

CATHOLIC STORIES
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Volumes 1-4

Teacher's Manual

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TAN Books
Gastonia, North Carolina

Catholic Stories for Boy and Girls Volumes 1–4 Teacher’s Manual © 2022 TAN Books

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Contents

<i>Publisher's Preface</i>	<i>vii</i>
--------------------------------------	------------

Catholic Stories for Boys and Girls Volume 1

The Best Deed	3
The Wreath of Flowers	9
Pedro of the Water Jars	13
The Little Dove of Our Lady	19
The Great Gift of Our Lady	23
Black Robe	27

Catholic Stories for Boys and Girls Volume 2

Ottawanta	33
Elizabeth Bayley Seton	37
Anina	41
Silver Wings	45
John Philip	49

Catholic Stories for Boys and Girls Volume 3

Begga's Bracelet	55
In the Tower of London	59
Joseph	63
Louise	67

Catholic Stories for Boys and Girls Volume 4

The Dawn of Spring	73
The Land of Erin	77
The Flowery Kingdom	81
The Lion Tamer	85
A Shepherd and His Sheep	89

Publisher's Preface

Dear Parent,

These workbooks are designed to accompany the stories found in the children's books *Catholic Stories for Boys and Girls*. Each of the books in this four volume series contains four, five, or six short stories. These short stories are meant to enlighten the minds of your children. The stories can be enjoyed by children of any age, and these workbooks are flexible enough to be used throughout all of elementary school.

Each chapter of this workbook focuses on one story and contains five components: **Key terms** let the child know about the main characters, locations, or concepts in the story. There is a short **vocabulary** section. The child ought to be able to come up with some definition for the vocabulary word found in bold based on context clues. If your child needs help, please don't hesitate to provide it! Some of the vocabulary terms are words your child has probably never seen. There is a list of **comprehension questions** for each chapter, and the answers are found by doing a careful reading of the text. Finally, each chapter has a **sequencing** section. Your child should put the events in the story in order from first to last. The sequencing practice helps children become careful readers and listeners by ordering their thinking.

There are many additional **activities** in each chapter of the workbook. These range from true/false questions to word searches, crossword puzzles, and illustrations. The most important of these additional activities are the reflection questions and the retelling components.

Reflection questions allow the child to have a conversation with mom and dad. A prompt is included to help the child think carefully about how the story might relate to his or her own life. The characters in these stories face many challenges, overcome hardships, and always have their eyes set on Jesus and Mary. Even though your children might be young, and blessed to not have to think about martyrdom, it is good for them to be thinking about the challenges they might face and the little sacrifices they can make each day.

The retelling component is another important skill. It provides children with an opportunity to share their learning in their own way. Retelling teaches children to organize their thoughts, which leads to logical thinking in life. As parents, we learn how our children think and process information by practicing retelling often.

In general, after hearing or reading a passage, a child retells the story in his or her own words. The way you approach the task of retelling may look different than another homeschooling family. You might even use a different method for each child! For a young child, you might read one or two sections from one of the stories in the book and then ask for a retelling. For an older child, it might be reasonable to expect a fairly solid retelling after reading the whole story, including correct sequencing of events. Children have a wonderful habit of attention. They retain much more than one might expect! During the retelling, give the child time to speak and try to avoid interrupting them. Sometimes a child might need a prompt, but these prompts should be rare!

You might consider writing down or typing your child's narration as they speak. Write down word for word what they say. Children should use complete sentences during a retelling. A retelling should not read like an outline; it should read like a carefully crafted story! When the child finishes their retelling, you might have them copy some or all of it to see the modeled spelling and grammar. Copying provides extra practice in handwriting and reinforces those grammar and spelling skills you might not yet be focused on while they are so young. They might color an illustration too. You have flexibility with this practice.

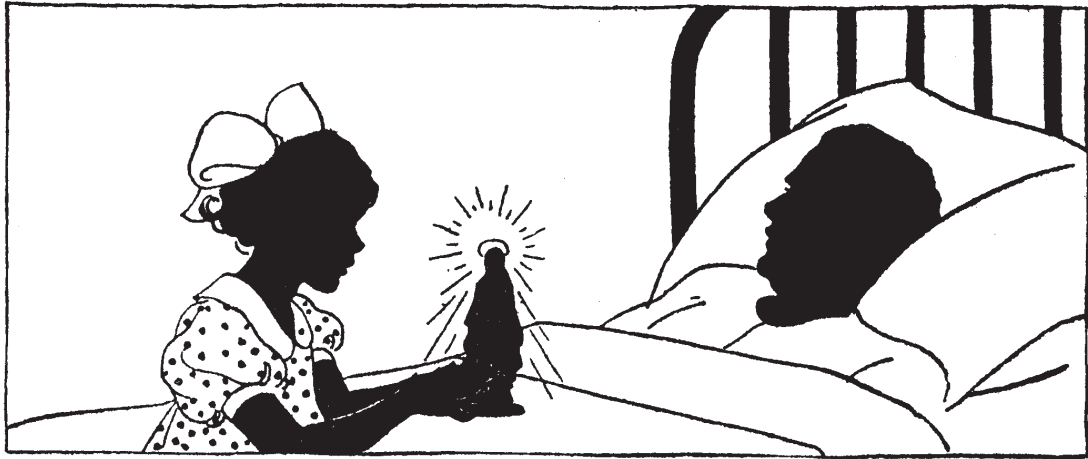
In all of these activities, what you do and how you do it is up to you! If you are working through these books with a kindergartener or first grader, you might be doing many of these activities orally. Many younger elementary children aren't strong readers, so even reading the stories may be beyond their skill level. That's okay! Read the story to them, or take turns reading. Ask your child questions from the workbook, and you can write down their responses. When your child is able to write their own responses, then consider adding writing out responses to their workload.

May your time with these beautiful stories be richly blessed, and may your family grow in love for Christ through your homeschooling.

In Christ,
TAN Books

Catholic Stories for Boys and Girls

Volume 1



The Best Deed

Key Terms

These are important people, places, and things you should remember from this story.

Sister Rose - Taught Confirmation class and planned to give a prize to the child who performed the best deed before Confirmation.

Catherine Duffy - Student in Confirmation class who met the poor sick man and helped save his soul.

The Poor Sick Man - Sick man who believed he was unworthy of God's love and mercy. Met Catherine Duffy before his death.

Confirmation - The sacrament through which the Holy Ghost comes to us in a special way and enables us to profess our faith as strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Confession - Telling our sins to Jesus through a priest in order to obtain forgiveness.

Vocabulary

*Read the sentences below and note the use of the word in **bold**. Write a definition or synonym for this word by considering its context.*

1. What shall I do for a good **deed**?

An action performed intentionally

2. The white **cornettes** made Catherine think of white birds flying.

The headwear used by the Sisters of Charity as part of their habit

3. In her room, there was a pretty little **altar**.

A table used for religious purposes, especially prayer and sacrifice

4. Father gave him **absolution**.

A declaration of forgiveness from sins

5. Through this holy **unction** and His tender mercy, may Our Lord forgive you.

Anointing with oil for a religious purpose

Comprehension Questions

To better understand this story, ask yourself these questions and write down your answers using complete sentences.

1. Sister Rose promised the children that the child who performed the best deed before Confirmation Day would earn the statue of Our Lady. What did Sister Rose tell the students to do to tell her about their good deed?

The students were instructed to write a little letter detailing their good deed and bring it to Sister Rose the day before Confirmation.

2. Catherine Duffy considered what good deed she might do to earn the statue of Our Lady. Everyone in her family had a different suggestion for her. What did she decide to do for her good deed?

She decided to give up candy. She liked candy a great deal and thought it would be a hard sacrifice.

3. Catherine's father, Doctor Duffy, worked as a doctor at Saint Mary's Hospital. Catherine enjoyed visiting the hospital with him. What is the name of the religious order of sisters that also worked at the hospital?

The Sisters of Charity, who dressed in blue and white, worked at Saint Mary's Hospital.

4. The day after Catherine met the poor sick man, she told him to go to confession. He told her he would not go to confession because he had been too bad and God had no use for him. When was the last time the poor sick man went to confession?

The poor sick man had not been to confession since he received his First Holy Communion.

5. Catherine told the poor sick man a story from Scripture to remind him of God's mercy. What story did she tell him and why?

Catherine shared the story of the sinful woman who used expensive oil to anoint Our Lord's feet. The woman cried for her past sins and Our Lord forgave her.

6. After the poor sick man went to confession and received Holy Communion, what other sacrament did he receive?

He received the Anointing of the Sick to prepare him for death.

7. What did Catherine tell Sister Rose about in her letter? Did she stick to her sacrifice of giving up candy?

Catherine wrote about her interactions with the poor sick man. She told Sister Rose that she wanted to help the man get to Heaven, and then added that he died ("went to heaven").

8. Who won the statue of Our Lady? Why?

Catherine won the statue of Our Lady because Sister Rose was most pleased with her good deed. Although the other children performed good deeds, Catherine helped save a man's soul so he could go to Heaven.

Sequencing

Number the following statements in the same order they occurred in the story.

- 4 Catherine brought the poor sick man her Stations of the Cross pictures.
- 2 Catherine brought the poor sick man her statue of the Sacred Heart.
- 1 Catherine overheard the poor sick man cursing and asked him to repent.
- 3 Catherine told the poor sick man that he should go to confession and he told her he had not been since his First Holy Communion.

Number the following statements in the same order they occurred in the story.

- 2 Catherine gave her perfume to the poor sick man so he could pour it on Our Lord's feet.
- 4 The poor sick man died but kissed the Miraculous Medal just before he passed.
- 3 The poor sick man went to confession and received the Anointing of the Sick.
- 1 Sister Alice gave Catherine a Miraculous Medal to pin on the poor sick man.

Activity - Word Search

The following is an optional activity used to help your comprehension of the text. Answer the questions from The Best Deed and locate the answers in the word search. Note: the words also appear horizontally.

1. **Confirmation** is the sacrament that Catherine and her classmates were preparing for.
2. Just before the poor sick man died, he received the **Anointing** of the Sick.

3. Catherine had a little **altar** in her room where she prayed to Jesus.
4. Sister Rose gave **Catherine** the statue of Our Lady after the Confirmation.
5. The poor sick man was anointed with holy oil during **Unction**.
6. Sister Rose wanted the students to focus on doing a good **deed** before they were confirmed.
7. Catherine desperately hoped for the poor sick man to go to **confession** before he died.
8. One of the items Catherine brought the poor sick man was a **statue** of the Sacred Heart.
9. The Sisters of Charity wore **cornettes** on their heads.
10. One of the prayers Catherine prayed with the poor sick man was the **Stations** of the Cross.

	L	O	O	F	D	T	Z	Z	L	U	N	H	C	V	N		
	H	Q	X	H	U	Y	A N O I N T I N G										
	S	C	N	N	A	S	V	V	F	D	L	C	Z	V	Q		
Deed	T	A	B	C	L	X	T	W	W	Q	D	O	S	Y	D		
Statue	A	T	C	B	T	K	D	A	R	C	U	N	A	K	E		
Catherine	T	H	C	O	A	J	A	O	T	X	B	F	O	D	E		
Confession	I	E	A	O	R	T	K	I	W	U	Y	I	Q	F	D		
Stations	O	R	E	T	N	N	E	T	C	O	E	R	W	J	G		
Altar	N	I	T	K	D	F	E	S	Y	C	A	M	B	P	I		
Confirmation	S	N	O	X	X	O	E	T	U	L	W	A	K	O	R		
Unction	F	E	X	Q	D	U	K	S	T	Q	V	T	Y	D	R		
Anointing	R	B	V	Y	F	X	X	R	S	E	K	I	M	C	U		
Cornettes	V	L	U	G	A	F	T	S	V	I	S	O	H	Q	F		
	M	H	D	X	L	J	G	E	J	N	O	N	U	Q	Q		
	U N C T I O N									A	D	F	C	N	V	G	B

Activity - Reflection

Discuss with your mom or dad. If you are old enough to write out your response, use the space provided.

Catherine told the poor sick man to say the words “My Jesus, mercy” when he was tempted to curse. When you feel tempted to sin, how can you call upon Jesus to help you be good? Do you say a little prayer like Catherine does? What prayer do you say?