

# Frances Streitel

the first Sister of the Sorrowful Mother



What treasure will this book contain?

051.9

That's right, it's like a precious jewel case  
with a real treasure inside.  
It's the story of a special person:



# Frances Streitel

the first Sister of the Sorrowful Mother

Come on. Let me introduce you to her.



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**A**malia Streitel was born in Mellrichstadt,  
a small town in Germany.

Amalia was born on November 24, 1844  
and was baptized on the same day.

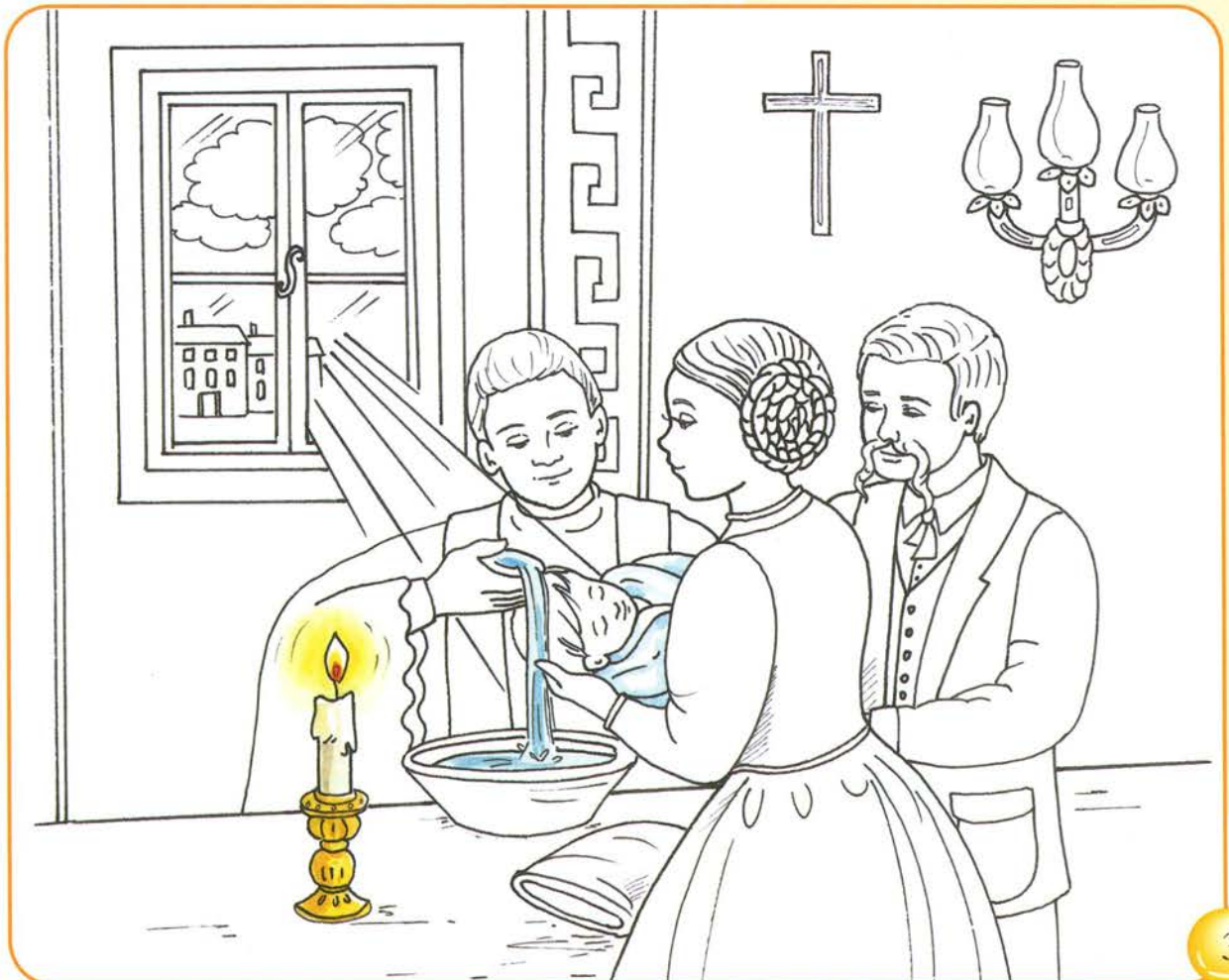
It was a cloudy day, but at the very moment  
she was baptized the room lit up  
and everyone was amazed.

The priest asked at the time,  
"What will this child become?"

The things needed for baptism  
are already colored in: the water,  
the white garment and the candle.

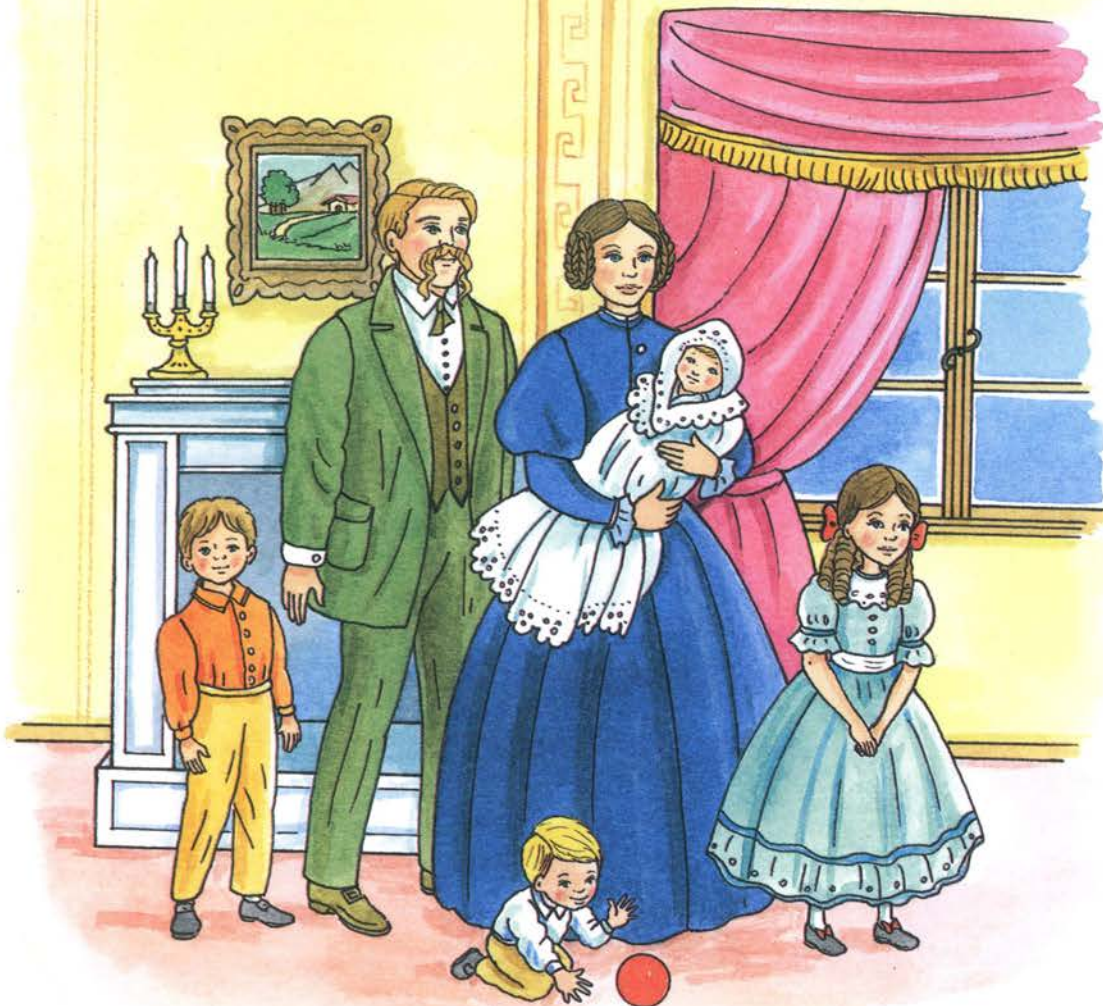
You color in the rest.

Try to ask your parents  
to show you the white garment,  
the candle and a photo from your  
baptism and get them to tell you  
all about that big day of yours.

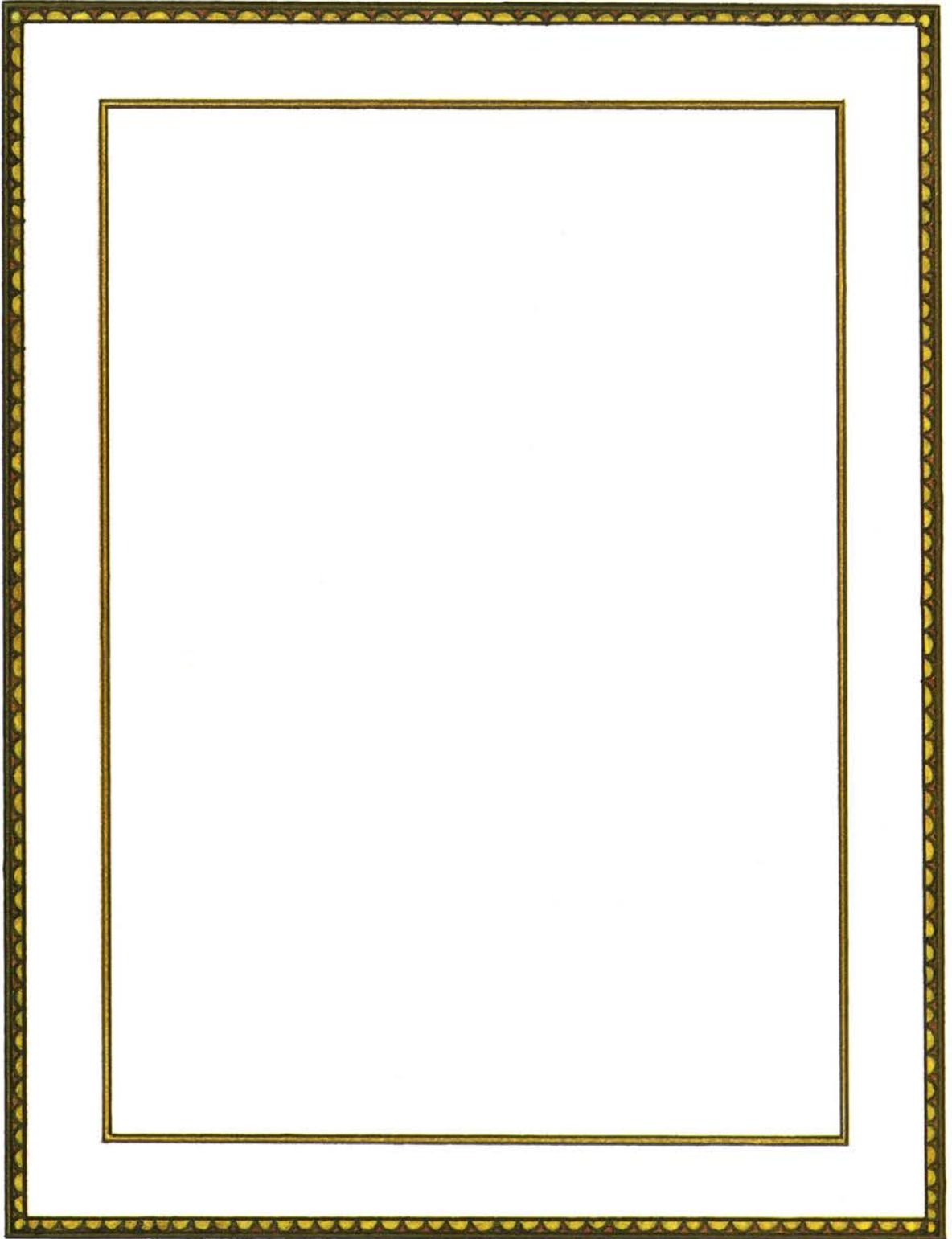


**A**malia was the first of four children. Her dad, Adam, had an important job as a judge and her mom, Frances, looked after the children: Amalia, Adam, Hermann and Hedwig, besides taking care of her husband and the house.

## Amalia's family

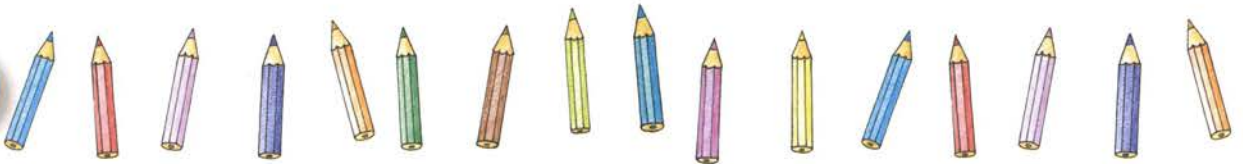


# My family



Draw your family

**A**malia often went with her mother to take food and clothing to poor families.



**A**malia saw that there were rich children  
who had much more than they needed,  
and then there were poor children  
who had little or nothing.  
Amalia wondered why things should be so different.



Color in the pictures which you think  
show Amalia when she was a child.

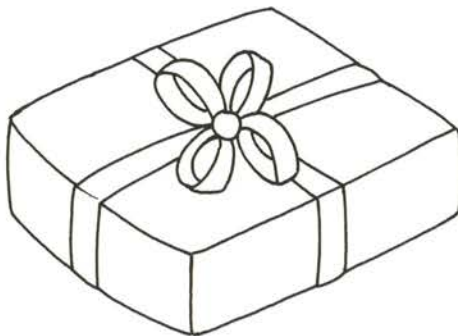
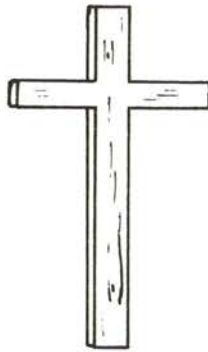
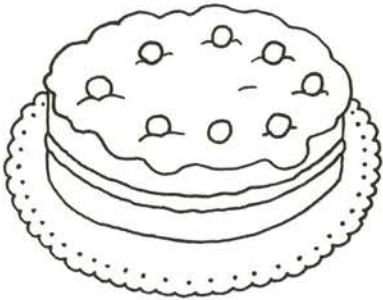




**O**n the day of her First Communion Amalia was really happy and in her heart she made up her mind to belong to Jesus forever.



**Color in what was important for Amalia on the day of her First Communion.**



**A**malia went to the school run by the Sisters of Maria Stern.  
She was very good at music and French.

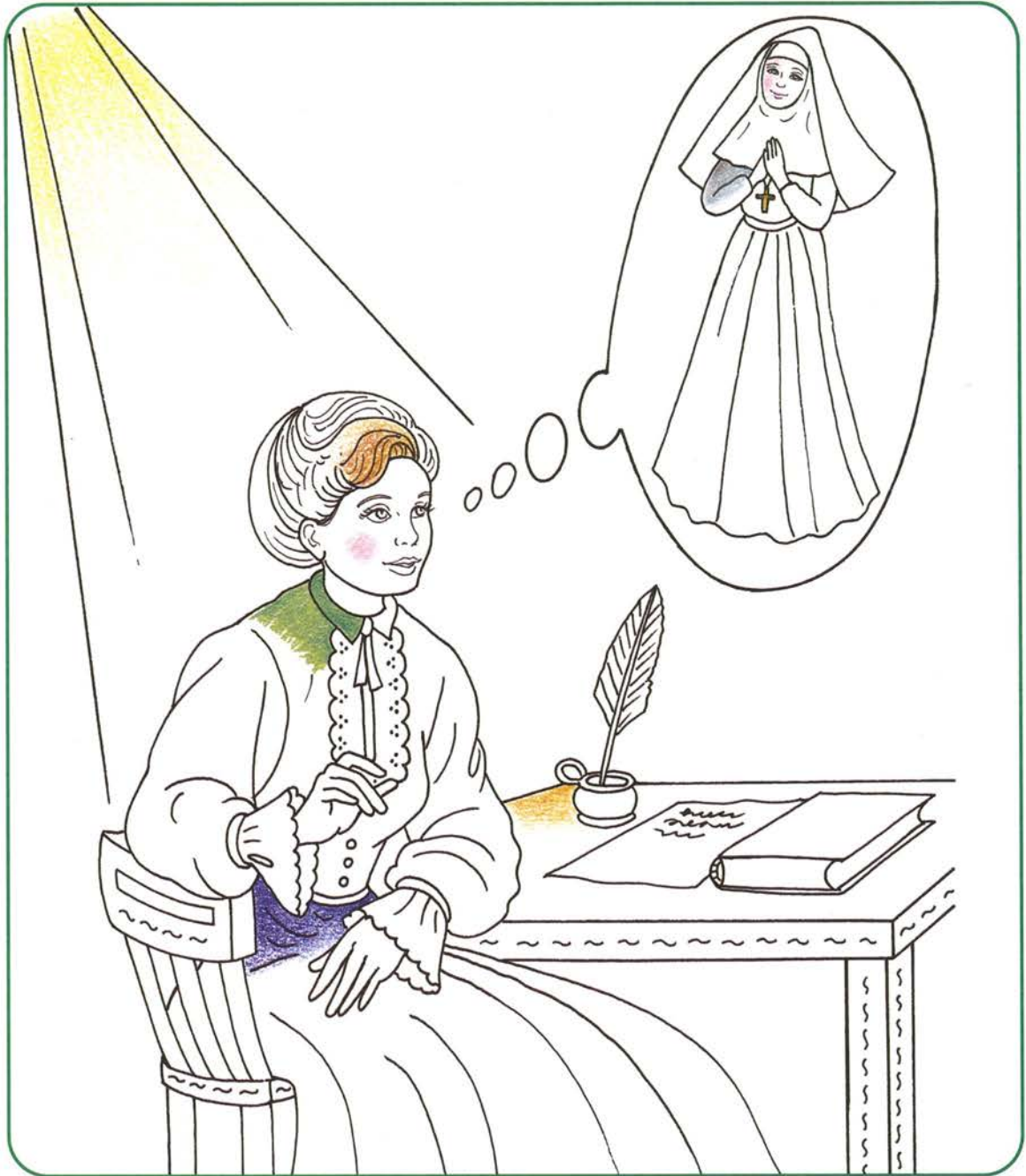


What's happened? Help Amalia put the keys on her piano so she can go on playing:

**do -re -mi -fa -sol -la -ti -do.**

Connect each one to its place using an arrow.

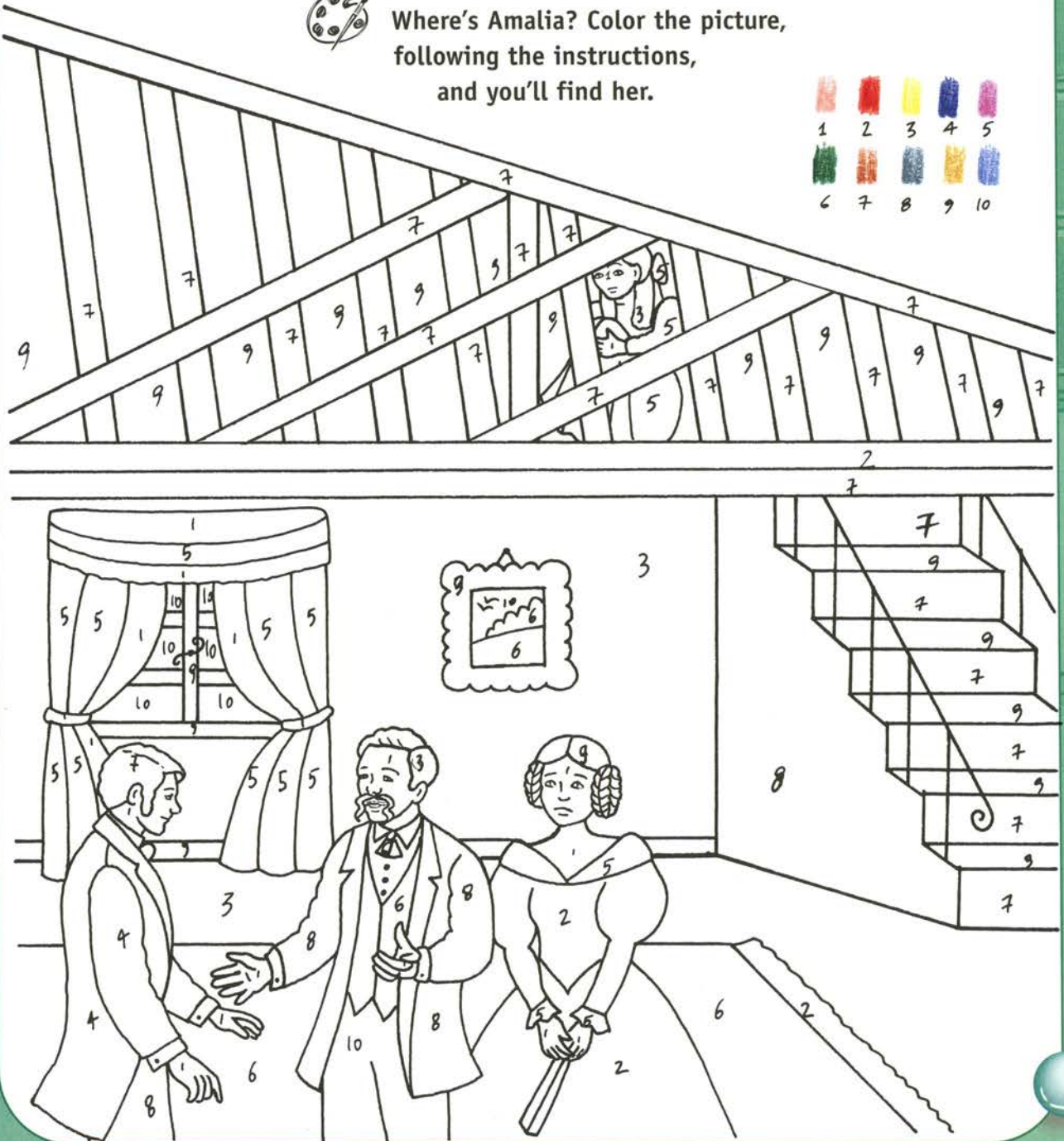
**W**hen she was 17, Amalia felt called to enter the convent and become a Sister.



Her parents didn't want her to enter the convent so they found her a date with a young law student and hoped that she would marry him. But Amalia hid in the attic so she wouldn't be found.



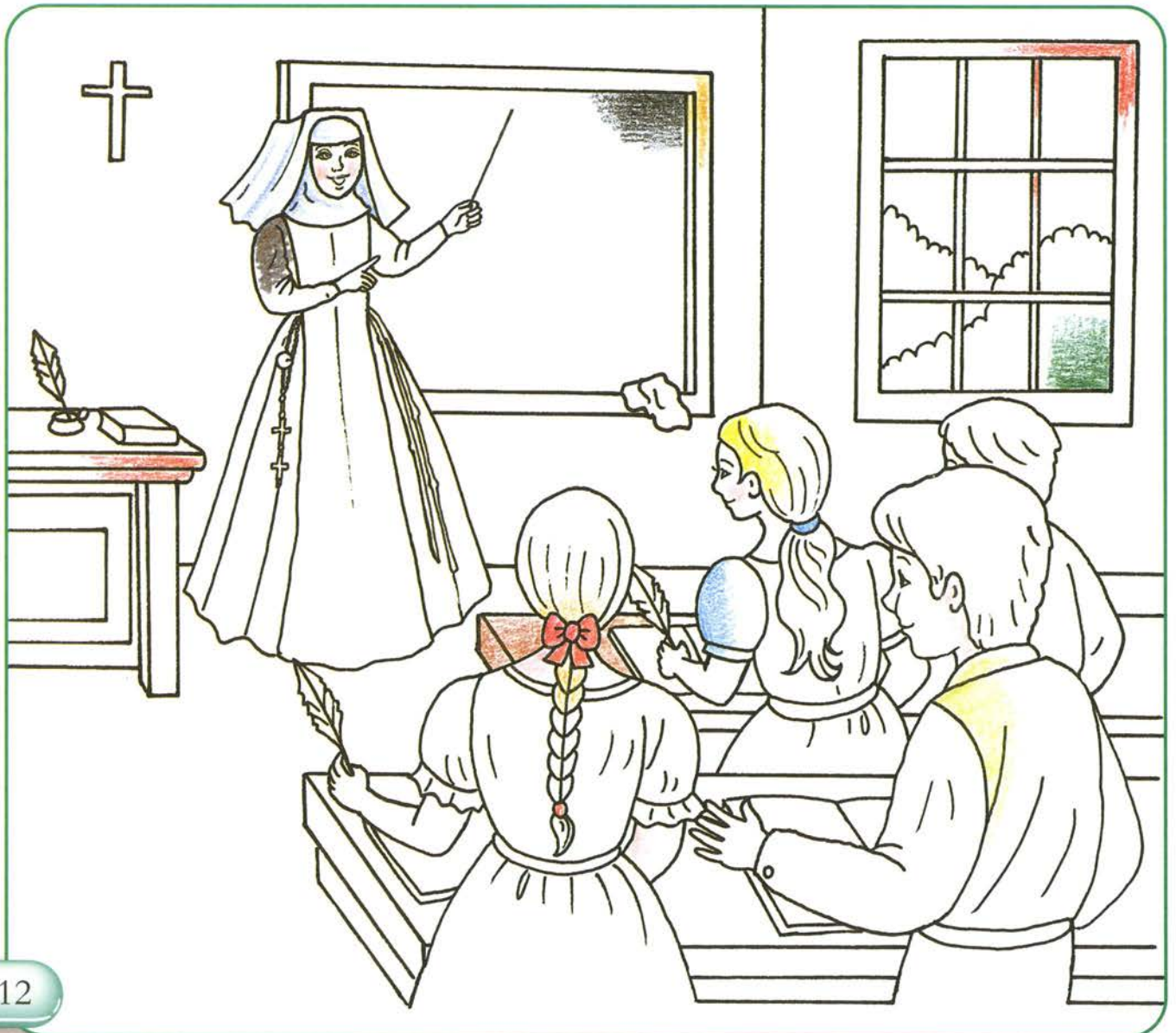
Where's Amalia? Color the picture, following the instructions, and you'll find her.



Finally, after four years of trying to get her to change her mind, her parents gave her permission to enter the convent, but not to serve the poor and the sick like Amalia wanted to do. So Amalia entered the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Maria Stern where she had studied. She took the name of Sister M. Angela. There she taught children in the school.



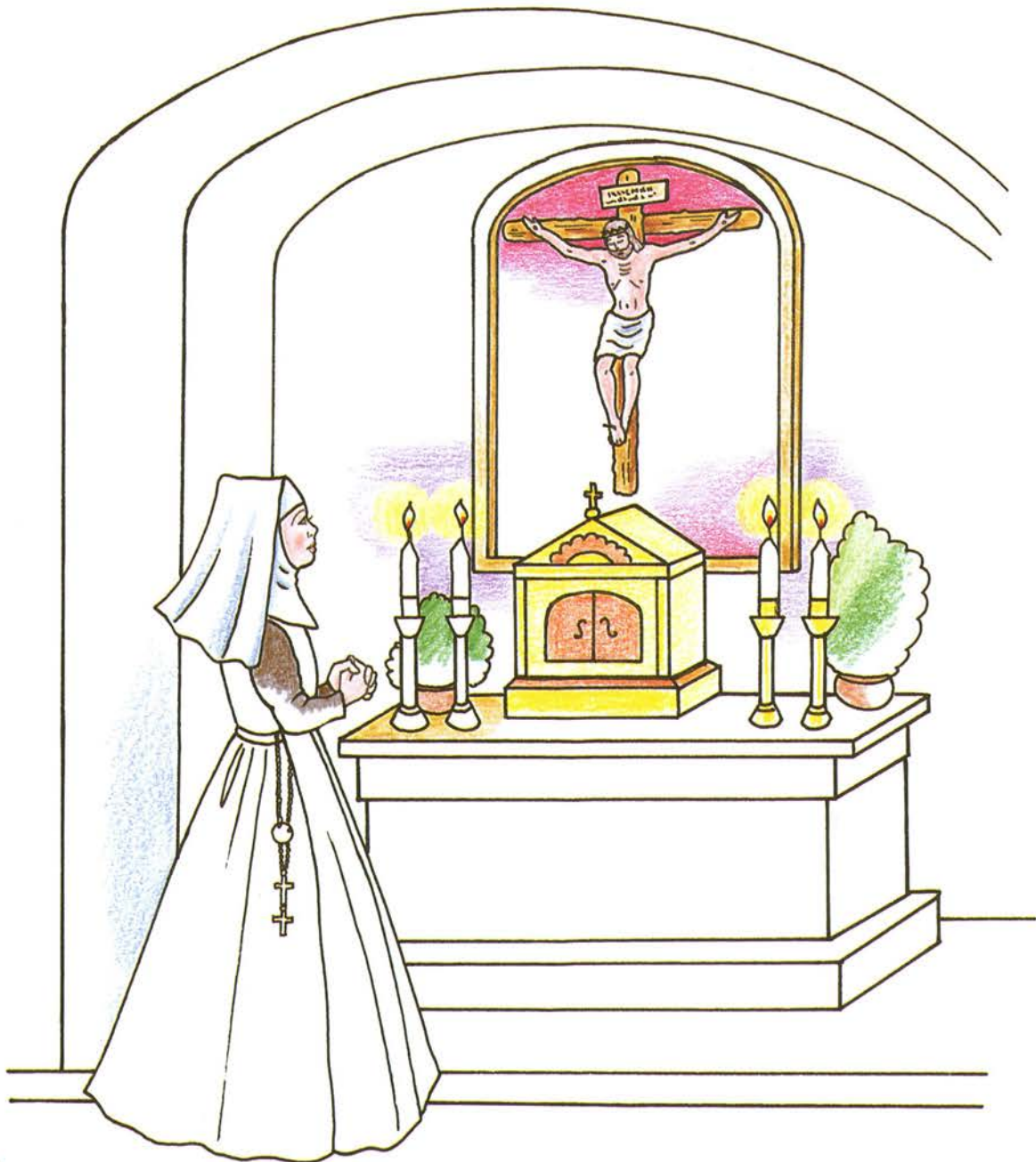
Color in the picture.



**Sr. Angela (Amalia)** wanted to live as a poor woman alongside the poor, those who had nothing, to live the love God has for his children.

She wanted to live like St. Francis of Assisi and tell everyone about the joy of being loved by God.

When she prayed she often asked God to help her understand what God wanted her to do.



**G**od heard her prayer and through the voice of St. Francis she understood what God wanted her to do.

One night, while she was praying, she heard the bell of the Carmelite convent, a convent where the Sisters spend a lot of time in prayer.

St. Francis brought her this message:

“Enter Carmel and stay there until you receive another sign! You will learn how to combine the active life with the contemplative one.”

What does this mean? It means that Sr. Angela (Amalia) was called by God to live a life of service for others but first she had to learn to give herself fully to God in prayer.

Let's follow her to see what happens next.

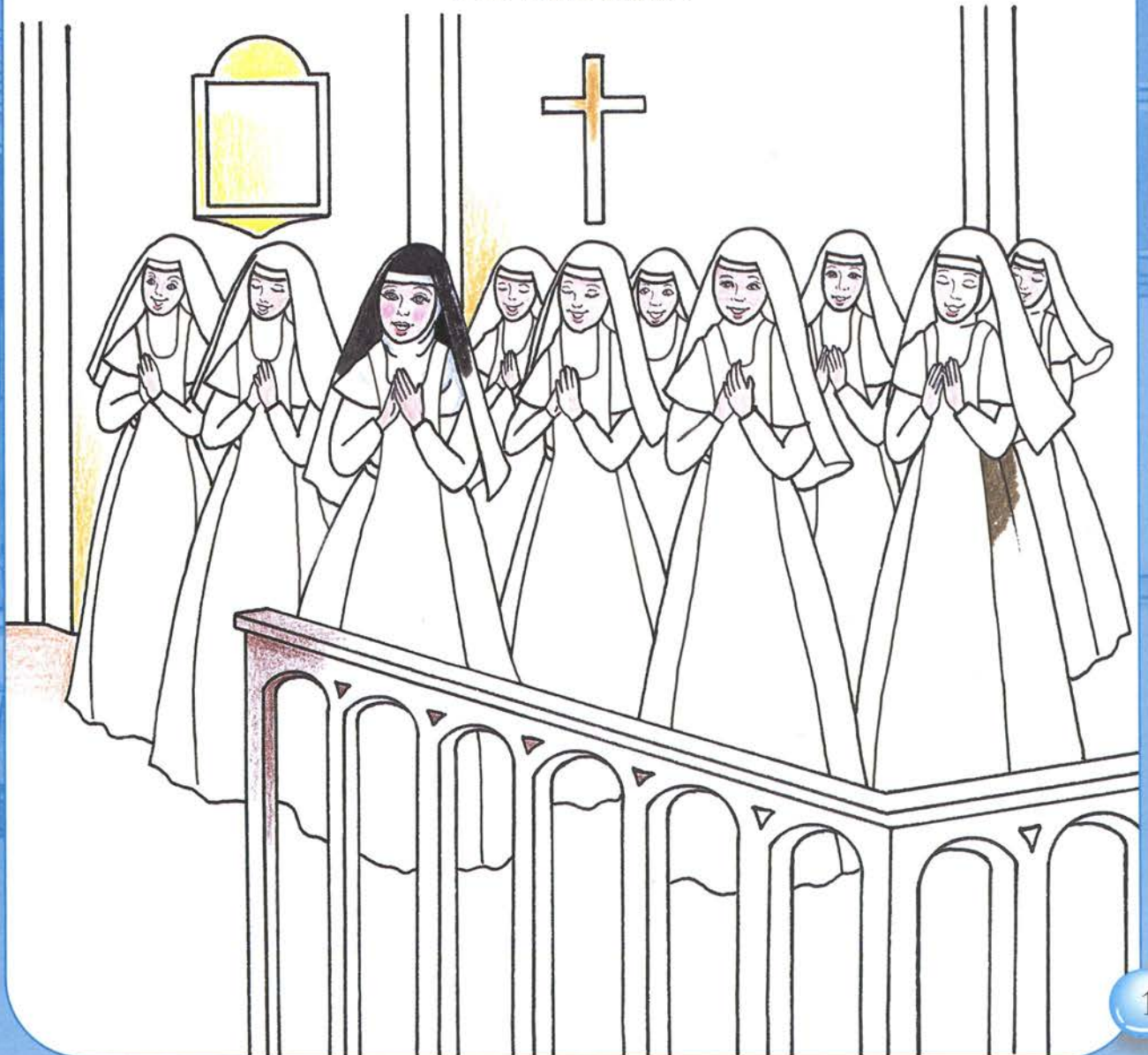


**A**malia listened to God's call and went to the Carmelite convent named Himmelspforten in Germany. She knocked on the door and asked if she could come and live there as a Carmelite Sister. On January 25, 1882 Amalia entered the Carmelite convent.

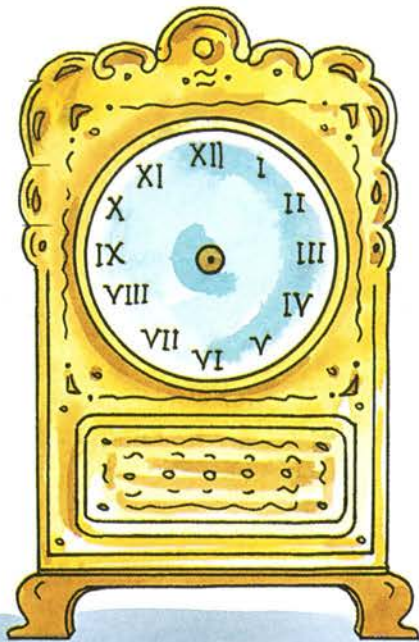
Here she is praying with the other Sisters.



Color in the picture.

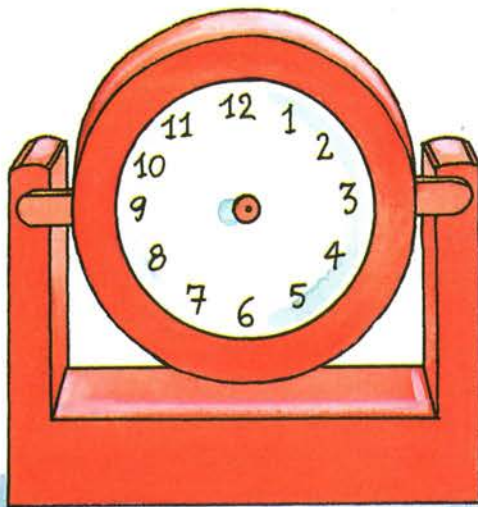






## Amalia's clock

Do you know why Amalia's clock has no hands?  
It's because in the Carmelite convent she learned that all time is spent with God.



**Which prayers do you know?  
When do you say your prayers?**

**Put a circle on the clock  
around your prayer time,  
when you are with Jesus.**



One night while she was at prayer she asked God, "Why have you called me to Carmel?" She heard in her heart God's reply, "To combine the active life with the contemplative one." The same words St. Francis had spoken to her. Do you remember?

A few days later while she was at prayer she saw something strange: She saw two mountains, one higher than the other, standing before her. On the higher one, which she recognized as Mount Carmel, she saw Elijah and St. Teresa. On the lower one, Mount Alverno, she saw St. Francis with a cross in his hands. Both mountains curved around to form an arc. It seemed as if St. Teresa and St. Francis wanted to pull her to the center. She understood that she was to begin a new way of life of prayer and charity towards her brothers and sisters.



Use an arrow to point to where the three saints at the foot of the two mountains belong.

**A**malia left Carmel and returned home to wait for God to show her what to do. She always prayed to God so that she would be able to do only what God wanted.

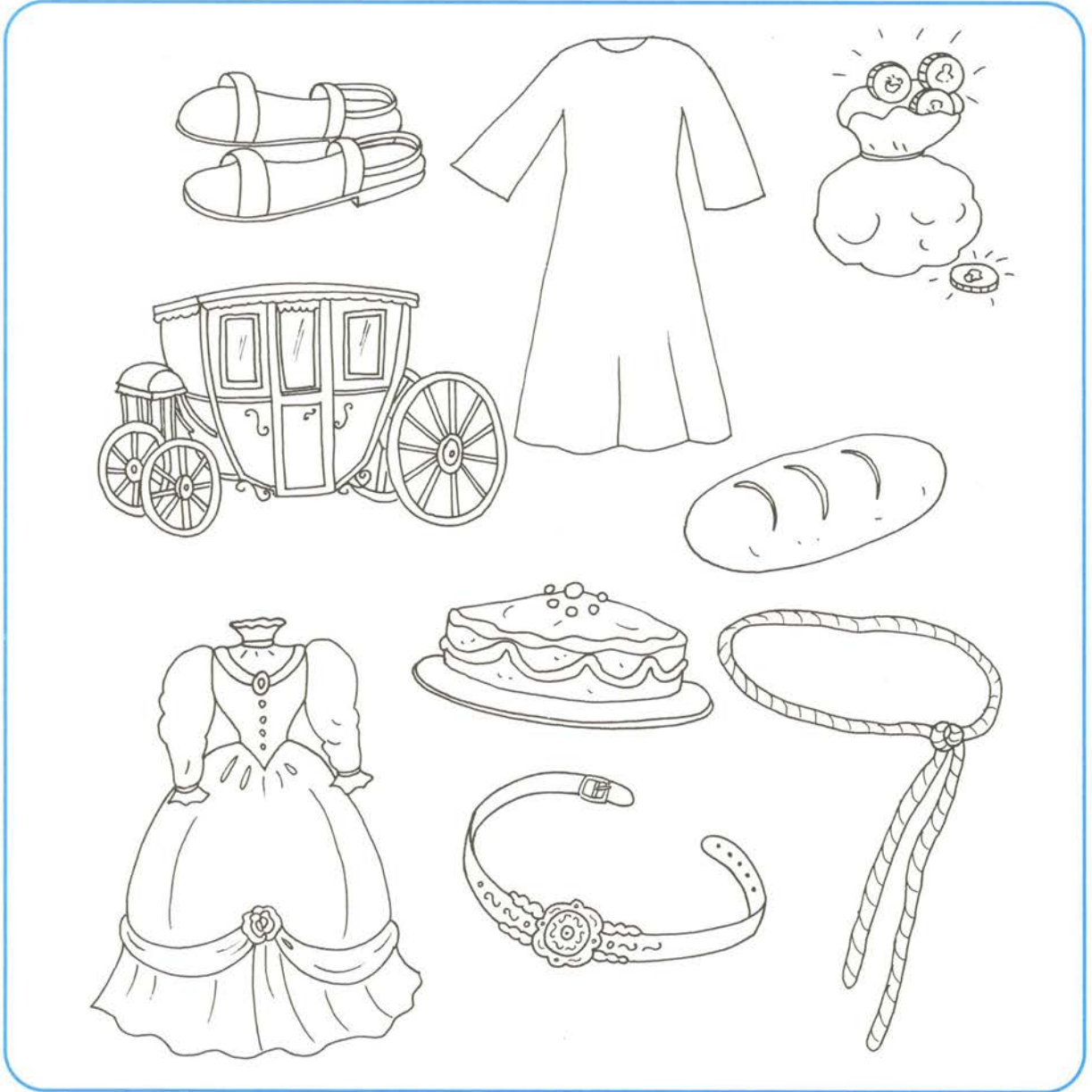


Which road does Amalia need to take to reach her parents' house?  
Trace the correct route.

**S**he later found out that a German priest who was in Italy, Father Francis Jordan, was looking for a Sister to help start his religious family. Amalia agreed to go to Rome, happy to be close to Mother Church and to the Pope.



**A**malia wanted to follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi who lived in poverty for love of God and the poor. So she was happy to see that the bedroom she received in Rome was very simple.

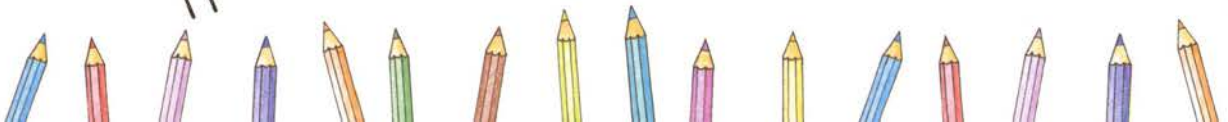


Color in the things that Amalia and St. Francis of Assisi preferred.

**F**or two years she worked with Father Jordan.  
She received a new name, **Sister Mary Frances of the Cross.**  
Some girls from Germany followed her example and came to Rome.  
The little community wanted to live like St. Francis and wanted to serve  
the very poor. On October 4, 1885, the Pope approved the rule  
of the **Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother.**  
Father Jordan continued his community with another helper.



Color in the picture.



**O**n January 6, 1886, Sister Mary Frances and 18 Sisters, made their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

They were then dressed in a new religious habit; a simple gray habit, a white cincture (looks like a belt), sandals and a veil.



On page 39 you will find the picture of Mary Frances and her habit. Dress her up!

**B**ecause Sister Mary Frances was the leader of the little community,  
the Sisters called her Mother Frances.  
She lived a simple life with the first Sisters.  
They prayed together, looked after the sick and lived in community.  
They were happy with the little they had.



Color the four pictures that show the life  
of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother.







**T**he Sisters  
cared for the sick  
in their homes  
and the poor  
who lived in  
the streets.



Color the pictures  
on this page.



Looking after the poor and the sick required money and the Sisters were poor themselves. So they went and asked for charitable gifts, first in Europe and then in America. Two Sisters sailed to New York in a storm during which they even saw a ship sink.

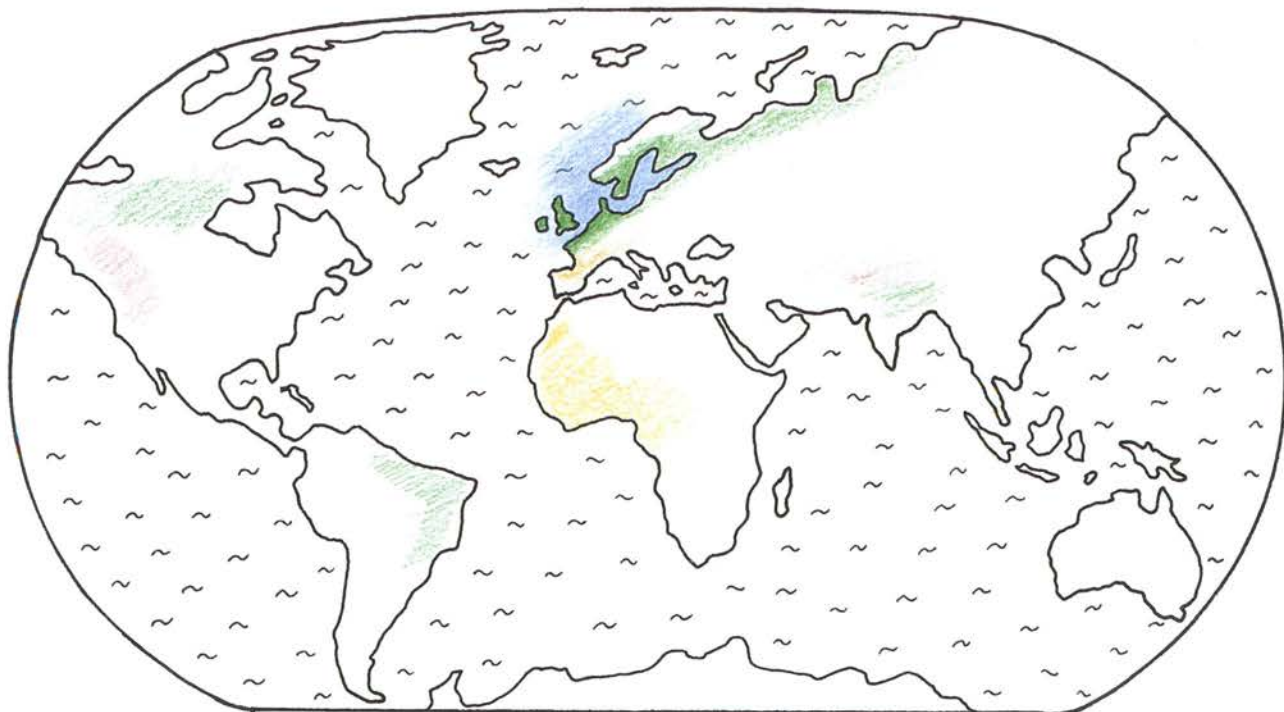


**T**he Sisters went to America to beg for money for the poor of Rome, but they found poor people in America too, the families of woodcutters.

A bishop asked them to stay and help the people in America.

Mother Frances gave her permission. The Sisters had gone to beg but they stayed in America to help.

The first mission in America was St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, Kansas.



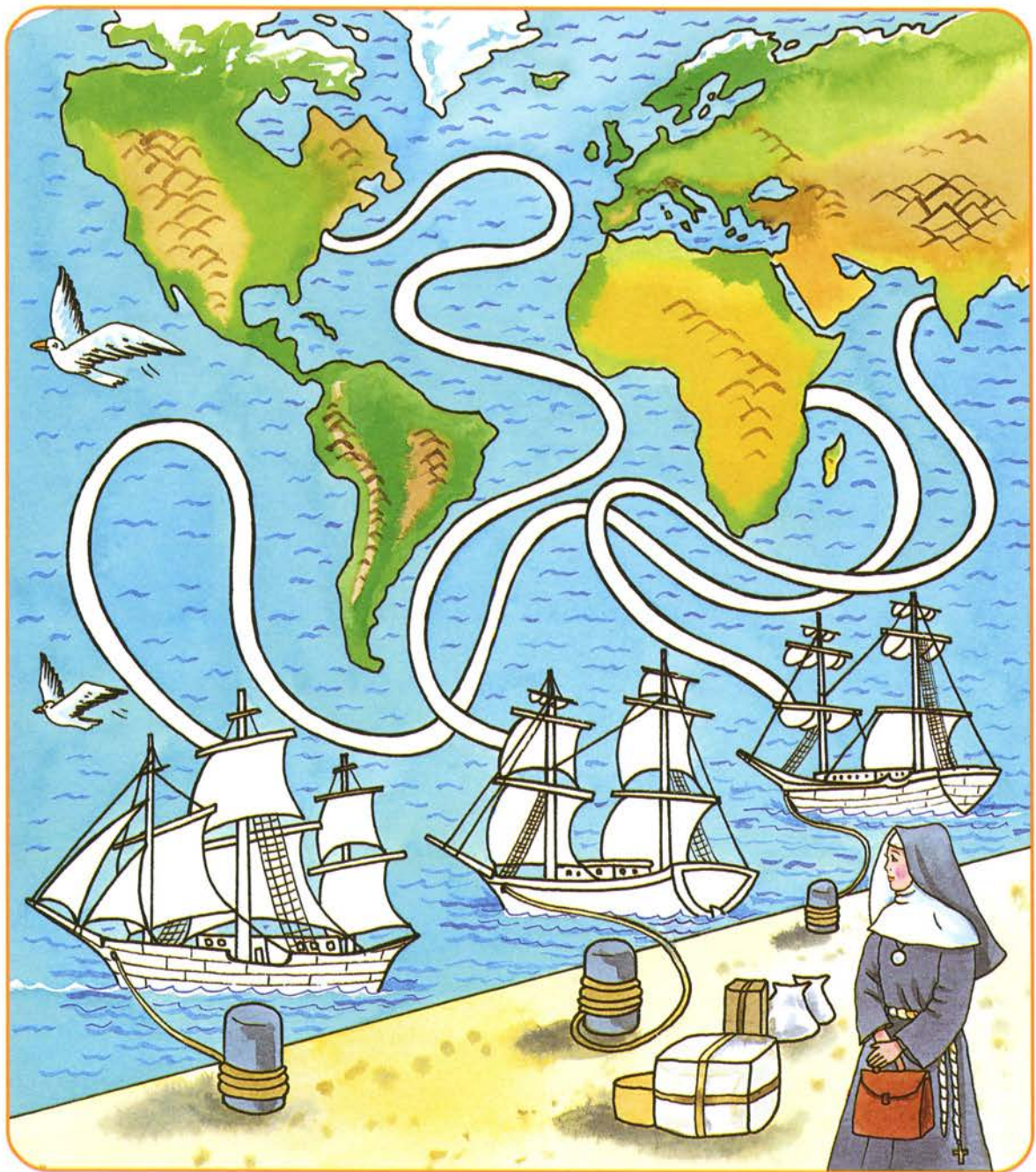
**B**esides the sick, they also took care of babies and children who had no parents.



Color the picture.



Despite her delicate health,  
Mother Frances set sail for America to help her Sisters.



Which ship does Mother Frances need to take to reach  
her Sisters in America? Color the ship and the correct route.



In 1892 two Austrian noble ladies called the Sisters to Vienna. There they nursed a lady in the emperor's court.



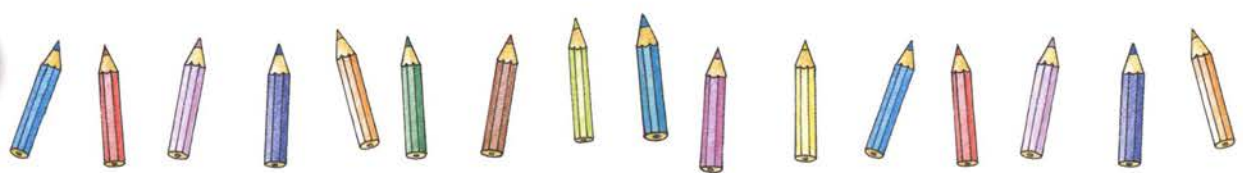
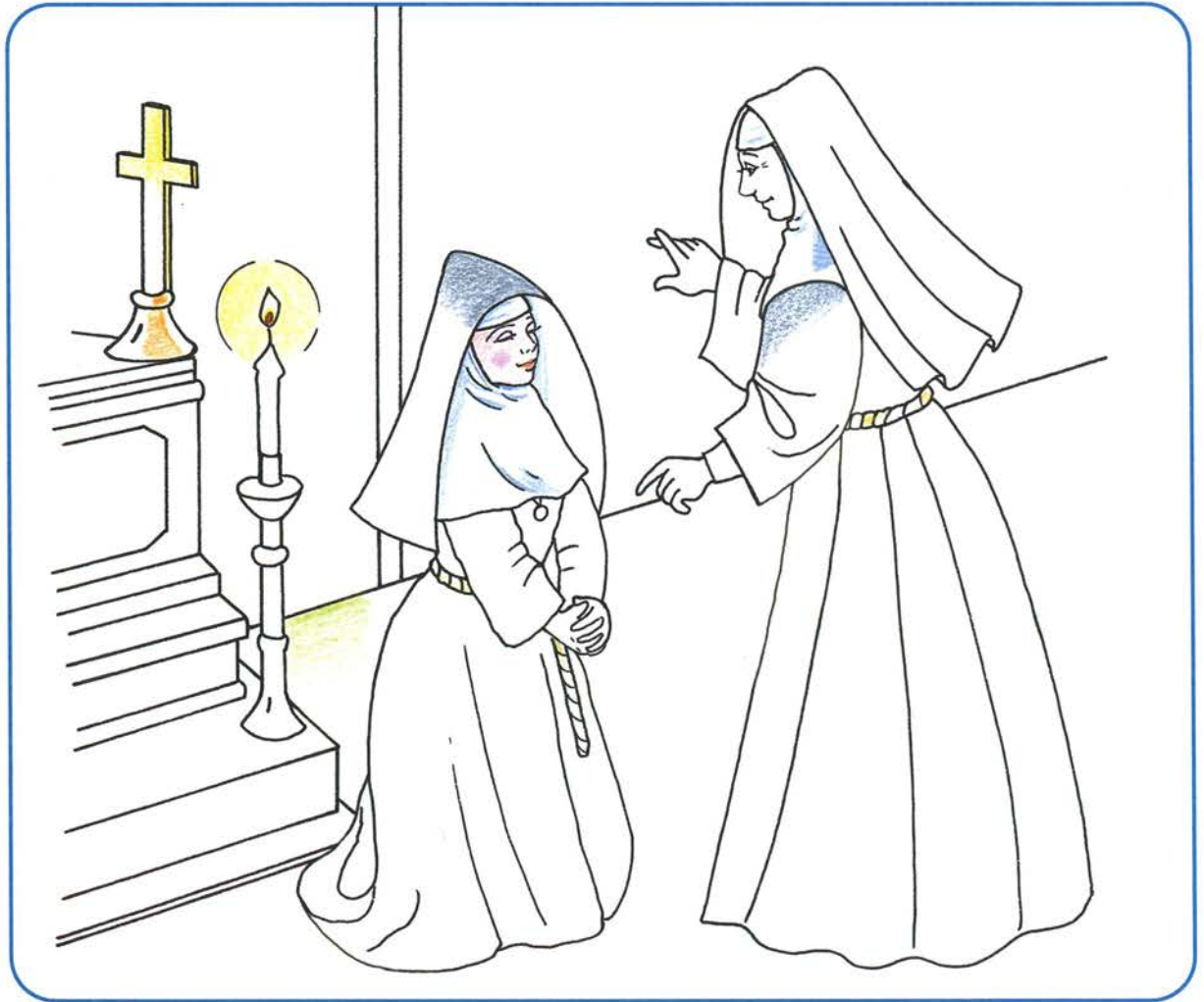
A short time afterwards they were given permission to open a convent in Vienna. Mother Frances was filled with joy over this.



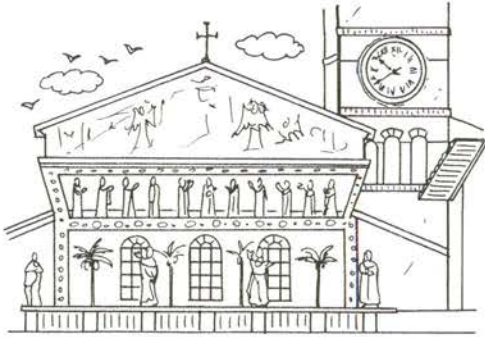
Color the picture.

**M**other Frances also had some difficult moments, like when she was removed from leading the community of Sisters which she herself had started.

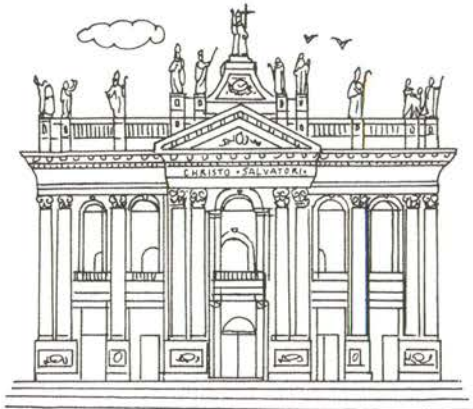
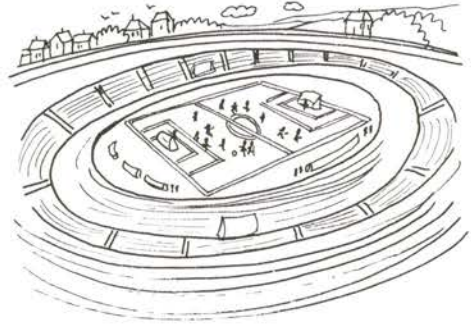
Mother Frances went to the new leader, Mother Johanna, and promised to be obedient to her. Mother Frances calmly said, "Let's leave things as they are. God has allowed it to happen; so that's fine."



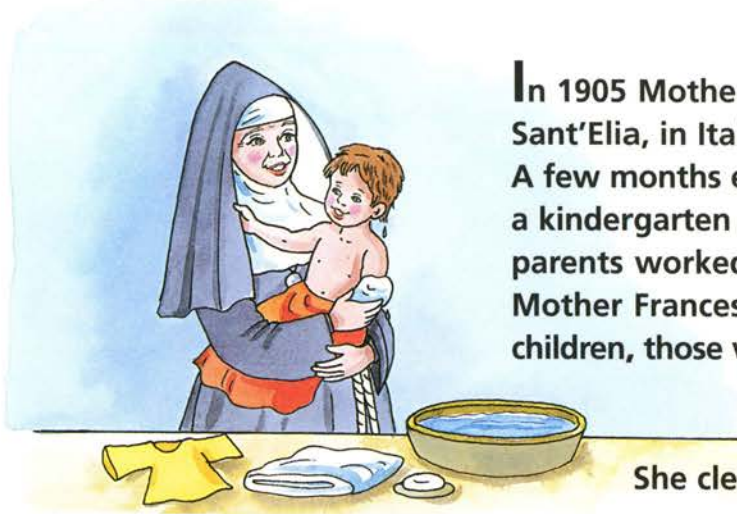
**M**other Frances did the most humble tasks  
and when she had time she visited the churches in Rome.



Color in the places that  
Mother Frances visited.







**I**n 1905 Mother Frances arrived at Castel Sant'Elia, in Italy.

A few months earlier the Sisters had started a kindergarten for poor children while their parents worked in the fields. Day after day Mother Frances took care of the smallest children, those who were neglected and sick.

She cleaned and washed them,



She asked for bread for those children who had none,



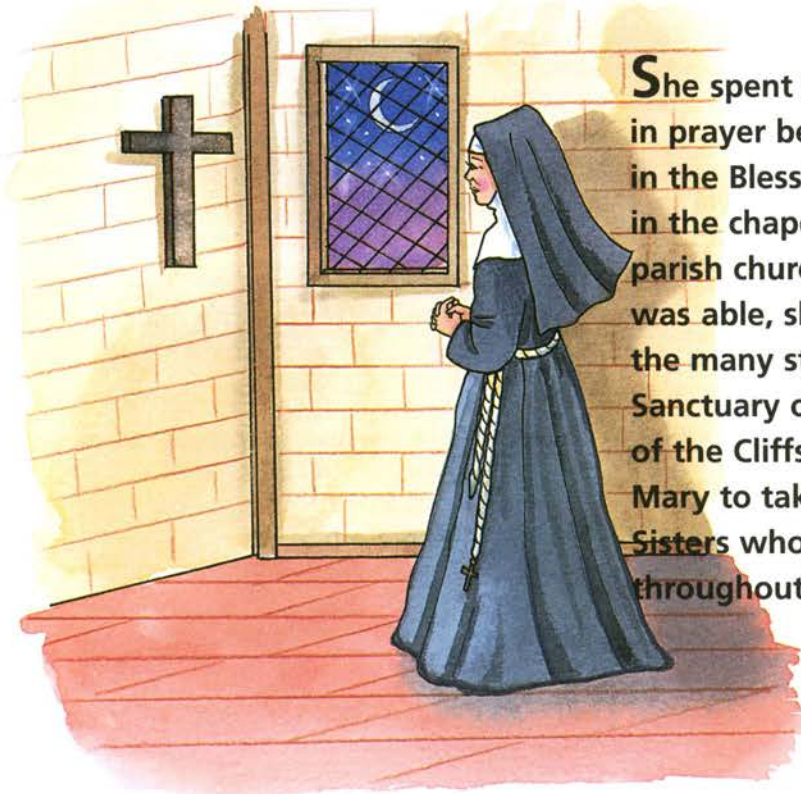
she taught them their prayers,



she taught French and German to a few older girls,



she went to visit the sick in their homes.



**S**he spent a lot of time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, in the chapel and in the parish church. When she was able, she went down the many steps to the Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Cliffs. She asked Mary to take care of the Sisters who were scattered throughout the world.

**E**ven when she was tired, at the end of each day she would go and help the Sisters in the kitchen or with other needed chores.



Do you help your mom or dad with the housework?

Draw a picture of yourself helping mom or dad.

A large, empty rounded rectangle with an orange border, intended for the student to draw a picture of themselves helping their parents with housework.

**N**o one in the area knew that Mother Frances was the Foundress of the Sisters, but people called her "the saint" because they saw she was a special person who carried a great treasure with her.

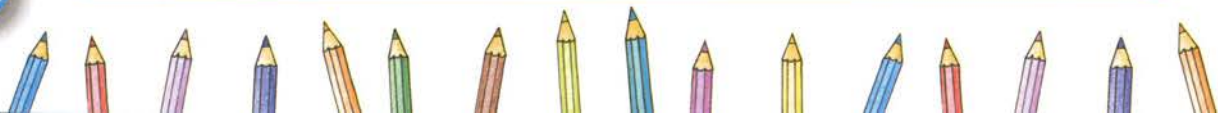
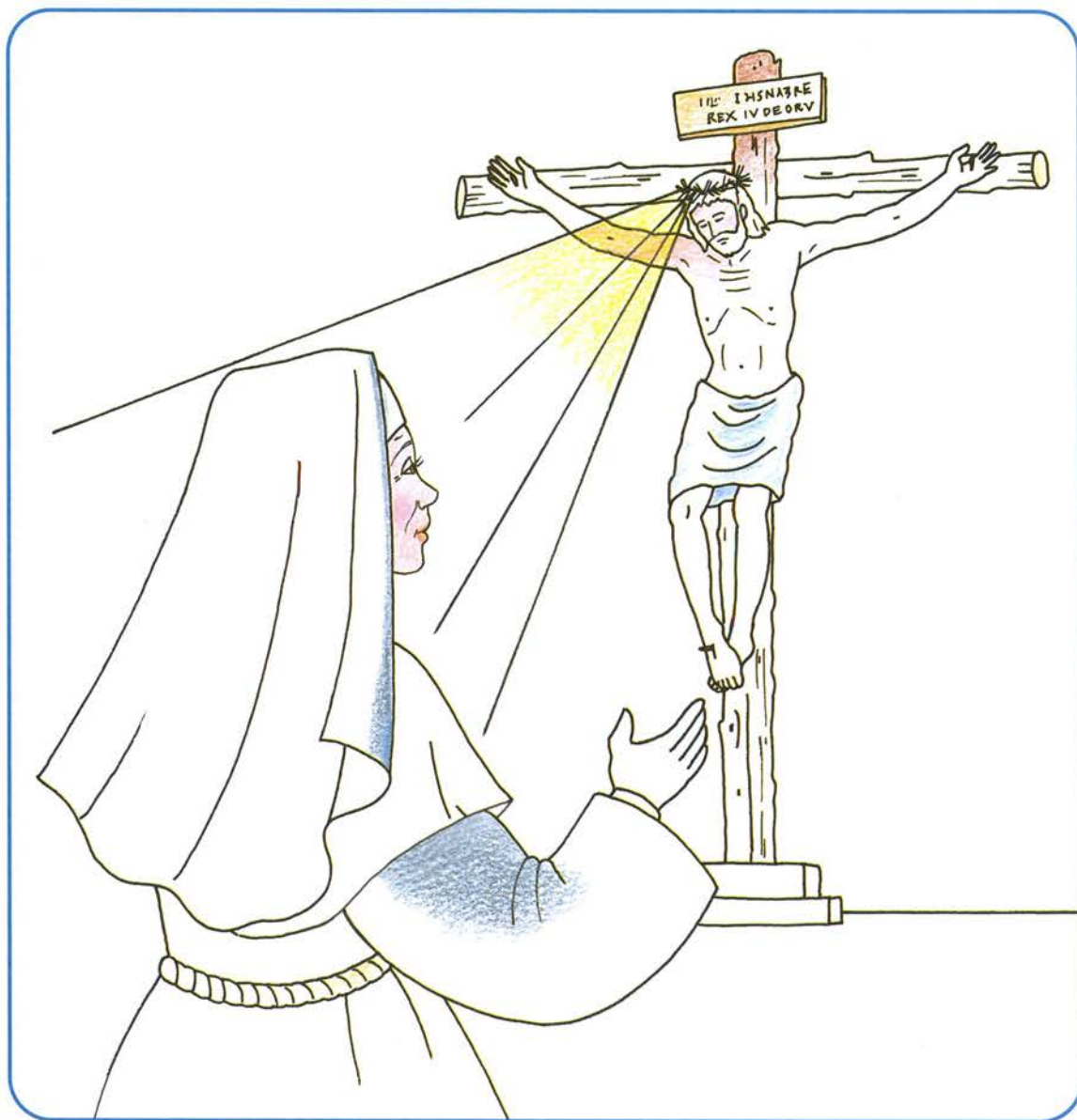


Color the picture.

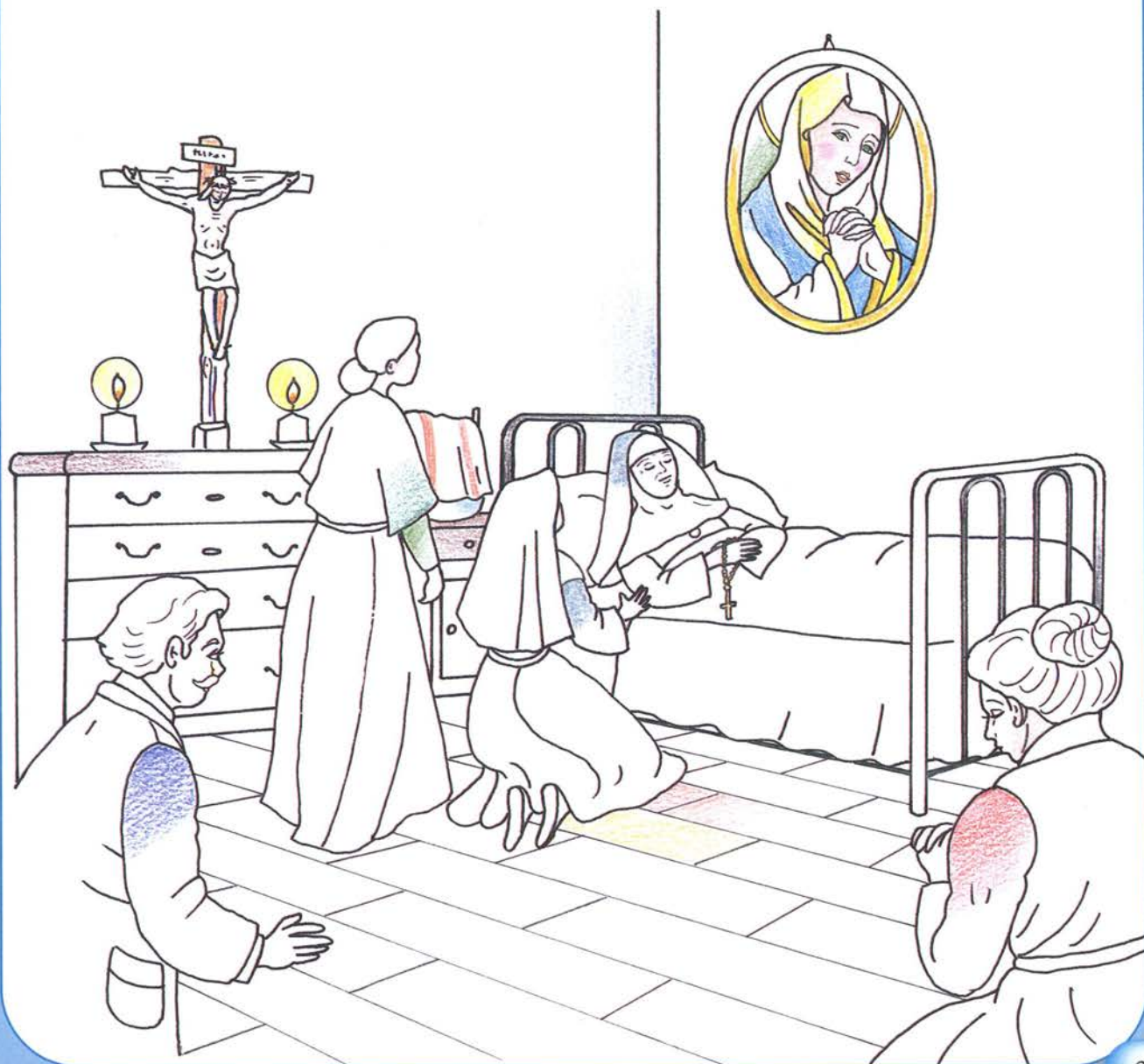
**M**other Frances really loved praying in front of Jesus on the Cross, like Mary, his mother. Mother Frances used to think of how much Jesus loved us... so much that he died for us.

She also wanted to show her love for Him and she asked to be able to share His pain, at least the pain of the crown of thorns.

Shortly afterwards she suffered from intense headaches and had to stay in bed.



**O**n March 6, 1911, Mother Frances died after receiving Holy Communion.  
One of her last sayings was,  
“Lord, I want to have a thousand lives and give them all to you.”  
The church bells rang out and everyone knew that “the saint” had died.  
They all told each other about her death and rushed to get something  
of hers as a relic and souvenir.



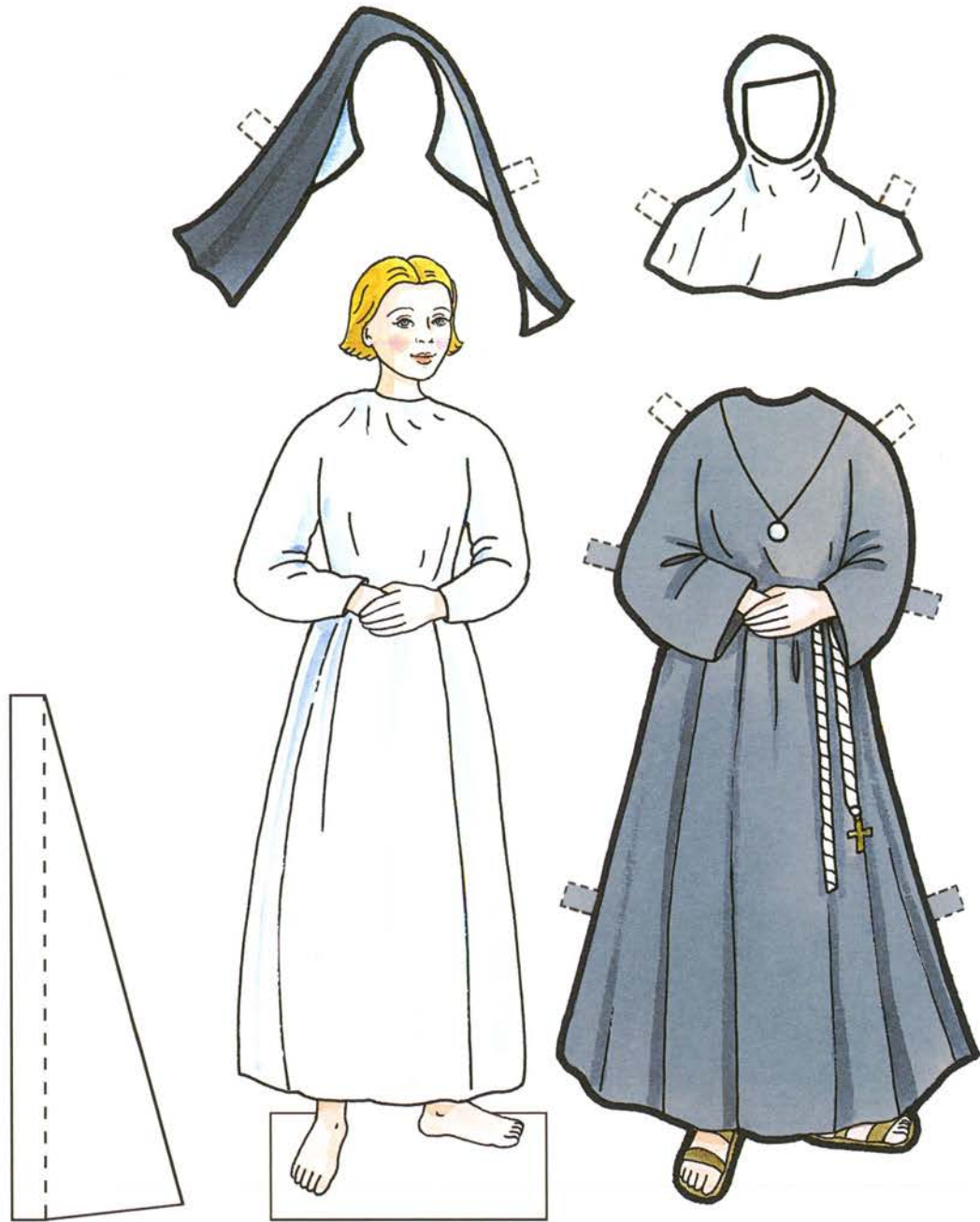
Color the picture.

**M**other Frances is in heaven now. She has reached her treasure, the one she had in her heart, like in a jewel case, the one she tried to make known throughout all her life: Jesus. Now this jewel case has been opened to you too. Through Mother Frances you, too, can ask Jesus to become your treasure. He would like that very much.





Here are the parts of Mary Frances' habit which she received in January 1886.



Cut out these pages on the dotted lines.

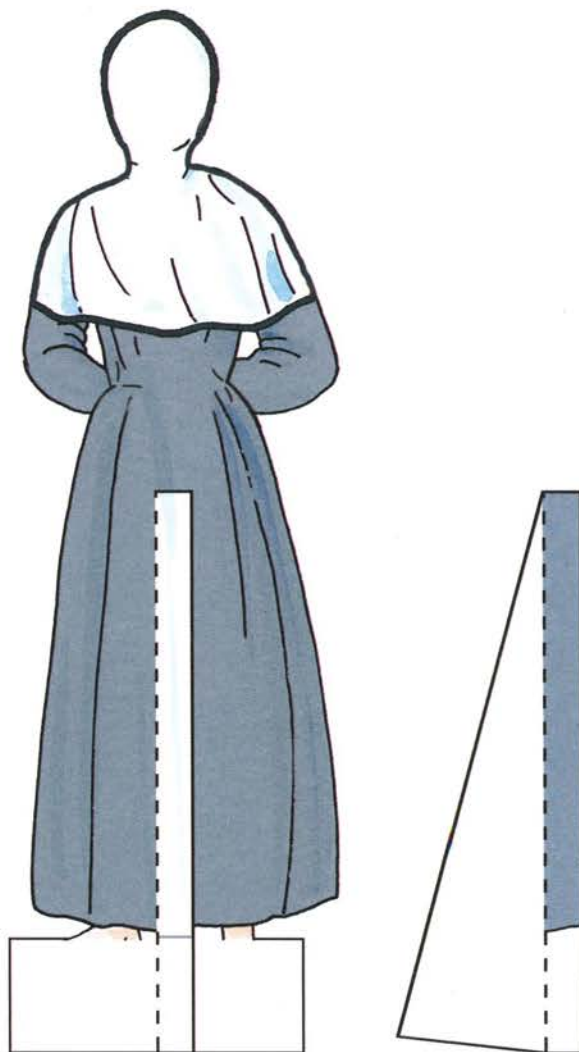
Cut out the figure of Mary Frances and the pieces of her clothing.

Cut out the two support pieces, paste them together and attach them as shown so the figure can stand alone.





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