

# Saint of the Month

## Heaven's Heroes

### Who is Blessed Irene Stefani?

Blessed Irene Stefani was born into a large, faith-filled family in Italy in 1891. She was baptized Aurelia Mercede Stefani the day after she was born. Her family called her Mercede. She was a good student who loved going to school but had to drop out to care for her younger brothers and sisters after her mother died. She joined the Consolata Missionary Sisters when she was 23 and took the name Irene.

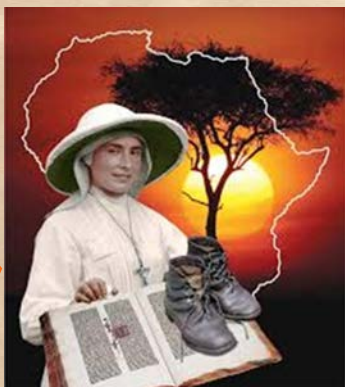
#### Holy Habits

- Cared for sick people
- Taught lessons about Jesus to children who were so poor that their families needed them to work
- Loved to pray the rosary



#### Missionary Life

- Traveled to Kenya
- Became a Red Cross nurse in World War I
- Walked many miles in combat boots to care for the sick
- Nicknamed Nyaatha, which means "Mother of Mercy".



#### Famous Quote

“The Missionary is the one who has a heart for loving, the hands for helping, the mouth for announcing, This is all!”



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## Pray for Help from Blessed Irene Stefani

Blessed Irene, in your lifetime you were known as the "angel of charity." Help us to follow your example of always thinking of others who are in need. Lead us to listen to the voice of God, our Father, as you did, so that we may be of service to others. Amen.



### Set your Standards

- Blessed Irene kept going to faith formation classes after she left school. She also taught others about Jesus. Why did she do this?
- The children she taught had to work to help their families survive. Today, many children in the missions do the same. Does MCA help you live like Irene?

### Practice Principles

Imitate Irene by caring for others. Some people in your parish are unwell and may be lonely. Spend time at home making "Get Well" or "Thinking of You" cards. Be sure to put a cheerful message inside! Your pastor can give them to people who visit the homebound.

## Be a Missionary!

- Blessed Irene Stefani's memorial falls on Halloween. This year, trick-or-treat for Missionary Childhood! Take your Mite Box with you to collect donations for the missions. Don't have one? Ask your teacher to email us and we'll send them to the class!
- People called Blessed Irene's combat boots her "Boots of Glory." Schedule a day to pay \$1 and wear your boots to class. Send the money to MCA for children in the missions who may have no shoes!

