THE DAILY BREAD

The Fiat of the Beloved



Choosing a Patroness and Walking with Her

A FORMATION BOOK BY

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The Everyday Apostle

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Choosing a Patroness

Finding a Saint to Walk With

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INTRODUCTION

A Saint to Call Your Own

A woman can believe in the communion of saints, that great company who went before and who pray for those still running the race, and yet relate to it only in general, honoring the saints as a crowd without knowing any one of them personally. There is a difference between believing in a community and having a friend within it, between honoring the saints as a group and knowing one saint as your own, a particular sister in heaven who walks with you, prays for you, and shows you the way. This book is about finding such a friend, about choosing, or being chosen by, a patroness, a saint to call your own.

A patroness is a particular saint with whom a woman enters a living, personal relationship, a heavenly companion and friend who accompanies her through life, prays for her, teaches her, and becomes a true spiritual sister or mother. This is not a matter of superstition or mere custom but of real friendship across the divide of death, a woman and a saint bound in a living relationship that enriches and strengthens the woman's whole journey of faith. Where believing in the communion of saints is to know the great company exists, having a patroness is to have a friend within it, a particular saint who is yours, and this book will show how to find her and how to enter the friendship.

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. — Proverbs 17:17

The Scripture praises the friend who loves at all times, and a patroness is exactly such a friend, a saint who loves a woman constantly, accompanies her through every season, and stands with her in adversity. This book will show what a patroness is and is not; why having one is worth the having; how a patroness is chosen, and how a saint may choose a woman; how to get to know her as a real person; how to enter the friendship in daily life; how to learn to live like her; and how to keep the friendship alive over the seasons of a life. By the end, a woman will know how to find a saint to call her own and how to walk with her, turning her belief in the communion of saints into a living friendship with one particular sister in heaven.

CHAPTER ONE

What a Patroness Is

A Heavenly Friend and Companion

Before a woman chooses a patroness, she should understand what a patroness is and is not, for the practice is often misunderstood, imagined as something superstitious or as a kind of lucky charm, when in truth it is a real and living friendship with a saint. A patroness is a heavenly friend and companion, a particular saint with whom a woman enters a living relationship, who accompanies her, prays for her, and shows her the way, and understanding rightly what a patroness is opens the way to the genuine friendship the practice offers.

Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another. — Proverbs 27:17

A Real Relationship, Not a Charm

A patroness is not a lucky charm or a magical protector but a real person in heaven with whom a woman has a genuine relationship, a living friendship across the divide of death. The practice of having a patron saint is sometimes misunderstood as a kind of superstition, as though the saint were a charm that brings good luck or wards off harm, but this is not what a patroness is, for she is a real person, alive in God, with whom a woman enters a true relationship. The relationship with a patroness is a genuine friendship, a real bond with a real person, the saint knowing and loving and praying for the woman, and the woman knowing and loving and relating to the saint, a living relationship and not a superstitious practice. The woman who understands that a patroness is a real relationship and not a charm enters the practice rightly, seeking not luck but friendship, a real bond with a real sister in heaven. A real relationship, not a charm, is what a patroness offers, a genuine friendship with a real person in heaven rather than a superstitious practice, the saint and the woman bound in a living bond of knowing, loving, and praying.

A Companion Who Shapes You

A patroness is a companion who shapes a woman, who by her friendship and example sharpens and forms her, as iron sharpens iron, so that the relationship is not only comforting but formative. A true friendship shapes both friends, and the friendship with a patroness shapes a woman, for in knowing the saint, learning her life, imitating her virtue, and walking with her, a woman is formed and sharpened by the relationship, grown in holiness through the companionship. This means a patroness is not only a comfort but a formative companion, a saint whose friendship sharpens a woman, drawing her toward the holiness the saint attained, shaping her by example and by the living bond between them. The woman who has a patroness as a companion who shapes her is formed by the friendship, sharpened as iron sharpens iron, grown toward holiness through the living relationship. A companion who shapes you is what a patroness is, a

saint whose friendship and example sharpen and form a woman as iron sharpens iron, so that the relationship is not only comforting but formative, drawing her toward the holiness the saint attained.

A Particular Friend Within the Communion

A patroness is a particular friend within the great communion of saints, one saint with whom a woman has a special relationship while remaining connected to the whole company, so that the particular friendship deepens rather than narrows her life among the saints. Having a patroness does not mean ignoring the rest of the saints but having a particular friend among them, one saint who is especially a woman's own, with whom she has a special bond, even as she remains part of the whole communion and may honor and seek many saints. This particular friendship is like having a close friend within a large family, a special bond with one that deepens a woman's belonging to the whole, so that her patroness is her particular friend within the communion and a doorway deeper into it. The woman who has a patroness has a particular friend within the communion of saints, a special bond with one that enriches her life among the whole company. A particular friend within the communion is what a patroness is, one saint with whom a woman has a special relationship while remaining connected to the whole company, so that the particular friendship deepens rather than narrows her belonging among the saints.

CHAPTER TWO

Why Have a Patroness

The Gift of a Particular Friendship

A woman might ask why she needs a particular patroness when she already belongs to the whole communion of saints, and the answer is that a particular friendship gives what a general belonging cannot, the personal closeness, companionship, and help of one saint who is especially her own. Just as belonging to a community does not replace the gift of a close friend within it, belonging to the communion of saints does not replace the gift of a patroness, a particular saint whose friendship gives a woman a personal companion on her journey. Understanding why a patroness is worth having opens a woman to the gift of a particular friendship among the saints.

Two are better than one. For if they fall, one will lift up the other. — Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

The Help of a Companion

A patroness gives a woman the help of a particular companion on her journey, one who walks with her, prays for her, and lifts her when she falls, so that she does not journey alone but with a dedicated heavenly friend. The Scripture observes that two are better than one, that a companion lifts the one who falls, and a patroness is such a companion, a particular saint dedicated to accompanying a woman, praying for her especially, helping her in her struggles, lifting her when she falls. This particular help is a real gift, for while the whole communion surrounds a woman, a patroness is her own particular companion, attentive to her, praying for her especially, a dedicated heavenly friend who walks her particular road with her. The woman who has a patroness has the help of a particular companion, a saint dedicated to walking with her, praying for her, and lifting her when she falls. The help of a companion is the gift of a patroness, a particular saint who walks with a woman, prays for her especially, and lifts her when she falls, so that she journeys not alone but with a dedicated heavenly friend attentive to her particular road.

A Personal Model

A patroness gives a woman a personal model of holiness, one particular saint whose life and virtue she can study, imitate, and grow into, so that holiness becomes concrete in the example of a specific woman she walks with. The whole communion offers many examples, but a patroness is a particular model, one saint whose life a woman comes to know deeply, whose virtue she studies and imitates, whose path to holiness becomes a concrete model for her own, making holiness tangible in a specific life. This personal model focuses a woman's growth, giving her not a general ideal but a specific example to learn from and grow into, a particular holiness embodied in a saint she knows and walks with. The woman who has a patroness has a personal model, a particular saint whose life and virtue give concrete shape to her own pursuit of holiness. A personal model is a gift of the patroness, one particular saint whose life and virtue a woman can study, imitate, and grow into, so that holiness becomes concrete in the example of a specific woman she walks with rather than a general ideal.

A Relationship That Grows

A patroness gives a woman a relationship that can grow over a lifetime, a friendship that deepens with the years, so that she gains not a momentary help but a lifelong companion whose bond with her strengthens over time. Unlike a passing devotion, a relationship with a patroness grows, deepening as a woman comes to know the saint better, walks with her longer, and shares more of her life with her, so that the friendship becomes a lasting and deepening bond over the seasons of her life. This growing relationship is a gift, for a woman gains not a one-time help but a lifelong friend in heaven, a bond that strengthens over years and accompanies her through every season, deepening as she

goes. The woman who has a patroness has a relationship that grows, a friendship deepening over a lifetime into a lasting bond with a sister in heaven. A relationship that grows is the gift of a patroness, a friendship that deepens over a lifetime into a lasting bond, so that a woman gains not a momentary help but a lifelong companion whose relationship with her strengthens through every season.

CHAPTER THREE

How a Patroness Is Chosen

Sometimes She Chooses You

A woman wanting a patroness naturally asks how to choose one, and the answer is that there are many ways a patroness comes to a woman, some by her choosing and some by the saint seeming to choose her, so that finding a patroness is less a matter of picking than of discovering the saint who is meant to be hers. The practice is not a mechanical selection but a discovery, often a sense of being drawn to a particular saint or of a saint making herself known, and understanding the ways a patroness is chosen helps a woman find the sister in heaven who is meant for her.

You did not choose me, but I chose you. — John 15:16

Being Chosen as Much as Choosing

Often a woman does not so much choose a patroness as find herself chosen by one, drawn to a particular saint, or meeting her in a way that feels like being sought out, so that the relationship begins as much from the saint's side as from the woman's. Many women find that a patroness comes to them rather than being selected, through a sense of being drawn to a saint, a repeated encounter, a saint who keeps appearing in a woman's life, a feeling of connection that seems to come from the saint's side, so that the woman is chosen as much as she chooses. This means a woman need not anxiously pick the right saint but can be open to being chosen, attentive to the saint she is drawn to or who seems to seek her out, trusting that the relationship is being formed from both sides. The woman open to being chosen finds her patroness not only by her own choosing but by the drawing of a saint who seems to seek her, discovering the sister meant for her. Being chosen as much as choosing is often how a patroness comes, a woman drawn to a particular saint or met by one in a way that feels like being sought out, so that she need not anxiously pick the right saint but can be open to the one who seems to choose her.

The Ways a Patroness Comes

There are several common ways a woman finds her patroness, through her baptismal or confirmation name, through a saint whose life resonates with her own, through a saint for her state or struggle, or through a saint she is simply drawn to, and any of these may be the path to her patroness. A woman may take as her patroness the saint whose name she bears from baptism or chose at confirmation, a natural patron already connected to her; or a saint whose life and struggles resonate deeply with her own, a sister who faced what she faces; or a saint associated with her particular state in life or her particular struggle, a patron for her situation; or simply a saint she finds herself drawn to, attracted to her story or her spirit. Any of these is a legitimate path to a patroness, and a woman can consider these ways, attending to which saint comes to her through them, to find the sister meant to be hers. The woman seeking a patroness can look along these paths, her name, a resonant life, her state or struggle, or a simple attraction, to find the saint who is hers. The ways a patroness comes include a woman's baptismal or confirmation name, a saint whose life resonates with her own, a saint for her state or struggle, or a saint she is simply drawn to, any of which may be the path to the patroness meant for her.

Asking and Attending

A woman seeking a patroness can simply ask God to lead her to the right saint and then attend to how He answers, watching for the saint she is drawn to or who makes herself known, trusting that the right patroness will be found. The surest way to find a patroness is to ask God to lead her to the saint He means for her and then to pay attention, reading about saints, noticing which one draws her, watching for a saint who keeps appearing or who seems to seek her out, and trusting that God will guide her to the right one. This asking and attending takes the pressure off choosing perfectly, for a woman trusts God to lead and simply attends to His leading, open to the saint who comes to her, confident that the patroness meant for her will be found. The woman who asks God and attends to His answer finds her patroness not by anxious selection but by trusting guidance, discovering the saint He leads her to. Asking and attending is the surest way to a patroness, a woman asking God to lead her to the right saint and then watching for the one she is drawn to or who makes herself known, trusting that God will guide her to the sister meant for her.

CHAPTER FOUR

Getting to Know Her

Befriending a Real Person

Once a woman has found her patroness, the friendship begins with getting to know her, for a patroness is a real person, and friendship with her grows as a woman learns her life, her story, her writings, and her spirit, coming to know her as she would come to know any friend. A relationship with a patroness is not built on a name alone but on knowing the saint, and so a woman getting to know her patroness reads her life, learns her story, and lets the saint become real and particular to her, a known friend rather than a name.

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things.
— Philippians 4:9

Learning Her Story

A woman gets to know her patroness by learning her story, reading her life, discovering who she was, what she faced, how she lived and loved and became holy, so that the saint becomes a real and particular person to her. Every saint has a story, a real life with its particular circumstances, struggles, and graces, and a woman comes to know her patroness by learning that story, reading a biography, discovering the saint's background, her trials, her path to holiness, so that the saint becomes real and particular rather than a vague figure. This learning of her story is the foundation of the friendship, for a woman cannot be close to a saint she does not know, and knowing her story makes the saint a real person she can relate to, learn from, and love. The woman who learns her patroness's story comes to know her as a real person, laying the foundation for a genuine friendship with a particular saint. Learning her story is how a woman gets to know her patroness, reading her life and discovering who she was, what she faced, and how she became holy, so that the saint becomes a real and particular person rather than a vague figure, the foundation of a genuine friendship.

Hearing Her Voice

Where a patroness left writings, a woman can get to know her by reading them, hearing the saint's own voice, her thoughts and prayers and counsel, so that the friendship deepens through the saint's own words. Many saints left writings, letters, prayers, spiritual teachings, and where a patroness did, a woman can read them to hear the saint's own voice, to know her mind and heart directly, to receive her counsel and wisdom, deepening the friendship through the saint's own words. Hearing a patroness's voice through her writings brings a woman closer to her, for she comes to know not only the saint's story but her very thoughts and spirit, receiving directly what the saint has to teach. The woman who reads her patroness's writings hears her voice, coming to know her mind and heart and deepening the friendship through the saint's own words. Hearing her voice is a way of knowing a patroness who left writings, a woman reading the saint's

own words to know her thoughts, prayers, and counsel directly, so that the friendship deepens through the saint's own voice and the woman receives what she has to teach.

Letting Her Become Real

As a woman learns her patroness's story and hears her voice, she lets the saint become real to her, a particular person she knows and loves, so that the friendship rests on a genuine knowledge of a real sister rather than a vague devotion. The goal of getting to know a patroness is to let her become real, to move from honoring a name to knowing a person, so that the saint is as real to a woman as a living friend, a particular person with a face, a story, a spirit, whom the woman knows and loves. This reality is what makes the friendship genuine, for a woman relates not to an abstraction but to a real sister in heaven whom she has come to know, loving her as a particular person and walking with her as a known friend. The woman who lets her patroness become real knows her as a particular person and loves her as a real sister, resting the friendship on genuine knowledge rather than vague devotion. Letting her become real is the aim of getting to know a patroness, moving from honoring a name to knowing a person so that the saint is as real as a living friend, a particular sister the woman knows and loves rather than an abstraction.

CHAPTER FIVE

Entering the Friendship

Walking With Her Day to Day

Knowing a patroness leads to walking with her, entering a living friendship in daily life, talking to her, asking her prayers, confiding in her, so that the relationship becomes a real and active part of a woman's days rather than an idea she holds. A patroness is a friend to walk with, and entering the friendship means bringing her into daily life, relating to her as a living companion through simple, regular acts of relationship, so that the bond becomes real and active in a woman's everyday faith.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. — James 5:16

Talking to Her

A woman enters the friendship with her patroness by talking to her, speaking to the saint as to a friend, sharing her days, her struggles, and her joys, so that the relationship becomes a living conversation rather than a formal devotion. A patroness is a living

person who can be spoken to, and a woman walks with her by talking to her simply and naturally, telling her what she is facing, asking her help, sharing her heart, relating to the saint as to a close friend who is present and listening. This talking to her makes the friendship alive and personal, a real relationship carried on in a woman's ordinary conversation with the saint, bringing the patroness into the daily texture of her life. The woman who talks to her patroness enters a living friendship, relating to the saint as to a present friend and bringing her into the conversation of daily life. Talking to her is how a woman enters the friendship with her patroness, speaking to the saint as to a friend, sharing her days and struggles and joys, so that the relationship becomes a living conversation and the saint is brought into the daily texture of her life.

Asking Her Prayers

A woman walks with her patroness by asking her prayers, bringing her needs and her loved ones to the saint and asking her to intercede, enlisting the powerful prayer of a righteous one who is near to God. A central part of the friendship with a patroness is asking her intercession, for the saint prays before God with great power, and a woman can bring her needs, her struggles, her loved ones, to her patroness, asking the saint to pray for her and for them, enlisting a powerful intercessor near to God. This asking of her prayers is both a help and a bond, for a woman receives the saint's powerful intercession and deepens the friendship by entrusting her needs to her patroness, relying on her as a friend relies on a friend's prayers. The woman who asks her patroness's prayers enlists a powerful intercessor and deepens the friendship, entrusting her needs to a sister near to God. Asking her prayers is central to walking with a patroness, a woman bringing her needs and loved ones to the saint and asking her to intercede, enlisting the powerful prayer of a righteous one near to God and deepening the friendship by entrusting her needs to her.

A Simple Daily Bond

A woman keeps the friendship with her patroness alive through a simple daily bond, a brief regular act of relationship, a short prayer, a word to the saint, a moment of remembering her, that keeps the friendship present in ordinary life. The friendship with a patroness need not be elaborate but is kept alive by a simple, regular bond, a brief daily prayer to the saint, a word of greeting, a moment of entrusting the day to her, a small habitual act that keeps the relationship present and active amid a woman's ordinary days. This simple daily bond sustains the friendship, for it keeps the patroness a regular presence in a woman's life, a saint remembered and related to each day, so that the relationship stays alive and does not fade into a forgotten devotion. The woman who keeps a simple daily bond with her patroness sustains the friendship, keeping the saint a

regular presence through small habitual acts of relationship. A simple daily bond keeps the friendship with a patroness alive, a brief regular act of relationship such as a short prayer or a word to the saint, so that the patroness stays a regular presence in ordinary life and the friendship does not fade into a forgotten devotion.

CHAPTER SIX

Learning to Live Like Her

Taking Her Virtue for Your Own

The deepest purpose of a patroness is not only companionship but formation, learning to live like her, taking her particular virtue and her way of holiness as a model for a woman's own life, so that the friendship bears fruit in a woman becoming more like the saint she walks with. A patroness is given not only to accompany but to form, and a woman learns to live like her by studying her particular virtue, imitating her example, and growing into the holiness the saint embodied, letting the friendship shape her into a saint herself.

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. — 1 Corinthians 11:1

Her Particular Virtue

Each saint embodied particular virtues in a particular way, and a woman learns to live like her patroness by identifying the saint's particular virtue, the quality she especially models, and taking it as a focus for her own growth. Every saint has a particular gift, a virtue she especially embodied, a path to holiness that was particularly hers, and a woman getting to know her patroness comes to see this particular virtue, the quality the saint especially models, whether a radical trust, a hidden littleness, a courageous love, a deep prayer, and she can take that virtue as a particular focus for her own growth. Identifying her patroness's particular virtue gives a woman a specific thing to learn from the saint, a concrete quality to imitate and grow into, focusing the formation the friendship offers. The woman who identifies her patroness's particular virtue has a specific focus for her growth, a concrete quality to take from the saint and grow into. Her particular virtue is what a woman learns from her patroness, identifying the quality the saint especially models and taking it as a focus for her own growth, so that the friendship offers a concrete quality to imitate rather than a vague ideal.

Imitating Her Example

A woman learns to live like her patroness by imitating her example, following the saint in her particular virtue and her way of holiness, as the saint herself imitated Christ, so that the friendship forms the woman into the saint's likeness. The saints call a woman to imitate them as they imitated Christ, and a woman learns to live like her patroness by following her example, imitating the saint's particular virtue, applying her way of holiness to her own life, letting the saint's example form her conduct and her character. This imitation is the heart of learning to live like a patroness, for a woman becomes like the saint she imitates, formed into her likeness by following her example, growing in the virtue the saint embodied. The woman who imitates her patroness's example is formed into the saint's likeness, growing in her particular virtue by following her way of holiness. Imitating her example is the heart of learning to live like a patroness, a woman following the saint in her particular virtue and way of holiness as the saint imitated Christ, so that the friendship forms her into the saint's likeness.

Becoming a Saint Yourself

The ultimate purpose of learning to live like a patroness is that a woman becomes a saint herself, for the saint's friendship and example are meant to lead the woman along the saint's own path to the holiness the saint attained. A patroness does not want a woman merely to admire her but to join her in holiness, and so learning to live like her patroness leads a woman toward becoming a saint herself, following the saint's path, growing in her virtue, moving toward the holiness and glory the saint reached. This is the deepest fruit of the friendship, that a woman, walking with her patroness and learning to live like her, is led toward her own sainthood, the saint drawing her along the path to the glory she herself attained. The woman who learns to live like her patroness is led toward becoming a saint herself, following the saint's path toward the holiness she reached. Becoming a saint yourself is the ultimate purpose of learning to live like a patroness, the saint's friendship and example leading a woman along the saint's own path to holiness, so that walking with her patroness draws a woman toward her own sainthood.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Keeping the Friendship Alive

A Companion for the Whole Journey

A friendship with a patroness is meant to last a lifetime, and keeping it alive over the seasons of a woman's life, returning to the saint, celebrating her, letting the relationship deepen and grow, makes the patroness a companion for the whole journey. Like any

friendship, the bond with a patroness is kept alive by tending it, and a woman keeps the friendship alive through simple faithfulness over the years, so that her patroness remains a living companion through every season of her life.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one has found a treasure. A faithful friend is the medicine of life. — Sirach 6:14,16

Returning Through the Seasons

A woman keeps the friendship with her patroness alive by returning to the saint through the seasons of her life, bringing each new chapter and struggle to her, so that the friendship accompanies her through all of life rather than fading after its first fervor. A friendship kept only in its first fervor fades, but a friendship with a patroness stays alive as a woman returns to the saint through the changing seasons of her life, bringing her new circumstances, struggles, and joys to the saint, relating to her anew in each chapter, so that the patroness accompanies her through all of life. This returning keeps the friendship a living companionship rather than a past devotion, for the saint walks with a woman through every season as she keeps bringing her life to her patroness. The woman who returns to her patroness through the seasons keeps the friendship alive, letting the saint accompany her through every chapter of her life. Returning through the seasons keeps the friendship with a patroness alive, a woman bringing each new chapter and struggle to the saint so that the patroness accompanies her through all of life rather than fading after its first fervor.

Celebrating Her

A woman keeps the friendship alive by celebrating her patroness, especially on the saint's feast day, marking the day with special prayer and remembrance, so that the friendship has its regular celebration like any cherished bond. Each saint has a feast day, and a woman can keep the friendship with her patroness alive by celebrating it, marking the feast with special prayer, perhaps a small festivity, a renewed attention to the saint, so that the friendship has its annual celebration, a day given to honoring and drawing close to her patroness. This celebrating of her patroness keeps the friendship warm and marked in a woman's year, giving the relationship a regular high point and a day of renewed closeness with the saint. The woman who celebrates her patroness, especially on her feast, keeps the friendship warm, marking it with a regular celebration like any cherished bond. Celebrating her keeps the friendship with a patroness alive, a woman marking the saint's feast day with special prayer and remembrance, so that the friendship has its regular celebration and a day of renewed closeness with the saint.

A Lifelong Companion

Kept alive over the years, a patroness becomes a lifelong companion, a faithful friend who is a sturdy shelter and a treasure, accompanying a woman through her whole journey to the holiness and glory the saint has reached. A friendship with a patroness, tended over a lifetime, becomes what the Scripture calls a treasure and a sturdy shelter, a faithful friend who accompanies a woman through all her years, a lifelong companion in her pursuit of holiness, a sister in heaven who walks with her all the way home. This lifelong companionship is the fruit of keeping the friendship alive, for a woman gains not a passing devotion but a faithful friend for the whole journey, a patroness who walks with her to the end and waits to welcome her into the glory she has attained. The woman who keeps her patroness's friendship alive over a lifetime gains a faithful lifelong companion, a treasure and a shelter who accompanies her all the way home. A lifelong companion is what a patroness becomes when the friendship is kept alive over the years, a faithful friend who is a sturdy shelter and a treasure, accompanying a woman through her whole journey to the holiness and glory the saint has reached.

CONCLUSION

Walk With Her

The woman who believed in the communion of saints but knew none of them personally has, in these pages, learned how to find a saint to call her own. We have seen what a patroness is, a real heavenly friend and companion, not a charm; why a patroness is worth having, for the gift of a particular friendship among the saints; how a patroness is chosen, often by being chosen as much as choosing; how to get to know her as a real person; how to enter the friendship in daily life; how to learn to live like her, taking her virtue for your own; and how to keep the friendship alive as a companion for the whole journey.

Through all of it runs a single invitation: walk with her. Do not leave the communion of saints a crowd you honor from a distance, but find within it a particular friend, a saint to call your own, and walk with her, talking to her, asking her prayers, learning from her, and growing into her likeness. For a patroness is a faithful friend who loves at all times, a sister in heaven who will accompany you through every season and walk with you all the way home.

So find your patroness, and walk with her. Be open to the saint God draws you to or who seems to seek you out. Get to know her, learning her story and hearing her voice until she

becomes a real friend. Bring her into your daily life, talking to her, asking her prayers, keeping a simple bond with her each day. Learn to live like her, taking her particular virtue for your own and following her path toward holiness. And keep the friendship alive through all the seasons of your life, returning to her, celebrating her, letting her be a lifelong companion. You belong to a great communion of saints, and within it there is a sister meant to be your friend. Find her, and walk with her, all the way home.

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Choosing a Patroness is part of The Daily Bread Library.