



St. Joan of Arc

Costume for 18" dolls



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Saint Joan of Arc Her Story

On January 6, 1412, Joan or Arc was born to pious parents of the French peasant class, in the small village of Domremy.

From her gentle, loving mother, she learned to be a good housekeeper. "I can sew and spin as well as any woman," she once said.

One day, while she was watching her sheep, she heard the voices of St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret, telling her, "Daughter of God, go save France!"

For three years Joan heard the voices of these saints telling her to go. When she turned sixteen, she began her wonderful mission.

At that time there was war between England and France. It was called the

Hundred Years' War. England had won so much land that the King of England called himself the King of France, too. The real French King was a weak, fun-loving man who believed that the French armies would never be able to save their country.

After overcoming much opposition from both churchmen and courtiers, Joan was given a small army. With the King's permission, she led her army into the city of Orleans, which the English had almost captured.

In her white, shining armor, this young heroine rode with her banner flying above her. On it were the names of *Jesus* and *Mary*. She was hit by an arrow in the great battle, but she continued urging her men onto victory, and at last they won.

Joan and her army continued to win many battles, and the English armies were forced to retreat.

After these glorious victories,

Joan's time of suffering began. While defending Compiègne, she was taken prisoner and sold to the English. The ungrateful King of France did not even attempt to rescue her.

Joan was judged at Rouen by a tribunal presided over by Cauchon, Bishop of Beauvais. Although she astounded her judges by the readiness of her answers, after an unfair trial, she was condemned to be burnt at the stake as a heretic.

Joan was not even twenty, and she had a great horror of fire. Yet she went bravely to her death, and her last word was "Jesus!"

Joan of Arc was beatified in 1909 and canonized in 1920. She is one of the patron saints of France.

Her feastday is May 30th