Catherine of Siena

Born: 1347

Died: 1380

Feast Day: 29 April

DERRY DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

Saint Catherine was born in Siena, Tuscany, Italy. She was the youngest of 25 children. Her family were lower middle-class most of her siblings did not survive childhood. In her early twenties she felt called to serve the poor and sick, gaining disciples in the process.

She was a Dominican tertiary member. She took simple vows. She joined the Sisters of Penitence of Saint Dominic in Siena.

She was also a mystic and received visions. She died in 1380. She was canonized in 1461. She was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970 and a patron saint of Europe in 1999.

At a young age she is said to have consecrated herself to Christ. She began to travel and reform the Church. Her spiritual testament is found in '*The Dialogue.*'

She is patron of those who are ridiculed because of their faith, United States, Italy, miscarriages and nurses. In 1939 she and Francis of Assisi were declared co-patrons of Italy.