

MARY

my

Mother

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS



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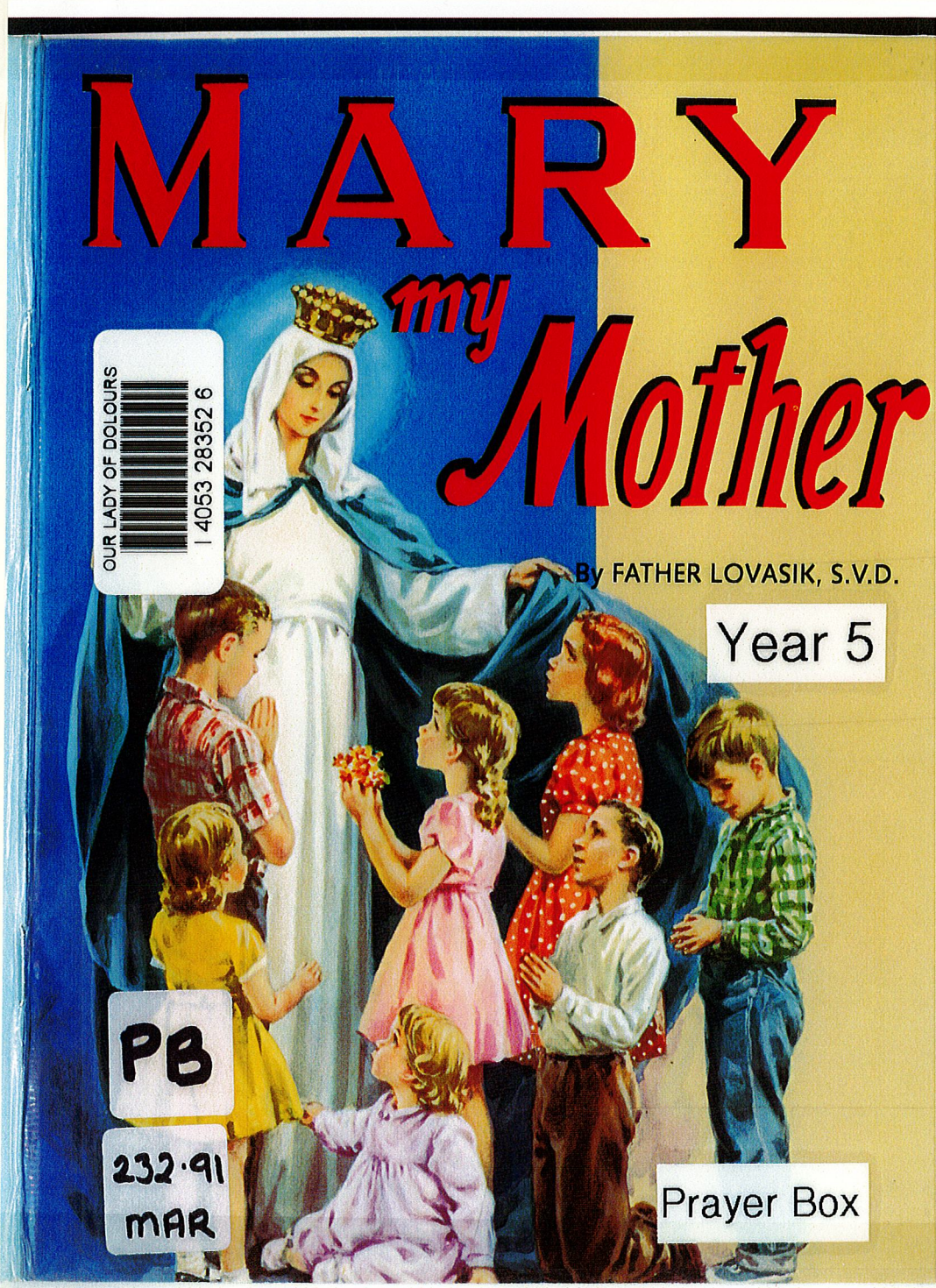
By FATHER LOVASIK, S.V.D.

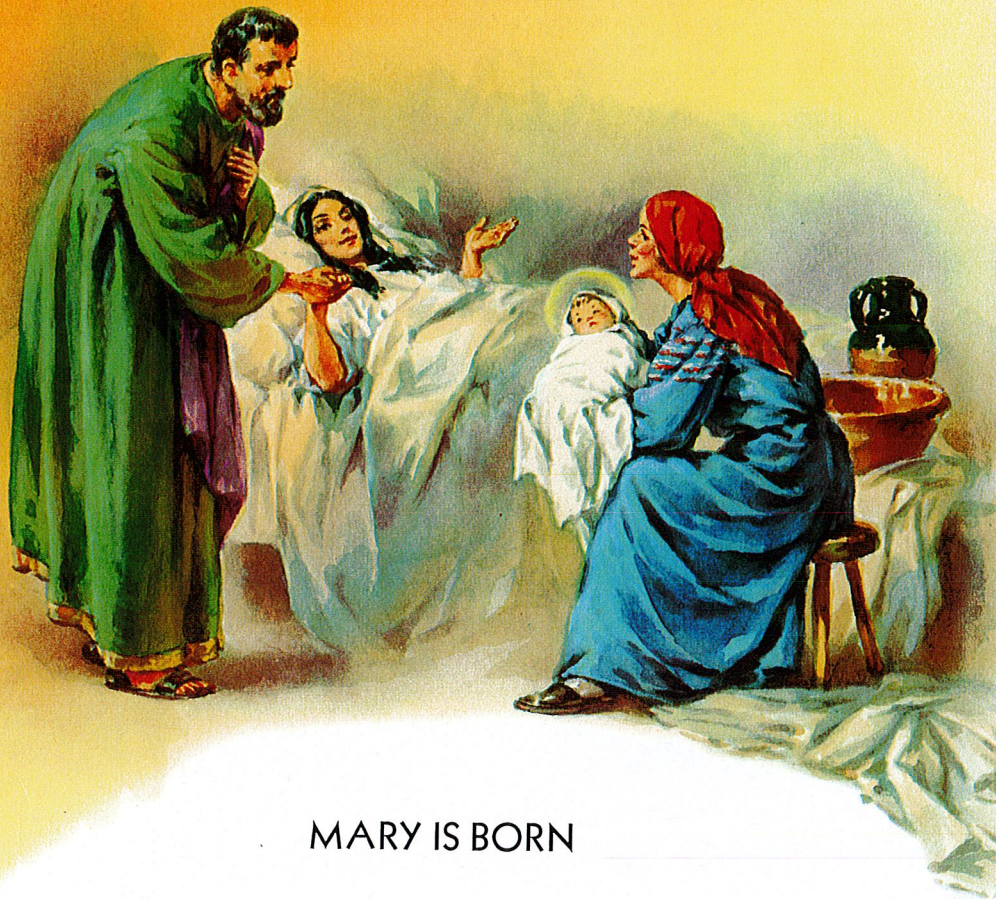
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MARY IS BORN

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

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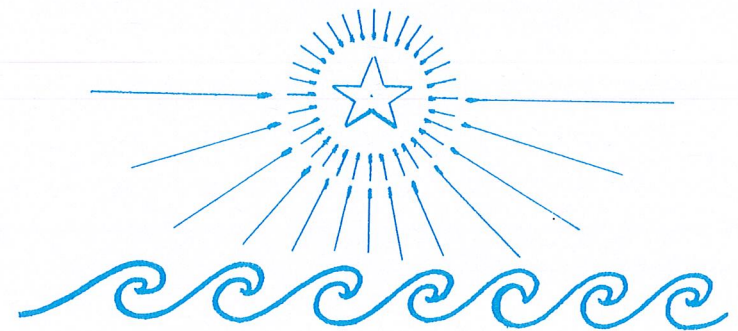
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CPSIA December 2013 10 9 8 7 6 AP 978-0-89942-280-0

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.

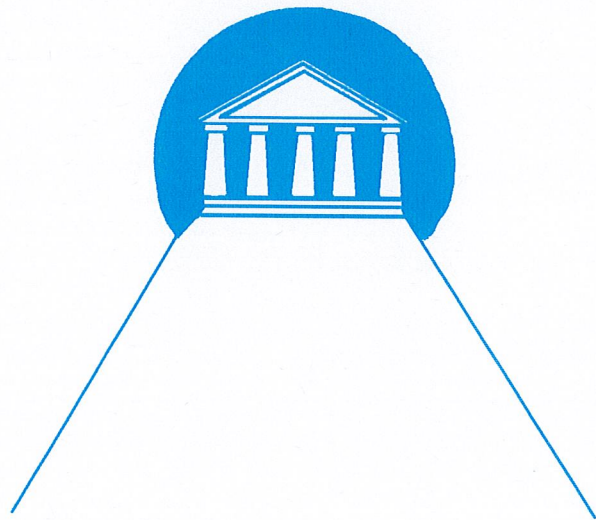
Mary's soul was always in the grace and friendship of God. She is the Immaculate Conception because she never had original sin, the first sin committed by Adam and Eve, which all of us have when we come into this world.

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 from Himself.

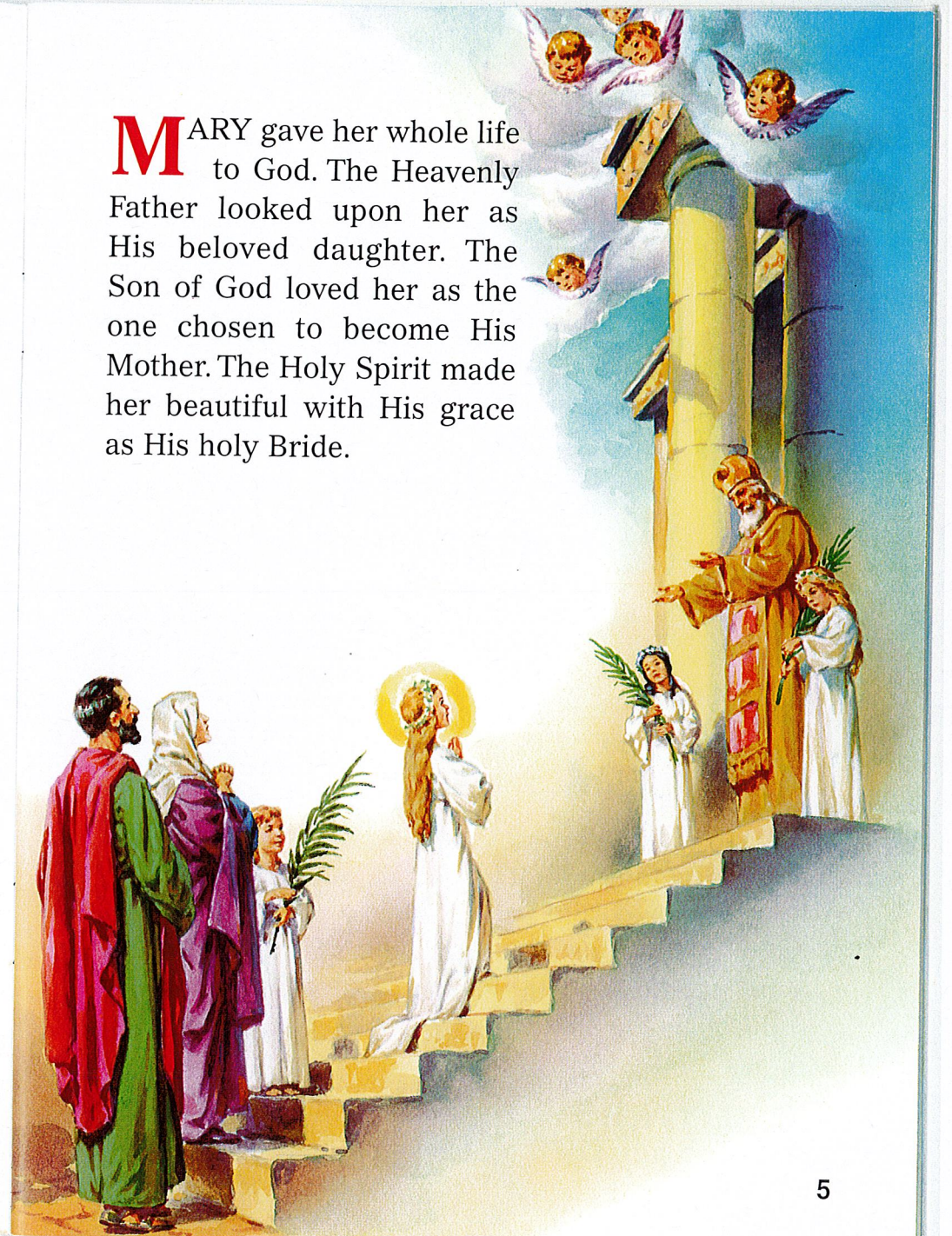


MARY IS OFFERED IN THE TEMPLE

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

SAINT 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 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."

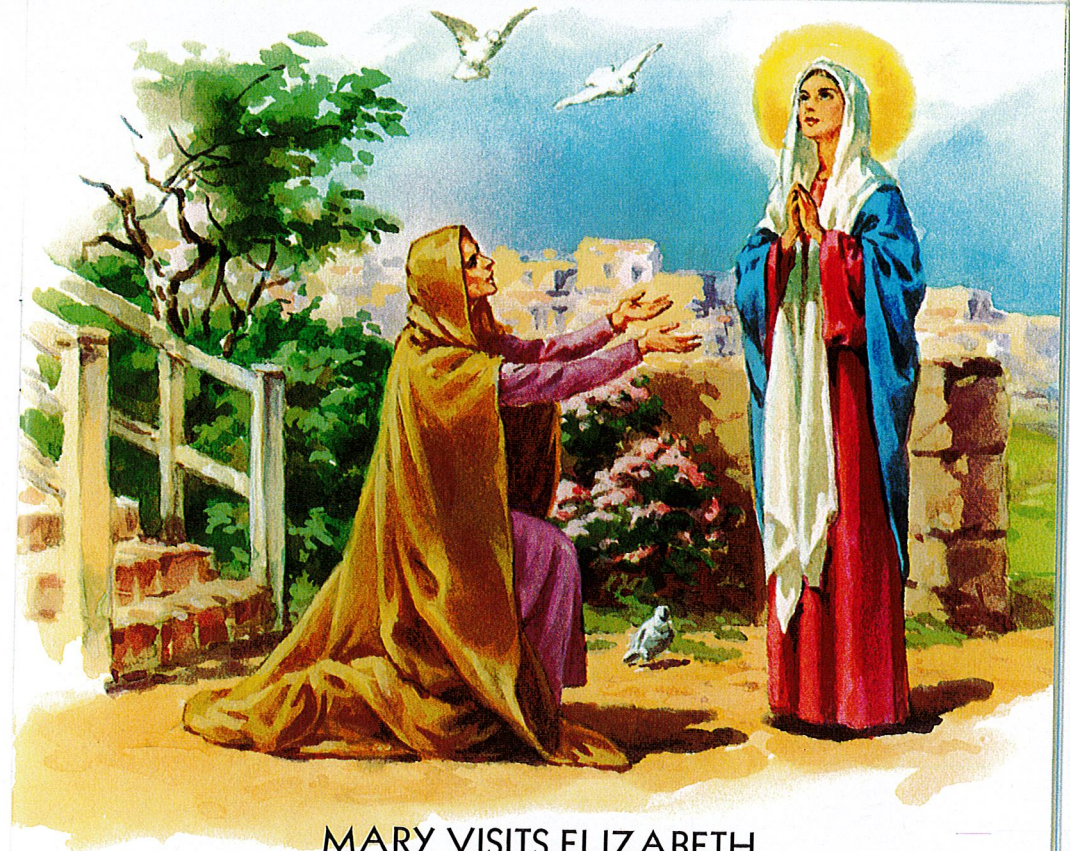
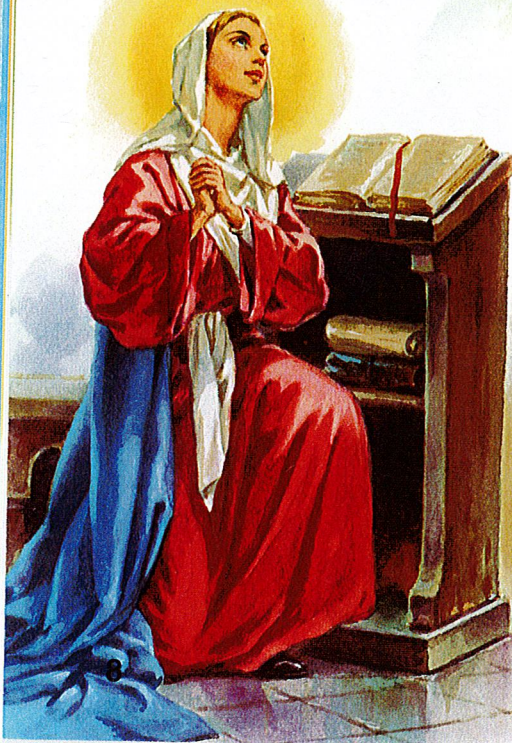


"How will that be?" Mary asked.

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 the first Christmas Day.

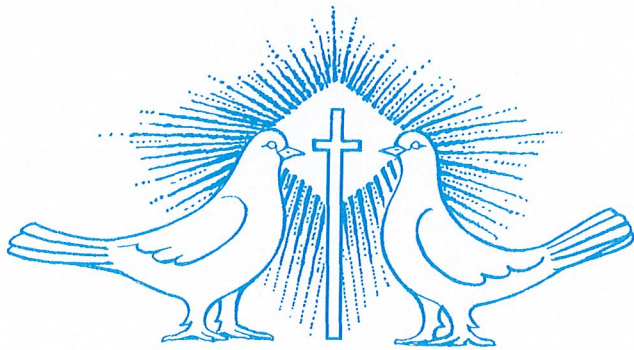
Some shepherds came to see the Child. They told Mary that an angel had appeared and told them to go to Bethlehem. They also heard many angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest heavens, and on earth peace to men of good will." They knelt down to adore the Infant Jesus.

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 that 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 adored 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.