

March 6

# St. Colette

1381–1447 • France

Colette's parents were sad because they did not have a child. They prayed to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, for a baby. Soon after, a baby girl was born to them. They named her Nicoletta, in honor of St. Nicholas, and called her Colette for short.

When Colette's parents died, she decided to give her life to God. At first, she wanted to live in a small cell in prayer all by herself. But God had other plans for her. While she was praying, she saw a vision of St. Francis of Assisi kneeling before the Lord. The saint said, "Lord, give me this woman for the reform of my order," and the Lord nodded approval. Now Colette knew that God wanted her to reform the Franciscan order. But Colette also knew how difficult this would be. She would much rather stay in her small cell in peace. She refused to leave her cell, and in punishment for her refusal, Colette was struck blind and deaf. When Colette decided to obey the Lord, her sight and hearing were restored.

So, Colette set about restoring the Franciscan order. She received the approval of the pope and was sent to reform a community of Poor Clare nuns. The nuns regarded Colette with suspicion. They did not understand why this new nun thought she could change things in their community. But then a great miracle happened that showed the nuns that God was with Colette.

A farmer's wife had given birth to a stillborn baby. The distraught father had brought the baby to the parish priest and begged him to baptize the baby. But the priest pointed out that the baby was already dead and, therefore, could not be baptized. The farmer begged and begged. He would not leave the priest alone. In frustration, the priest told the farmer to take the baby to the nuns. Maybe they could do something for him!

The farmer took the priest at his word and carried the baby in his arms to Sr. Colette. Colette gazed at the sorrowful father, took off her black veil, and gave it to him. She told him to wrap the baby in her veil and return to the priest. When the priest saw the farmer and his little black bundle, the two started arguing once again. But suddenly their words were interrupted by a wail. The baby underneath the veil was crying! Immediately, the priest baptized the baby.

News of Colette's miracle spread and made it easier for her to reform the Franciscan communities until she died a holy death. She reformed seventeen monasteries, and her nuns were known for their dedication to lives of poverty and fasting. St. Colette, bless the women I know who are pregnant!



**St. Colette**  
March 6