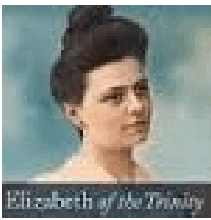


## Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity



Blessed Elizabeth, soon to be Saint Elizabeth, was born Elizabeth Catez on July 18, 1880 on the air force base in Avord, France. Her father, Joseph Catez, before enlisting in the military, was raised in a poor, agricultural family. Her mother was Marie Rolland, the daughter of a successful military man. Elizabeth we baptized at the camp's chapel. Growing up on a military base Elizabeth was naturally formed with the virtues of courage and forthrightness.

In 1887, Elizabeth's maternal grandfather died, and in October of that same year her father also died suddenly of a heart attack. This resulted in Madame Catez moving to Dijon, France (yes, the place made famous for mustard) with her two daughters, Elizabeth and Marguerite.



As a child Elizabeth had a terrible temper. However, that all changed upon celebrating her First Communion in 1891. Tears of joy ran down her face after receiving communion, and as she left church she said to a close friend, "I'm no longer hungry. Jesus has fed me." From then on she became more controlled, visited the sick, sang in the choir, and taught religion to children in a local tobacco factory where she worked. On that same afternoon of her First Communion she encountered the prioress of the Carmel of Dijon. She told Elizabeth that the name Elizabeth means "house of God." A few days later, she would send this same message to Elizabeth, writing on the back of a holy card: "Your blessed name hides a mystery, accomplished on this great day. Child, your heart is the House of God on earth, of the God of love."



From the day of her First Communion, young Elizabeth seemed to know at a deep level that, through the sacrament of the Eucharist, Jesus had come to dwell within her in a new way. While studying at the Music Conservatory of Dijon Elizabeth became an accomplished pianist saying her passion came from playing to please God Himself. Her deepest passion, though, was to give her life completely to God by becoming a Carmelite nun even though her mother initially discouraged her. More than one man asked for her hand in marriage, but she refused.

On August 2, 1901, she entered the Dijon Carmel, the convent just 200 meters from her home. She was influenced by the writing of St. Thérèse (the Little Flower) who was a contemporary and also a Carmelite but living in Lisieux. Both Elizabeth and Thérèse share a zeal for contemplation and the salvation of souls. As a nun, Elizabeth chose the name of Elizabeth of the Trinity. Contemplating the meaning of her name "house of God" and the powerful experience of receiving Communion, she was of the conviction that the Trinity was living within her. She believed that all people were created to be united with Jesus, to be made like him, even in his suffering, and that this was the great plan of God.



Speaking of suffering, Elizabeth suffered greatly from Addison's disease which, at the time, had no treatment. After only five years in the convent, Elizabeth died on November 9, 1906 at the age of 26. Accepting suffering, her last words before departing this world were: "I am going to Light, to Love, to Life."

Before she died, she did intuit that her role in heaven would be to draw souls out of themselves in order to cling to God. On November 25, 1984, Pope John Paul II beatified Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity. On October 16, 2016 Pope Francis will canonize Elizabeth as Saint Elizabeth. She reminds us that when we love, the Trinity becomes our home, and we live there in this life and in the next.

Apart from being the patron of our parish grouping, Elizabeth is also the patron against illness, of sick people, and the loss of parents.