



LOUIS and Zélie martin

Saints for Matrimony

Louis Martin

1823-1894

Born in Bordeaux, France

Marie-Azélie “Zélie” Guérin Martin

1831-1877

Born in Gandelain, France

Feast Day: July 12

Text by Barbara Yoffie

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.

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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.

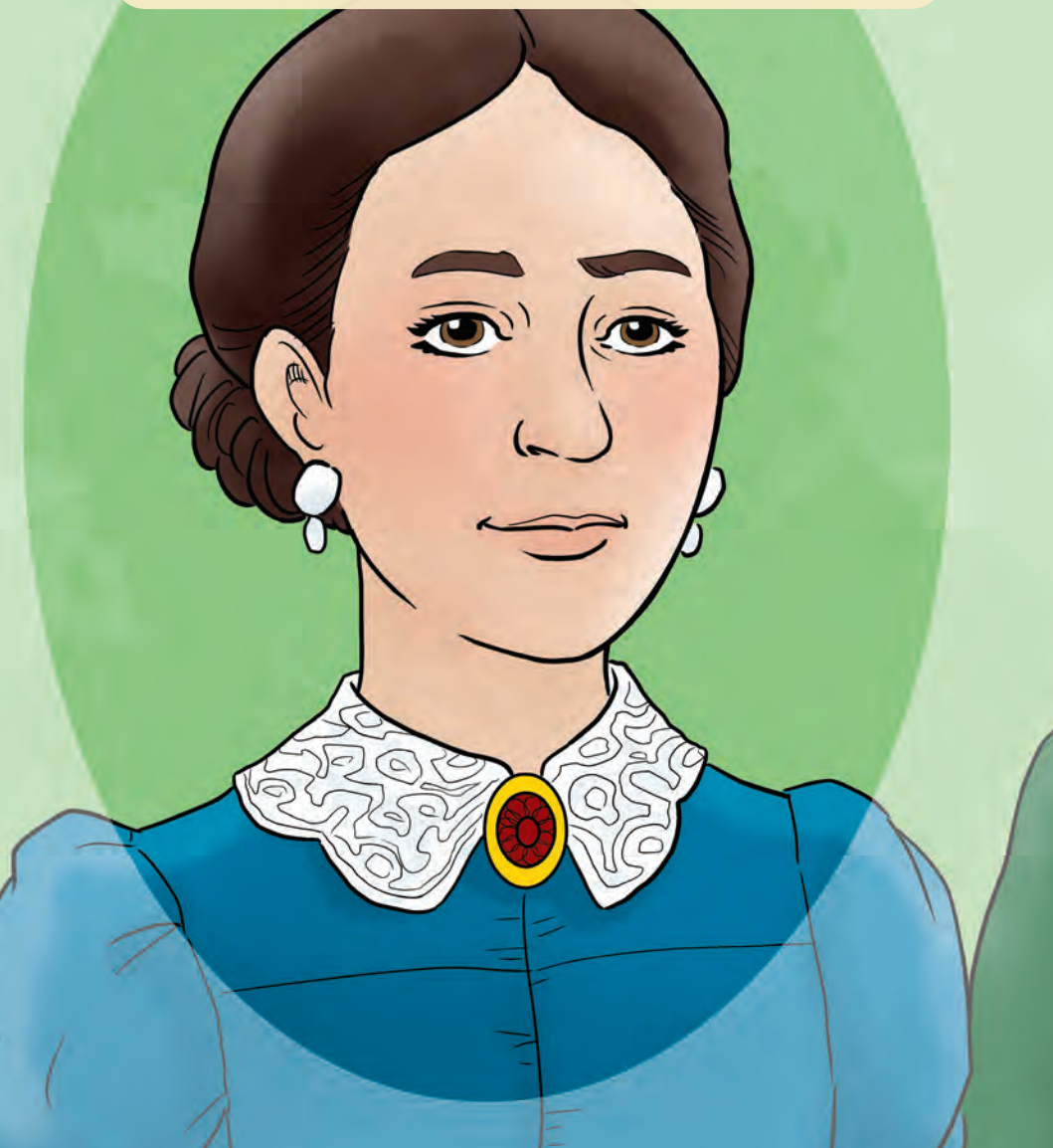
The seven books in the *Saints for Sacraments* series explore eight saints who had great love for the sacraments. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Padre Pio helped people make a good confession. Teresa of Ávila was known for her great love of the Eucharist. Philip Neri received the 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.

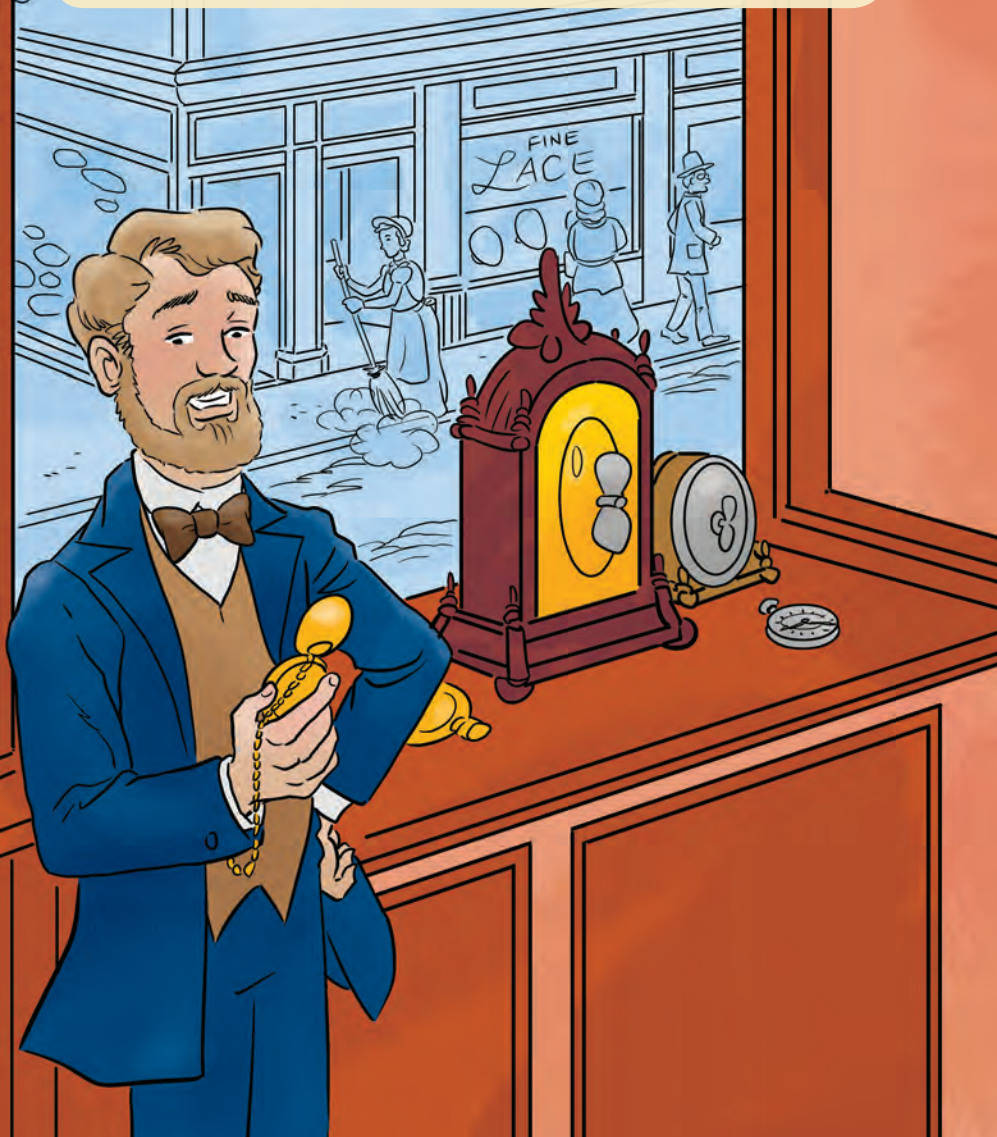
Louis and Zélie Martin are two special saints. They are the first married couple to be canonized together. Marriage is a vocation, a special calling from God to live a holy life. Louis and Zélie loved God very much. God blessed their marriage and helped them to grow in holiness.





Louis was a quiet little boy who lived in Alençon, France. He liked to play outside. He liked to hike and fish. His parents taught Louis all about God. They taught him how to pray. "God is always with you," said his mother.

When Louis grew up, he wanted to join the monastery. Here he could pray and grow closer to God. But he could not join the monastery. God had a different plan for Louis. In a few years he would understand. Louis became a watchmaker. He opened a watchmaking shop in the peaceful town of Alençon.



Zélie's family moved to Alençon when she was thirteen years old. Her older sister entered the convent. Zélie wanted to become a nun, too, but was turned away because of her health. "God must want me to marry and have children," Zélie decided. She learned how to make very beautiful lace. Smart and hard-working, Zélie started her own lace-making business.





One day, Louis and Zélie were both crossing the St. Leonard Bridge in Alençon. Zélie saw Louis. Louis saw Zélie. They met, fell in love, and soon married. Louis and Zélie Martin loved each other very much. They shared their faith and their great love of God. They prayed together and shared their dreams for the future.

“I think God brought us together,” Louis told Zélie. “I think you are right, Louis.” In the sacrament of marriage, a husband and wife promise to love each other forever. A married couple grows in faith and holiness together. They are faithful to each other and respect one another.



One of their dreams came true when their first baby was born. They named her Marie. “She is a precious gift from God,” Louis said. The Martins were so happy. They were blessed with four more daughters who lived to adulthood. Each baby brought them great joy.

