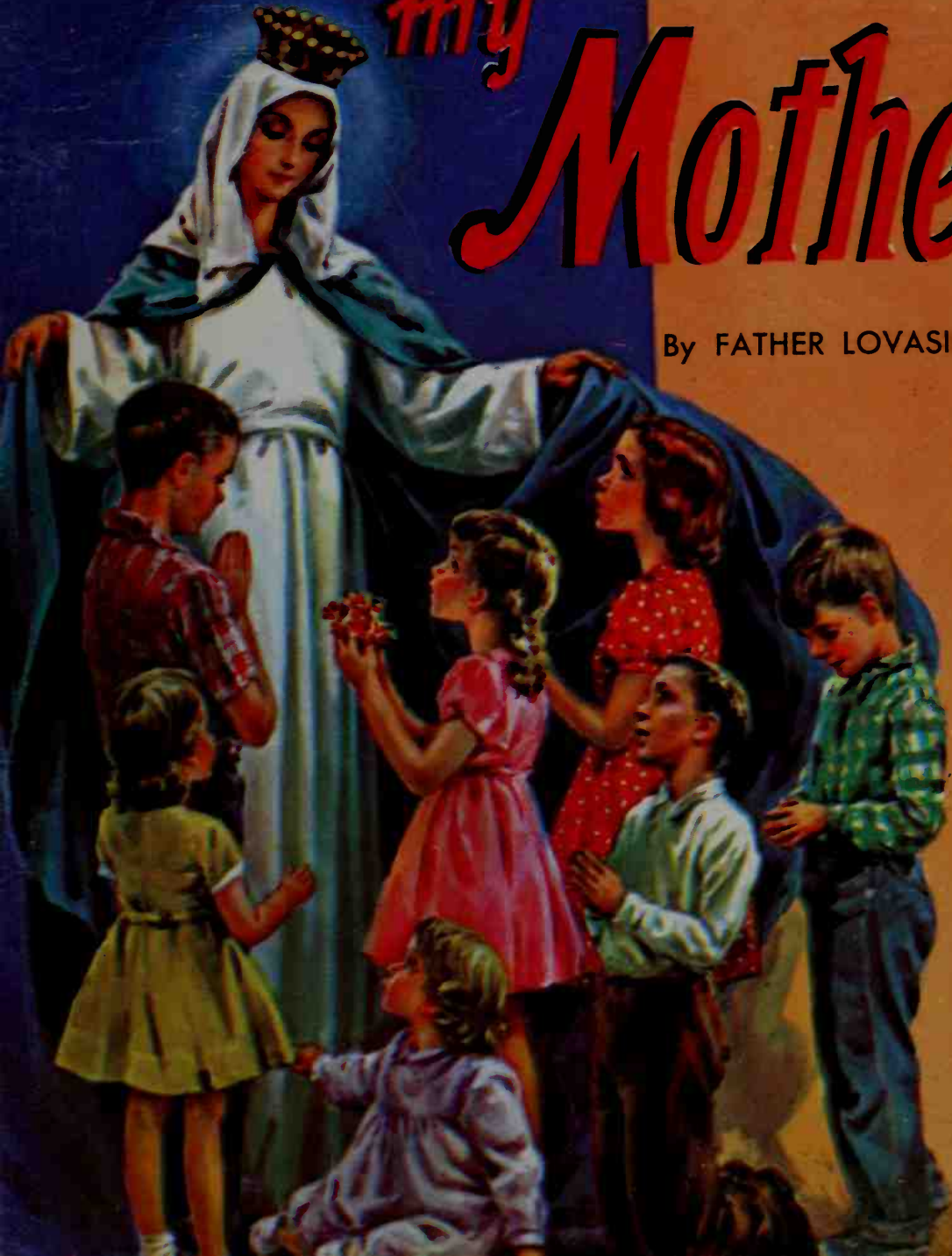


MARY

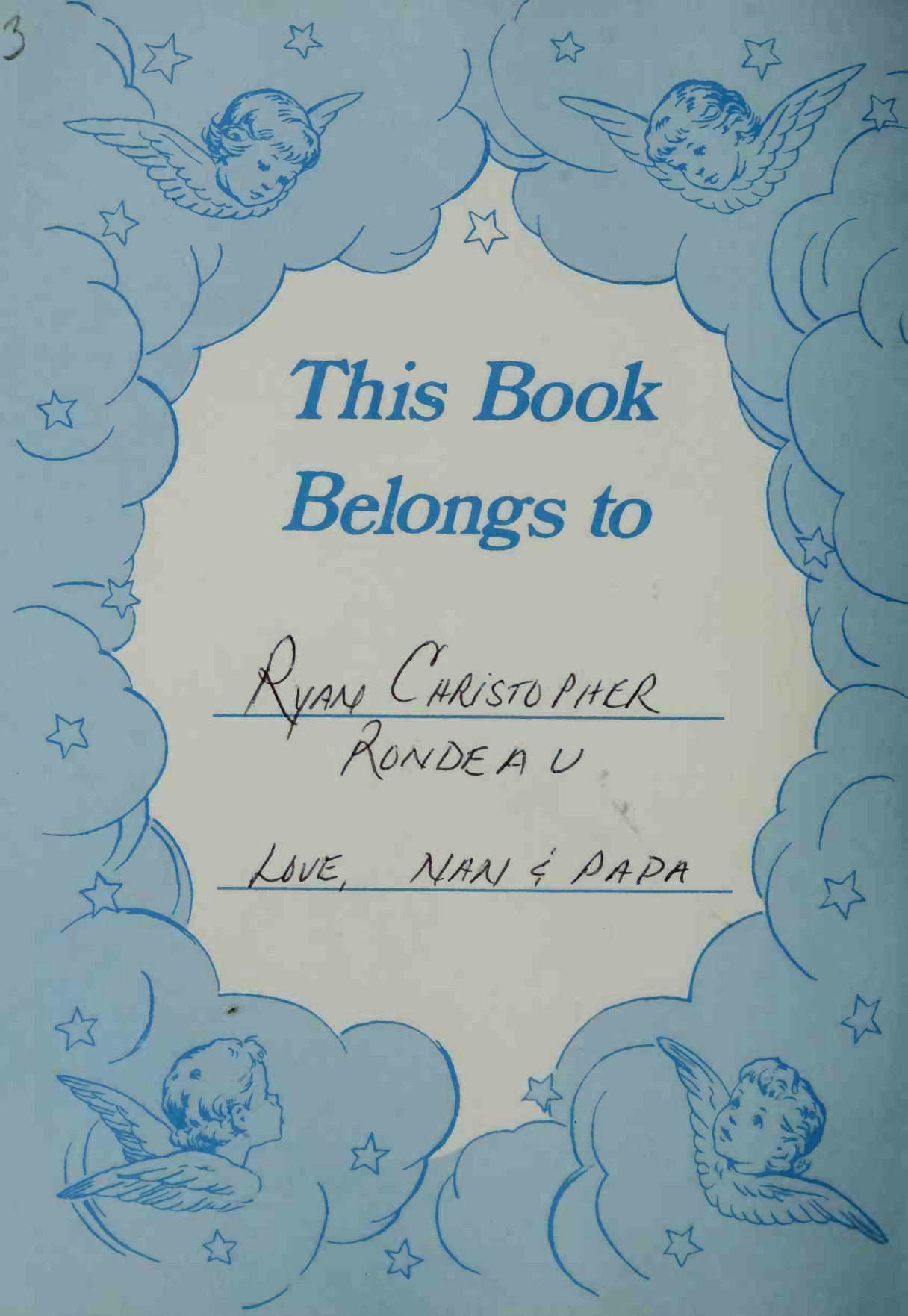
my

Mother

By FATHER LOVASIK, S.V.D.



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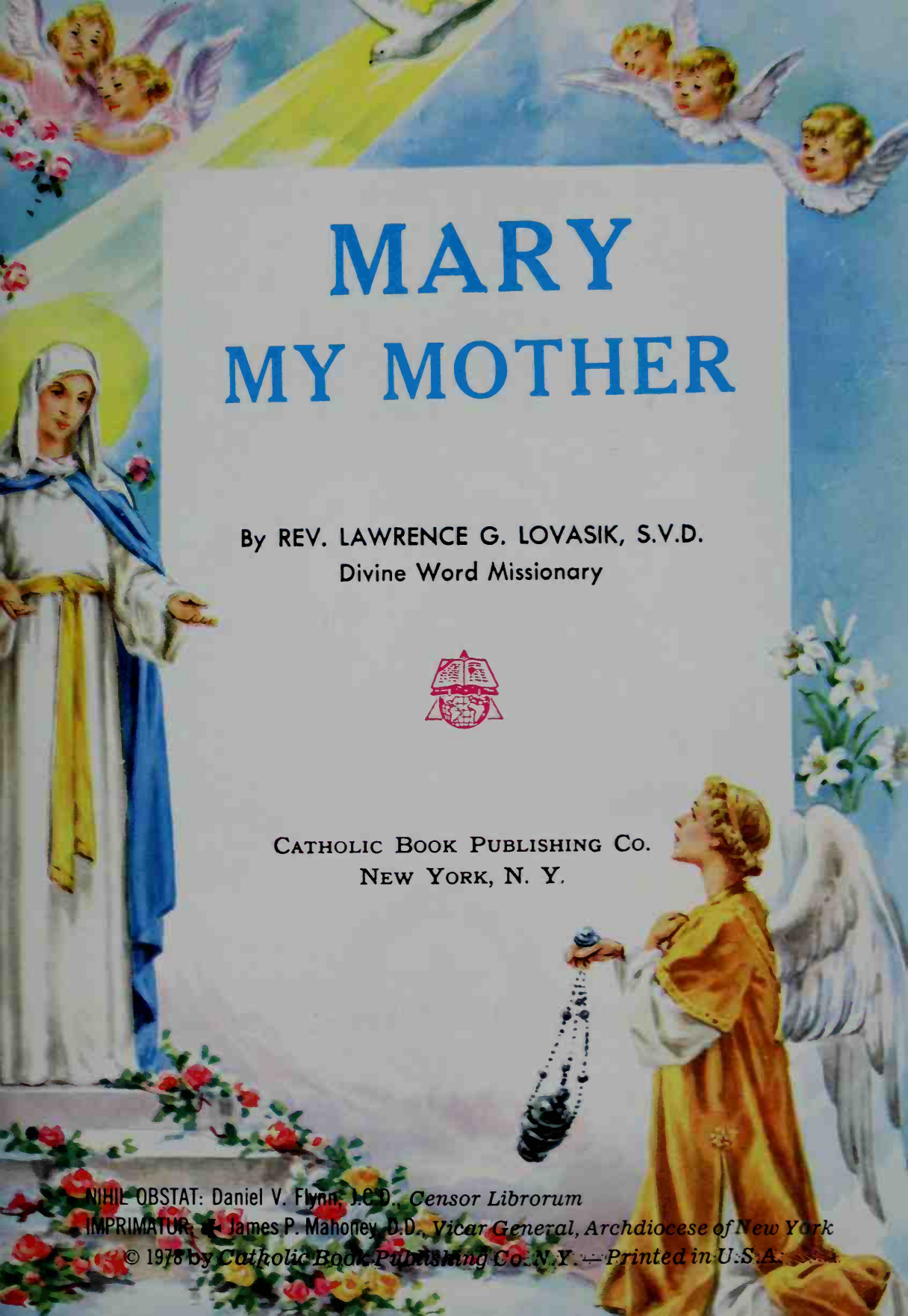


*This Book
Belongs to*

RYAN CHRISTOPHER

RONDEAU

LOVE, NANI & PAPA



MARY MY MOTHER

By REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.
Divine Word Missionary



CATHOLIC BOOK PUBLISHING CO.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

NIHIL OBSTAT: Daniel V. Flynn, J.C.D., *Censor Librorum*

IMPRIMATUR: James P. Mahoney, D.D., *Vicar General, Archdiocese of New York*

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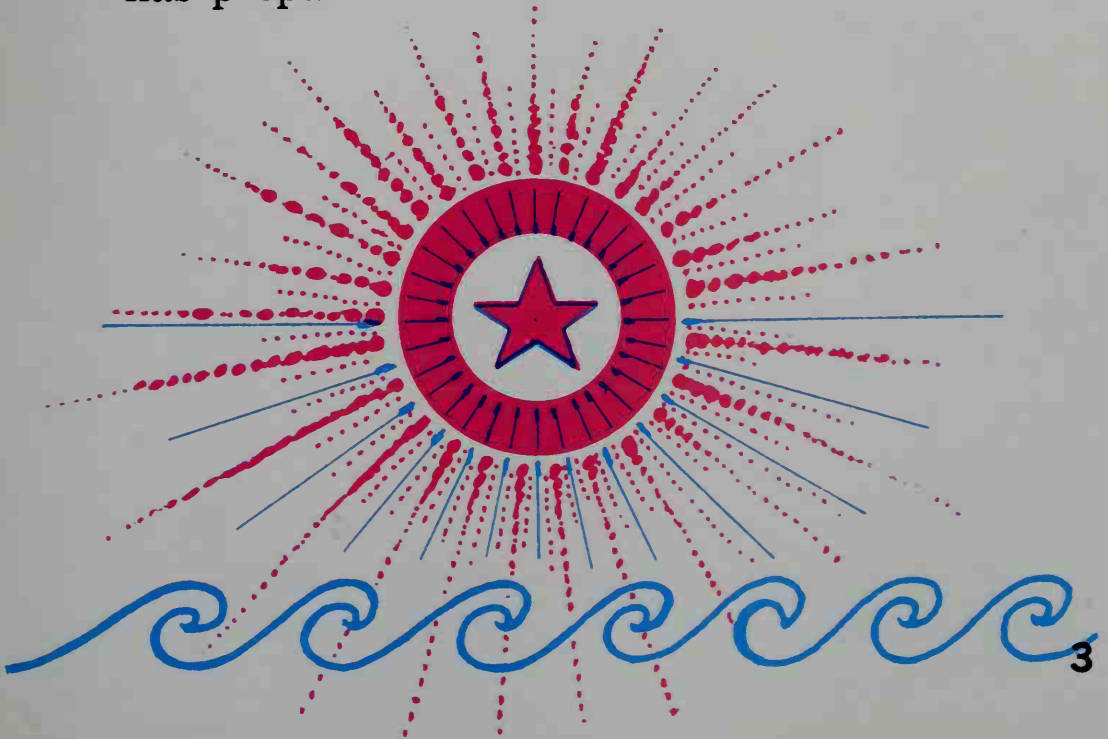
MARY IS BORN

THE parents of the Blessed Virgin were Saint Joachim and Saint Anne. For a long time they were without children.

AT LAST God answered their prayers and granted them a daughter. They gave her the name Mary, which means Lady, or Star of the Sea.

Mary's soul was always in the grace and friendship of God. She is the Immaculate Conception because she never had original sin, the first sin committed by Adam and Eve, which all of us have when we come into this world.

Mary was chosen by God from all eternity to give us a Savior. The birthday brings to our minds the holiness of the Mother God has prepared for Himself.

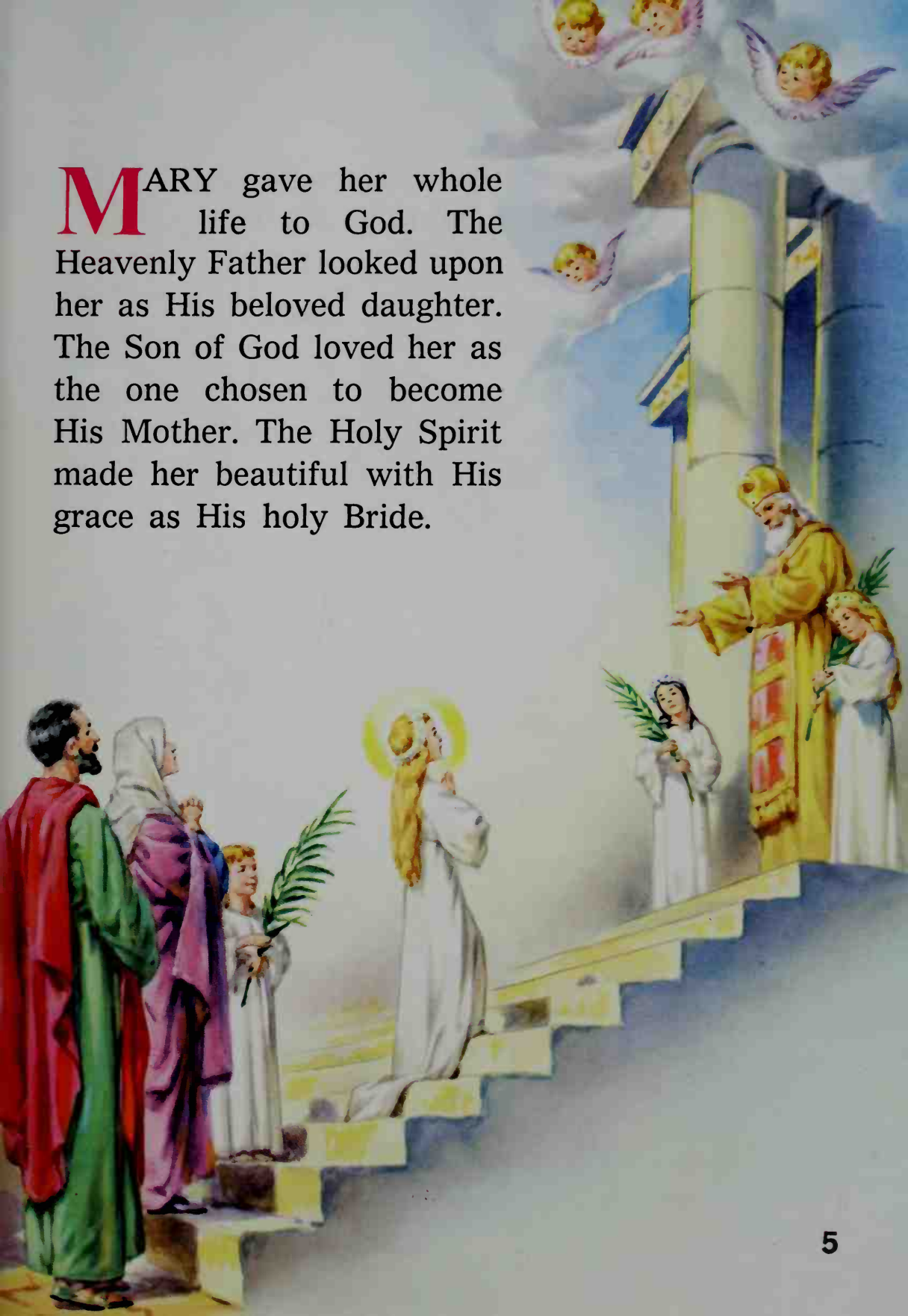


MARY IS OFFERED IN THE TEMPLE

WHEN Mary was three years old, her parents took her to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer her to God. They had made a promise before her birth to do so. Some say that Mary lived in the Temple from the age of three to the age of twelve, working as a servant girl.



MARY gave her whole life to God. The Heavenly Father looked upon her as His beloved daughter. The Son of God loved her as the one chosen to become His Mother. The Holy Spirit made her beautiful with His grace as His holy Bride.





MARY WITH HER MOTHER

SAINTE Anne was a good mother of her little daughter and taught her to pray and to read holy books. From Saint Anne, Mary heard the story of the chosen people and of the Messiah Who was to save the whole world. She did not think that God would choose her to be the Mother of His Son.

Mary was always kind, humble and obedient to her parents. Everyone loved her.

MARY AND JOSEPH ARE MARRIED

WHEN Mary was about sixteen years old, she was married to a young carpenter named Joseph.

God wanted His Son to be born of a pure and holy virgin. He wanted Saint Joseph to be the foster father of Jesus and the head of the holy Family.



THE ANGEL SPEAKS TO MARY

GOD sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary at Nazareth. He said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. Do not fear, Mary. You are to be a mother, and to bear a Son, and to call Him Jesus. He will be the Son of God, and King over all His people.



"How will that be?"
Mary asked.

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and by His power the Child to be born of you will be the Son of God."

Mary said, "See, I am the servant-girl of the Lord. May all that you have said be done in me!"

At that moment the Son of God became man under her heart.



MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

THE angel also told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was to have a child in her old age. Mary went at once to help her. The Holy Spirit let Elizabeth know that Mary was to be Mother of God, so Elizabeth greeted her, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

Mary said, “My soul praises the Lord. All people shall call me blessed, for God has done great things for me.”



JESUS IS BORN IN A STABLE

THE Emperor ordered all people to write their names on a list in the town where they were born. Mary and Joseph were of a family of David, so they went from Nazareth to the city of David, called Bethlehem.

Since there were many people in Bethlehem, there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the place where travelers stayed. They had to spend the night in a stable which was used for cattle. That night, Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in soft clothes and laid Him in a manger. With great joy Mary and Joseph adored this beautiful Child. He was the Son of God Who had come to save the world from sin. God gave us His Son on this first Christmas Day.

Some shepherds came to see the Child. They told Mary that an angel had appeared and told them to go to Bethlehem. They also heard many angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest heavens, and on earth peace to men of good will." They knelt down to adore the Infant Jesus.

MARY OFFERS JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

FORTY days after the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer Him to God. There they met a holy old man named Simeon, who took the Child into his arms and prayed. "You may take me out of this world, O Lord, because I have seen Him Who is our salvation and our light."

Then he said to Mary, "Because of this Child a sword of sorrow will pierce your heart." Mary remembered that her Son would one day die to save the world. She now offered Him to God as the Savior of us all.

Mary and Joseph offered a pair of young pigeons as a sacrifice to God.







THE MAGI VISIT JESUS AND MARY

SOME time later Mary saw three men, dressed in strange and rich clothing like kings, bow down before her Child to adore him as King of the Jews. These Magi came from faraway lands, guided by a star which led them to Bethlehem. The star was a sign to them that a king was born to rule the world. They offered Jesus gifts of gold, incense, and spices, and then returned to their own country.



THE HOLY FAMILY FLEES INTO EGYPT

AN ANGEL appeared to Joseph in his sleep and said, “Arise, take the Child and His Mother; flee into Egypt, and remain there until I shall tell you, for Herod wants to kill the Child.” So Joseph took the Child and His Mother and left that very night for Egypt.

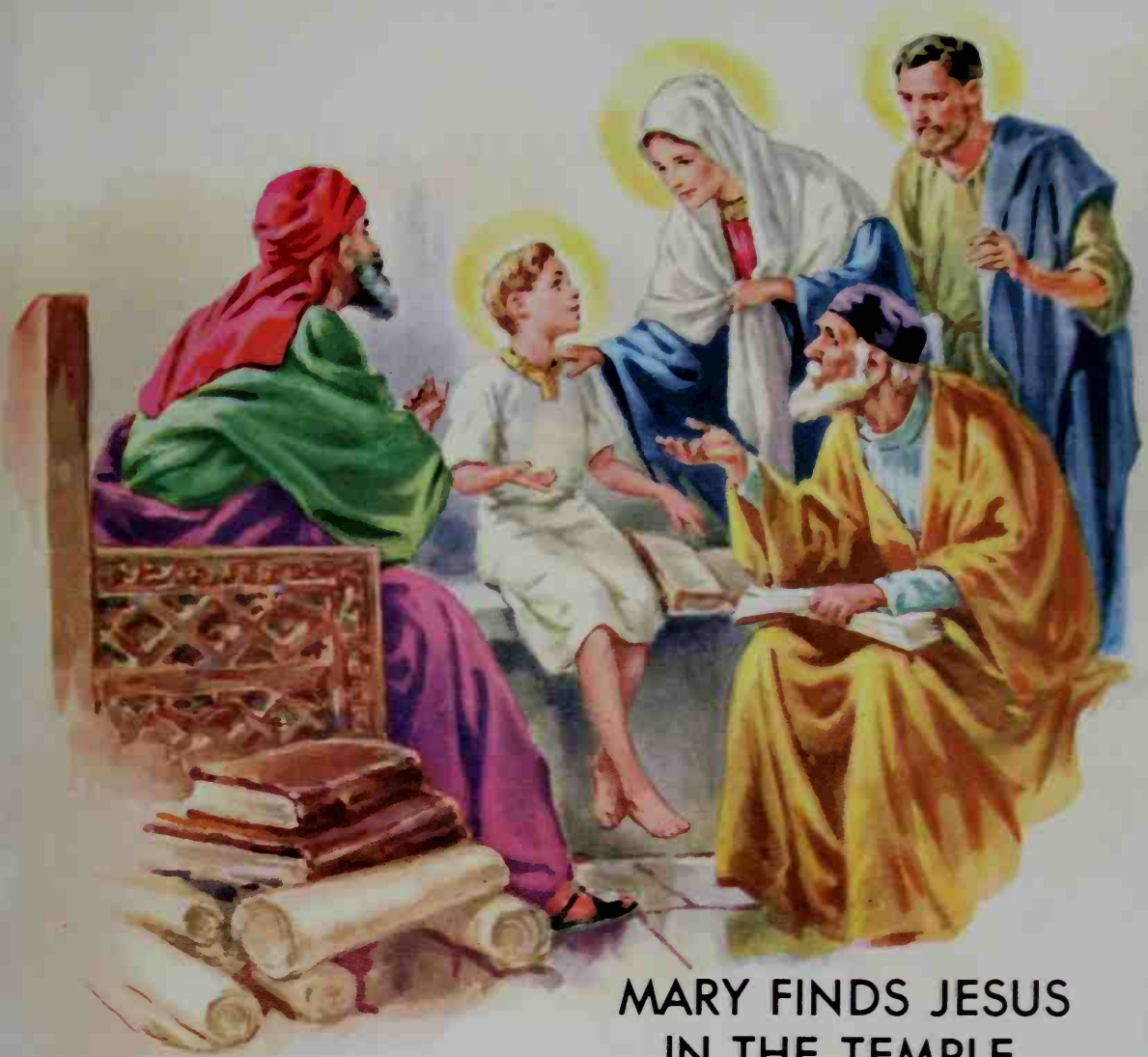
Herod killed all the boys in Bethlehem who were two years old or less. After Herod died, the angel told Joseph to return to Nazareth.



THE HOLY FAMILY AT NAZARETH

IN THEIR little home at Nazareth Mary's happiest moments were spent with her little Boy Whom she knew to be the Son of God. She loved and adore Him.

When Jesus was older, He helped His foster father in the workshop, where Mary often visited Him. The Holy Family worked and prayed and shared their joys together.



MARY FINDS JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

WHEN Jesus was twelve, He went to the Temple with Mary and Joseph. After the feast, His parents left, but Jesus remained behind.

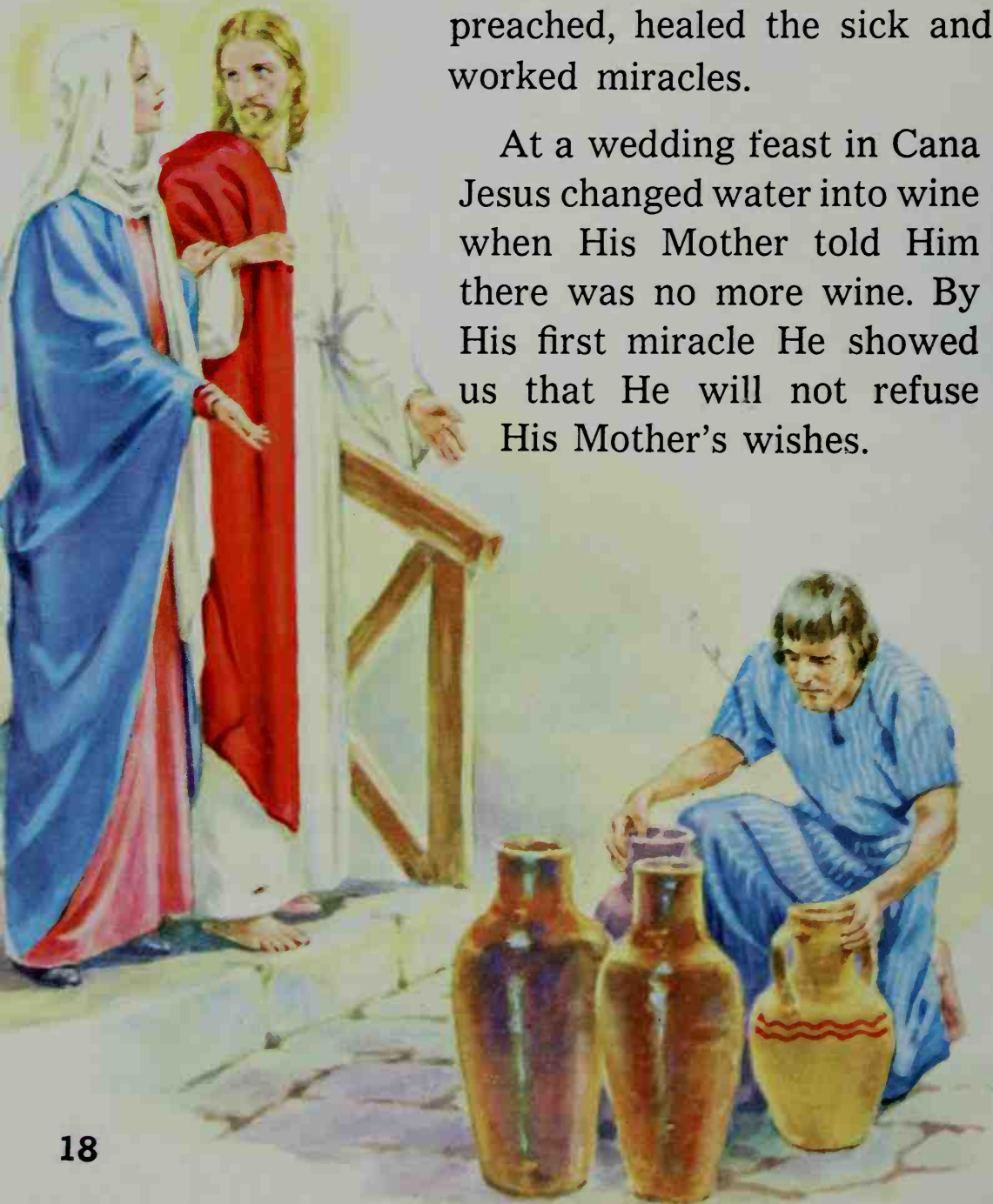
Three days later, they found Jesus in the Temple with the teachers of the law. Mary asked, "Son, why have You done this to us?" Jesus replied, "Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"

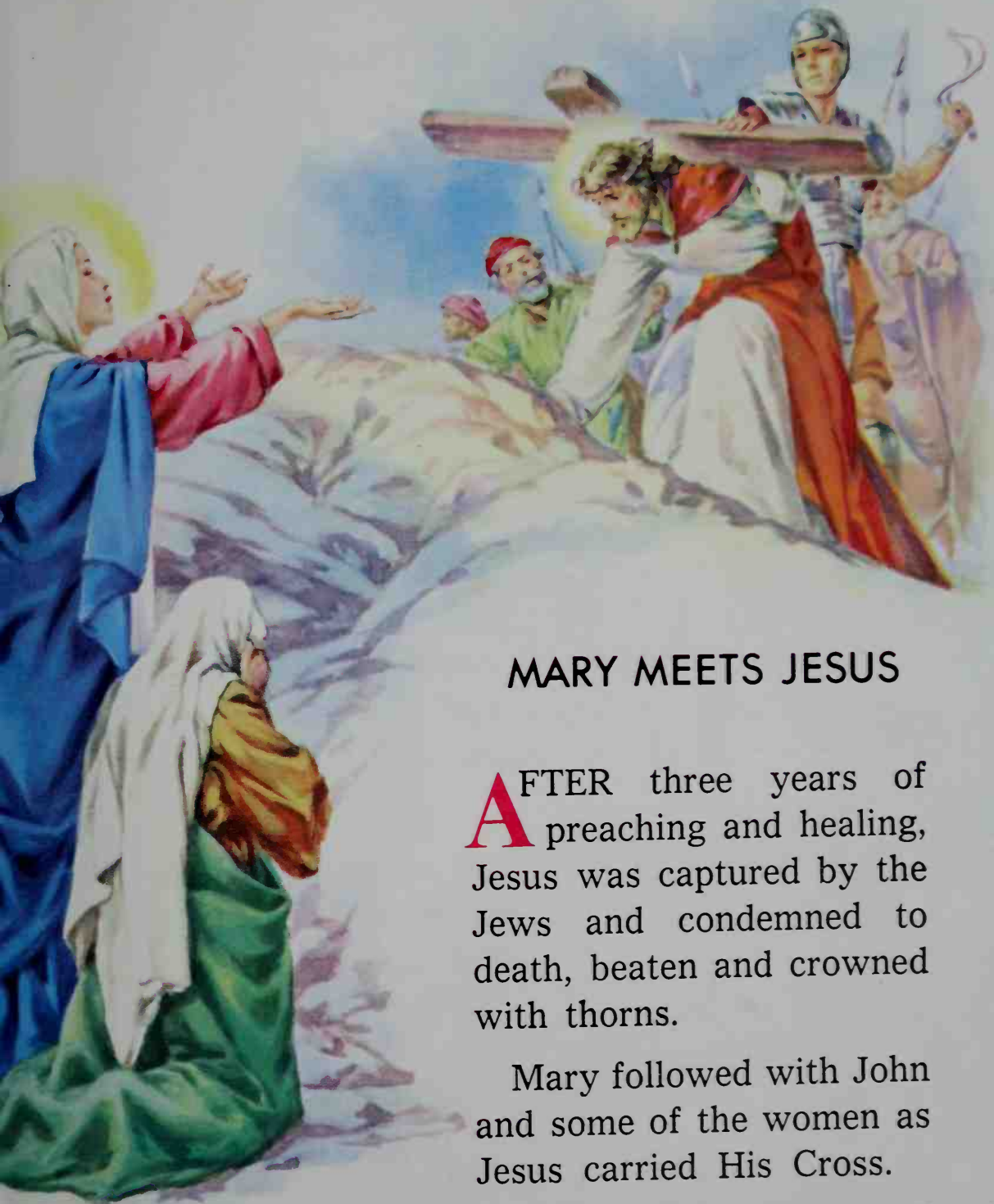
Jesus returned to Nazareth and obeyed them.

MARY AT THE MARRIAGE FEAST

WHEN Jesus was thirty years old He began the work for which He was sent. He preached, healed the sick and worked miracles.

At a wedding feast in Cana Jesus changed water into wine when His Mother told Him there was no more wine. By His first miracle He showed us that He will not refuse His Mother's wishes.



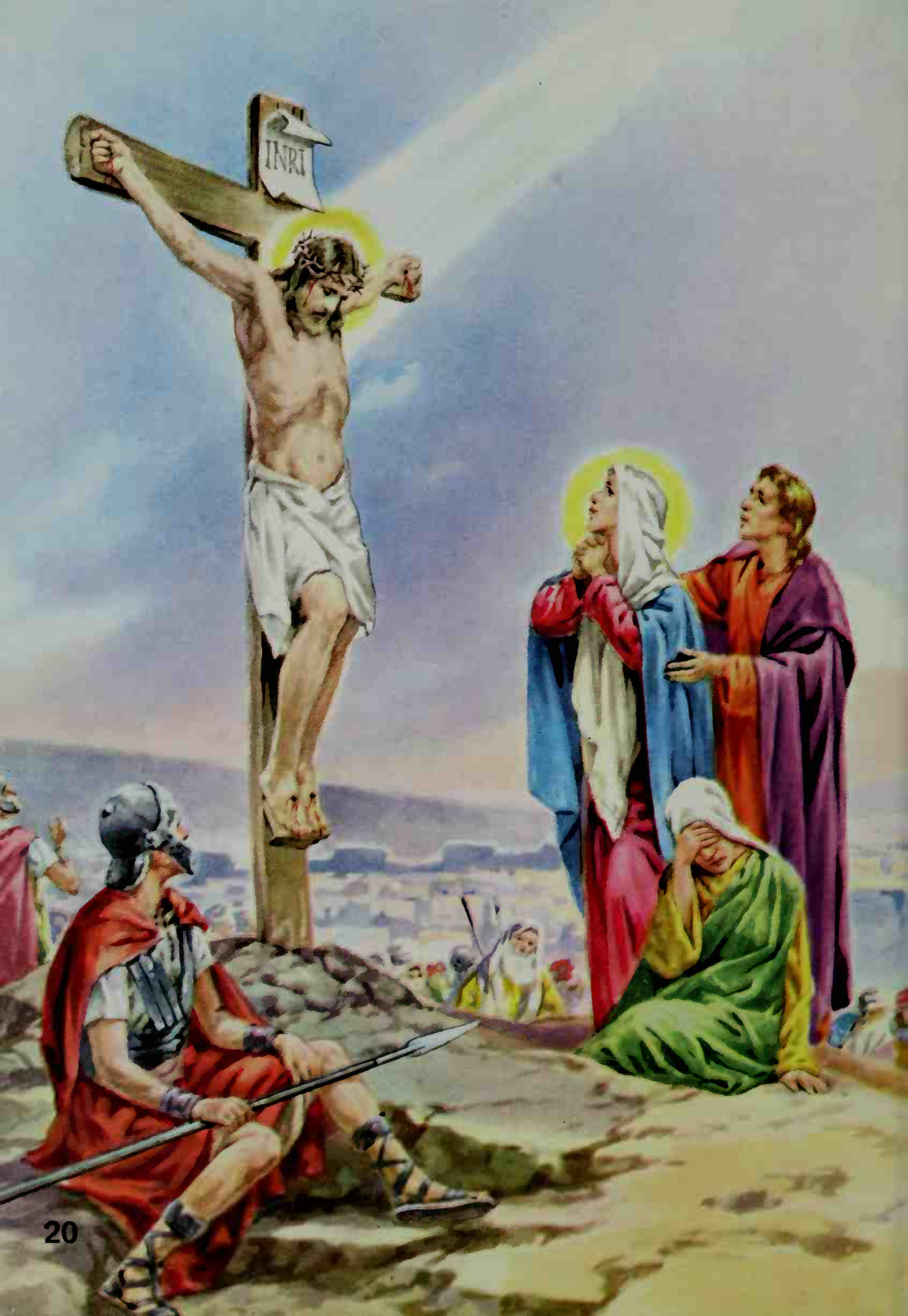


MARY MEETS JESUS

AFTER three years of preaching and healing, Jesus was captured by the Jews and condemned to death, beaten and crowned with thorns.

Mary followed with John and some of the women as Jesus carried His Cross.

At one place Jesus and Mary met. She suffered very much because she loved Jesus and us.

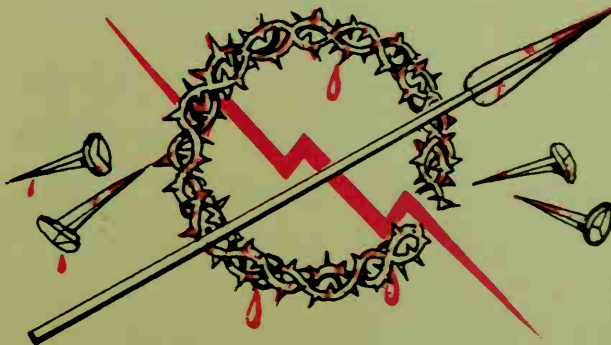


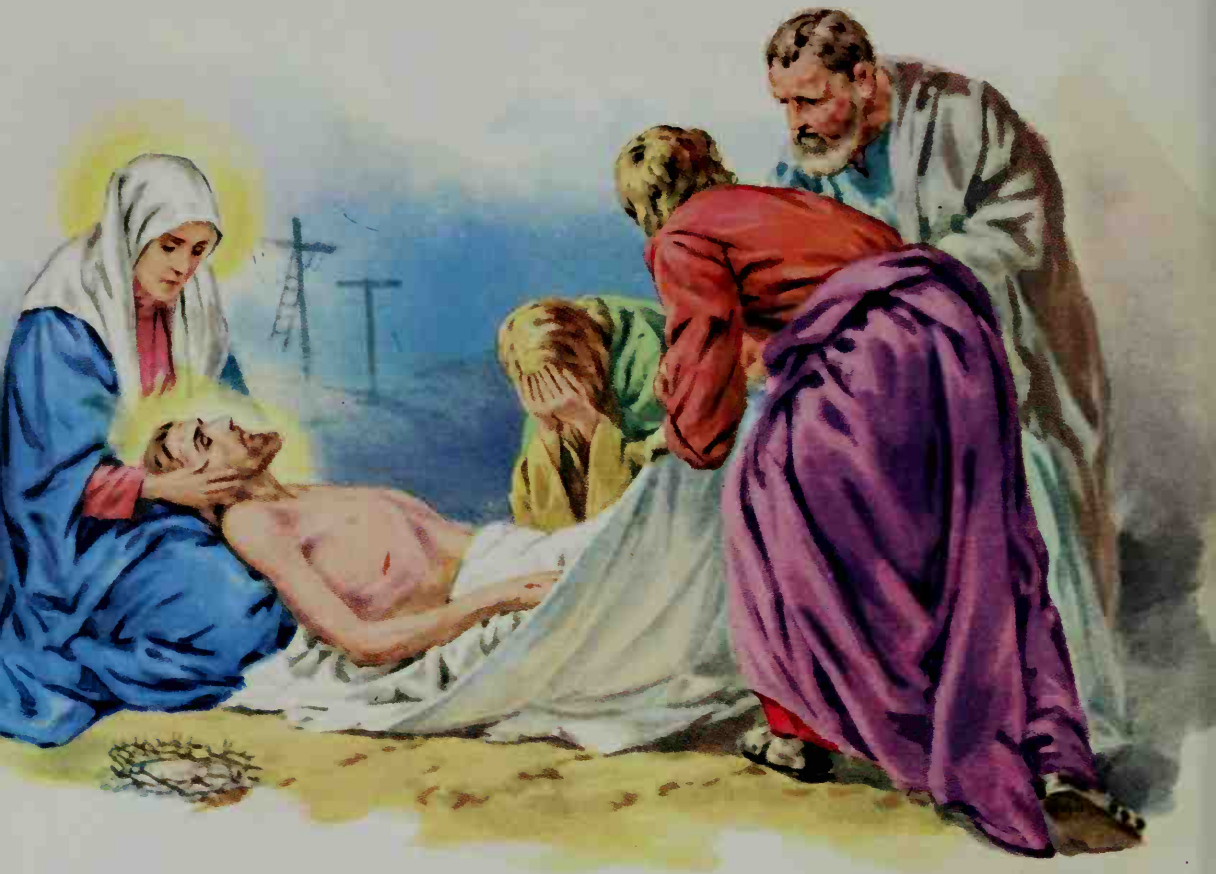
MARY SEES JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS

ON CALVARY Mary saw Jesus nailed to the cross and raised between two thieves. She heard His words from the Cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing," and His words to the good thief, "This day you shall be with Me in paradise."

As Mary stood beneath the cross, she heard Jesus speak to her, "Woman, there is your son." Then He said to the disciple John, "There is your Mother." By these words Jesus gave Mary to the care of His best loved disciple, and we became children of Mary.

Mary heard the last words of Jesus: "My God, why have You forsaken Me? It is finished! Father, into Your hands I give My soul." She saw Jesus bow His head and die. She watched the soldiers pierce the side of Jesus with a spear.





JESUS LIES IN MARY'S ARMS

THE friends of Jesus took Him down from the cross and laid Him in the waiting arms of His sorrowful Mother. Our sins have made her suffer very much.

Then the body of Jesus was placed in a tomb near Calvary. When Mary left the tomb, the men rolled a stone before the opening. All left with sad hearts.

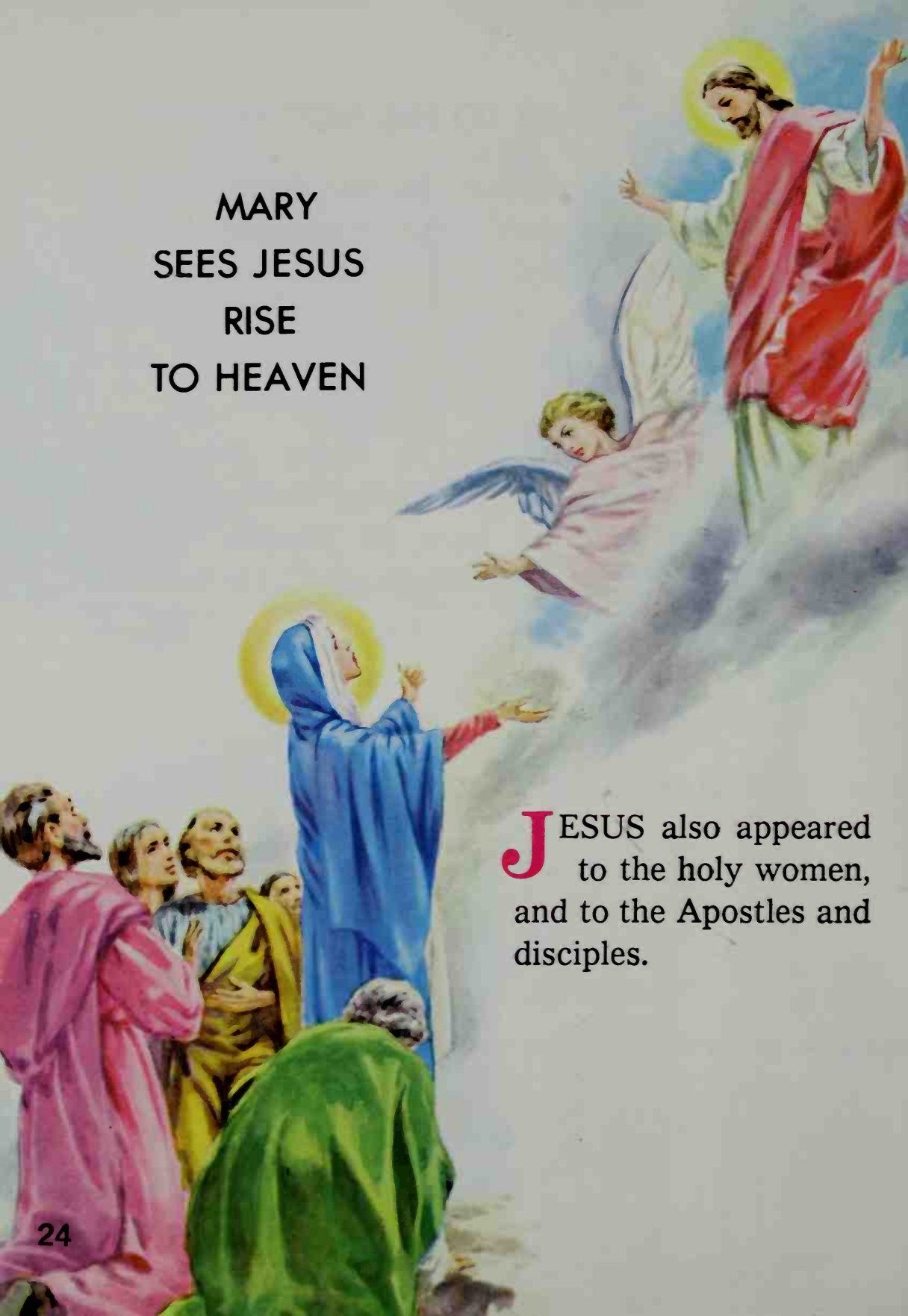
JESUS APPEARS TO HIS MOTHER MARY

AT DAWN on Easter Sunday Jesus rose by His divine power. He surely appeared to His Mother first. He had received from her the body that was now so glorious. Since she shared in all His sufferings, it was right that she should share in the joy and glory of His victory.

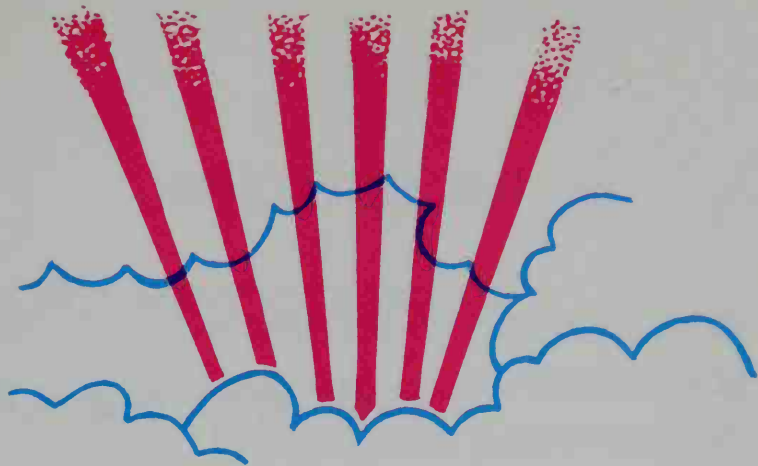
The Risen Jesus prepared His Mother for her part as Mother of the Church which He founded.



MARY
SEES JESUS
RISE
TO HEAVEN

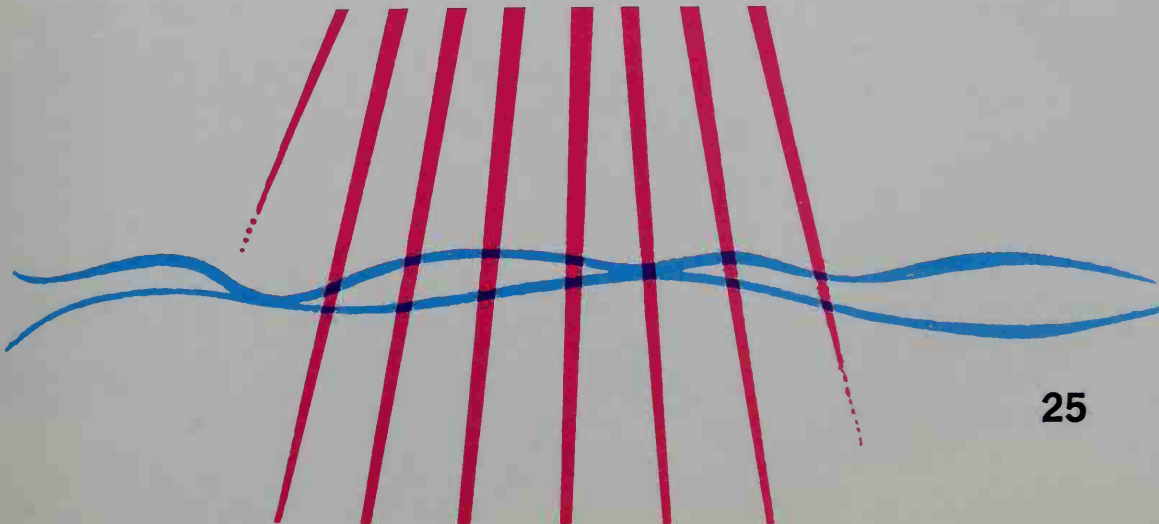


JESUS also appeared to the holy women, and to the Apostles and disciples.



The Resurrection was the greatest sign that He was God and that the Church He began was the one true Church.

Mary saw Jesus for the last time when He appeared to His disciples on the Mount of Olives, forty days after He rose from the dead. After commanding them to go to teach all nations, He blessed His Mother and the disciples in farewell. He rose into the clouds to return to His Father in heaven. How Mary longed to go with Him! She teaches us to love Jesus with all our heart in joy and in pain.




THE HOLY SPIRIT

COMES DOWN UPON

MARY AND THE APOSTLES





MARY returned with the disciples to Jerusalem to pray and await the coming of the Holy Spirit, Whom Jesus had promised.

On the tenth day, the feast of Pentecost, there came a sound from heaven like a great wind. Tongues of fire rested upon each of them, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit as they prayed.

The Holy Spirit came down upon the Blessed Virgin as He had at the Annunciation when He made her the Mother of God. Now He made her the mother of all of us on this birthday of the Church.





MARY IS TAKEN TO HEAVEN

MARY'S last years on earth were spent close to the Blessed Sacrament. Saint John said Mass each day in his own home, where Mary lived, and gave her Jesus in Holy Communion.

As Mary's love for Jesus grew greater, so also her desire to be with Jesus grew strong. One day Jesus came for His Mother. After she died, the Apostles took her body to a new tomb near the Garden of Olives. By the Assumption we believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up into heaven, body and soul. This was her reward for her love of God and all of us, and for her prayers and sufferings.

At the Annunciation Mary received Jesus on earth; at the Assumption Jesus received her in heaven.





JESUS CROWNS MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN

JESUS led His Mother to a throne of glory in heaven, next to His own. As she felt pain and sorrow with Him on earth, she now feels joy with Him in heaven forever. As Jesus put a most beautiful crown upon her head, all the angels and saints praised her as their Queen. She bowed to the Most Blessed Trinity and again could say her prayer of praise: “My soul praises the Lord. All people shall call me blessed, for God has done great things for me.”

The Blessed Virgin Mary now shares in the glory of her Son because she had a part in the great work of saving our souls. She is Queen of all of us. She obtains all graces for us through her prayers. As her children we should pray to her in all our needs.



MARY OUR MOTHER

MARY is our true mother. Jesus gave her to us from the cross when He said, "There is your mother." In heaven she obtains many graces and blessings for us.



Mary loves us very much. We should love her as Jesus did and pray to her every day. Mary will keep us from sin and lead us to her loving Son and our Savior.



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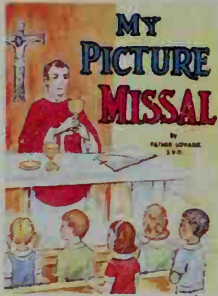
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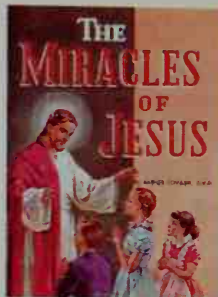
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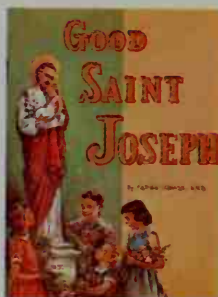
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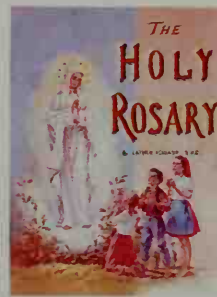
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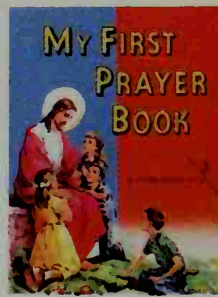
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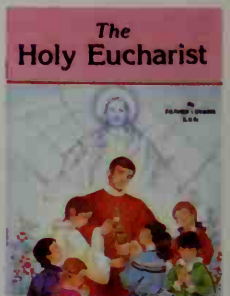
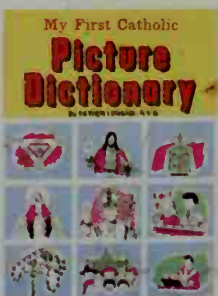
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