



John vianney

Saint for Holy Orders

(Also known as the Curé of Ars)

1786-1859

Born in Dardilly, France

Feast Day: August 4

**Patron saint of parish priests
and confessors**

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Illustrated by Jeff Albrecht



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A Redemptorist Ministry

Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege
of teaching throughout the years.

And to priests who shepherd the People of God
and bring us closer to Christ.

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints, with six books apiece in the first four sets. The first set, *Saints of North America*, honors holy men and women who blessed and served the land we call home. The second, *Saints of Christmas*, includes heavenly heroes who inspire us through Advent and Christmas and teach us to love the Infant Jesus. The third, *Saints for Families*, introduces saints who modeled God's love within and for the domestic Church. The fourth, *Saints for Communities*, explores individuals from different times and places who served Jesus through their various roles and professions.

The seven books in the *Saints for Sacraments* series explore eight saints who had great love for the sacraments. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Padre Pio helped people make a good confession. Teresa of Ávila was known for her great love of the Eucharist. Philip Neri received the Holy Spirit after praying to God. Louis and Zélie Martin, a married couple, taught their children to serve God and the poor. At an early age, John Vianney wanted to dedicate his life to God as a priest; today he is the patron saint of parish priests. Maximilian Kolbe battled poor health to become a priest and brought God's healing to sick people.

Name the saint who lived in the desert and ate locusts and honey. In this set of books, who was the saint with stigmata? Who began a Carmelite convent dedicated to prayer? Who grew up during the French Revolution? Which saints were the parents of Thérèse of Lisieux? Who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in a prison camp? Find out in the *Saints for Sacraments* set—part of the *Saints and Me!* series—and help children connect to the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate them to their lives.

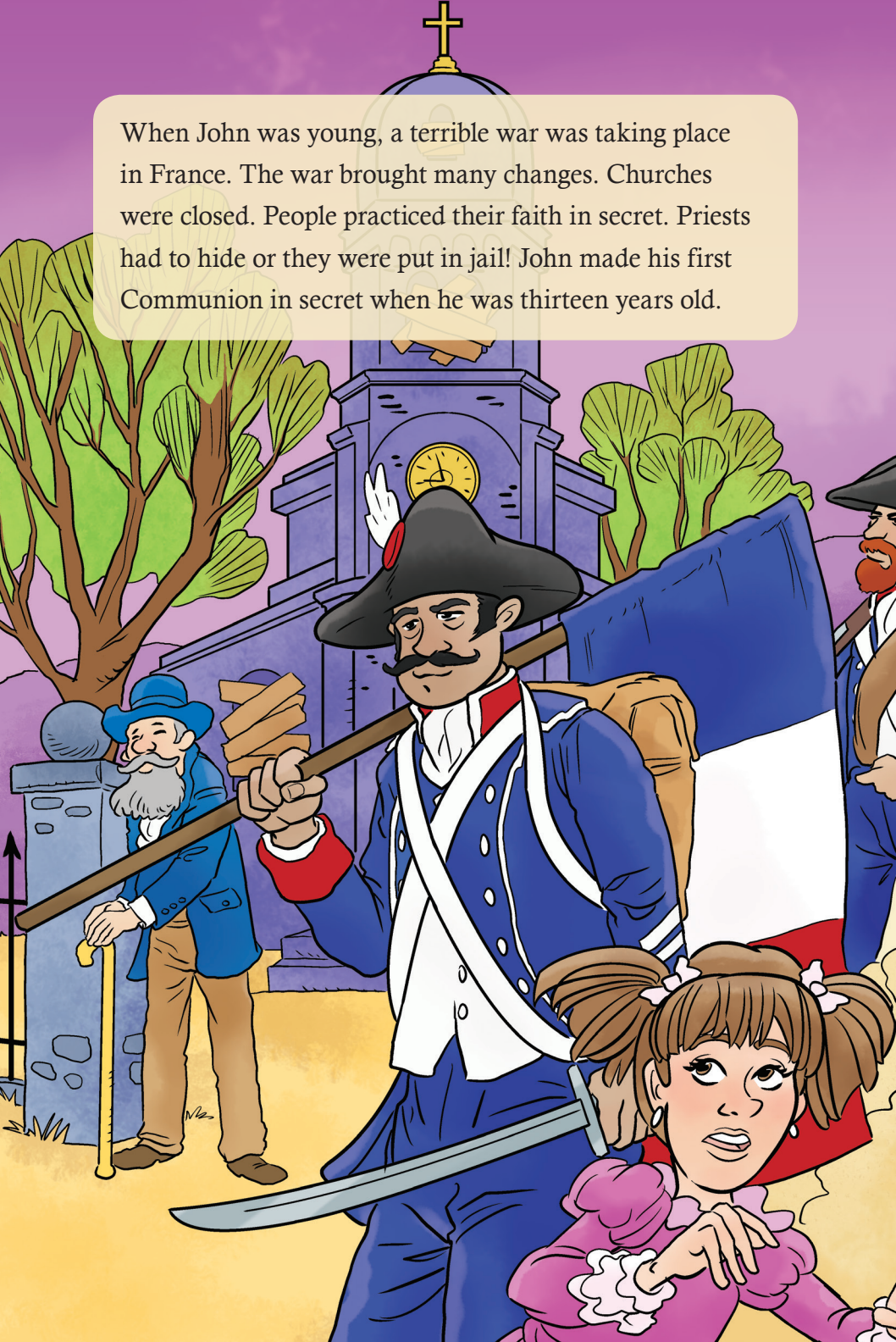
A vocation is a special calling from God to live a holy life. John Vianney chose to live a holy life as a parish priest and pastor. He received holy orders, a sacrament of service to others. John Vianney grew in holiness as he faithfully served the people of God.



John was born in 1786 in the small town of Dardilly, France. He was a shepherd on his family's farm. He took care of the sheep, leading them to the fields and the hillside. While the sheep grazed, John liked to pray. Praying helped him feel close to Jesus.



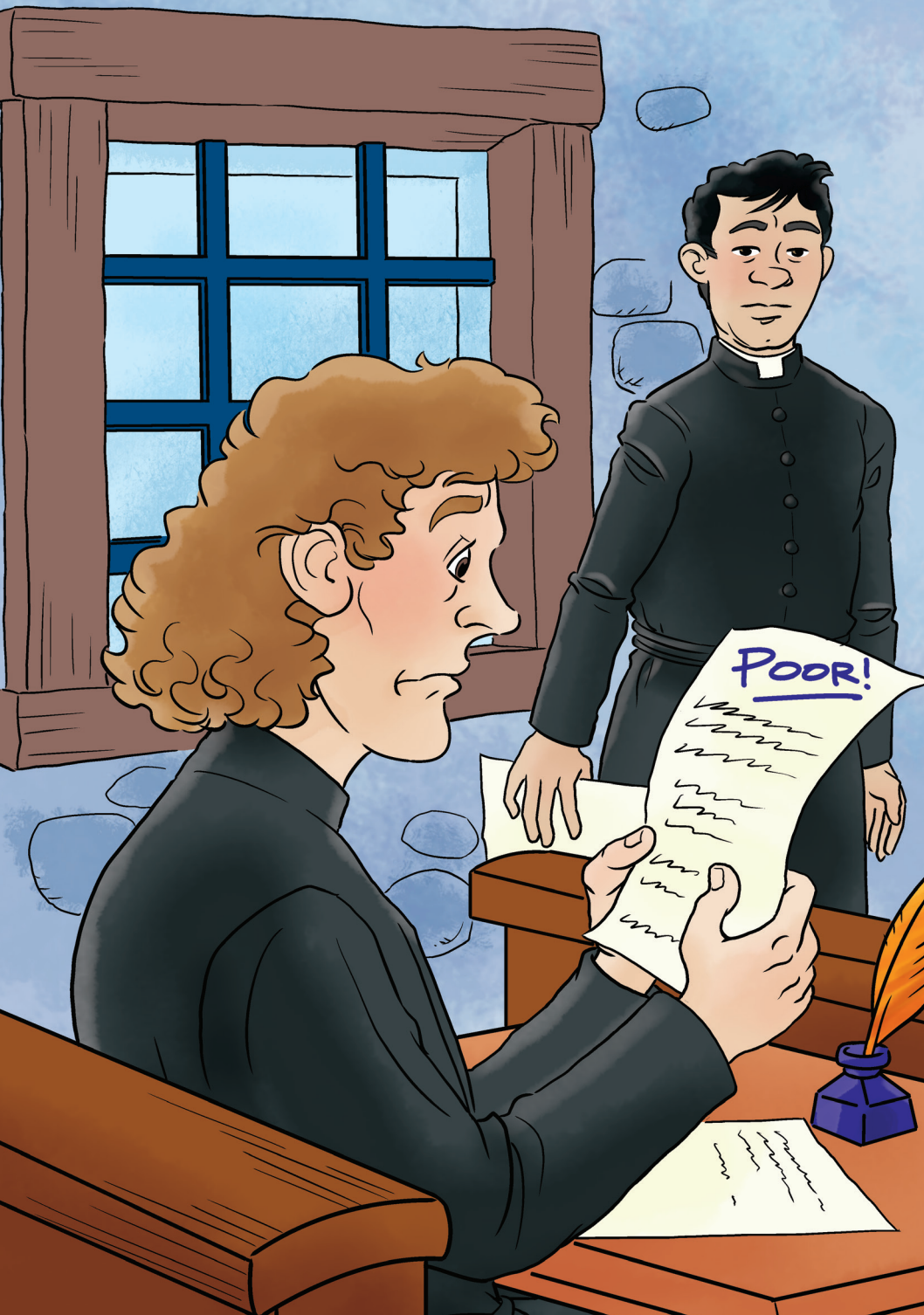
When John was young, a terrible war was taking place in France. The war brought many changes. Churches were closed. People practiced their faith in secret. Priests had to hide or they were put in jail! John made his first Communion in secret when he was thirteen years old.





Thankfully, the war ended and churches opened again. John, now in his late teens, felt God calling him to be a priest. A priest says Mass, baptizes, and hears confessions. He gives advice and helps people grow in their faith. "I want to be a priest so I can help people love God," John told his parents.





John entered the seminary. There were many important lessons for the shepherd boy to learn. John studied every day, but the work was hard to understand. The tests were hard, too! John prayed, “God, please help me.” He kept trying and did not give up!

