

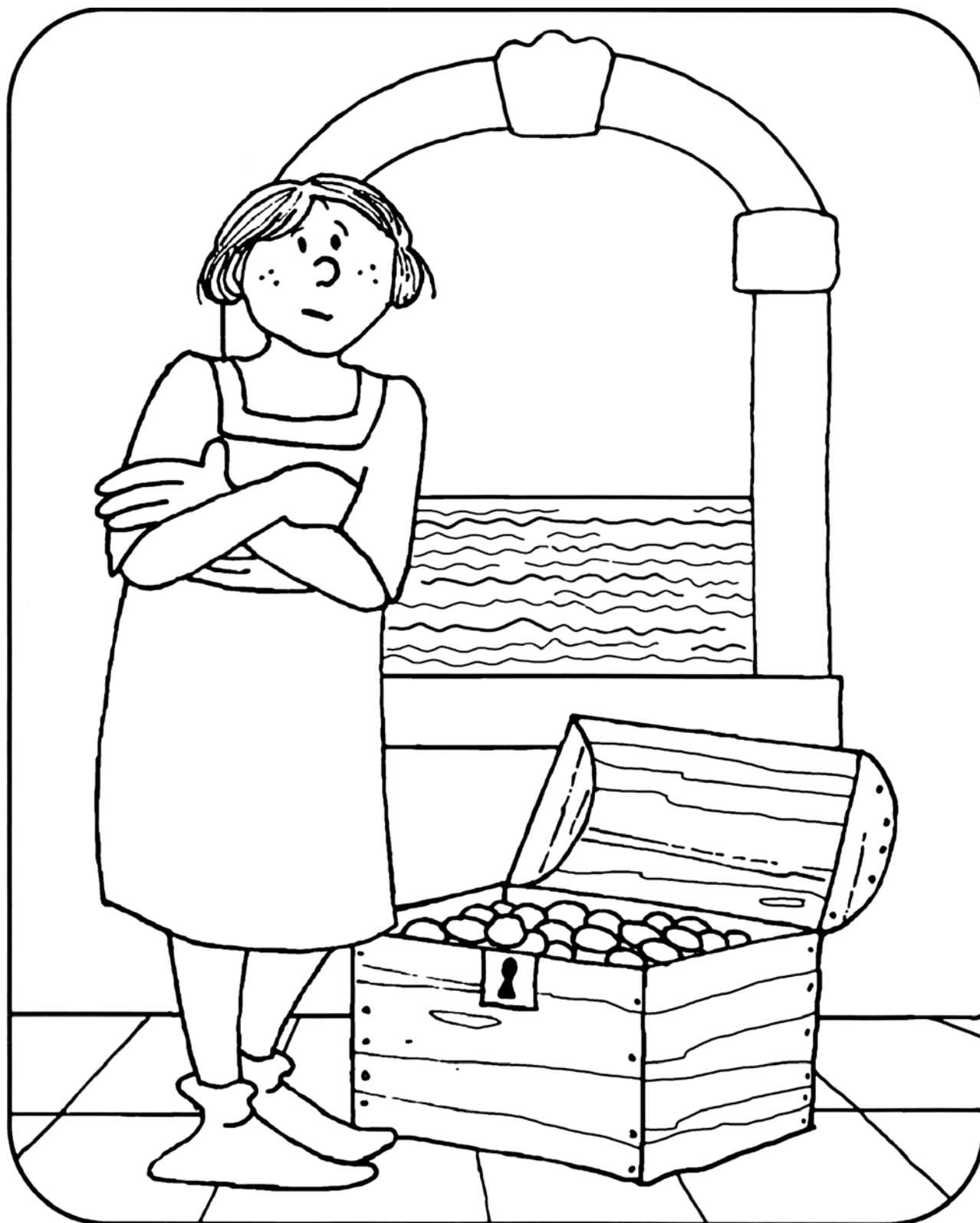
The Story of Saint Nicholas

freely translated from

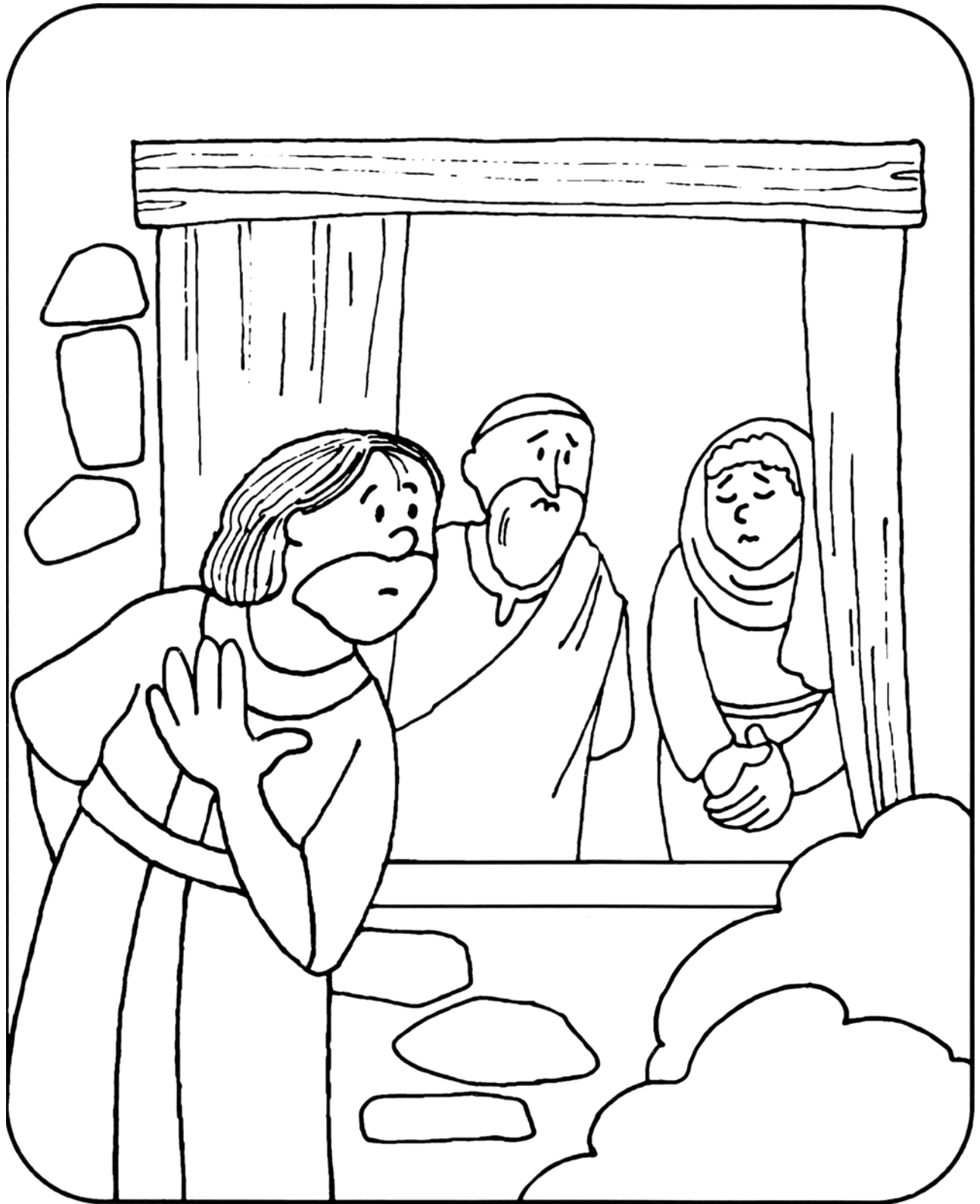
La Vita di San Nicola

by Frank Vitali





- 1 Nicholas was born around AD 260 in Patara, Asia Minor, now Turkey. His family was very rich. When his parents died, Nicholas inherited a huge fortune.



2

Nicholas was generous and made good use of his riches, always helping those in need. One day he heard about a man who was in despair . . .



3 He had become so poor that he could no longer support his family. That night, Nicholas secretly brought a bag full of gold coins into their home.



4

The next morning the poor man could not believe his eyes! Thanks to money from Nicholas he was able to solve all his problems and his three daughters could get married.



5

Nicholas went to Myra. The city was electing a new bishop and the first person to enter the church that day would be chosen. It was Nicholas!



6

Bishop Nicholas always worked hard for his people. During a terrible famine in Myra he secured a large amount of wheat



7

Another time, speaking boldly, Nicholas saved some of his fellow citizens who were about to be executed by the Romans.



8

Later two officers were threatened with the same fate and were imprisoned unjustly. They began to pray, asking help from holy Bishop Nicholas . . .



9

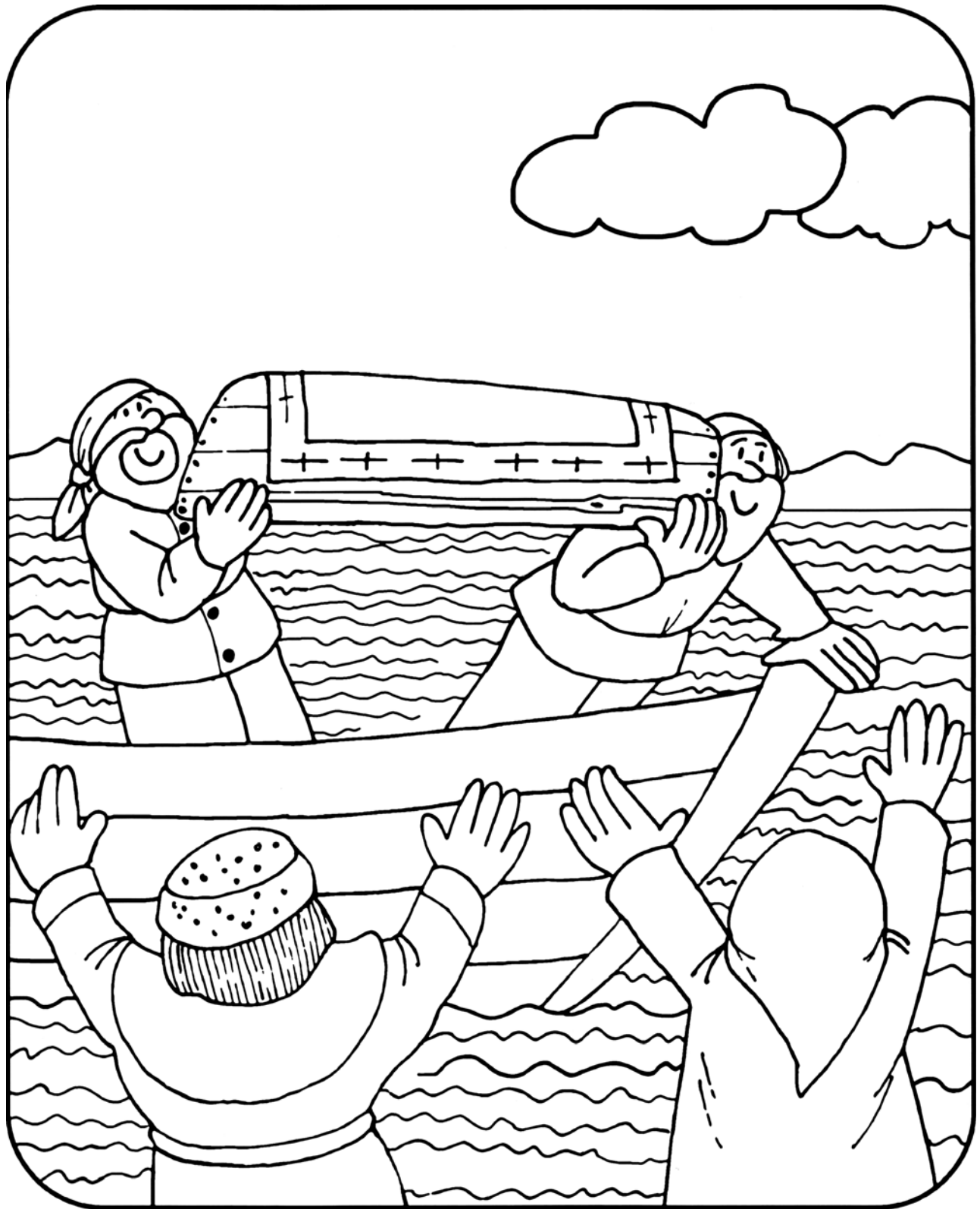
That night Nicholas appeared in a dream to Emperor Constantine, proving the innocence of the two officers. They were immediately released.



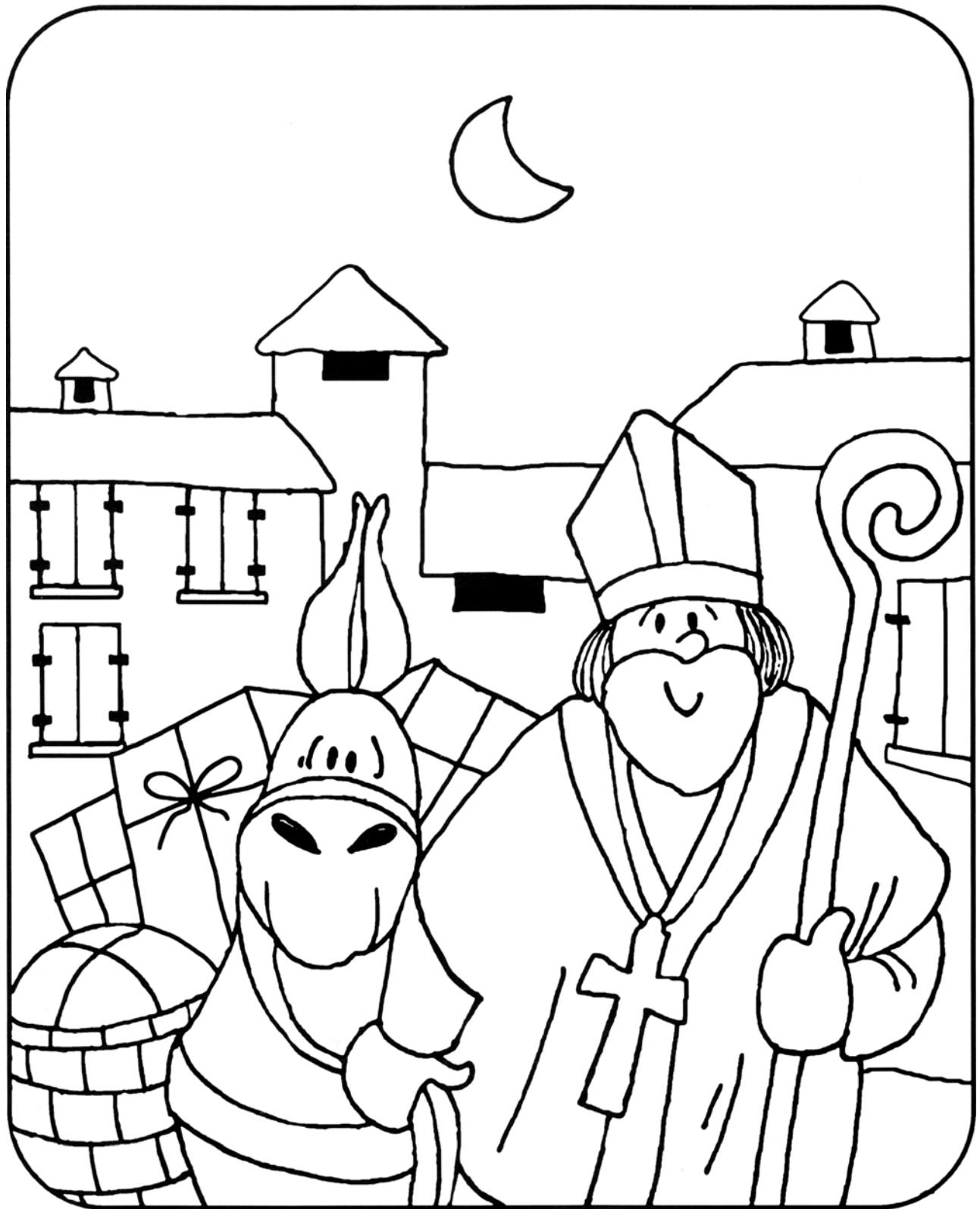
10 When the Emperor asked citizens of Myra for unreasonably high taxes, Nicholas went in person to Constantine and got him to undo the unfair taxes.



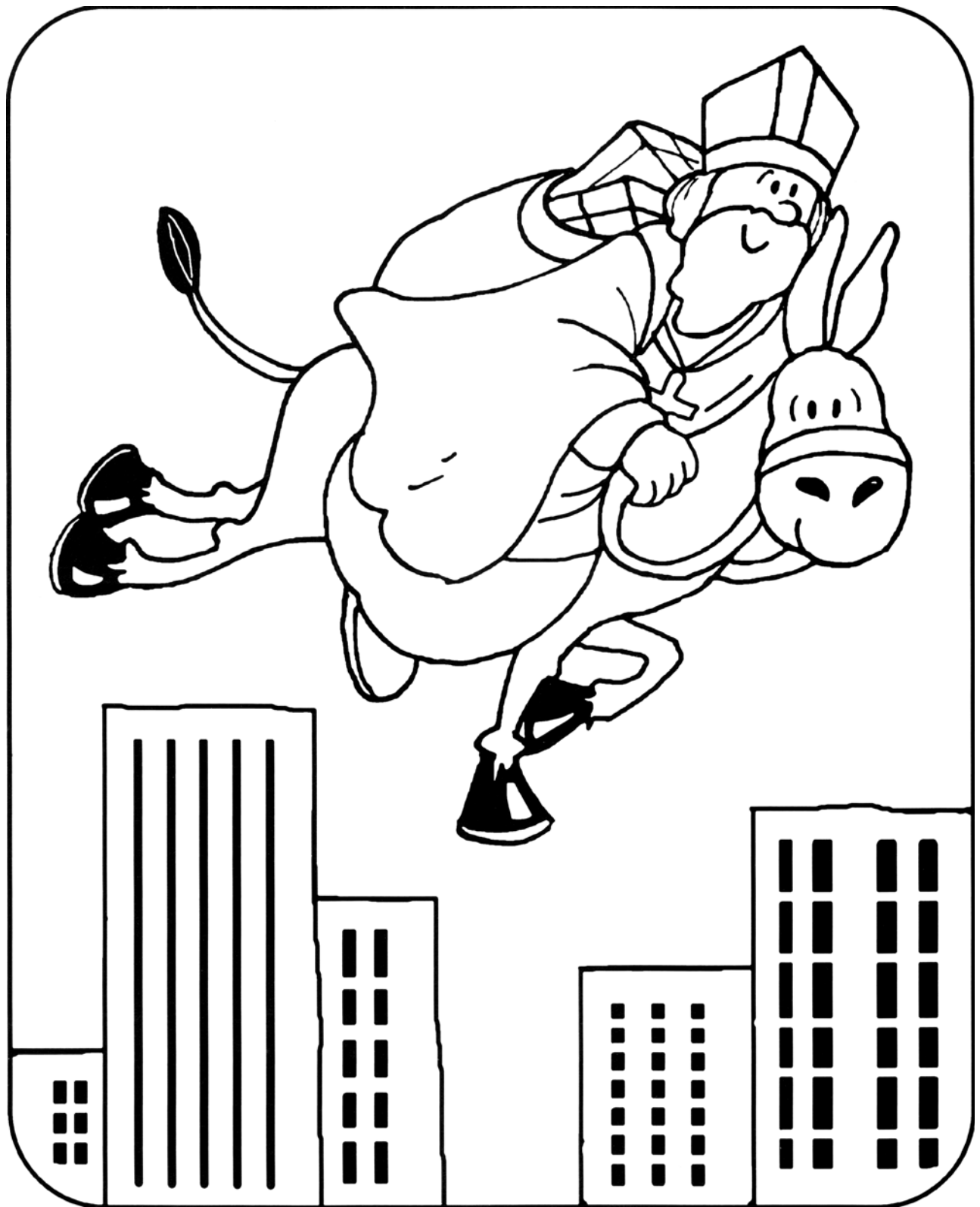
11 Nicholas also protected sailors. He appeared and calmed storms, saving ships and sailors.



12 In 1087, long after Nicholas had died in AD 342, some Italian sailors took his remains from Myra to Bari, Italy. Nicholas became the patron saint of Bari.



13 Ever since the Middle Ages, on the night before his December 6 feast day, Bishop Saint Nicholas brings gifts to children. A donkey helps him.



14 Immigrants from different countries brought the story of Saint Nicholas to America.

Over time, the donkey became reindeer pulling a sleigh, the cape became a red suit trimmed with fur and the bishop's miter became a stocking cap . . .

