St. Jeanne D'Arc

1412–1431

Feast Day:
May 30

Jeanne D'Arc was born in a small French village. When Jeanne was a teenager, angels and saints appeared to her. The angels and saints told Jeanne to help the king of France in the war against England.

Jeanne led her troops to victory. The French were on their way to winning the war with Jeanne's help.

Some French people were mad about this. Even though they were French, they wanted England to win. They arrested Jeanne and put her in jail. They threw her in an iron cage. They put chains on her neck, hands, and feet.

At her trial, they asked Jeanne tricky questions to try to confuse her. They tried to get Jeanne to say she was a witch, and that her visions of saints were bad.

Even though Jeanne had helped him, the French king did nothing to help her.

Jeanne was convicted of witchcraft and heresy (speaking against the Church) and burned alive. She was 19 years old.

Thirty years later, a Church court said that her trial had been unfair. Jeanne was declared innocent of all crimes.