
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

A Season of Saints!

Elizabeth Catez was born in France in July of 1880. Her only sibling, Margaret, was born in 1883 and the two sisters were as different as day and night. Margaret was always kind and gentle and Elizabeth would often disobey her mother and fly into rages. For example, one time Elizabeth's mother brought her to a Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament for children. As they entered the Church, a nun asked Mrs. Catez if she could borrow Elizabeth's doll as a prop to represent Baby Jesus. Sister placed the doll in a manger near the altar. The moment the priest entered, Elizabeth caught sight of her beloved doll and screamed at the top of her voice, "Wicked priest! Give me back my Jeanette!"

When Elizabeth grew a little older, she was enrolled in a music conservatory. Her primary subject was the piano at which she excelled and became an outstanding pianist. However, she still maintained her angry rages. This caused her exasperated mother to threaten to send her to a house of correction run by the Good Shepherd Sisters. She even packed Elizabeth's suitcase! Later, after her First Confession, Elizabeth surrendered herself to grace before the negative traits took a firm hold on her. That encounter with Jesus in the Sacrament of His mercy began to open up her conscience. She was given the light to understand what her selfishness was doing to those around her and *to her own soul*. During this time, Elizabeth's family lived in Dijon, France and from her bedroom window she could see into the garden of the Dijon Carmelite monastery. On the evening of her First Holy Communion, Elizabeth had her very first visit with the Carmelite prioress. She told Elizabeth that her name, "Elizabeth," meant "house of God." This fact deeply impressed Elizabeth who was now determined, somehow, to become a Saint!

Jean Prather - CatholicKids101.com
"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity

As a teenager, beautiful Elizabeth had many suitors and was so accomplished at the piano that she could have gone on a concert tour. She also continued her visits to Carmel. During one visit, the prioress said, "Here is a circular letter that you should read. It is about the recent passing of a Carmelite nun named Therese of Lisieux." The letter was actually the first version of what would become the famous *Story of a Soul*. Elizabeth devoured the letter and afterwards felt confirmed in her *own* calling to become a Carmelite nun. At that time, Elizabeth was only 17 and when she asked her mother's permission to enter Carmel, her mother said she would have to wait until she turned 21. She did indeed enter Carmel...and became a Saint. Ask St. Elizabeth to pray for you that you too will find your vocation *and become a Saint!*