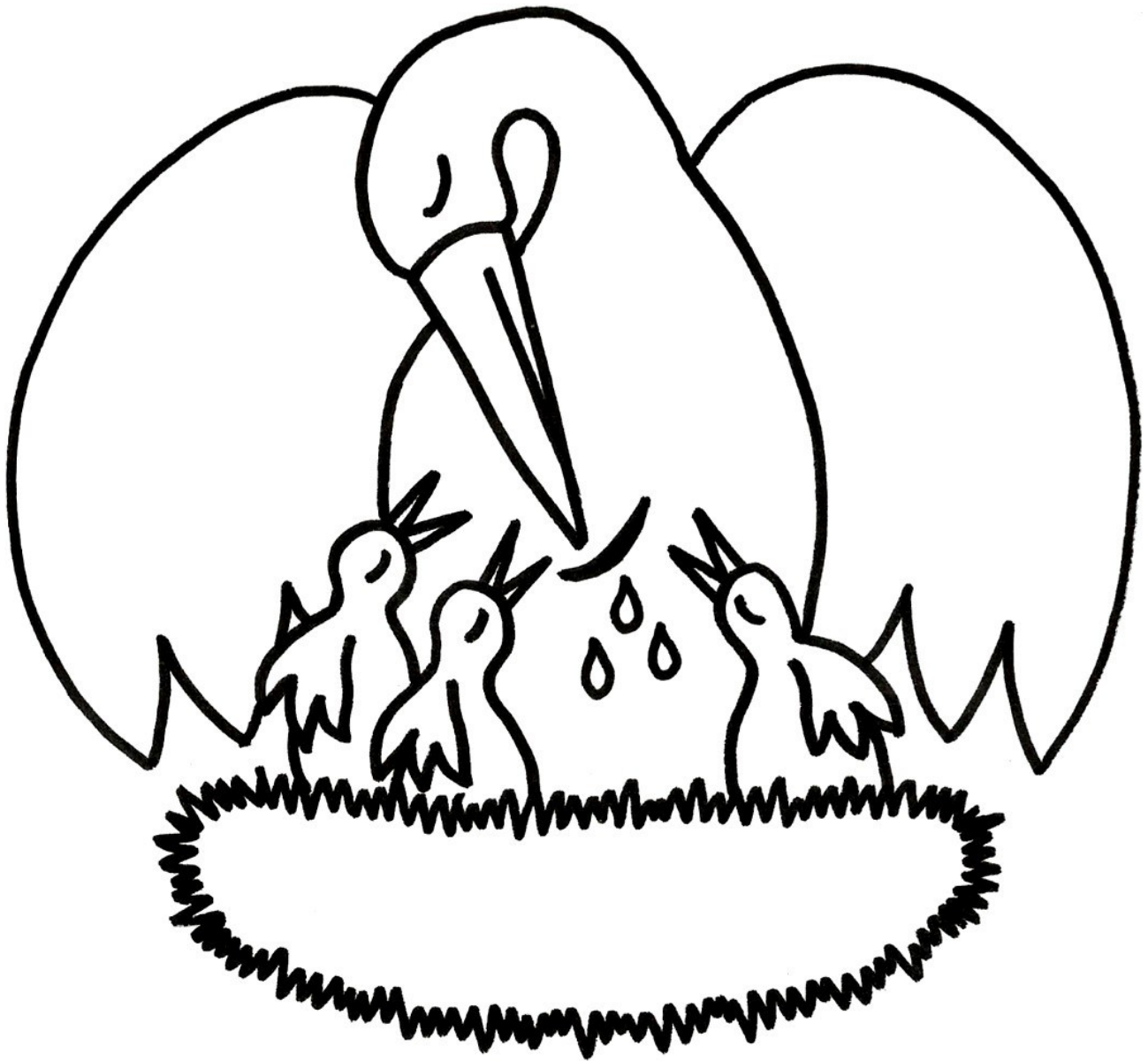




Pelican in Her Piety

Legend holds that a pelican, in time of great famine, would pierce its flesh to feed its babies with its own blood. The pelican has become a symbol for Christ who suffered and died to save us from our sins.

The “Pelican in Her Piety” is often featured in Eucharistic art, for example on a priest’s chasuble or an altar. This symbol can help us connect Jesus’ sacrificial love to the gift of the Eucharist.

St. Thomas Aquinas included this line in a hymn that he wrote: “Lord Jesus, Good Pelican, clean me, the unclean, with your Blood, one drop of which can heal the entire world of all its sins.”