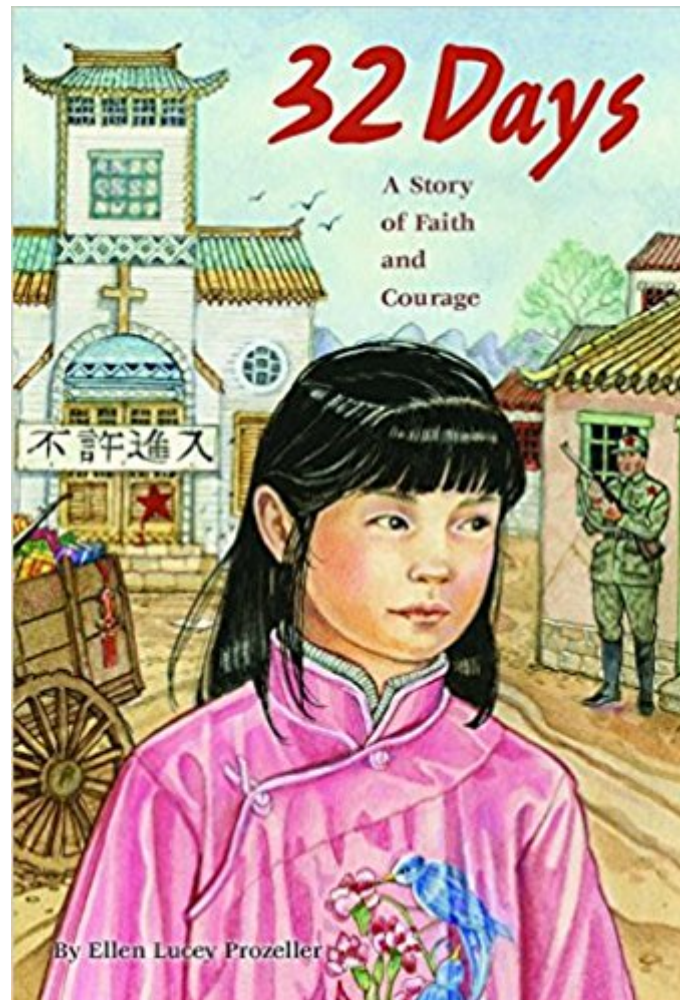




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32 Days: A Story Of Faith And Courage



Synopsis

How are the lives of a famous American bishop, Fulton J. Sheen, and an unknown eleven year old Chinese peasant girl intertwined? Discover why the child's holiness and courage moved the famous TV and radio personality of the 1950's to promote her religious devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament throughout the world. An historical novel, the author puts flesh and bones on a real child and her love for Jesus. A very inspirational story that touches the heart and shows readers that even a child can be a hero.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 10 years

Grade Level: 3 - 5

Customer Reviews

"I believe this book should be in the hands of every catechist, parent and study group.Â What a powerful story!Â Every page holds another proof about faith in action and the power of the Eucharist.Â Every first communicant should fall in love with the story and Jesus in the Eucharist." Monsignor Peter J.

Zaccardostore.pauline.org/english/books/productid/4745#gsc.tab=0" My heartiest congratulations go to Ellen Lucey Prozeller for putting flesh and blood to a story told and retold about this little faith-filled Chinese girl Archbishop Fulton Sheen made so famous.Â May children find in this young girl an inspiration to live holy

[illegible]

[illegible]

My daughter loved it!

32 Days is a story for upper elementary school readers based on an interview with Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Sheen gave an interview about a young Chinese girl who risked her life to spend time before the consecrated Eucharist during Chinese persecution. As there are no details known about this girl, even her name, this book is a fictionalized account based on Sheen's narrative. The book is written for upper elementary school ages, about second through sixth grades. This is a chapter book, with vocabulary suitable for that age group. There are no illustrations or pictures. The topical content includes Communism, as this book takes place in 1949 China. The book features include 10 questions for discussion, making this a suitable book for parochial school reading groups. It also has a Glossary, which defines terms and people such as Chairman Mao, and some Chinese words. Note: A copy of this book was provided to me by Pauline Books for review purposes.

If you are Catholic, then you are most likely familiar with the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Why that man is not a canonized saint is baffling to me, but this review is not the place for that platform. In an interview in 1979, he was praised for his accomplishments and lauded for the various important people he had met throughout the world. He was then asked, who he considered to be the biggest inspiration to him. In his humility, Sheen responded that he had never met his biggest inspiration, but that it was an eleven year old Chinese girl and her love for the Eucharist that inspired him most. *32 Days: A Story of Faith and Courage* tells the story of that girl. Pei was a village girl who lived in China. Like most children, she had parents, siblings, and grandparents. They worked hard and didn't have a lot, but they loved each other and loved Jesus too. Within their village, there was a Catholic Church, a priest, and a school run by a Catholic nun. Things were quiet for the most part until the Communists took over the village. Everything changed at that point. The Communists used propaganda techniques, intimidation, and fear to try and "convert" people to this change in regime. In addition to imprisoning the priest, one of their worst atrocities was destroying the Church and everything inside of it. They even desecrated the Eucharist by throwing it on the

ground and stepping on it. Pei witnessed all of this and felt helpless about it, but one day she resolved to go consume the sacred hosts, as that was Jesus and she longed for Him. There were 32 hosts, so she had to sneak out at night 32 times to do this. She was almost caught several times, and sadly, on the 32nd night she was. She was martyred that night, but during that month+, she grew closer to Jesus than most of us do in our lifetime. The book was an easy read, and one that I was able to read in about an hour. The content is sad, but beautiful. I would recommend it for those in 4th-6th grade, but even older children and adults could learn a lot from it. This book was provided to me for free by Pauline Books and Media in exchange for an honest review.

32 Days: A Story of Faith and Courage (Pauline Kids) by Ellen Lucey Prozeller is meant for children ages 9 – 11, however its story is inspiring for every Catholic no matter one's age. In 1979, Archbishop Fulton Sheen gave an interview in which he said that an eleven year old Chinese girl had been his biggest inspiration for impressing upon his listeners the importance of Eucharistic adoration. The truth is that little is known about this young Catholic. We do not even know her name, only the rudiments of her story, but her witness was extraordinary. Prozeller has filled in the blanks, creating a fictionalized version which is incredibly powerful. Pei is living in China in 1948 just as the Communist regime is beginning to take over. She and her family are faithful Catholics, but as the soldiers move into their community, they arrest the sisters and priests and desecrate the Church. Pei is a witness to this and sees thirty-two consecrated hosts thrown to the ground and trampled upon. She decides to risk her life to go to the Church thirty-two times in the middle of the night to consume one of the hosts and spend a holy hour with Jesus. Prozeller's writing is superb. *32 days* is powerful and fast-moving. It offers lessons in both the Catholic faith and the historical reality of Communist China. Whether it is read in a Catholic school, homeschool, or as a family read-aloud, it is sure to foster much conversation. The included discussion questions can provide a springboard for that dialogue.

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