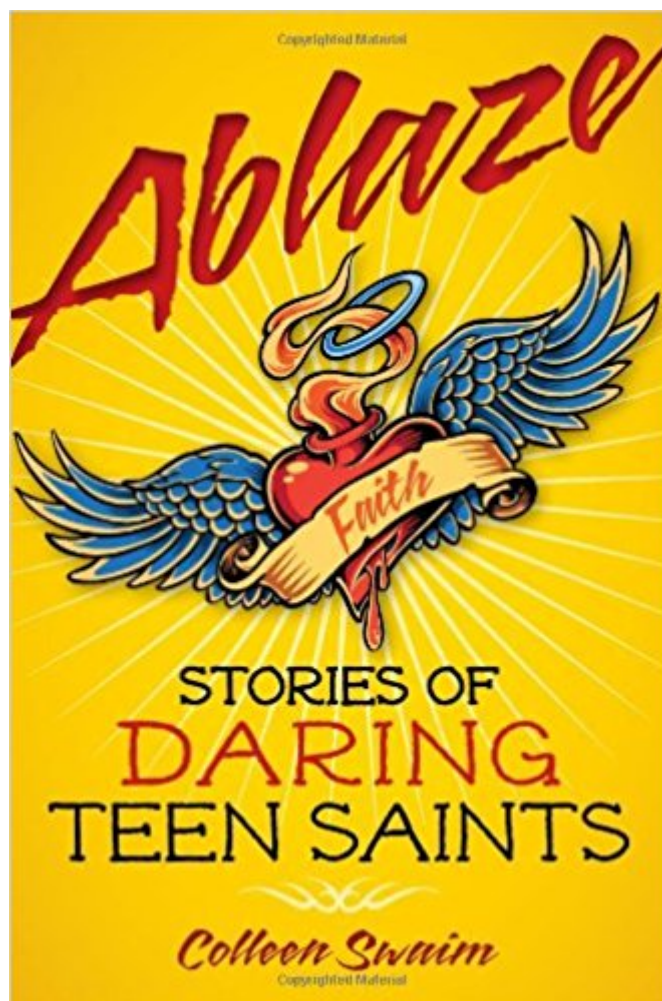


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# Ablaze: Stories Of Daring Teen Saints



## Synopsis

Following Christ is not always easy, but takes courage, patience, and love. In *Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints*, Colleen Swaim examines the lives of eight young men and women who were set fire with the Spirit and set free to live lives of extraordinary virtue. All became saints for the outgoing, against-the-current heroism of their teen years. Read how Chiara Luce, an Italian high school student, faced cancer joyfully, inspiring thousands to throng her funeral in song. Follow Kizito, a brand-new Christian, as his faith is challenged by a king and he is marched to his death for standing firm. From martyrdom to missionary life and from sickness to the silence of religious life, these teens show that we are all called to follow Christ in our own unique ways. These stories come alive with vivid storytelling and saintly challenges designed to inspire reflection and enflame your heart. Through prayers, images, and maps, catch a glimpse of a saint's world that carries lessons for our own--and discover how you can set our world ablaze with love for the Lord!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Young people and others will appreciate another book that matters, in both content and design: *Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints*, by Colleen Swaim. This book is a gem, plain and simple. Here are just three of the best elements: \*the book include several well-known saints, like St. Dominic Savio and St. Maria Goretti, but these bios aren't the "same-old" facts. Swaim infuses the stories with a fresh, invigorating voice that shows these remarkable people as more 3-dimensional than the usual narratives. \*the bulk of the book is new-to-most saints, or saints most will only have a passing knowledge of, from St. Kizito of Africa to Blessed Chiara of

Italy, and many others. Their stories are told in a way that makes *Ablaze* a must-read. It truly inspires a sense of longing for holiness. \*each saint/chapter ends with “saintly challenges,” offering readers a chance to apply the lessons of the saint’s life to his or her own, through media, prayers and recipes. Think trying a homemade chai tea recipe to give as a gift after reading about St. Alphonsa from India, or being challenged to put into practice a daily schedule to emulate St. Stanislaus. There are movie suggestions, simple virtue development ideas, and tons of other great ideas and challenges. (Nancy Piccione Catholic Post, the Diocese of Peoria, IL 2011-07-08) Let’s hear it for teens Thanks to a five-year strategic pastoral plan, this year will be devoted to teens and young adults in the arch. The aim is a spiritual awakening for youth, so they’ll become wholehearted Catholics. How about role models who have already made the journey? Here’s a collection of stories about young heroes for inspiration: “*Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints*,” by Colleen Swaim “*Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints*” by high school teacher Colleen Swaim, is about eight teenaged saints or “blesseds” recognized officially by the church. (Of course there are many more whose names we’ll never know.) Three of Swaim’s subjects were from Italy, and the other five from Chile, Uganda, Poland, India and Spain. The youngest is 11-year-old St. Maria Goretti. Swaim writes about some who were obvious saints from the get-go, like Dominic Savio who served Mass daily at age five. Or Stanislaus Kostka, a home-schooled kid in 1564 who levitated during Mass at age 14. Or young Kizito. He lived in Uganda and was a page in the court of an evil king who also happened to be a pedophile. Kizito, newly baptized at age 14, went singing to his martyrdom, along with 15 other boys and young men, St. Charles Lwanga and some adult Christians. But when Juanita Solar was a youngster, she was rich, spoiled and had temper tantrums. (Nothing too saintly there.) A typical student, she called her boarding school “a dungeon,” and hated to go back after summer break. People can change. Juanita entered a Carmelite convent at age 18 and while her life was brief, today she’s known as the “St. Teresa of the Andes.” The most recent addition to this select company is Chiara “Luce” Badano. Called “a saint of our times,” she’s been chosen by Pope Benedict as one of the patrons for World Youth Day 2011. Before she died of bone cancer at age 18, she “lived the Gospel” doing acts of love for others. She appeared average hanging out in coffee shops with friends, playing tennis and swimming. She might even be called “the saint who flunked high school math.” She offered all her suffering to God, and 20 years after her death, in 2010, she was named Blessed Chiara. Swaim has arranged her appealing book with lots of extra tidbits from helpful definitions and photos to brief

discussion-starters, saintly challenges and prayers. As the author says, "Be who you should be, and you will set the whole world ablaze!" It's available for \$12.99 + shipping from Liguori Publications, (800) 325-9521, or at [www.liguori.com](http://www.liguori.com). (Delores Madlener Catholic New World, newspaper for the Archdiocese of Chicago 2011-07-18)

Colleen Swaim is a teacher of religion and English in the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, who encourages in young adults an understanding of the intense radicalism of sanctity and the dreary dullness of sin.

Not a great read, but the questions at the end of the chapters are helpful in creating introspection and conversation with my kids. I wish the book had more modern day saints that boys could relate to. I was disappointed that Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati wasn't included in the book. The writing in the book isn't great, and in an effort to be brief, doesn't have enough detail in some places. Still, it's useful in that the chapters are short, with enough information, followed by topics of discussion that it is a decent learning tool, but not as enjoyable or inspiring as I had hoped.

Love this book. I have twins that are preparing for confirmation. I wanted them to have more relevant resources for saints. This fit the bill perfectly. There are reflection questions, prayers, even a recipe in one of the books. I bought both volumes, one for each twin. I am planning on purchasing again so they can each have a copy of both books. They don't want to put these down and are interested in the volume that they do not currently have.

Great book to give to a teen

I have just read the first story, about St. Dominic Savio, but I have to recommend this book for teens. Teachers and Parents would do well to get this book. The chapters are full of gems to reinforce the stories and how they relate to the teen reading the book. As the stories unfold, teens are asked questions to help them relate the saint's story to their own. This brings the story home, making the saint a partner in the reader's own teen struggles. To evangelize teens, a story has to relate to them. These saints, and Christ Himself, have to be seen as real, and this book does that. This book would be a great addition to every Catholic school and religious education program. Parents would do their teens and preteens a great service to get this book for them.

Our friend passed on her copy to us and we loved it, so we got our own. Don't forget to pick up the Radiate book as well. More GREAT relevant stories! Teens and adults alike will get hooked on these (our) real-life heroes! Tell your teen about one of your favorites in the book and bookmark it for him/her... watch what happens. GREAT JOB, Colleen!

My teenage grandson told me the other day he had finally read this book and was surprised at it's content. He liked the book which is considerable considering he is 17 and it's hard to find anything religious that he might like. Very glad I gave it to him.

Great!

Read it to my kids, super inspiring! Everyone young & old should look to these heroic figures who lived lives of heroic virtue in a world sadly lacking in true role models

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