**Student Activity**

**Classroom Patron Saint**

**Grades: K-2nd**

**Goal:** As members of the family of Christ, our church is diverse and made up of all kinds of people. We all have the potential to answer our baptismal call to mission and sainthood. This activity will allow the students to explore and learn about the saints’ lives and how they were witnesses of the faith to others. Pick a saint that you and your students are going to learn about. This is going to be the patron saint of your classroom. The students can help decorate the classroom door in honor of their patron saint or decorate a doorknob hanger to take home.

**Material:** Construction paper, glue, scissors, glitter, tape, etc. A copy of the doorknob hanger for the students to decorate.

**Instructions:** Read with your students the story of a saint’s life appropriate for their age. Then pick a saint and decorate your classroom door. Your students can also make decorations of their own patron saints for a doorknob hanger that they can take home. You can make a mural of saints in your missionary corner with the doorknob hangers. Leave the decorations of saints up until the feast of Christ the King on November 26, 2017. Remind them of the role models we have in the church and to keep their eyes open for other roles models on their way to sainthood. Take the bold phrases in the All Saints handout and put them around your classroom. They can be visual reminders of what a saint can do.

The feast of All Saints Day is one dedicated to remembering all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone to heaven and are now part of the communion of saints. On this day we honor all those whose names we know and the ones whose names we don’t know.

Did you know that for almost everyday in the calendar there is a saint assigned to it? Many people were named after the saint of their birthdate and all of us are called to be saints when we are baptized. All of the saints that we have in the Catholic Church have been people like you and I. They were not perfect but through prayer, sacrifice, helping others in need, being role models to others, and following the example of Jesus Christ they reached sainthood. Saints’ lives teach us how we can answer the call that God makes to us at our baptism, to spread the gospel and bear witness of it in all corners of the world. God gives us the grace we need to help us become holy. We first receive this grace at our baptism and continue to receive it through the sacraments and every time we go to mass, and receive communion. Pope Francis tells us that, “when the Lord invited us to become saints ... it’s an invitation to share in His joy, to live and to offer with joy every moment of our life, by making it become at the same time a gift of love for the people around us.”

Answering this call also leads us down a path of mission. We become missionaries spreading the Good News of the Gospel with words and deeds. Many of the saints were traveling missionaries to distant lands, risking their lives, always determined to not be discouraged by the dangers or challenges. Some answered the call to sainthood and mission never going too far from their hometown, like St. Theresa of Lisieux, patron saint of the missions. It may seem strange that she is the patron saint of the missions since she was a cloistered nun, this means she never left the convent, but her prayers and sacrifices for the missions were very important. They helped and encouraged those in other countries doing missionary work. Just like your prayers and sacrificial giving also helps those in mission countries helping people in need.

Being a missionary and a saint go hand in hand. We may not all be canonized but we still strive to be the best we can be and walk on the road to sainthood as far as possible by being missionaries of the love and mercy of God to everyone. A missionary gives witness to their faith and uses the gifts and talents that God has given them to show others the presence of God in their lives. Pope Francis reminds us that we could “be a saint by becoming a visible sign of God’s love and of his presence alongside us. This is it: every state of life leads to holiness, always! In your home, on the street, at work, at church, in the moment and in your state of life, the path to sainthood has been opened. Don’t be discouraged to pursue this path. It is God alone who gives us the grace. The Lord ask only this: that we be in communion with Him and at the service of our brothers and sisters.” In the things we do and say every day, no matter how ordinary and insignificant, all that we do can lead us to be missionary and saints.

Now as a class, we are going to learn about the life of a saint. As we learn about their lives, let’s also think of ways we can follow their example, to start our road to sainthood.
Make copies of the doorknob hanger on cardstock paper or glue them onto construction paper. Ask the students to decorate their doorknob with a picture of their saints and then have them cut it out. Once finished, they can be placed in your mission corner to make a mural of saints. Leave the mural of saints up till the Feast of Christ the King on November 26th.

When it is time to take home, the students can hang it at a doorknob at home. This way they will have a picture of their patron saint and can remember to say a little prayer asking them to intercede for them.

We thank you, God, for your abundant grace in our lives. For all the saints that have gone before us. Bless their memories, God.

May we learn how to live and walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love. To be able to answer our own call to sainthood.

Saint

Pray for us! Amen
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**Material:** A copy of the handout ‘All Saints Day– Student Worksheet: My Patron Saint’ for every student.

**Instructions:** Take the phrases in bold letters found in the “All Saints Day” handout and make banners of them. You can place them up around your classrooms or in your mission corner for the students to see. All of the qualities that a saint has are qualities that a missionary needs in order to be able to bring the love and word of God to others. Ask your students to research their patron saint and to fill in the worksheet with information about their saint. This can be done with the help of their family. You can also extend this activity by asking them to dress up like their saint and make an oral presentation of their saint. Play the song “O when the saints come marching in” as the students process in with their saintly customs.

Did you know that for almost everyday in the calendar there is a saint assigned to it? Many people were named after the saint of their birthdate and all of us are called to be saints when we are baptized. All of the saints that we have in the Catholic Church have been people like you and I. They were not perfect but through prayer, sacrifice, helping others in need, being role models to others, and following the example of Jesus Christ, they reached sainthood.

We are called to sainthood as members of the body of Christ. Saints’ lives teach us how we can answer the call that God makes to us at our baptism, to spread the gospel and bear witness of it to all corners of the world. God gives us the grace we need to help us become holy. We first receive this grace at our baptism and continue to receive it through the sacraments and every time we go to mass, and receive communion. Pope Francis tell us that, “when the Lord invited us to become saints...it’s an invitation to share in His joy, to live and to offer with joy every moment of our life, by making it become at the same time a gift of love for the people around us.”

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Being a missionary and a saint go hand in hand. We may not all be canonized but we still strive to be the best we can be and walk on the road to sainthood as far as possible by being missionaries of the love and mercy of God to everyone. A missionary gives witness to their faith and uses the gifts and talents that God has given them to show others the presence of God in their lives. Pope Francis reminds us that we could “be a saint by becoming a visible sign of God’s love and of his presence alongside us. This is it: every state of life leads to holiness, always! In your home, on the street, at work, at church, in the moment and in your state of life, the path to sainthood has been opened. Don’t be discouraged to pursue this path. It is God alone who gives us the grace. The Lord ask only this: that we be in communion with Him and at the service of our brothers and sisters.” In the things we do and say every day, no matter how ordinary and insignificant, all that we do can lead us to be missionary and saints.

It’s important to remember that we pray with the saints, not to them. During mass we pray asking our bothers and sisters here on earth and in heaven (the saints and all of our brothers and sisters who have passed away) to pray and join in the breaking of the bread.

Research who is the saint for your birthday. Were you named after them? How can you follow their example and why did they become a saint? Or you can also research one of the traveling missionary saints in the missionary litany prayer service in this month’s prayer service.
My Patron Saint is

I am the patron saint of ...

Feast day: _______________________

Some interesting facts

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_____________________________

I lived in: _______________________

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_____________________________
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Material: Excerpt: Pope Francis Audience and Name that Saint Cards.

Instructions: Take the phrases in bold letters found in the “All Saints Day” handout and make banners of them. You can place them up around your classrooms or in your mission corner for the students to see. All of the qualities that a saint has are qualities that a missionary needs in order to be able to bring the love and the word of God to others. Discuss with your students these qualities and how Pope Francis tell us we can apply them to our daily lives. As a class learn of a saint or have each student do research on a saint. Afterward, you will host a meet and greet with the saints.

Did you know that for almost everyday in the calendar there is a saint assigned to it? Many people were named after the saint of their birthdate and all of us are called to be saints when we are baptized. All of the saints that we have in the Catholic Church have been people like you and I. They were not perfect but through prayer, sacrifice, helping others in need, being role models to others, and following the example of Jesus Christ, they reached sainthood. Saints’ lives teach us how we can answer the call that God makes to us at our baptism, to spread the gospel and bear witness of it to all corners of the world. God gives us the grace we need to help us become holy. We first receive this grace at our baptism and continue to receive it through the sacraments and every time we go to mass, and receive communion. Pope Francis tell us that, “when the Lord invited us to become saints...it’s an invitation to share in His joy, to live and to offer with joy every moment of our life, by making it become at the same time a gift of love for the people around us.”

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Read with your students the excerpt from “Pope Francis General Audience”. He speaks of what is the universal vocation of being a saint and how can we realize it. Discuss with your students some of the qualities a saint posses, using the phrases in bold from the ‘All Saint Day’ handout.

Then, ask them to research the life of a saint or pick a saint life for the class to read. After they have finished their research on a saint, ask the following questions:
1. Does the saint you researched reflect any of the qualities discussed earlier?
2. Can you do any of the things that they did? How is this saint a role model to you and others?
3. Do you know of anyone in your life that possess the qualities of sainthood?
4. Ask your students to design a banner to celebrate the goodness of a person they may know that displays the qualities of a saint. (Make sure to leave up the banner till the feast of Christ the King on November 26)

If the students research different saints, have a singly meet and greet. Each student can dress up like their saint and they have to let others try and figure out who they are based on the answers to the questions on their missionary saint card. They can walk around with their card or hang it around their neck. You can also have the students introduce themselves and have the other students guess who they are.
Name that Saint!

Name: _____________________________________________________________________________
Born in: ___________________________________________________________________________
Patron Saint of: _____________________________________________________________________
Feast Day: __________________________________________________________________________
Know for: __________________________________________________________________________

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St. Peter’s Square Wednesday, 19 November 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning. One of the great gifts from the Second Vatican Council was that of recovering a vision of the Church founded on communion, and grasping anew the principle of authority and hierarchy in this perspective. This has helped us to better understand that all Christians, insofar as they have been baptized, are equal in dignity before the Lord and share in the same vocation, that is, to sainthood (cf. Lumen Gentium, nn. 39-42). Now let us ask ourselves: what does this universal vocation to being saints consist in? And how can we realize it?

1. First of all, we must bear clearly in mind that sanctity is not something we can procure for ourselves, that we can obtain by our own qualities and abilities. Sanctity is a gift, it is a gift granted to us by the Lord Jesus, when He takes us to Himself and clothes us in Himself, He makes us like Him. In his Letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul states that “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her” (5:25-26). You see, sainthood truly is the most beautiful face of the Church, the most beautiful face: it is to rediscover oneself in communion with God, in the fullness of his life and of his love. Sanctity is understood, then, not as a prerogative of the few: sanctity is a gift offered to all, no one excluded, by which the distinctive character of every Christian is constituted.

2. All this makes us understand that, in order to be saints, there is no need to be bishops, priests or religious: no, we are all called to be saints! So, many times we are tempted to think that sanctity is reserved only to those who have the opportunity to break away from daily affairs in order to dedicate themselves exclusively to prayer. But it is not so! Some think that sanctity is to close your eyes and to look like a holy icon! No! This is not sanctity! Sanctity is something greater, deeper, which God gives us. Indeed, it is precisely in living with love and offering one “own Christian witness in everyday affairs that we are called to become saints. And each in the conditions and the state of life in which he or she finds himself or herself. But you are consecrated. Are you consecrated? — Be a saint by living out your donation and your ministry with joy. Are you married? — Be a saint by loving and taking care of your husband or your wife, as Christ did for the Church. Are you an unmarried baptized person? — Be a saint by carrying out your work with honesty and competence and by offering time in the service of your brothers and sisters. “But, father, I work in a factory; I work as an accountant, only with numbers; you can’t be a saint there…” “Yes, yes you can! There, where you work, you can become a saint. God gives you the grace to become holy. God communicates himself to you”. Always, in every place, one can become a saint, that is, one can open oneself up to this grace, which works inside us and leads us to holiness. Are you a parent or a grandparent? — Be a saint by passionately teaching your children or grandchildren to know and to follow Jesus. And it takes so much patience to do this: to be a good parent, a good grandfather, a good mother, a good grandmother; it takes so much patience and with this patience comes holiness: by exercising patience. Are you a catechist, an educator or a volunteer? Be a saint by becoming a visible sign of God’s love and of his presence alongside us. This is it: every state of life leads to holiness, always! In your home, on the street, at work, at church, in that moment and in your state of life, the path to sainthood has been opened. Don’t be discouraged to pursue this path. It is God alone who gives us the grace. The Lord asks only this: that we be in communion with Him and at the service of our brothers and sisters.

3. At this point, each one of us can make a little examination of conscience, we can do it right now, each one respond to himself, in silence: how have we responded up to now to the Lord’s call to sanctity? Do I want to become a little better, a little more Christian? This is the path to holiness. When the Lord invites us to become saints, he doesn’t call us to something heavy, sad... quite the contrary! It’s an invitation to share in his joy, to live and to offer with joy every moment of our life, by making it become at the same time a gift of love for the people around us. If we understand this, everything changes and takes on new meaning, a beautiful meaning, a meaning that begins with little everyday things. For example: a lady goes to the market to buy groceries and finds a neighbour there, so they begin to talk and then they come to gossiping and this lady says: “No, no, no I won’t speak badly about anyone”. This is a step towards sainthood, it helps you become more holy. Then, at home, your son wants to talk a little about his ideas: “Oh, I am so tired, I worked so hard today...”. — “But you sit down and listen to your son, who needs it!”. And you sit down, you listen to him patiently: this is a step towards sainthood. Then the day ends, we are all tired, but there are the prayers. We say our prayers: this too is a step towards holiness. Then comes Sunday and we go to Mass, we take communion, sometimes preceded by a beautiful confession which cleans us a little. This is a step towards sainthood. Then we think of Our Lady, so good, so beautiful, and we take up the rosary and we pray it. This is a step towards sainthood. Then I go out to the street. I see a poor person in need, I stop and address him, I give him something; it is a 2 step towards sainthood. These are little things, but many little steps to sanctity. Every step towards sainthood makes us better people, free from selfishness and being closed within ourselves, and opens us to our brothers and sisters and to their needs.

Dear friends, in the First Letter of St Peter this is asked of us: “As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (4:10-11). This is the invitation to holiness! Let us accept it with joy, and let us support one another, for the path to sainthood is not taken alone, each one for oneself, but is traveled together, in that one body that is the Church, loved and made holy by the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us go forward with courage on this path to holiness.

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