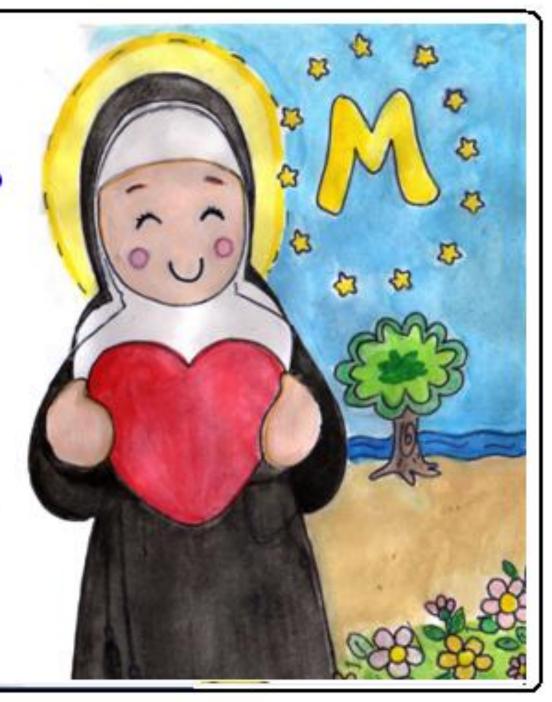
Manuel Andrés Díaz Salas

## 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.

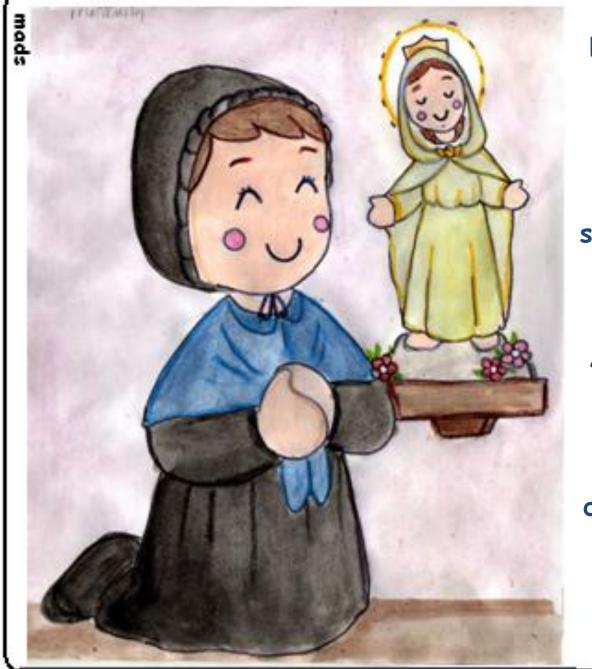
But Benedetta carried in her heart a great desire to consecrate herself to God as a religious sister. One day, Bishop Augustine De Mari, was walking along the streets of Savona and met some girls who were fighting and screaming.

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.



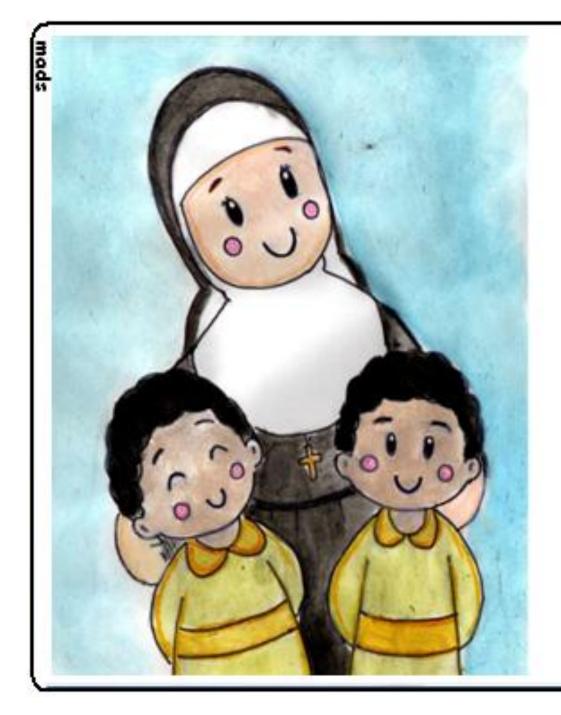


Benedetta heard about the request of the Bishop, and with some of her friends, on August 10, 1837, started the Institute of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy.

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".

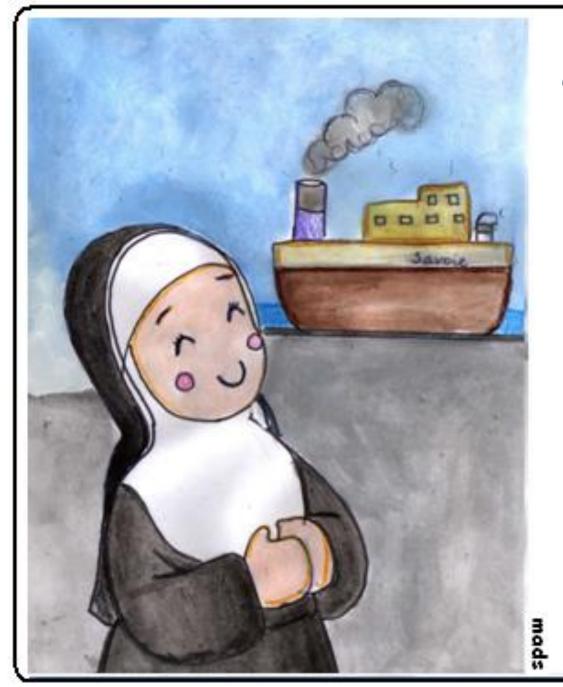
Whenever poor people knocked at the door of the convent, Mother Rossello welcomed them and gave them something to eat.





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.



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.

mads

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.



