but above all kind and patient under sharp criticism and correction. She could not meditate in the formal way expected, though she tried her best to give up her "prayer of simplicity." Slow, quiet and clumsy, she was assigned to help an infirmarian who was a bundle of energy.

On December 27, 1674, three years a nun, she received the first of her revelations. She felt "invested" with the presence of God, though always afraid of deceiving herself in such matters. The request of Christ was that his love for humanity be made evident through her. During the next 13 months, he appeared to her at intervals. His human heart was to be the symbol of his divine-human love. By her own love she was to make up for the coldness and ingratitude of the world—by frequent and loving Holy Communion, especially on the first Friday of each month, and by an hour's vigil of prayer every Thursday night in memory of his agony and isolation in Gethsemane. He also asked that a feast of reparation be instituted.

Like all saints, Margaret had to pay for her gift of holiness. Some of her own sisters were hostile. Theologians who were called in declared her visions delusions and suggested that she eat more heartily. Later, parents of children she taught called her an imposter an unorthodox innovator. A new confessor, Blessed Claude de la

Colombière, a Jesuit, recognized her genuineness and supported her. Against her great resistance, Christ called her to be a sacrificial victim for the shortcomings of her own sisters, and to make this known.

After serving as novice mistress and assistant superior, she died at the age of 43 while being anointed. "I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus."

PARAY LE MONIAL, FRANCE HOME OF THE SACRED HEART DEVOTION AND SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

Our Lord Jesus desired the faithful to come to the foot of the altar. He promised that great graces would be poured out from His Sacred Heart. He told Margaret Mary that from the moment the Angels proclaimed His incarnation to His triumph of the Cross, His heart suffered constantly because of the sins of men, those that had been committed from the beginning of time and would be until the end of time.

His greatest wound He said, was apathy, the lack of respect for the Blessed Sacrament, His Body and Blood. For that reason, He wanted a devotion to His Sacred Heart which He directed Saint Margaret Mary to have instituted.

Margaret Mary was devoted to our Lord Jesus, all of her life. She spent much time under the influence of her godmother who taught her about her faith. At four and a half years old she made a vow of perpetual virginity, in front of a statue of our Lady, in her godmother's garden.

Our Lord Jesus was not easy on Margaret Mary. He did not hesitate to discipline her when the occasion would arise. Those He loves, he chastises. She was to know that with the gifts, comes the price. To whom much is given, much is required. Once, when she was a teenager, she took part in a masquerade, during a carnival. Jesus appeared to her scourged from head to toe, ropes painfully rubbing against His Hands. He told her that her vanity was the reason He suffered those wounds.