

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mother Laura Montoya

Feast Day: October 21

Laura grew up in the mountains of Jerico, Colombia, in the late 19th century. As a small child, her father was killed in the Colombian Civil War of 1876, leaving her family destitute. During this time of loneliness and suffering, she began to develop a strong devotion to the Eucharist and scripture, and this brought her great consolation.

As Laura grew older, she became a teacher at an elementary school in order to support her mother financially. While a teacher, Laura began to feel a call to become a religious sister and to spread the Faith as a missionary. She particularly was drawn to bring Christ to the indigenous people who lived in the jungles of South America. She and a group of women started the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate and St. Catherine of Siena, and they devoted their time to serving these communities.

Because of their decision to help indigenous people, Laura and her religious sisters were ridiculed by many who believed that indigenous people had less dignity than others. Some argued that they were beasts and did not deserve to be cared for. This hateful language did not stop Laura, who knew that all people have inherent dignity and are made in the image and likeness of God. She dedicated the rest of her life to taking care of them and teaching them about the love of Christ.

