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The Mother with the big heart

**Saint Mary Joseph
Rossello**

Foundress of the Daughters
of Our Lady of Mercy





Many, many years ago,
on May 27, 1811, in
the little town of
Albisola Marina,
Benedetta was born.

Her parents were
Bartolomew Rossello and
Maria Dedone.

On the same day that
she was born,
Benedetta was baptized
in the Church of Our
Lady of Concord.

Her father,
Bartholomew, worked
with clay and made
beautiful ceramic
things.

Benedetta helped her
parents with the
housework. She also
played with the clay
that her father would
give her by making
little figurines of
sisters and convents.





Benedetta was a girl just like any other: she loved to get together with her friends to play.

But most of all she enjoyed running on the beach along the shore.

After playing she would invite her friends to pray the Rosary with her.



Benedetta, even though young, started working in order to help her parents.

She started working for the Monleone family, an elderly couple of Savona who had no children.

But Benedetta carried in her heart a great desire to consecrate herself to God as a religious sister.

One day, Bishop Augustine De Mari, was walking along the streets of Savona and met some girls who were fighting and screaming.

The Bishop tried to talk to them but they snubbed him.

The Bishop was very sad about what happened.

He wished he could find a generous person who would take care of these girls and teach them how to act in the right way.





Benedetta heard about the request of the Bishop, and with some of her friends, on August 10, 1837, started the Institute of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy.

As a sister, Benedetta changed her name to Sister Mary Joseph because of her great devotion to St. Joseph.

Mother Mary Joseph had a big heart - she used to say, "the poor are our best friends".

Whenever poor people knocked at the door of the convent, Mother Rossello welcomed them and gave them something to eat.





She started a school for the poor boys and girls and hospitals for the sick.

With her big heart she helped to rescue the young African girls who were being sold as slaves at the markets of Egypt.



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On November 14, 1875,
she sent the first
missionary sisters to
South America.

Today, the
Daughters of Our Lady
of Mercy are present in
20 countries.



Saint Joseph was the great friend of Mother Rossello, she would turn to him at every moment for all her needs.

One day, when Mother Rossello did not have anything to feed the girls, she asked the Sisters to pray to dear Saint Joseph and right away she received all that she needed.

After a life dedicated
to God and to the
many brothers and
sisters in need,
Mother Rossello died
on December 7, 1880.

On June 12, 1949,
Pope Pius XII
declared her a Saint.



"Go to Jesus,
He loves
us"



Bicentennial of the birth
of Saint Mary Joseph Rossello
1811 -2011

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