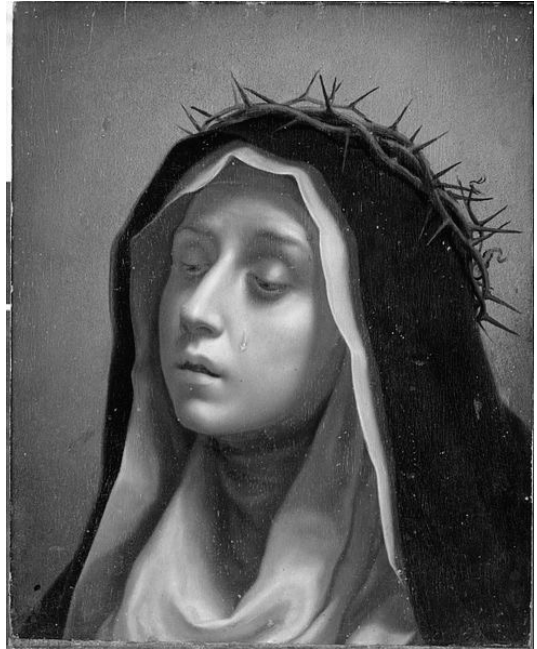


Saint Catherine of Siena

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions.

Saint Catherine was born into a very large family of tradesmen in the fourteenth century. Throughout her life she had mystical experiences of God and visions of heaven. She dedicated her life to Christ as a young girl and refused to be married by cutting off her hair so she would look less attractive. She never became a nun, but she did wear a habit as a Third Order Dominican. After feeling called by God to go out and serve the poor, she left her parents' home and gained many disciples and admirers in her service to God. She wrote many letters of correspondence with important people throughout Europe including princes, kings, and the Pope.



She was instrumental in convincing the Pope to return to his rightful place in Rome from Avignon, France where he was living at the time. She also wrote a collection of spiritual books, the contents of which later convinced Pope Paul VI to name her as one of the Doctors of the Church among the greatest minds in the Church's history.

1. How did Saint Catherine show her faith in God as a young girl?

2. How did Saint Catherine influence world leaders (especially the Pope) from her home in Siena?

3. What famous people would you like to write to and what would you say to them in your letters?
