



Saint Anne

By Joann Aliotta

I wish we had more information about Saint Anne so we could know about her interaction with Jesus, was she still alive when Jesus was born? Did she regularly visit and help Mary take care of Him?

We are told that Saint Anne, and Joachim her husband, were advanced in years and that her prayers for a child had not been answered for many years. Finally, by the Lord's Grace St. Anne was able to conceive.

Devotion to Saint Anne, honored as the Holy Mother of Mary and Grandmother of Jesus, was popular among early Christians. She promised that her child Mary would be consecrated as a gift to the Lord her God. Given her own years of infertility, Saint Anne has become a popular intercessor for couples suffering from the same condition. People also turn to her when praying for a spouse. After all, what loving Grandmother does not want a good spouse for her grandchildren.

Although Saint Anne must have lived a simple life, she was the grandmother of the Savior of the World. It is no wonder or surprise that she would be a powerful intercessor.

There are churches and shrines devoted to Saint Anne throughout the world. A very popular shrine in honor of Saint Anne is The Basilica of **Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré**. On March 8, 1658 the first chapel was built and set along the Saint Lawrence River in Quebec, Canada (19 miles east of Quebec City). Today, nearly 1 Million visitors come annually from all around the world; many claimed to have received miracles.

The first reported miracle happened during the shrine's construction of the original church, when Louis Guimont was hired to help build the shrine even though he suffered from rheumatism. After placing three stones upon the shrine's foundation, Guimont was cured of all his ailments.

Today the entrance of the Basilica is covered with crutches, canes and braces representing all those that have been healed.

Those who are reading this reflection and would like to increase their devotion to Saint Anne could join an online group: "The Grandchildren of Saint Anne." This group was formed to spread devotion to Saint Anne as our grandmother to obtain Graces.

Jesus, we pray today for all grandmothers and those filling the grandmother role. Please hold them dear to your heart much like your own beloved Grandmother. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, guide us grandmothers to build strong families and loving childhood memories for all of Your Children in Jesus Name. Amen.