
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

A Summer of Saints!

Saint Germaine Cousin was born in France in the late 1500's. Her father was a farmer and her mother died when Germaine was still an infant. Germaine was born with a deformed hand as well as a disease called "scrofula." Her father remarried soon after the death of his wife but his second wife was not like Germaine's dear mother. The new wife was filled with disgust when she looked at Germaine's deformed hand and was afraid the other family members would get scrofula too. She tormented and neglected Germaine. She taught Germaine's siblings to treat her in the same cruel way. When Germaine was a child, her stepmother prevailed and Germaine was told she could not live in the house anymore. Poor Germaine! From that point on she had to live under a stairway in the family's barn. Her bed was a pile of leaves and twigs. In order to keep the peace, her father did not oppose his wife. Germaine spent her days out in the fields, tending the family's flock of sheep. Despite all her troubles, Germaine tried to live each day with an attitude of joy and thanksgiving. She went to daily Mass, leaving her sheep in the care of her Guardian Angel. She prayed the Rosary and taught the poor village children about Jesus. Despite the fact that she was nearly always half-starved, she shared the little bread she had with the poor. One winter day, Germaine was being chased by her stepmother who accused her of stealing bread. Germaine opened up her apron and fresh, beautiful summer flowers fell out! She then gathered them up into a bouquet and offered it to her stepmother as an act of forgiveness. Her father eventually came to his senses and invited Germaine to come back into the house to live but she declined. One morning he came into the barn and found that she had died in her sleep. She was now safe in Heaven with Jesus.

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"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



Saint Germaine Cousin

Nearly fifty years after Germaine died, when a relative of hers was being buried, Germaine's casket was opened and her body was found to be fresh and perfectly preserved. Because of political unrest and various obstacles, the process for her beatification was put on hold. The process was eventually resumed in 1850 and the documents attested to over 400 miracles and extraordinary graces granted through Germaine's intercession. Pope Pius IX beatified her and then proclaimed her a Saint in 1867.

The Holy Father thanked the bishop of the diocese where Saint Germaine had lived. He thanked him for giving the Church a Saint "so powerful, so kind, and so dear to it's heart." **Saint Germaine, pray for us!**