

A photograph of a person sitting on a sidewalk. The person is wearing a brown leather boot and a blue and green plaid shirt. A metal cup containing several US dollar bills is placed on the ground next to them. A cardboard sign with the words "HOMELESS" and "PLEASE" is visible in the background. The scene is set on a concrete sidewalk.

Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones

FEAST DAY: MAY 12



The Story

Over 600 years ago, in Valencia, Spain, a home was built to care for abandoned children. The home was placed under the care of Mary, Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones. But there was no statue or image of her to place in the home. Those in charge had no idea of how they would ever find or afford such a thing.

One day, three teenagers knocked on the door of the home. They explained that they needed food and a place to stay. They had no money to offer, but they did have a talent. They could create a statue for the home! All they needed were supplies to create the statue and a private room in which to work. Those in charge had no idea how three teens could create such an important work of religious art, but they welcomed the teens into their home and they gave the teens the supplies needed to create the statue.

For three days the teens worked behind closed doors. Those in charge would knock on the door to see if the teens needed food or additional supplies for the statue, but there was never an answer. Finally, on the third day, those in charge broke open the door only to find that the teens were not there.

But in the center of the room stood a beautiful statue of Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones.

Many people came to pray before the statue of Our Lady, asking for healing, help, and protection. Devotion to her grew so much that Our Lady of the Abandoned Ones became the patroness of the city of Valencia. The abandoned ones she protected grew to include the abandoned children, adults, and elderly.

Our Lady's arms embrace all. Her protection is over all.