



## Minute of Mercy

### ST. MARGARET MARY

*St. Margaret Mary was born on July 22, 1647, in L'Hauteiour of Burgundy, France. In 1671, she entered the "Visitation" convent at Paray le Monial. This was after receiving visions of Christ reprimanding her and wanting her to belong only to Him as His spouse. She began experiencing these visions of Christ at the age of 20, in 1671. In December 1672, a series of revelations began and continued for the next year and a half where Christ revealed she was a chosen instrument to spread devotion to His Sacred Heart. He instructed her in a devotion that was to become known as the "First Nine Fridays and Holy Hour" and asked that the Feast of the Sacred Heart be established. Her superior initially rebuffed her visions but eventually the superior recognized Divine Providence's influence over this humble nun's soul. Unfortunately, she was not able to convince many members of neither her community nor groups of theologians. She did, however, receive much support from Blessed Claude La Colombiere, who was her confessor for a while at this community. He believed her and declared her visions were genuine. He himself has since been canonized. It wasn't until 1683, the opposition in her community ended. Another superior, Mother Melin was appointed superior and she appointed Sr. Margaret Mary her assistant. Sr. Margaret Mary became a Novice Mistress. The convent began to privately observe the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1686 and two years later a chapel was built at the convent in Paray le Monial to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

*Sr. Margaret Mary died October 17, 1690 at seven o'clock in the evening. She was 43 years old. At her passing, it is said that at the moment she began to enjoy the sweet embraces of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an unknown beauty spread over her face. Her features, so delicate and so pure, assumed a heavenly expression. (The Life of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque by Rt. Rev. E'mile Bougaud) Finally, devotion was officially recognized and approved by Pope Clement XIII in 1765, 75 years after the death of Sr. Margaret Mary. She would not be canonized until 1920, 230 years after her death.*

### Mercy in Action

*This week's **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to take time this week to read a book or watch a video about the life of a saint. A list of resources is available on the Year of Mercy table in the back of church.*