



Our Lady of Good News

FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 16



The Stories

There are two stories that will help us learn about Our Lady of Good News. Both stories took place in Italy many years ago.

The first story took place in an inn in Palermo, Italy, where a church in honor of Holy Mary of Good News stands today. One night, a traveler paid for a room in the inn, and wanted to make a fire in the room so that he could get warm. He picked up a piece of dirty, old board to add to the fire. It looked like a piece of board that had once covered a wall.

The traveler tried to cut the board with an axe, but the board would not break. He hit it again and again, but his axe did not even make a scratch on the board. He told others about this unusual experience, and they all decided that it must be a secret board of some kind. So, they cleaned the dirt from the board and found an image of Our Lady painted on it. She was holding the baby Jesus in her arms, and two angels were placing a crown upon her head.

The people told the archbishop, who formed a procession of the local priests to bring the image of Our Lady to his palace. The archbishop cleaned the board even more, and as he cleaned, the image became even more colorful and beautiful. The archbishop placed the image on an altar in his palace, and many people came to pray before the image. Many prayers were answered, and many miracles occurred. Later, a special church was built to honor Mary.

The second story about Our Lady of Good News took place in that same church many years later.

A Church leader was praying in the church when a messenger came to him. The Church leader asked the messenger, "Do you bring good news?" The messenger said, "Yes!" and then went on to explain that enemies of the Church who were seeking to harm Christians decided to settle their differences peacefully. This is when the church's name was changed from the Church of Holy Mary to the Church of Holy Mary of Good News. The image itself became known as Our Lady of Good News.