Chapter 16
A Read-to-Me Story

Saint María de Jesús Sacramentado Venegas
Feast Day: July 30

A long time ago, a little girl named María was born in Mexico. Where she grew up, two things were important to most families; family and faith. María was raised to believe in everything Jesus taught. She prayed with her family and she visited her parish church every day to talk to Jesus.

María loved going to Mass. She received Holy Communion at every Mass. She always felt closer to Jesus when she received him in the Eucharist.

Women who loved and served God and the Church came to her village to teach the children about Jesus. The women were called nuns or sisters. María spent time with the nuns. She dreamed of becoming a sister when she grew up. María prayed that the Holy Spirit would help her find a way for her dream to come true.

María first went to work in the hospital. She learned how to care for the sick. She joined a group of women who prayed together every day. Then María had an idea! She thought that she and her friends could become nuns together! She went to the bishop and asked his permission to start a new community of sisters. The bishop wrote to the pope and asked him to approve the new community.

The pope agreed. All the new nuns made promises to live holy lives and to serve others. Each of the nuns took a new name. María chose the name Sister María de Jesús Sacramentado Venegas, which means María of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Sister María's name was a sign of her love for Jesus in the Eucharist.

Sister María and her nuns cared for the sick, especially people who had no money for doctors or hospitals. They treated everyone with love.

María was the first Mexican women to be named a saint. Saint Maria's life shows us that the Holy Spirit can help us to continue Jesus' work of helping people.