



Book of Saints

“SUPERHEROES OF GOD”

By **REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.**

Divine Word Missionary

PART 2

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

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Printed in China ISBN 978-0-89942-296-1

CPSIA February 2016 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 LP

Saint Joan of Arc

May 30

JOAN was born in France in 1412. She helped her brothers on the farm and often went to a nearby chapel to pray to Jesus.

When she was seventeen, Joan heard the voice of God calling her to drive the enemies of France from the land. Going to the king, whose army was defeated, she asked for a small army. The king, believing that God had sent her to save France, gave her a band of brave soldiers.

Joan went before the soldiers carrying her banner with the words: “Jesus, Mary.” The soldiers became filled with courage and drove the British army away.

Joan fell into the hands of the British and remained in prison for nine months. She was asked why she had gone to confession almost every day. She said: “My soul can never be made too clean. I firmly believe that I shall surely be saved.”

She was taken to the marketplace of Rouen and burned to death. With her eyes on a crucifix, she cried out, “Jesus, Jesus,” through the flames.



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

July 14

KATERI was born near the town of Auriesville, New York, in the year 1656, the daughter of a fierce, pagan Mohawk warrior. Jesuit missionaries brought the Catholic Faith to the Mohawk Valley. Kateri was only four years old when her mother died of the disease called smallpox. Her two aunts and uncle adopted her.

Kateri was baptized when she was twenty years old. She said she would rather die than give up her Christian Faith. She had much to suffer to be true to her promise.

Kateri went to the new Christian colony of Indians in Canada. Every morning, even in bitterest winter, she stood before the chapel door until it opened at four and remained there until after the last Mass. The Eucharist became her one desire. She was also devoted to Jesus Crucified. She died of a disease on April 17, 1680, at the age of twenty-four. Her last words were: “Jesus! Mary! I love you!” Known as Kateri of the Mohawks, she was canonized on October 21, 2012.