

**March 6**

**St. Colette**

Good day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!

In the early church, red martyrdom was considered a great privilege. To die a violent death for Christ meant immediate and eternal life with God. Once Christianity became legalized, however, this was replaced with white martyrdom. Though Christians no longer spilled blood for their faith, (red martyrdom) the quest for identification with Christ's crucifixion took the form of making harsh and demanding sacrifices (white martyrdom). Some of those who made these choices became known as anchorites. That was St. Colette's initial choice and how she would become a white martyr for Christ. She asked to be walled up in a small abode attached to a church so that she could spend her days adoring the Blessed Sacrament. God, however, had other plans for her and she spent the remaining years of her life reforming the women's branch of the Franciscans known as the Poor Clares.

Many of those who tell her story like to recall that she was troubled by her beauty. She felt that it could be a source of pride and destructive to her quest for humility. Other writers focus on her desire to be pure of heart. To be pure of heart is to be genuine, not given to duplicity and not focused on the faults of others.

Perhaps that is how she became known as the patroness saint of expectant mothers and those seeking children?



Let us pray. St. Colette, you chose to serve God in a radical way from the time you were a young woman. Though you struggled to discover the path God chose for you, you persevered in seeking to do His will. Pray for me, that I may always seek to serve God with trust and confidence. Pray that I may never miss the opportunity to put my gifts at the service of God.

Colette is a friend of God and the company we welcome today.