

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

As we prepare for the season of Advent, I recommend you check out the USCCB site highlighted next to this letter. The webpage has an interactive calendar and is filled with a rich variety of resources those you serve are sure to enjoy. *Vibrant Faith at Home*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *Paperless Christmas* and *Busted Halo* are some other websites with lots of activities for families.

Once again, we are blessed with wonderful messages from Pope Francis, some free webinars and digital media stories. On the local scene, I encourage you to check out the free program offered by the Missions Office on December 11th and to also consider the many retreat options at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat and Faith Formation Center at the Palisades.

In Christ's Peace,

Anne

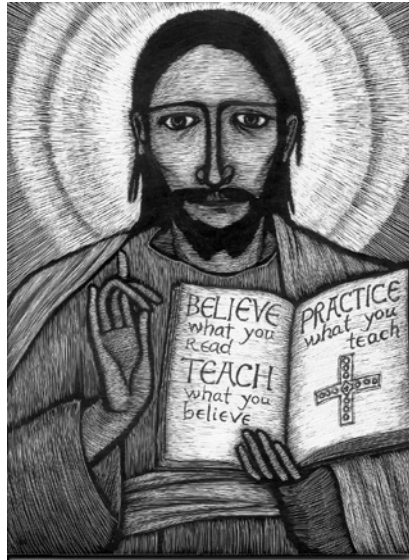
Anne Frederick, Ed. D.

Director of Parish and School Faith Formation



<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/advent/index.cfm>

FOUNDATIONS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH CATECHIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

- ✚ Advent
- ✚ Lent
- ✚ Retreats

CATECHIST CERTIFICATION

- ✚ Faith Formation for Parish Staff
- ✚ For Competent, Confident, and **Capable** Catechists
 - Certify at least one per grade level
 - Identify & Prepare Next Year's Catechist
- ✚ RCIA team
 - Identify & Prepare Next Year's Team

SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ccp

Finding Advent Hope and Light in a “Church for the Poor”



An Advent retreat offered by your Missions Office and Catholic Relief Services at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades

Wednesday, December 11th, 9:30am-3:00pm

Speaker: Ted Miles, Catholic Relief Services

God accompanies us in Christ for the sake of reconciling and transforming the world. As we go forth with Christ, God invites us to accompany others so that they may know the companionship of God - and that we may know it more deeply with them! Our Advent hope is rooted in this promise of deep kinship with God and each other.

Join us for an Advent one-day retreat that explores our Baptismal call to live our faith in solidarity with all creation and, in particular, our brothers and sisters on the margins. Through an exploration of timeless and global stories of faith and the sharing of our own, we will break open the unity and integrity of faith illuminated by Pope Francis in *Lumen Fidei*:

“The more Christians immerse themselves in the circle of Christ’s light, the more capable they become of understanding and accompanying the path of every man and woman towards God.” (47)

For parish and school staff and volunteer leadership, open to all, lunch included: FREE.

Please register by December 6th. Click here to register:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e8hoynvxc36df96&llr=6a7puneab&showPage=true>

Questions? Contact the Missions Office at:

(206) 382-4580 or email missionsoffice@seattlearch.org



ARCHBISHOP BRUNETT
RETREAT CENTER AT
THE PALISADES

Discover. Deepen. Transform.

4700 SW Dash Point Road, Federal Way, WA 98023
(206) 748-7991 • palisades@seattlearch.org

Retreat Schedule 2013-2014

Click on each retreat for more information

2013

OCT 25-27	Contemplative Prayer <i>Sr. Joyce Cox B.V.M., Paul Peterhans M.Div., Dr. Rebecca Cortes</i>
NOV 15-17	Caminar con Jesus <i>Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J.</i>
DEC 6-8	Men's & Women's Silent Advent Retreat <i>Fr. Jim Northrop</i>
DEC 13-15	Young Adult Retreat <i>Fr. Bryan Dolejsi</i>

2014

JAN 3-5	Beginning Contemplative Prayer <i>Sr. Joyce Cox B.V.M., Paul Peterhans M.Div., Dr. Rebecca Cortes</i>
JAN 31-FEB 2	Responding to the Spirit: In the Soul, the Church & the World <i>Fr. Bruce Nielt</i>
FEB 14-16	Apostles of the Interior Life <i>Sisters of the Apostles of the Interior Life</i>
FEB 21-23	8 Habits of a Successful Marriage <i>Fr. Pat Freitag</i>
MAR 14-16	Men's Silent Lenten Retreat <i>Fr. Sean Rafkis</i>
MAR 21-23	Meeting Jesus: Meditations on the Word, Silent Retreat <i>Mgr. Brian Bransfield</i>
MAR 28-30	Inspired Common Sense, Women's Silent Retreat <i>Fr. Lewis Fiorelli</i>
MAR 28-30	A Spiritual Look at Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra <i>Fr. Stephen Rowan, PhD</i>
APRIL 11-13	Into the Passion: Palm Sunday Men's Retreat <i>Fr. Jim Lee</i>
APRIL 23-25	What if Your Vocation is Love? St. Therese of Lisieux Retreat <i>Fr. Andrew Small</i>
APRIL 25-27	A Time to Thrive: Transition into High School Retreat <i>Aires Patidot</i>
MAY 9-11	Women's Silent Retreat <i>Fr. Jim Northrop</i>
MAY 16-18	Sacred Story Whole-Life Confession Retreat <i>Fr. Bill Watson, S.J.</i>
MAY 30-JUN 1	The Church of Today <i>Massimo Faggioli, PhD</i>
JUN 7	Young Adult Day of Reflection <i>TBA</i>
JUN 13-15	With Burning Hearts: The Mind and Heart of Pope Francis <i>Rev. Thomas Rosica, C.S.B.</i>

Register now! Call, email, or visit our website:

www.SeattleArchdiocese.org/Palisades



"like" us on
facebook

"Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades"



<http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/component/finder/search?q=advent&Itemid=435>

OSV's Advent Reflections

- [Advent Calendar/Advent Chain](#)
- [Reflections for Advent and Christmas](#)
- [Advent and Christmas Prayers](#)
- [Keeping an Advent attitude Traditions and devotions help us have an at-home retreat during the season of waiting ...](#)
- [This Advent, stop the clock Slow down and savor the true beauty of the season](#)
- [Advent Is Important Tell parishioners why the Church provides such beautiful liturgies for the Sundays of ...](#)

Paperless Christmas

Paperless Christmas once again presents The Adventures of Mary and Joseph - The Road Movie, a retelling of the nativity story in nine video episodes:

- The Angel Gabriel visits Mary
- Mary visits her Cousin
- The Journey to Bethlehem
- No Room at the Inn
- The Birth of Jesus
- The Shepherds
- The Wise Men
- Escape to Egypt
- The Carpenter's Son



As you move your cursor along the queue at the bus stop on the homepage, each of the episodes is identified, and the poster in the billboard above the queue. The **resource material** is available to download as individual PDF documents. All the videos can be viewed online and can also be downloaded so they can be projected onto a whiteboard or screen in the classroom or in church.

We recommend that teachers and children's / church leaders view all nine episodes of The Adventures of Mary and Joseph - The Road Movie (see them at www.paperlesschristmas.org.uk) before looking at the [accompanying resource materials](#).



Advent in Two (2) Minutes



Not quite sure about the relationship between Advent and Christmas? Check out Busted Halo's two-minute video that describes why we celebrate Advent and wait to celebrate Christmas.

And beginning December 1 (the First Sunday of Advent,) visit bustedhalo.com/advent for the Busted Halo Advent Surprise Calendar for daily jolts of wisdom and microChallenges that will give your Advent more meaning, as well as give you a chance to win prizes, including an iPad2! Watch [Advent in Two Minutes](#).

You Don't Know Jack . . . About Advent



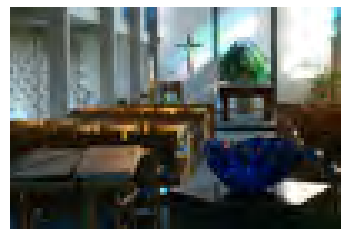
This is a video that Fr. Jack produced for Busted Halo. While the interviews took place in New York City, you might find the same responses if you were to ask the same questions in your community. You can watch [Advent](#).

Two-Minute Warning: Advent- A Time to Be Silent



In this frenzied age, it is difficult to be still and silent. Despite the difficulty, doing so is sometimes vitally important. John Stonestreet talks about why we need to ready ourselves to hear God in the first of a four-part series, "He Has Come!" Watch [A Time to be Silent](#).

http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/Retreats/3931_Calendar2013-2014Website.pdf



'Evangelii Gaudium' To Be Delivered Sunday; Available Tuesday

On the Feast of Christ the King and the end of the Year of Faith, the Pontiff will hand the



Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, the first signed by Pope Francis: thus the papal document will become “a mission that is entrusted to every baptized person to become an evangelizer,” stressed Archbishop Fisichella.

The letter will be handed to a Bishop, a priest and a deacon chosen among the youngest to be ordained, from Latvia, Tanzania and Australia, and to representatives of the Confirmed, a seminarian and a woman novice, a family, catechists, a blind man – to whom the Pope will hand his letter in CD-Rom so that it can be reproduced in audio format – as well as to young people, Confraternities and Movements.

Also receiving the Apostolic Exhortation will be representatives in the world of art “to make evident the value of beauty as a privileged way of evangelization”. Among the artists will be Etsuro Sotoo, Japanese sculptor famous for his work of the “Holy Family” and Anna Gulak, a young Polish painter.

Two representatives of journalism will also receive the Exhortation “to attest to the great commitment and promotion carried out by those dedicated to this service, which represents increasingly a new form of culture with which the Church feels the urgency to address and feel helped and supported in the work of evangelization,” stressed Archbishop Fisichella.

The contents of the Exhortation will be made public next Tuesday, November 26, 2013, with the official presentation at the Holy See Press Office, in the presence of Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization; Archbishop Lorenzo Baldisseri, secretary of the Synod of Bishops, and Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.



Pope Francis: "Take the Grace of Baptism and Become a Light for All"



Continuing his catechesis on the Creed, Pope Francis referred to the Sacrament of Confession as a “second Baptism” that reopens the door of faith and Christian life. Reflecting on the part of the Creed that states: “I believe in one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins”, the Pope said that this reference indicates that the mission of the Church is to evangelize and to remit sins through the Baptismal sacrament.

The Holy Father divided the reference into three parts, focusing first on “I believe” which, he said, indicated the importance of Baptism. “By pronouncing these words, we affirm our true identity as children of God,” the Pope said. “In a certain sense, Baptism is the identification card of the children of God, his certificate of birth, it is the birth certificate of the Church.”

When asking by a show of hands who remembered the date of their Baptism, the Holy Father called on those present to find it out as it was an important date - “the day in which you were born into the Church.” “The day of our Baptism,” he said, “is the point of departure of a journey

of conversion that lasts our whole life and which is continually sustained by the Sacrament of Penance.”

“Think of this: when we go to confess our weaknesses, our sins, we are asking forgiveness of Jesus, but we also go to renew our Baptism with this forgiveness. And this is beautiful, it is like celebrating the day of your Baptism in every Confession.” The Holy Father went on to say that the sacrament of Confession should not be viewed as torture chamber but rather as a feast that cleans “the white garment of our Christian dignity.”

Referring to the second element of his catechesis, Pope Francis stressed the importance of Baptism, calling it a cleansing of regeneration and illumination. The Holy Father explained the significance of the lit candle during the Rite of Baptism, which signifies the light of Christ that enlightens every man. “Baptism illuminates us from within with the light of Jesus,” he said. “In virtue of this gift, the baptized are called to become “light” - the light of the faith they have received for their brothers, especially for those who are in darkness and do not perceive glimmers of light on the horizon of their life.”

“You must take the grace of Baptism, that is a gift, and become light for all!” the Pope exclaimed. The 76 year old Pontiff concluded his catechesis by emphasizing the remission of sins that stems from the Sacrament of Baptism. A newness of life is opened through the Sacrament, thus, relieving “the weight of a negative past.” “It is a powerful intervention of the mercy of God in our life, to save us. This salvific intervention does not take away from our human nature its weakness - we are all weak and we are all sinners - and it does not take away the responsibility to ask for forgiveness every time that we err!”

Though one can only be baptized once, Pope Francis encouraged the faithful to confess regularly, which renews the grace of Baptism. “The Lord Jesus is so good and he never tires of forgiving us. Even when the door that Baptism opened to enter into the Church is closed a bit because of our weakness and our sins, Confession reopens it, because it is like a second Baptism that forgives us all and illuminates us to go forward with the light of the Lord,” he said. The text of the pope's audience remarks in English is available online at [Forgiveness of Sins](#).

Pope Francis: God May Scold, But He Never Slaps



God's hands are never used for violence, Pope Francis said. "I can't imagine God slapping us," the pope said. "Scolding us, yes, that I see, because he does do that, but he never, ever hurts us." God shows love and tenderness, "even when he must scold us; he does it with a caress because he is (our) father," the pope said. He continued, "Let us put ourselves in the hands of God, like a child puts himself in his daddy's hands. That is a hand that is sure."

People should put their trust in God, who is reliable, loving and firm, and brings people life and healing, Pope Francis said. "Many times we

hear from people who don't know whom to trust: 'I put myself in God's hands,'" which is good because it offers "maximum security," he said. "It's the security of our father who loves us very much."

"We have been in God's hands since the beginning," the pope said. The Bible gives "a beautiful image" of God fashioning man from clay with his hands -- "God the artisan," who created humanity and will never abandoned his creation. And the Bible stories show how, like a father, God accompanied his children, walking with them, holding their hands, he said. God, "our father, like a father with his child, teaches us to walk. He teaches us to take the path of life and salvation."

God also uses his hands to comfort people, the pope said. "He caresses us in times of pain" because "he loves us very much." That love came with a price when Jesus died for the sins of humanity, he said; "the hands of God are hands wounded out of love and this gives us much consolation."

Pope Francis: The Church is Not the Master of Forgiveness, But Its Servant



The faithful do not have a duty but a right to find the forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation ministered through priests, Pope Francis stressed today as dedicated his catechesis on the Creed to the forgiveness of sins. He focused on the "powers of the keys", referring to Christ's words in the Gospel of John: "And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the

Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'"

The act of Jesus' breathing on the apostles, the Pope said, indicates that Christ is transmitting the new life that comes from forgiveness. However, before breathing on apostles, the Holy Father noted that Christ first showed his wounds to them. "These wounds represent the price of our salvation. The Holy Spirit brings us the forgiveness of God that 'passes through' the wounds of Jesus," the Pope said.

Following this, the Holy Father told the faithful that Jesus then gives his disciples the power to forgive sins. God, he said, wished for those who belong to Christ and his Church to receive forgiveness through the ministries of the community. "In this way, Jesus calls us to live reconciliation in the ecclesial dimension as well, the community. And this is very beautiful," he said. "The Church, that is holy and also in need of repentance, accompanies our path of conversion our whole life. The Church is not the master of the power of the keys, it is not the master, but rather a servant of the ministry of mercy and rejoices every time that it can offer this divine gift."

Pope Francis said that because individualism dominates in today's world, many people, even Christians, do not understand the ecclesial dimension of forgiveness. While God does forgive all repentant sinners, there is a special bond that exists between Christ and his Church. "For us Christians there is an extra gift, as well as another commitment: to humbly pass through the ecclesial ministry," he said. The Pope said that while some may be embarrassed to confess their sins to a priest, it is "better to be red (blushed) for one day than yellow for a thousand days."

Pope Francis highlighted the role of priests, men who "like us are in need of mercy and become true instruments of mercy", in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Referring to those who say they can confess to God directly rather than a priest, the Holy Father said that while God always listens to us, He sends a brother to personally bring us forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Holy Father also stressed that priests, bishops and even the Pope must confess because we are all sinners. "Even the Pope confesses every 15 days because the Pope is a sinner as well. The confessor listens to what I tell him, he counsels me and he forgives me because we all need this forgiveness," he said.

"The service that the priest gives as a ministry, from God, to forgive sins is very delicate, a very delicate service, and demands that his heart be at peace; that he does not ill-treat the faithful, but that he may be meek, benevolent and merciful; who knows how to sow hope in hearts, and above all, be aware that the brother or sister who approaches the Sacrament of Reconciliation is seeking forgiveness and does it like so many who approached Jesus in order to be healed," the Pope stressed.

It is better for priests who do not have this disposition, he added, to not administer the Sacrament. All faithful have a right to find in "priests a servant of the forgiveness of God." Concluding his address, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that God never tires of forgiving us.

Pope Francis Welcomes Hundreds With Disabilities In Wheelchairs.. One By One



Pope Francis has greeted hundreds of people in wheelchairs one-by-one — part of a special gathering in which rows of seats were removed from a Vatican auditorium to make room for the disabled visitors.

The pontiff, who has made championing the downtrodden a key plank of his papacy, lamented that society tends to "hide physical fragility" and reject the disabled. He encouraged those with physical disabilities to banish any feelings of shame, and become "protagonists" in society as well as the Catholic church.

Some 600 people in wheelchairs waited to have their time with Francis during the event Saturday. He moved down the rows to greet each person, doling out hugs and kisses as well as chatting. For more pictures go to [Greeting One by One](#).

Vatican, Google Team Up To Bring Ancient Christian Catacombs To Light



Early Christian burial sites are now easier to see, both in person and via the Internet, thanks to 21st-century technology and collaboration between Google and the Vatican. "This is perhaps the sign of the joining of two extremes, remote antiquity and modernity," said Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi. The cardinal, president of both the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology, lauded recent restoration work by the archaeological commission inside the complex of early Christian tombs.

Using advanced laser techniques, restorers have uncovered vivid late fourth-century frescoes depicting Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and Sts. Peter and Paul accompanying Christians into the afterlife. Jesus' face resembles portraits of the Emperor Constantine, who legalized Christian worship in 313. Cardinal Ravasi also heralded the Nov. 19 debut of the catacombs on Google's Street View feature, a project he said had grown out of a conversation he had with the Internet giant's executive chairman, Eric Schmidt.



Users of Google Maps can now click the "see-inside" option for the catacombs, which allows them to move virtually through the narrow corridors tunneled out of soft tufa stone, and to see high-resolution images of the interiors from practically every angle. The brilliantly lit views are in startling contrast to the shadowy reality of an in-person visit. Google's Giorgia Abeltino told reporters that almost the entire eight-mile complex of catacombs is now accessible online. However, there is no underground map to let users know exactly what they are seeing.

Also Nov. 19, Google launched a Street View of the catacombs of the Ipogeo di via Dino Compagni, located in southeast Rome. The catacombs are privately owned and not open to the public, so the virtual mode is the only way to visit them. Msgr. Giovanni Carru, secretary of the Vatican's archaeological commission, said the restorations had made the Catacombs of Priscilla a "privileged course" for pilgrims to Rome, helping them to appreciate these "dark places that were lit up by the emblematic and paradigmatic stories of salvation" painted on their walls.

'Catholicism' Creator Likes New Media's Impact 'Way Outside' Churches



Chicago priest Father Robert Barron has a dream -- for another grand, sweeping documentary on Catholicism. It's the latest goal for the priest who more than a dozen years ago was asked to jump-start an evangelical endeavor to "invade that space" where the church's message was not often heard. "If you want to reach people who are under 40, you have to use media. Things like YouTube had just come into being and we jumped into that with two feet," said Father Barron. "If you want to find the unchurched Catholics and the secularists, you aren't going to find them by staying in church and inviting them to programs. You have to use this new means. We

have to invade that space."

The author of 10 books and a weekly radio commentator, Father Barron brings to YouTube and the web a Catholic perspective on mainstream cultural events, from blockbuster movies like "World War Z" to same-sex marriage. He has posted more than 180 videos online and his viewers have topped a million. Father Barron in 2000 founded the nonprofit Word on Fire that supports his efforts to draw people to the Catholic faith through new media. According to tax records, the nonprofit in 2011 had nearly \$5 million in revenue generated by his diverse teaching tools, funds that go to support the mission of [Word on Fire](#).



FREE Professional Development Webinar – Tuesday, December 3, 2013



Ave Maria Press, in partnership with the **National Conference for Catechetical Leadership**, the National Association for Lay Ministry, and National Federation of Priests' Councils presents a series of free, online workshops on professional development for parish ministers. This webinar is offered on Tuesday, December 3 at 3:00 pm EDT. You can register at [PDW-12-3-2013](#). For a complete listing of professional development webinars in this series, please visit www.avemariaprss.com/webinars.

Professional Development
WEBINAR
SERIES



Tools for Rebuilding Your Parish

Presented by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran,
Authors of [Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter](#) and [Tools for Rebuilding: 75 Really, Really Practical Ways to Make Your Parish Better](#)

Date: December 3, 2013

Time: 3:00 p.m. EST



The process of rebuilding a parish often requires some very practical tools to make a church function smoothly. Little things can become big things and major distractions if we do not manage them correctly.

In this webinar, Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran, bestselling authors of *Rebuilt* and the new book *Tools for Rebuilding*, will share some of the important tools that have been most



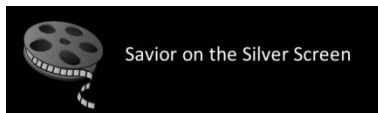
instrumental in the transformation of their parish.

Pre-Schooler Donates His Entire Piggy Bank to Help Philippines



When 6 year-old Shoichi Kondoh heard about the disaster in the Philippines, he did not think twice about giving away his childhood savings. He sacrificed his entire piggy bank to help those in need. Accompanied by his mother, Miho Kondoh, Shoichi visited the Philippine Embassy today to personally hand-over his donation of JPY 5,000 taken from his piggybank savings. Consul Bryan Dexter Lao expressed sincere gratitude to the embassy's youngest cash donor. The amount may have been small, but the sincerity and sweetness was overwhelming.

Savior on the Silver Screen



Sister Rose Pacatte shared her PowerPoint presentation from the National Catholic Youth Conference, entitled *Savior on the Silver Screen*. Her description of the



workshop stated, “Meeting Jesus at the movies might seem impossible to some . . . this session will look at sacramental ways to find God in the dark and secrets discovering heroes who exemplify the teaching of the Lord Jesus in laughter and tears. There’s a great deal of information including a few slides on *The Hunger Games*. Check it out on [Slide Share](#).

Take a Seat . . . Make a Friend



This simple notion turned complete strangers into friends. It definitely gives new meaning to thinking outside the box. It is amazing what a simpler request, with the right environment, can do to engage people. This is the kind of thinking we need to utilize when we act as evangelizers. When you watch this video, you'll realize that strangers are truly friends you just haven't met yet. Don't live your life full of fear and judgment. Accept and love others. I encourage you to watch

[Take a Seat . . . Make a Friend](#)

Virtue Makes You Beautiful

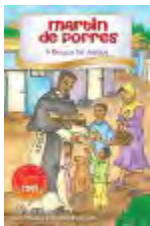
Virtue Makes You Beautiful is a cover of a popular song by One Direction. Just listen to the lyrics.... Watch [Virtue Makes You Beautiful](#).



Saints and Me! - Christmas Series

While Barbara Yoffie has written six other books in her *Saints and Me!* series, this set of six books is entitled *Saints of Christmas*. Her first series, *Saints of North America* featured [Kateri Tekakwitha: Model of Bravery](#), [Damien of Molokai: Builder of Community](#), [Juan Diego: Mary's Humble Messenger](#), [Elizabeth Ann Seton: Mother for Man](#), [Andre Bessette: A Heart of Strength](#), [Rose Philippine Duchesne: A Dreamer and a Missionary](#),

The six books in the *Saints of Christmas* series feature seven saints. If interested you can click on the book and order it from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore. The books are designed to be read during Advent and Christmas time with one book per week.



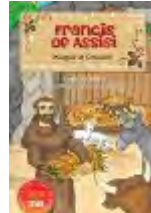
[Martin De Porres](#)



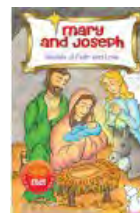
[Nicholas of Myra](#)



[Lucy](#)



[Francis of Assisi](#)



[Mary and Joseph](#)



[Gianna Beretta Molla](#)

The Queen and the Cats: A Story of Saint Helena



Calee M. Lee has taken an obscure footnote from history and turned it into a warm and vivid story for children. In the back of the book, there is a small biography of St. Helena, along with the Troparion of her Feast day and a photograph of the True Cross which St. Helena left on Cyprus centuries ago.

You can order [The Queen and the Cats: A Story of Saint Helena](#) from the NCCL Amazon Bookstore.