

**Maria  
Domenica:  
The Keys  
to my life**



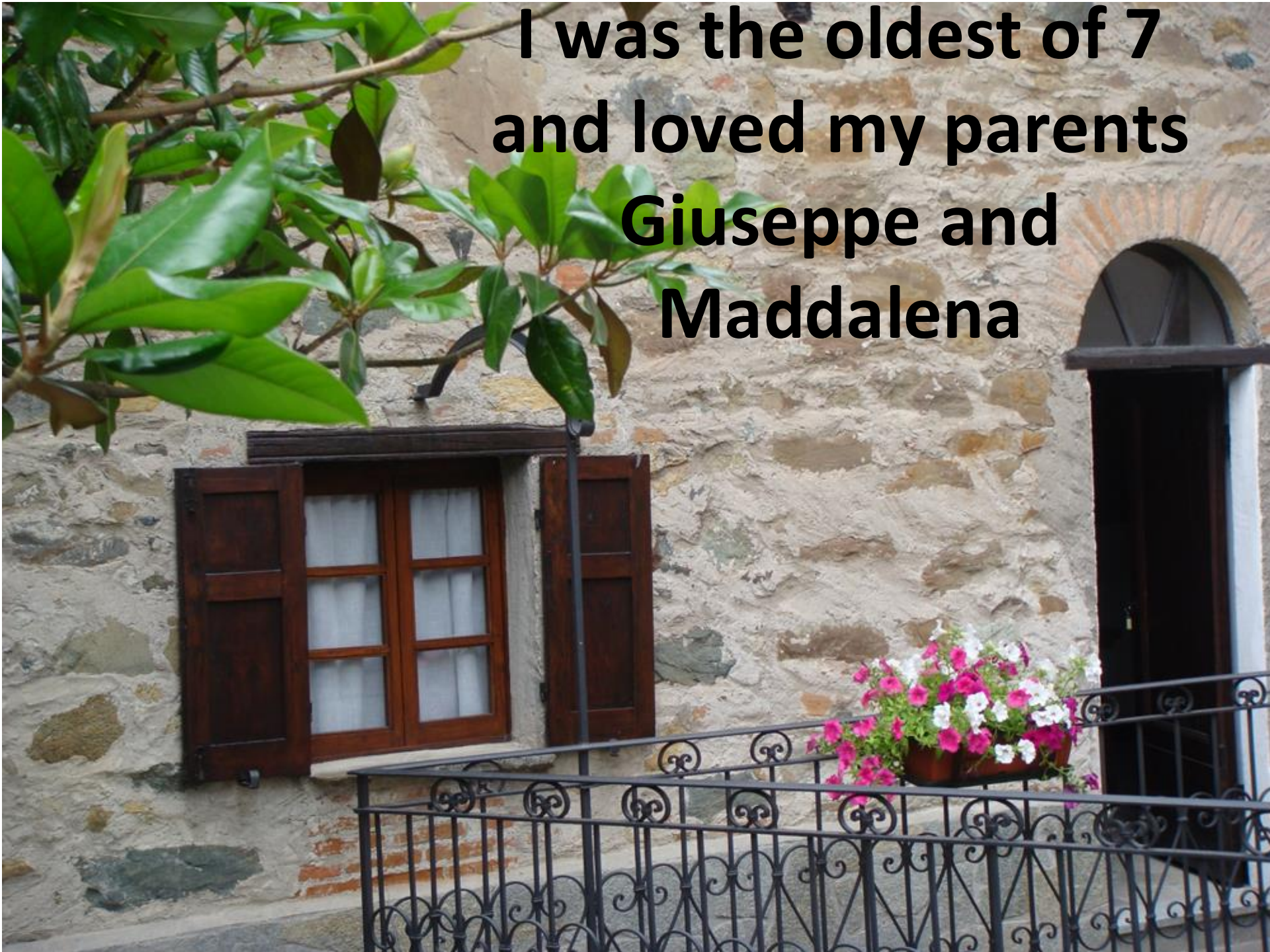
**My name is Maria Domenica Mazzarello  
and I was born here in Mornese, in the  
north-east of Italy**

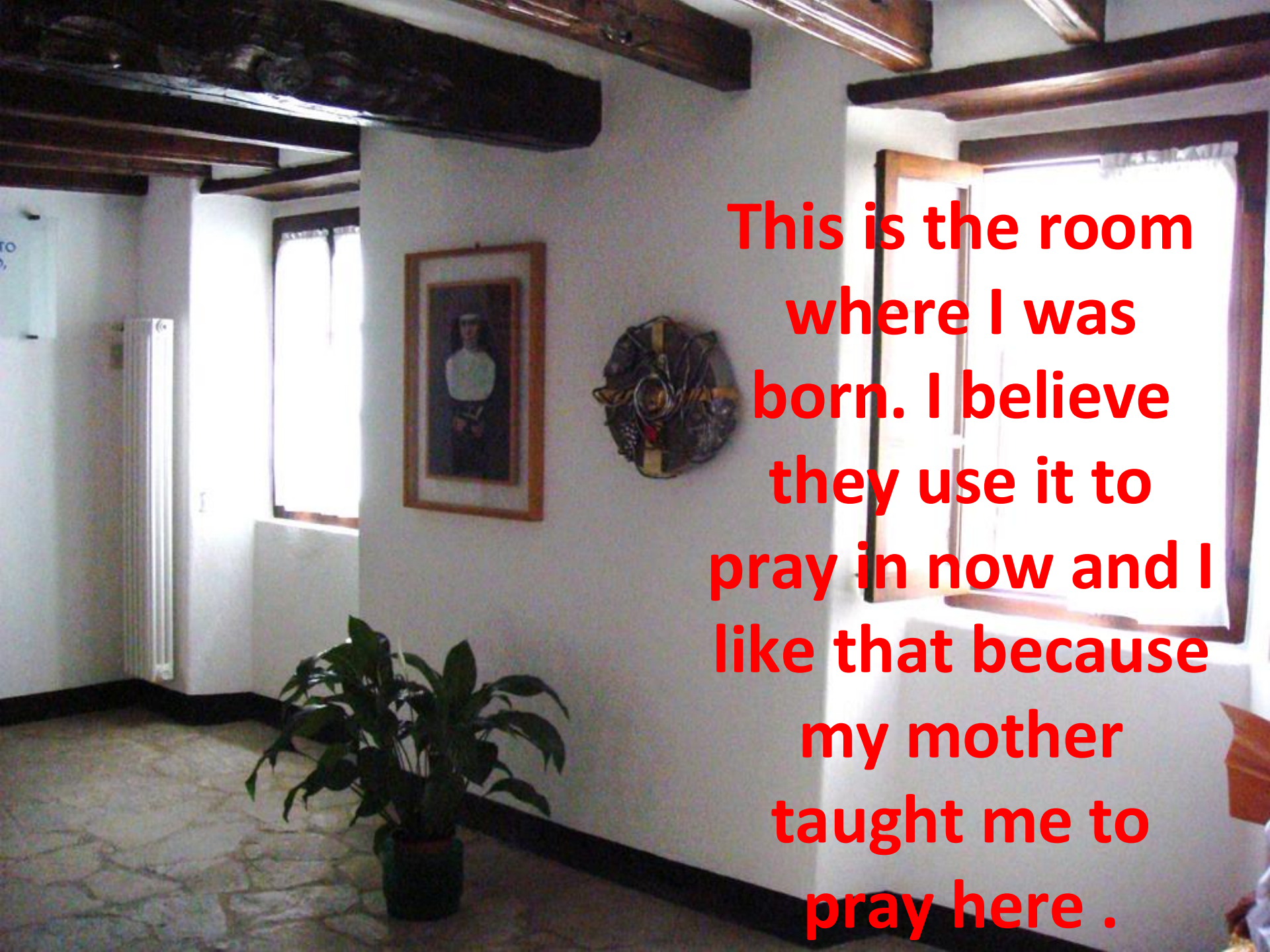


Here is my  
Childhood home,  
but it looks much  
better than when  
we lived there



**I was the oldest of 7  
and loved my parents  
Giuseppe and  
Maddalena**





**This is the room  
where I was  
born. I believe  
they use it to  
pray in now and I  
like that because  
my mother  
taught me to  
pray here .**

**This is our Parish  
Church, almost my  
second home**

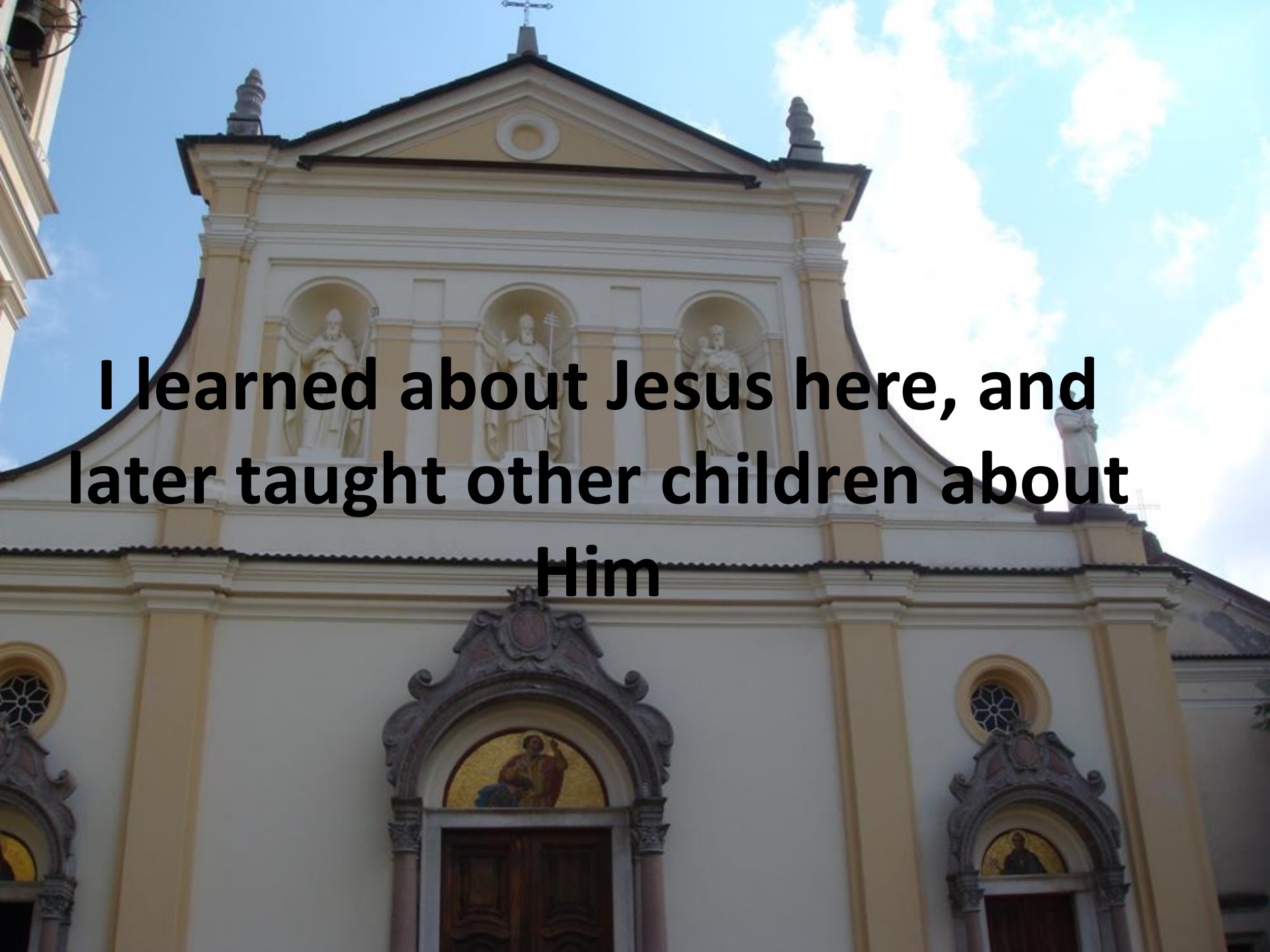




**I was  
Baptised  
in this  
church on  
the very  
day I was  
born**

**I made my  
First  
Communion  
here and  
loved to  
attend daily  
Mass**



A photograph of a classical church facade. The central pediment features three statues in niches. Below the pediment is a large doorway with a decorative archway and a mosaic above the door. The church is light-colored with yellow accents. The sky is blue with white clouds.

**I learned about Jesus here, and  
later taught other children about  
Him**

**When I was about 11, we moved to  
this Farm called Valponasca**





**Valponasca was far from the village but I loved it, because of one small window**



**This became my Prayer window,  
because it looked towards Church**

# Here is the view from my window at Valponasca

Church

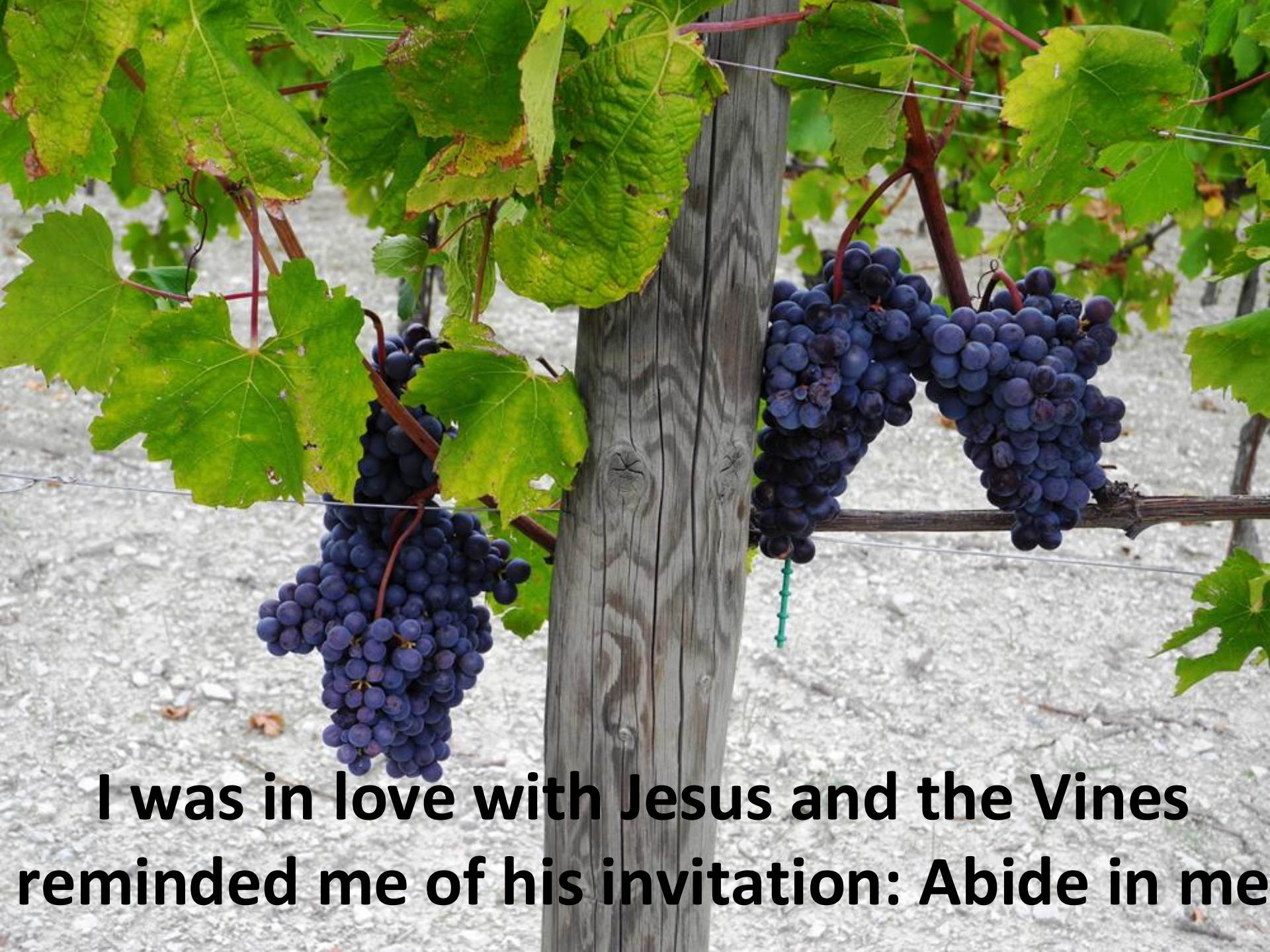


**I spent many long hours helping  
my father in these Vineyards**



**It was hard work but I was young strong**





**I was in love with Jesus and the Vines reminded me of his invitation: Abide in me**

**We moved  
to this house  
in the village  
following a  
break-in at  
Valponasca.  
When I was  
21**





**It was here  
that  
recovered  
from the  
typhoid I  
caught while  
nursing my  
relations and  
which nearly  
cost my life**




**We finally  
moved our  
sewing  
classes into  
this house  
and lived as a  
committed  
lay  
community**



**We also had a  
club for the  
girls in their  
free time**





**Some, who needed a  
home, came to live  
with us**

PIAZZA  
S. M. DOMENICA  
MAZZARELLO

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**Don Bosco  
asked us  
to be the  
first  
Salesian  
Sisters**



**And sent us to live in 'The College'  
Which was built for boys but had  
not been allowed to open**

This little room was my office and bedroom

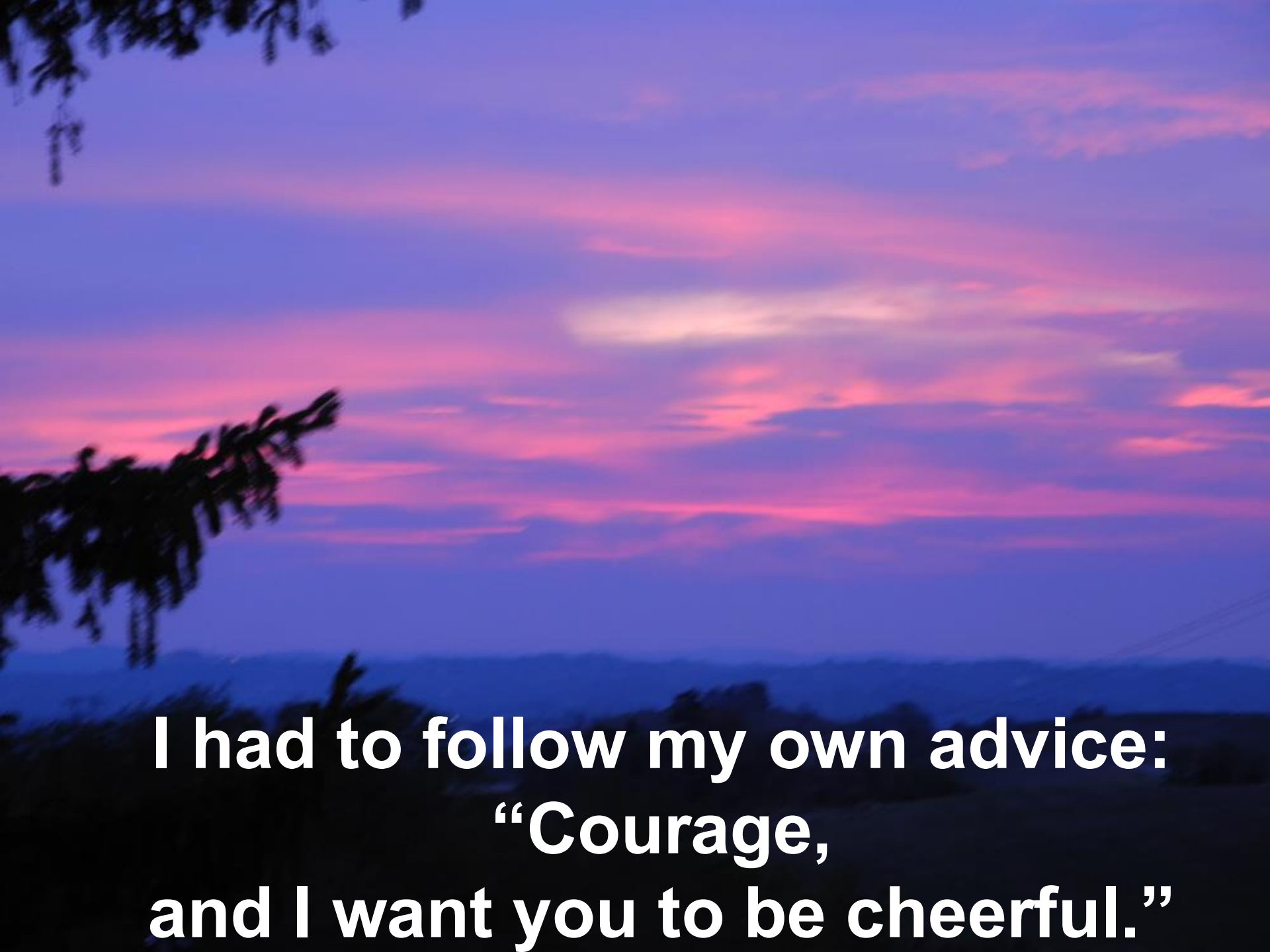


**I spent 42 of  
my 44 years in  
Mornese**



**Then I had to say  
goodbye**





**I had to follow my own advice:  
“Courage,  
and I want you to be cheerful.”**

**With my Sisters, I moved to this house in Nizza Monferrato**





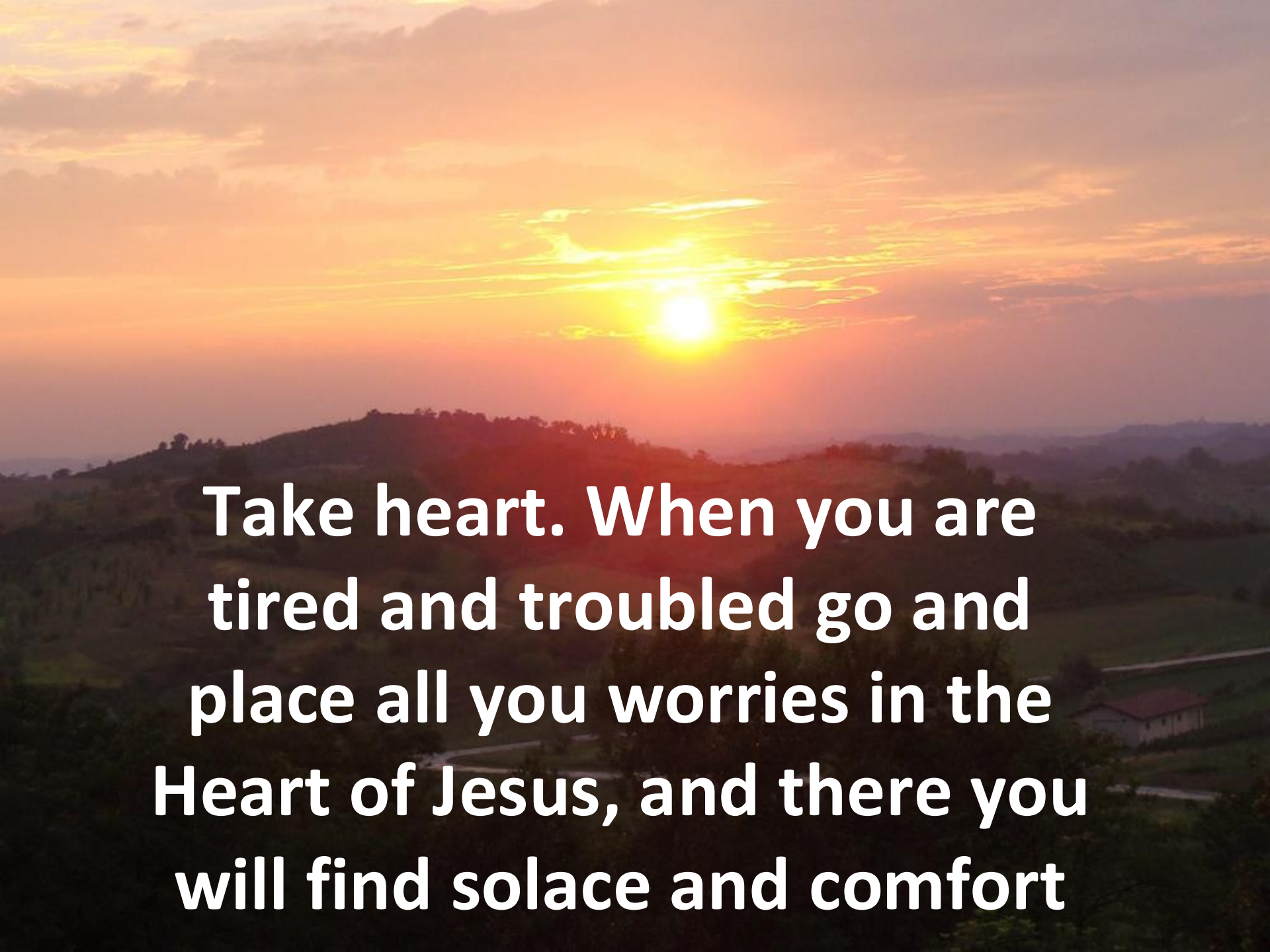
**From here I wrote many letters to my Sisters, especially those who were missionaries in South America**

**From this Room in  
Nizza left for Heaven  
aged 44**



**In this time of so much  
uncertainty, my message to all my  
friends on earth is:**



A photograph of a sunset over a landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted hills and a small house with a red roof. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

**Take heart. When you are  
tired and troubled go and  
place all you worries in the  
Heart of Jesus, and there you  
will find solace and comfort**



**I want you to be cheerful, to love  
one another, to be understanding of  
one another**

**Remember that whatever you do: play,  
study, sew, or dance, you can offer  
everything as a message of love to God.**



**And my final word:**

**“Do in freedom what charity  
requires.”**