

# A MIRACLE IN THE KITCHEN



A LEGEND ABOUT SAINT ZITA

Written by Pamela Love    Illustrated by Sheila Bailey



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Pauline  
BOOKS & MEDIA  
Boston

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020934600

CIP data is available.

ISBN-10: 0-8198-0872-5

ISBN-13: 978-0-8198-0872-1

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Design by Daughters of St. Paul

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Published by Pauline Books & Media, 50 Saint Paul’s Avenue, Boston, MA  
02130-3491

Printed in Korea.

AMITK SIPSKOGUNKYO12-13085 0872-5

[www.pauline.org](http://www.pauline.org)

Pauline Books & Media is the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul, an international congregation of women religious serving the Church with the communications media.

To all who help  
those in need.







Long ago in Italy, a girl named Zita stirred coals in a fireplace until they glowed hot. Glancing outside at the rising sun, she thought, *I must hurry! If everything is not ready by the time the cook wakes up, I will be in trouble.*



Zita was twelve. She was a maid for the rich Fatinelli family in the city of Lucca. All day, it was work and more work, from lighting the fireplaces before breakfast until washing the supper dishes at night. In between came milking cows, gathering eggs, bringing in water, cleaning the house, and on and on. She was the first person up in the morning and the last one in bed at night. Sometimes she thought she would need wings to move fast enough to do everything that was expected of her.









The rudeness of the other servants made Zita's job even harder. The cook was especially harsh. "Scrub the floor! Bring firewood! Get water! Hurry up!" She never gave Zita a chance to do anything before yelling.

Zita could not quit. Good jobs were hard to find. At least here, she had enough to eat. Signor Fatinelli told all the servants, "Work hard or I will fire you and hire someone else!"



Busy as she was, every morning before dawn, Zita tiptoed out the door. Hurrying through the streets, she often whispered, “Lord, please help me get to Mass on time. Then help me get home to finish my morning’s work before the cook wakes up.”