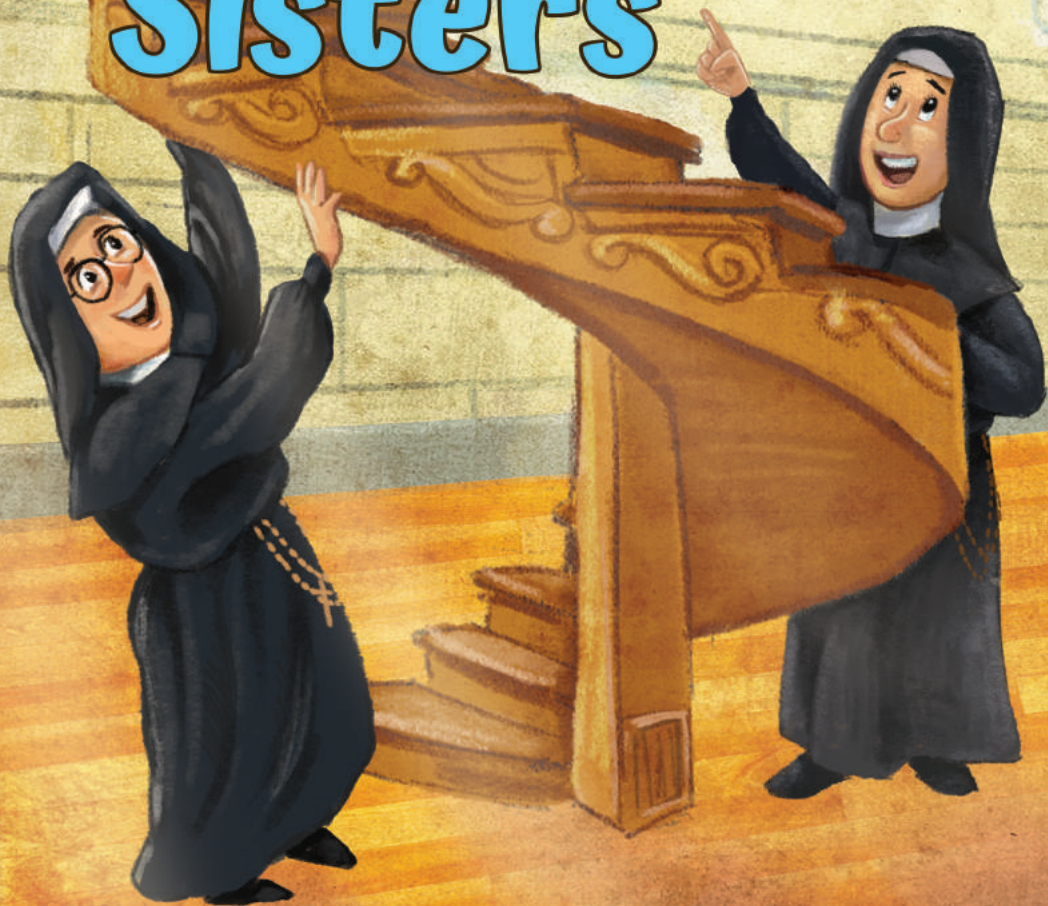


A Story of Prayer and Saint Joseph

Staircase for the Sisters



Written by Pamela Love Illustrated by John Joseph

Staircase
for the
Sisters

Staircase for the Sisters

A Story of Prayer and Saint Joseph

Written by Pamela Love

Illustrated by John Joseph



Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Love, Pamela, 1966- author.

Title: Staircase for the Sisters : a story of prayer and Saint Joseph /
written by Pamela Love.

Description: Boston, MA : Pauline Books & Media, 2018.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017043167 | ISBN 9780819890979 (paperback) | ISBN
0819890979 (paperback)

Subjects: LCSH: Sisters of Loretto--New Mexico--Juvenile literature. | Chapel
of Our Lady of Light (Santa Fe, N.M.)--Juvenile literature. | Joseph,
Saint--Juvenile literature. | Santa Fe (N.M.)--Church history--Juvenile
literature. | Sisters of Loretto. | Chapel of Our Lady of Light (Santa Fe,
N.M.)

Classification: LCC BX4476.Z5 U655 2018 | DDC 271/.97--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2017043167>

Cover design by Mary Joseph Peterson, FSP

Cover art by John Joseph

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in
any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying,
recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without
permission in writing from the publisher.

"P" and PAULINE are registered trademarks of the Daughters of St. Paul.

Copyright © 2018, Pamela Love

Published by Pauline Books & Media, 50 Saint Pauls Avenue, Boston, MA
02130-3491

Printed in the U.S.A.

SFTS VSAUSAPEOILL3-2010113 9097-9

www.pauline.org

Pauline Books & Media is the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul,
an international congregation of women religious serving the Church with the
communications media.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

22 21 20 19 18

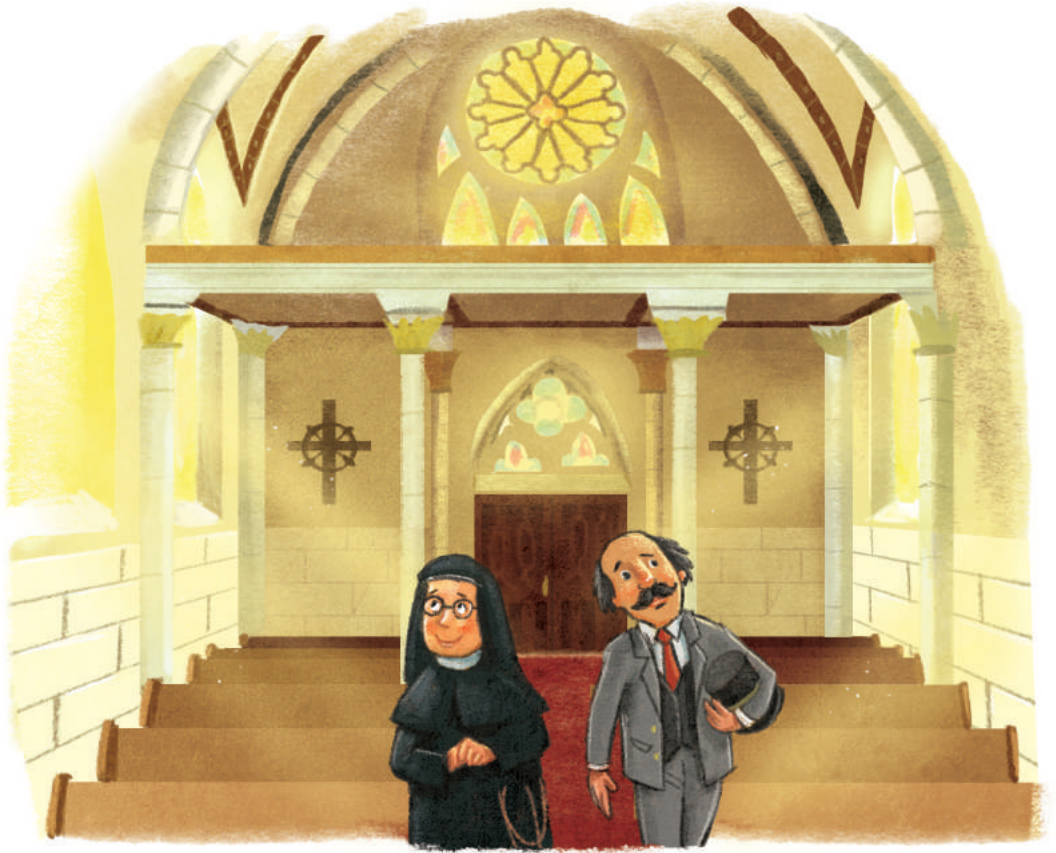
For teachers,
librarians,
and
school volunteers
everywhere







Many years ago in New Mexico, there was a school called the Academy of Our Lady of Light. Beside this school stood a beautiful new chapel. But this chapel was missing something important.



At first the school's principal, Mother Magdalene, didn't notice. As she and the builder walked through the new chapel, Mother Magdalene smiled at the polished altar, the colorful windows, and the rows of pews.

"What a wonderful place to worship," she said.

"Yes, it is," the builder agreed, not meeting her eyes.



Mother Magdalene looked up at the choir loft, a balcony where the Sisters of Loretto would stand above the congregation to sing. *We'll give glory to God up there*, she thought.

Then she looked again. "Where is the staircase?" she asked.



Sighing, the builder looked down at his feet. "I'm afraid there isn't one," he said. "The architect that Bishop Lamy hired didn't put a staircase in the plans."

"Then how shall we reach the choir loft?" Mother Magdalene asked.

"Could you use a ladder, Mother?" the builder asked hopefully.

"No, that wouldn't be safe." The principal smoothed her habit's long black skirt, which trailed on the floor. "We must have a staircase."

"But there's no room for one," he said.



So Mother Magdalene asked other carpenters. All of them agreed that more room was needed in order to add stairs. “Could we tear down a wall? Or take out some pews?” they asked.

The principal shook her head. “We need all those seats. Besides, we don’t have the money to pay for such big changes now.”



The sisters were glum when they learned about the balcony.

“Such a fine place to sing, and only twenty-two feet away,” Mother Magdalene told them.

“Without a staircase, it might as well be twenty-two miles,” another sister said and sighed.

“Sisters, this is the city of Santa Fe. That means ‘holy faith’ in Spanish. Faith is one thing we have plenty of,” the principal said. “Tomorrow we shall begin a novena to Saint Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters.”

The sisters nodded.

“With heaven’s guidance, someone will help us,” Mother Magdalene declared.

In the morning for the next nine days, they bowed their heads and prayed together in the chapel.

“Dear Saint Joseph, protector of Mary and Jesus and patron of carpenters, we ask for your help. Pray for us. We need a staircase to our choir loft so that we may give glory to God in song. We are told it cannot be built, but we know nothing is impossible with God. We ask for your intercession and we trust in God’s will. Amen.”

