


Christmas in Heaven



Anthony DeStefano

Illustrated by **Bernadette Carstensen**

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This book is dedicated to the person most responsible
for helping me to become a committed Catholic
many years ago—my sister, Elisa Fagundes.

—Anthony DeStefano

Dedicated to my first and best teachers,
mom and dad—Winifred and Larry Carstensen.

—Bernadette Carstensen

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Note to Readers on Purgatory

Dear Little Ones and Parents,

This is a story about a grandfather who teaches his grandson about Heaven and what a wonderful place it is. The story does not deal with Purgatory, which is like a waiting room or a cleanup spot where many people go before they get to Heaven. Just as we need to clean up before attending a party, souls need to get “cleaned up” in Purgatory for the most special party of all—the heavenly banquet with God. The Catholic Church teaches that Purgatory is a merciful gift from God, a place where people who have already been saved become perfectly pure so they can be even happier with God, forever. Please remember that, even though the grandfather in this story hopes his wife is already with the angels and saints, we should always pray for our deceased loved ones in case they are in Purgatory, so they can get to Heaven as quickly as possible.

The Author

“How do they celebrate Christmas in **heaven?**”
the little boy asked, who was no more than seven.

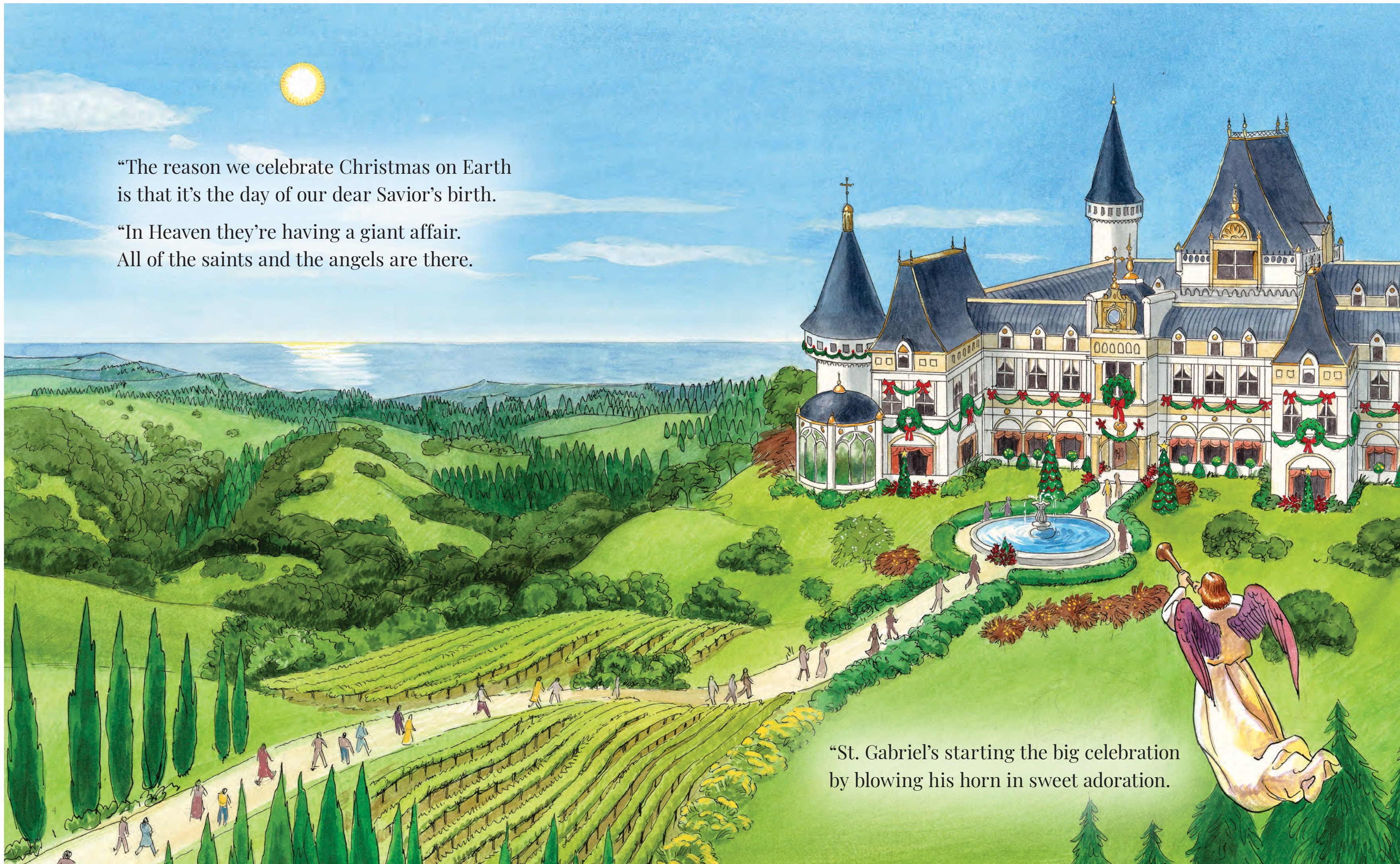
His grandma had gone to be with the Lord.
He wanted to know if she would be bored
up in the clouds, so high in the sky,
while everyone here just wanted to cry.



His grandfather lifted the boy on his knee.
He said: “Close your eyes and listen to me.”

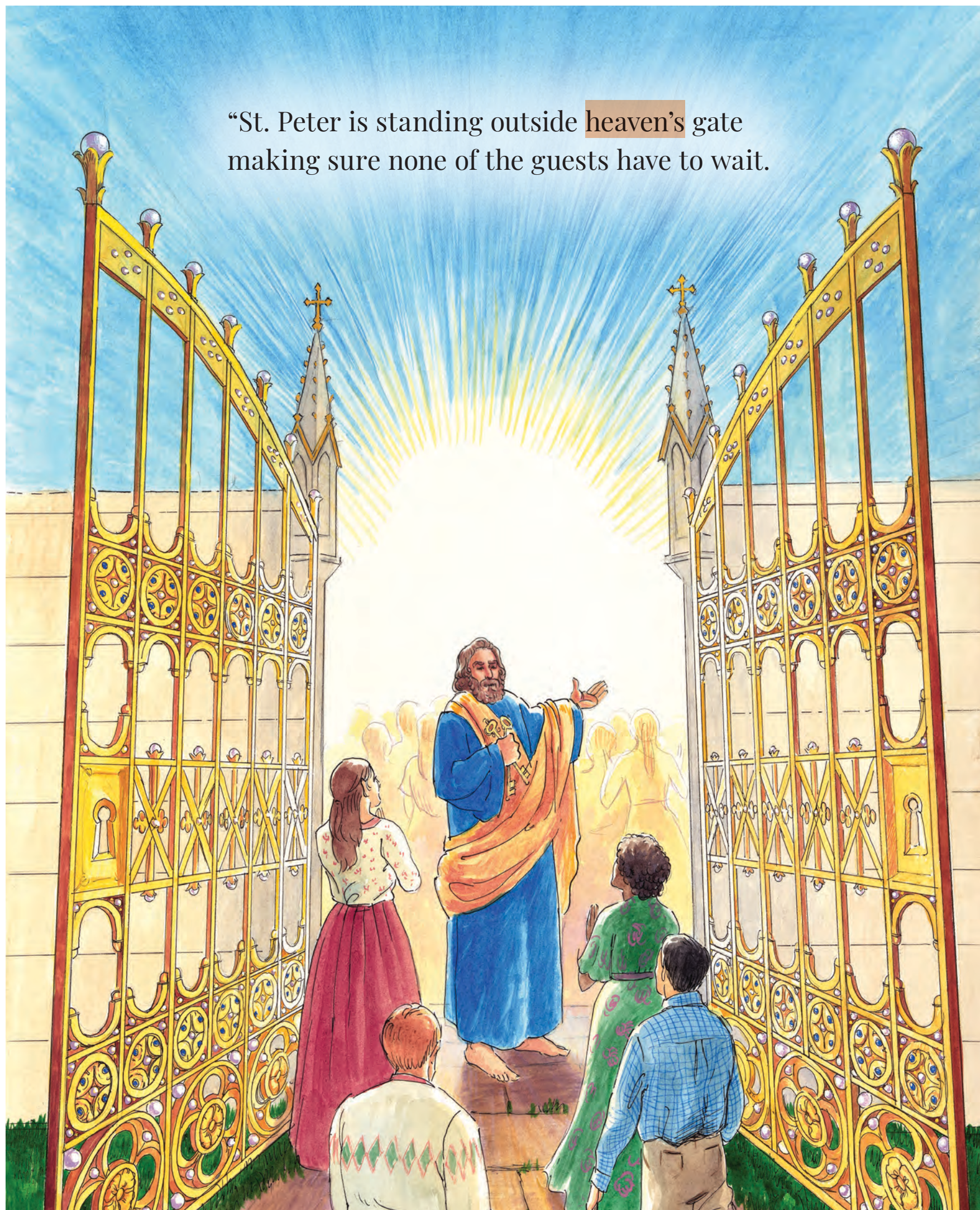
“The reason we celebrate Christmas on Earth is that it’s the day of our dear Savior’s birth.

“In Heaven they’re having a giant affair. All of the saints and the angels are there.



“St. Gabriel’s starting the big celebration by blowing his horn in sweet adoration.

“St. Peter is standing outside heaven’s gate making sure none of the guests have to wait.



“Inside, St. Martha’s been cleaning for hours, while little Thérèse is handing out flowers.

