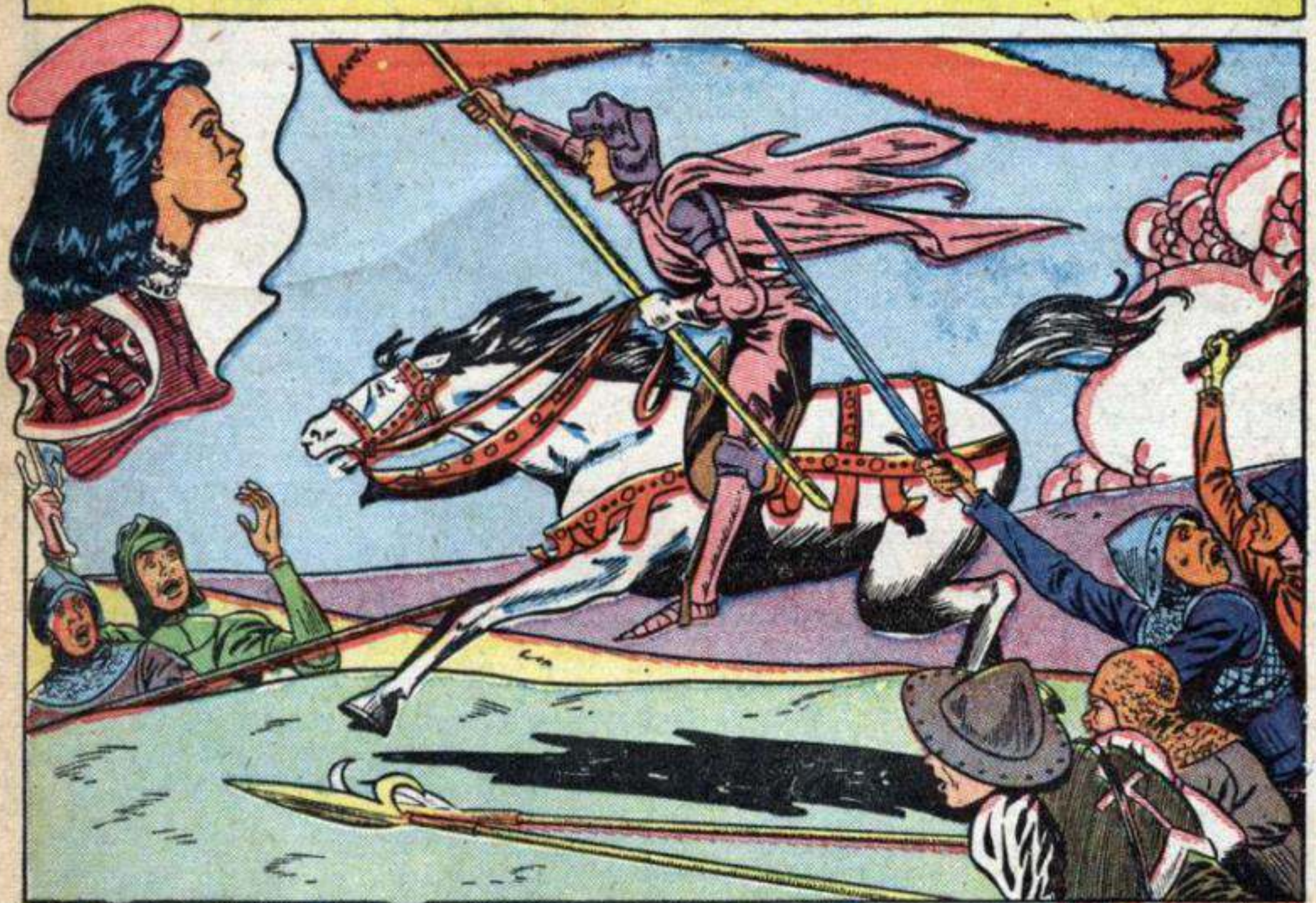


Joan of Arc

THE STORY OF JOAN OF ARC IS UNIQUE IN HISTORY! SHE LIVED AT A TIME WHEN THOSE NOT BORN INTO THE NOBILITY HAD ALMOST NO CHANCE TO RISE TO FAME, YET JOAN, A POOR COUNTRY GIRL, ONLY 17 YEARS OLD, LED TRIUMPHANT ARMIES.

SHE HAD NOT STUDIED MILITARY SCIENCE, COULD NOT EVEN READ OR WRITE, YET SHE PUT TO SHAME THE GREATEST MILITARY LEADERS OF HER TIME. EVEN TODAY, SHE IS REGARDED AS A MILITARY GENIUS. FURTHERMORE, SHE CROWNED A KING. THOUGH MOST CRUELLY BURNED AS A WITCH AT ROUEN, SHE SET IN MOTION THE FORCES THAT MADE FRANCE A GREAT AND INDEPENDENT NATION.

HERE IS THE STORY IN ALL ITS FASCINATION.....



DAUPHIN



LA TREMOUILLE



LA HIRE



D'AULON



ALENÇON



ARCHBISHOP

CATHOLIC COMICS

IN 1428, THE ENGLISH HAD CAPTURED PARIS AND NEARLY ALL OF NORTHWESTERN FRANCE.

SO, THE UNCROWNED DAUPHIN SET UP HIS COURT AT THE CASTLE OF CHINON....



ALAS, THE ENGLISH HAVE BEATEN US AGAIN!

BUT, SWEET DAUPHIN, YOU ARE STILL A PRINCE AND HAVE CASTLES ON THE LOIRE. LET US HASTEN THERE!



MORE BAD NEWS! THE ENGLISH HAVE LAID SIEGE TO THE NEARBY CITY OF ORLEANS. DUNOIS SENDS WORD..THE CITY NEEDS SUPPLIES DESPERATELY!

TO THE EASTWARD, AT DOMREMY, JOAN, NOW NEARING 17, SAW VISIONS AND HEARD "VOICES".

MEANWHILE, TREACHERY AT THE DAUPHIN'S COURT.

IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THE ENGLISH SEIZED TOWNS CLOSE TO DOMREMY, JOAN'S "VOICES" GREW LOUDER....

IN YOUR SEVENTEENTH YEAR, YOU WILL FEEL THE POWER OF THE LORD. YOU WILL LEAD ARMIES AND GREAT KNIGHTS WILL OBEY YOU!

THE DAUPHIN IS HEAVILY IN DEBT TO US. WE HOLD THE PURSE STRINGS OF THE COURT. AND I HOLD SECRET SWAY WITH HIS ENEMY, THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY.

JOAN, YOU ARE TO RAISE THE SIEGE OF ORLEANS! CROWN THE KING AT RHEIMS!

DRIVE THE ENGLISH FROM THE SACRED SOIL OF FRANCE!



JACQUES, I HAVE OVERHEARD JOAN SPEAKING TO THOSE STRANGE VOICES AND PROMISING TO RUN AWAY AND JOIN THE SOLDIERS!

IS SHE MAD? IF SHE TRIES SUCH FOLLY, I WILL DROWN HER WITH THESE HANDS!

AT THE END OF 1428, JOAN COULD NO LONGER RESIST THE URGING "VOICES". SHE WRUNG PERMISSION FROM HER PARENTS TO GO TO WAIT UPON HER MOTHER'S SICK COUSIN....

IT IS WELL FOR JOAN TO GO WITH LAXART TO WAIT UPON MY SICK COUSIN.

IT WILL TAKE HER MIND OFF THESE VOICES.



CATHOLIC COMICS

ON HER WAY, JOAN LAID HER PLANS BEFORE LAXART.

LAXART, I AM NOT GOING TOWARD YOUR HOUSE BUT TO THE CASTLE OF VAUCOULEURS, WHERE THE VOICES DIRECT ME.

I BELIEVE YOUR MISSION IS FROM HEAVEN AND I WILL FOLLOW YOU.



THEY TRAVELLED ONLY AT NIGHT AND FORDED ICY RIVERS FOR THEY WERE IN ENEMY COUNTRY....



SQUIRE ROBERT, LOAN US A HORSE FOR THE MAID AND GIVE HER A SWORD. WE BELIEVE GOD HAS SENT HER. WE WILL, OURSELVES, ESCORT HER TO THE CASTLE OF CHINON.

SIR POULENGY, YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR REQUEST. HAD YOU NOT SPOKEN, I SHOULD HAVE SENT HER TO HER FATHER TO BE SPANKED.



LA HIRE, I KNOW YOU TO BE A TOUGH WARRIOR...

I TELL YOU, A KNIGHT SWORE IN THE PRESENCE OF THIS MAID AND HEAVEN STRUCK HIM DEAD!



LET THE MAID APPEAR. I WILL PRETEND TO BE THE DAUPHIN.

AND I WILL HIDE AMONG THE LADIES OF THE COURT... SHE WILL NOT RECOGNIZE ME.

A GOOD JOKE? LET HER COME.



WELCOME, MAID, WHAT QUEST DO YOU MAKE OF THE DAUPHIN?

YOU'RE NOT THE DAUPHIN!

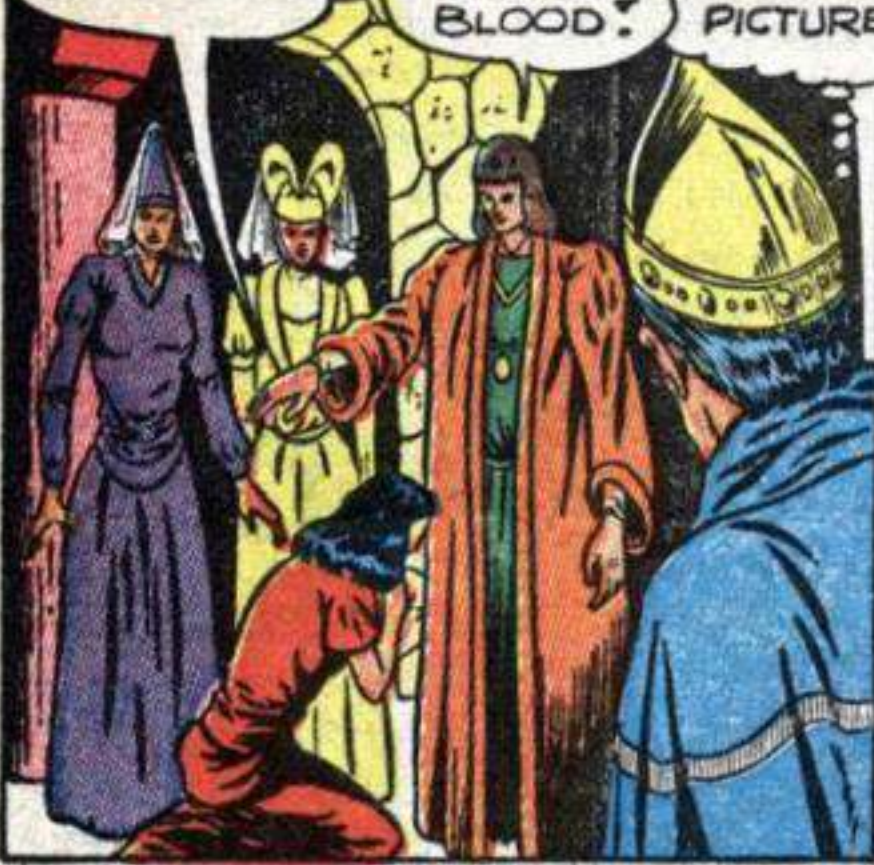


CATHOLIC COMICS

I HAVE COME TO CROWN THEE KING AT RHEIMS.

THE MAID RECOGNIZES ROYAL BLOOD.

HA! SHE HAS SEEN HIS PICTURE.



CHARLES PLACED JOAN AT THE HEAD OF HIS ARMY.

MY COUSIN, ALENÇON, AND BRAVE SIR D'AULON.

WELCOME TO OUR STANDARD.

MAID, WE FOLLOW THEE.



I HAVE GIVEN ORDERS THIS MAID MUST BE EXAMINED BY THE DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH.

VERY GOOD, ARCHBISHOP.



SO YOU HEAR VOICES OF THE SAINTS?

EVEN NOW THEY SPEAK TO ME. I MUST GO TO THE ALTAR OF ST. CATHERINE WHERE I WILL FIND A SACRED SWORD STAMPED WITH FIVE CROSSES.



AND JOAN FOUND THE SWORD BURIED BY A KNIGHT 700 YEARS BEFORE...

AND IN A NEW COAT OF SHINING ARMOR, JOAN RODE TO LIFT THE SIEGE OF ORLEANS....



THE MAID IS TRULY SENT FROM GOD.

THIS IS A MIRACLE.



CATHOLIC COMICS

AT THE GATES, SHE MEETS DUNOIS.

FOOL CAPTAIN! WHY DO YOU DALLY HERE? I MEAN TO CROSS THE RIVER AND FALL UPON THE ENGLISH FORTS!

I AM YOUR OBEDIENT KNIGHT! LEAD ON!



IN THE MORNING, SEEING THAT THE ENGLISH WERE STILL IN THEIR BATTLEMENTS, JOAN HEARD EARLY MASS.



JOAN RODE TO WARN THE ENGLISH SHE WAS ATTACKING IN THE MORNING.

I WARN YOU, ENGLISH! SURRENDER! FOR TOMORROW I STRIKE WITH THE FURY OF LIGHTNING!

WHO IS THAT WOMAN?

SOME FOUL WITCH! I FEAR TO DRAW MY BOW!



MY BLOOD WILL FLOW IN THE COMING BATTLE, BUT I SHALL NOT DIE!



FORWARD UNDER GOD!



I HAVE SLAIN THE WITCH!



CATHOLIC COMICS



AND COMFORTING VOICES CAME TO
HER AND EASED THE PAIN.

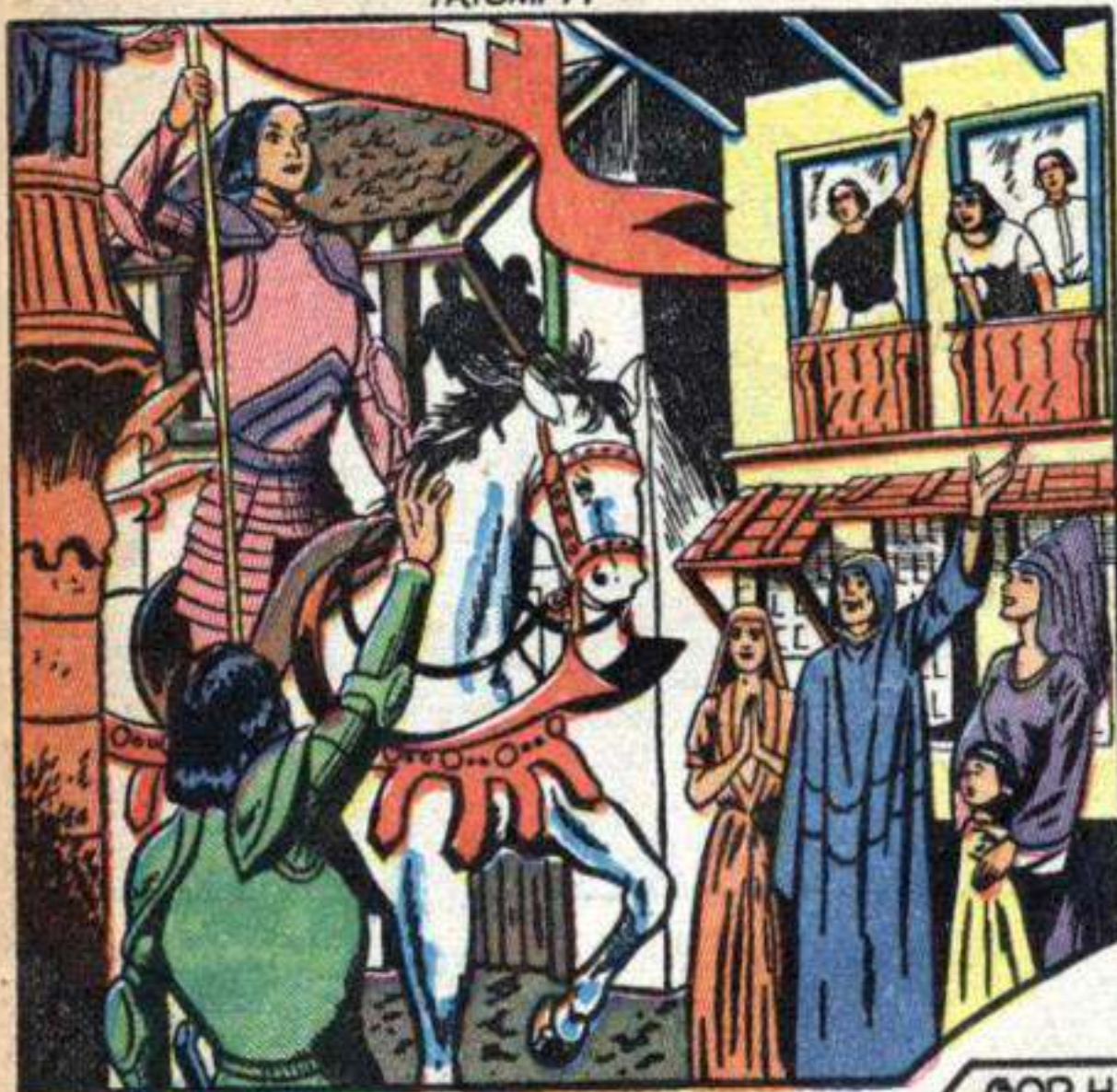
THY WOUND HAS STOPPED
BLEEDING..

DRAW ON THY ARMOR
AND DRIVE THE
ENGLISH HENCE!



CATHOLIC COMICS

THE ENGLISH BEATEN, JOAN RETURNED TO ORLEANS IN TRIUMPH



POST THEE TO THE CASTLE OF CHINON AND INFORM THE KING OF OUR VICTORY. BID HIM JOIN ME ON THE ROAD TO RHEIMS.

BUT CHARLES WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE VICTORY AT ORLEANS.

I LIKE NOT THIS VICTORY OF THE MAID AT ORLEANS. WE MUST KEEP HER FROM CROWNING CHARLES AT RHEIMS!

YES, IT WOULD MAKE HER TOO POWERFUL IN THE REALM.



GOD, HAS GIVEN YOU THIS VICTORY. NOW ACCOMPANY ME TO RHEIMS TO RECEIVE YOUR CROWN.

ARISE, MAID OF FRANCE, I CANNOT BEAR TO SEE YOU KNEEL

THE WENCH! HE CANNOT BEAR TO SEE HER KNEEL.



SWEET DAUPHIN, VENTURE NOT TO RHEIMS WHILE THE ENGLISH HOLD JARGEAU, MEUNG, AND BEUGENCY.

TEST THE MAID! LET HER TAKE THESE PLACES BEFORE YOU GO TO RHEIMS.

GENTLEMEN, YOU KNOW I CANNOT OVER-RIDE YOUR COUNCIL.

SO JOAN STRUCK THE ENGLISH AT JARGEAU.



FORWARD, UNDER THE BANNER OF THE KING OF HEAVEN!

CATHOLIC COMICS

BUT IN AN INSTANT, JOAN WAS UP AGAIN AND CLIMBED THE LADDER.

THE WITCH!
NO STONE CAN
CRUSH HER!

TAKE THAT FOR A
SIGN... THE LORD
HAS DELIVERED THE
ENEMY IN TO OUR
HANDS!

JOAN BEAT THE ENGLISH AT MEUNG AND BEUGENCY. SURPRISED AND DESTROYED A NEW ARMY AT PATAY. NOW, CHARLES COULD NOT RESIST GOING WITH HER TO RHEIMS. WITH AN ARMY OF 12,000, WHICH LACKED ARTILLERY AND SIEGE MATERIAL, THE COURT STARTED TOWARD THAT CITY...

ON THE WAY, THE ARMY HALTED BEFORE THE HOSTILE CITY OF TROYES.....

OPEN THE GATES
TO THE DAUPHIN WHO
GOES TO RHEIMS TO BE
CROWNED YOUR
KING!

THE ARMY STARVES
WHILE WE SIT OUT-
SIDE THE CITY
GATES!

WE MUST RETURN
TO OUR CASTLE
ON THE LOIRE!

CALL THE MAID.
IF SHE HAS NO
PLAN I WILL OBEY
YOUR COUNSEL.

GIVE ME
BUT TWO DAYS
AND WE WILL
BE IN TROYES
BY FORCE
OR BY
LOVE!

CONTINUED AND COMPLETED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF CATHOLIC COMICS!