

FABER CENTER

FOR IGNIATIAN SPIRITUALITY

## Joan of Arc



“I am not afraid, I was born to do this.”

## Joan of Arc: 1412-1431



In the trial that followed, Joan was ordered to answer to some 70 charges against her, including witchcraft, heresy and dressing like a man. The Anglo-Burgundians were aiming to get rid of the young leader as well as discredit Charles, who owed his coronation to her. In attempting to distance himself from an accused heretic and witch, the French king made no attempt to negotiate Joan's release.

In May 1431, after a year in captivity and under threat of death, Joan relented and signed a confession denying that she had ever received divine guidance. Several days later, however, she defied orders by again donning men's clothes, and authorities pronounced her death sentence. On the morning of May 30, at the age of 19, Joan was taken to the old market place of Rouen and burned at the stake.

# The Trial



- ◆ *Imagine the scene, find a place within it. Let the story unfold in your imagination.*
- ◆ *Who are you within the story? Are you a central figure or an unnoticed bystander?*
- ◆ *What can you see, hear and feel around you?*
- ◆ *Listen to what is said and look around you.*
- ◆ *Look at the expressions on people's faces and listen to the tone of people's voices.*
- ◆ *What else can you hear, see or feel?*
- ◆ *Perhaps you will notice things not mentioned in the text. .*
- ◆ *Is there anyone you want to engage in conversation?*

# At the Stake



*I pray you, go to the nearest church, and bring me the cross, and hold it up level with my eyes until I am dead.*

*I would have the cross on which God hung be ever before my eyes while life lasts in me.*

*Jesus, Jesus!*