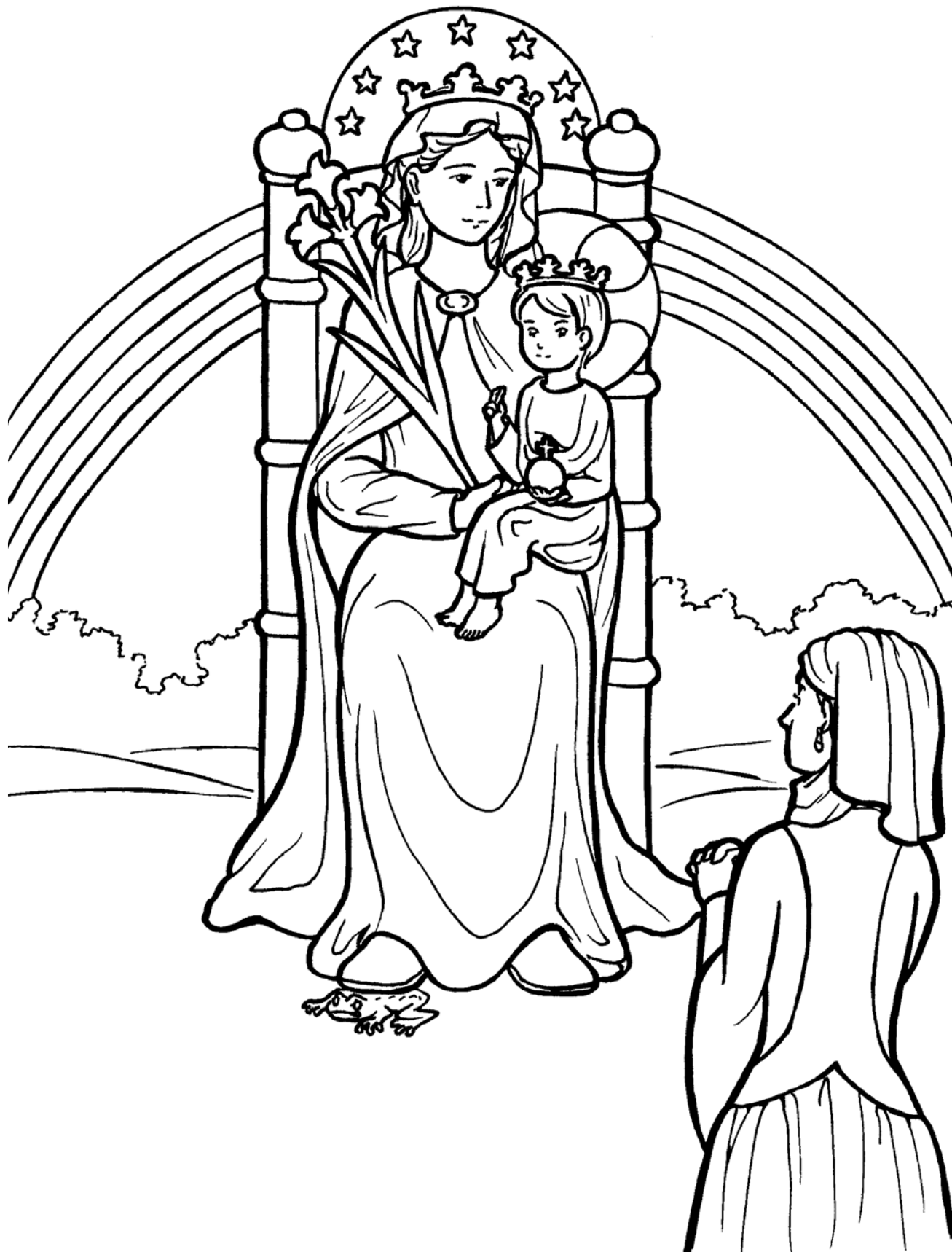


# Our Lady of Walsingham

September 24



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1061 • Marian Apparition

A noble widow, Lady Richeldis de Faverches, prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary, asking Mary to show her how to do good for Mary's honor.

Mary heard Lady Richeldis's prayer and appeared to her. She showed the Lady Richeldis a vision of her small home in Nazareth, where Jesus had grown up with her and Joseph. She then asked the Lady Richeldis to build a small house like the one in Nazareth in the little country village of Walsingham in England.

The Lady Richeldis did as Mary asked.

She built a small wooden house with the exact same measurements as Mary's house in Nazareth. The holy house had the smallest of windows, but the darkness was banished by the light of many candles.

Inside the small house was a statue of Mary seated on a throne with Jesus on her lap, both wearing royal crowns. On the back of her throne was a rainbow. Under her foot is a toadstone, a symbol of evil for the English. The statue is called "Our Lady of Walsingham."

A great monastery with high columns and grand arches was built around the holy house. Many pilgrims came to pray and visit. Even many English kings came barefoot to offer their prayers.

Many hundreds of years later, King Henry VIII left the Catholic Church to make a rival church of his own, and he destroyed the monastery and the house. He had Mary's statue thrown into the fire. In the twentieth century, a new shrine and new statue were built. But sadly, Mary's little house is there no more.

Today, pilgrims flock to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to pray just as they did long ago. They go to Our Lady of Walsingham to ask for help in doing what is good.

Our Lady of Walsingham, show me how to do good for your honor!