



CHILDREN'S PLAY

"The Story of St. Julie"

Adapted from a play by Sister Helen McDermott, SNDdeN

This simple dramatization of stories from the life of St. Julie is an engaging way for children to learn about a saint. Consider presenting it on the Feast of St. Julie or on All Saint's Day.

Scene I

Characters *Narrator, Mama, Papa, Big Sister, Big Brother, Baby (doll) in cradle*

Narrator: This story takes place in France. It is July 12, 1751. The Billiart Family is gathered in their small cottage. *(Family is peering into a cradle.)*

Sister: Is this the new baby? Mama, what are you going to call her?

Mama: Marie Rose Julie Billiart.

Sister: But Mama, that's such a long name. We will call her Julie, then, for short.

Brother: Julie, Julie, Julie!

Papa: What's all the commotion? The name Julie does not belong to our baby yet.

Sister: What do you mean she doesn't have a name yet, Papa?

Papa: She won't have a name until she is baptized.

Brother: Well, what will we call her now?

Papa: Hmmm? She doesn't really have a name until she is baptized.

Sister: Then let's go right now, Papa.

Papa: Go where?

Sister: Let's go to the church and have our baby baptized. Let us go right away!

Papa: *(Smiling)* All right. Ask Mama if she has the baptism robe ready.

Brother: Mama, Mama, do you have the baby's robe ready? Can we go to the church?

Mama: Yes, dear, the robe is ready.

Sister: It is ready. It is ready, Papa! Let's go have our little baby baptized.

Papa: Come, children. *(Papa picks up baby.)* Let us go to make our Julie a child of God.

Scene II

Characters: Narrator, Father Dangicourt, Julie (now a nine-year-old girl)

Narrator: Nine years have passed since the day Julie was baptized. Julie loves her family and loves God very much. She often visits the church. The pastor, Father Dangicourt, is her very good friend. Today, Julie is visiting a shrine in the church garden. She has brought some flowers to the statue of Mary and is praying. Father sees her and stops to talk with her.

Fr. Dangicourt: My, you are getting big, Julie. It will be your birthday soon, won't it?

Julie: Yes, Father. My birthday is July 12.

Fr. Dangicourt: And that will make you a young lady of... ?

Julie: Nine, Father. I will be nine years old on July 12.

Fr. Dangicourt: Nine already! Hmmm. I must give you something very special this year. What would you like, Julie?

Julie: Ah? ... Will you pray for me at Mass, Father?

Fr. Dangicourt: That I will certainly do. I will give you something else, too.

Julie: What is it, Father? What is it?

Fr. Dangicourt: I will give you the best gift, a special gift. I will give you your First Holy Communion.

Julie: Oh, Father, what a wonderful birthday gift! Oh, thank you.

Fr. Dangicourt: Even though you are still a little girl, I know you are ready. Come to church early tomorrow. Come before anyone else is here. Some people may think you are still too young to make your First Holy Communion.

Julie: May I tell my Mama and Papa?

Fr. Dangicourt: Yes, they will keep our secret. But please, don't tell anyone else.

Julie: Oh, I won't, Father. I promise. Should I do anything special to get ready for my First Communion?

Fr. Dangicourt: Pray to Jesus' mother, Mary. She will help to make you ready, Julie. She will teach you how to receive Jesus in this special way.

Julie: Thank you, Father, thank you so very much! I'll see you early tomorrow morning.

Scene III

Characters *Narrator, Julie (now a young woman), Papa*

Narrator: Times have been difficult for the Billiard family. They do not have much money. Robbers broke into Papa Billiard's shop and stole most of the goods. The business is losing money. Each day, Julie works in the fields planting and harvesting. In the evenings, she helps her Papa in the store and sews lace for him to sell. Papa and Julie are sitting in the store this quiet summer evening.

(Bang! A gunshot is heard. A large rock is thrown onto the floor nearly hitting Papa.)

Julie: Papa, are you all right?

Papa: Yes! Yes! I am all right, but you - are you all right, my Julie?

Julie: Yes, Papa, I think so.

Papa: You are trembling. You are trembling from head to foot. Are you hurt? Are you in pain, Julie?

Julie: Not much, Papa. But my legs. They feel so weak. I'll be all right. Just let me rest here for a moment. I'll be all right.

(Papa helps Julie walk off stage)

Narrator: But Julie is not all right. She is upset by the attack on her father. Her worries make her very sick. She has terrible pain in her body and must stay in bed every day. Her legs become paralyzed, and she can no longer work in the fields or in the store. But even when she is so ill, she still wants to teach people about the goodness of God. Children and adults come to her cottage, and from her bed, Julie teaches the people in her village to love God.

Yet all around her home, people are fighting. It is a time of war called the French Revolution. Those who are fighting hate Julie because of her deep love for God. She must move from town to town to try to stay safe. Yet in each place, she teaches people about the goodness of God. Some women want to help her. They create a community of sisters called the Sisters of Notre Dame. Julie and the other sisters promise to teach children and help the poor.

Scene IV

Characters *Narrator, Julie (now a sister), Priest*

Narrator: Julie still cannot walk, and she is worried that she cannot do all she needs to do to help her sisters. A friend, who is a priest, comes to visit Julie who is sitting in her garden.

(Julie is sitting in a wheelchair)

Priest: Have you been praying special prayers to Jesus like I asked you to, Julie? Have your been praying for my special intention?

Julie: Yes, Father, I have been praying very hard just as you asked me to do. Has God answered our prayers yet?

Priest: No, not yet, but we have only been praying for my special intention for five days.

Julie: I am sure that God will hear our prayers, Father. But, what is your special intention?

Priest: It is a special intention just for you!
Julie, if you have any faith, take one step in honor of Jesus.

(Julie hesitates and then slowly rises from her chair and takes a step.)

Priest: All right, take another step.

(Julie steadies herself and takes another step.)

Priest: And a third. *(Pause.)* That will do. You may sit down.

Julie: How good is the Good God!

Priest: Do not tell the other sisters about this miracle yet. Let us pray for four more days. Because of this miracle you can do all the work you need to do, Julie—God’s work and your work. You and your sisters can teach little children about God and our Church. You can tell them how good God is and how God loves us.

Narrator: Because she can walk and travel, Julie can now do all of the work that needs to be done. When people see her walking, they shout “A miracle! It is a miracle!” Young women come to join Julie; they want to be sisters like her. She teaches them how to be sisters and how to teach the children.

As the years go by, Mother Julie opens more schools and welcomes new sisters. At times, she must face great difficulties, but Julie does not complain. On April 8, 1816, Mother Julie grows very sick. As she dies, a smile is on her face and she says for the last time, “How good is the good God! “

In 1969, Pope Paul made Julie a saint. Sisters of Notre Dame continue to be like Julie and teach children and to care for poor people. They want all people to know about the goodness of God.



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