



HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Aims:

- 1) To understand that each student is uniquely called by God to become a saint in the world.
- 2) To see that the Saints give us a model by which they followed Christ in this world.
- 3) To realize that God's voice calls to them in the stillness of the heart.
- 4) To embrace the Law of Love from God is an embrace of Life.

Resources/Materials:

Lives of the Saints books (e.g. Lives of the Saints, Catholic Book Publishing Co., New York), Holy Cards with saints on them, websites with descriptions of saints lives (e.g. www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm and www.catholic.org/saints/). "Fishers of Men" video and supporting materials (to be sent to school principal in December, 2006).

Activity 1: Using the Saints as a Model of Holiness

- Each saint in heaven followed a unique path to holiness, a unique way of responding to the graces that God offered that person in his or her life; some gave their lives completely, such as the early Christian Martyrs or St. Maximilian Kolbe; some followed the call of Christ to leave home and spread the Gospel in mission lands, such as St. Isaac Jogues or St. Francis Xavier; some spent their lives in monasteries or convents, such as St. Benedict or St. Therese of Lisieux.
- Have each student research a particular saint, preferably one who is less well known, and present that person to the class or write a paper. Topics to include could be: the saint's homeland and year of birth, how long they lived, and what was their state in life: single, married, priest, religious. More importantly would be to get the student to reflect the question of how this saint can be a particular model for the young people of today. What drew the student to this saint? How did the saint give his or her life for Christ? What is this saint's unique contribution to the history of spirituality in the Church? What can today's Catholic teens learn from this saint regarding putting their faith into practice?
- For schools that have the capability, students could prepare presentations in PowerPoint, incorporating pictures and descriptions of the saint's life.

Activity 2: Scriptures and Vocations

Hand out the "Scriptures related to God's call, discernment and sacraments." Have each student select one of the passages in the Bible and write a paper explaining what this reading teaches us about how God calls people or about the sacraments of the Church.

Activity 3: "Fishers of Men" Video about the Priesthood.

Show the "Fishers of Men" video (18 minutes long) and discuss the video in-class using the discussion questions that come with the video. The video will be sent in December, 2006 to school principals.

Activity 4: Cincinnati Vocations Research

- A. Research information about vocations from www.cincinnati vocations.org and answer the following:
- What were some of the struggles that some of the recently ordained faced as they prepared to enter the seminary? How did they overcome these struggles?
 - What is celibacy and why is it important in the life of a priest or religious?
 - From the Religious Orders, compare and contrast three separate communities. How does their specific charism (that which they were founded to do) guide community life? How do the order's members uniquely strive to build the Kingdom of God? Why do they wear what they do?
 - How do you know if you are called by God to be a priest or religious?
- B. Have students go to the bottom of www.cincinnati vocations.org/who_materials.shtml#01, choose a Papal writing on a priesthood or religious life topic and summarize the document's main points.