

Resource Sheet for All Saint's Day:



1. Brainstorm- Board work
2. YouTube clips (2)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcPXns6gilk> (1min 25sec)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BApiwgFPs10> (2min 53sec)
3. Key Questions- Discussion
4. Handout on quotes from saints-Reflection Time
5. Pair Work

Begin the class by brainstorming the word Saint. Write as many saints as you can on the board or anything students associate with the word “saint”.

What is a Saint?

Often when one hears the word *saint*, the first thing that comes to mind is a person who is especially holy or religious. However, in the New Testament St Paul refers to anyone who is trying to follow Jesus or trying to have a close relationship with Jesus as a Saint. You don't have to be perfect. A saint is a holy person who is known for his or her “heroic sanctity” and who is thought to be in heaven. There are more than 10,000 saints recognized by the Roman Catholic Church, though the names and histories of some of these holy men and women have been lost to history.

The saints of the church are a diverse group of people with varied and interesting stories. Their ranks include martyrs, kings and queens, missionaries, widows, theologians, parents, nuns and priests, and “everyday people” who dedicated their lives to the loving pursuit of God.



Watch the two YouTube clips on All Saints Day:

Ask the students, before they watch the film, to make note of one thing that has struck them from the clips.

Give some of the students an opportunity to share this with the class after watching the clips.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcPXns6gilk> (1min 25sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BApiwgFPs10> (2min 53sec)

Discussion/ Key Questions:

“As child I always thought of the saints as Catholic superheroes. While they may have started out as normal people like you and me, I imagined that they received their superpowers of holiness after being bitten by a radioactive, grace-infused spider or by falling into a chemical pit of sacred ooze. The fact is, however, that we have all received superpowers of holiness through our Baptism! Baptism transforms us from ordinary people into extraordinary disciples who have the power to become saints. Baptism gives us a superpower called grace which allows us to live in accord with God’s design for our lives and build God’s kingdom on earth. Children need to do more than learn about saints; they should desire to become like them.” (Jared Dees-Author)

1.What is Jared Dees talking about when he says we all receive superpowers of holiness at our Baptism?

2. In 2011 Pope Emeritus Benedict dared young people to be saints.

What does he mean by this?

Quotes from Saints- Handout:

Distribute the following handouts to students or display them on the white board.

Ask each student to read quietly to themselves and choose one of the quotes that stood out for them.

Pair up with one other person and share why they choose this quote.

Research:

Finish the class by pointing out that it is often said the saints choose us, not us them. Suggest they google the saint they have chosen today in class or if they are called after a saint, to research that saint.

Quotes and a short biography of some famous saints.

1. Saint Ignatius de Loyola Ignatius

He was a Spanish priest and theologian who lived during the middle ages. He is one of the founders of the Society of Jesus (SJ), one of the most distinguished missionary orders of today. Giving up his privileged life and royal connections, he chose a vow of poverty. His life taught us that true happiness is not found in wealth and material possessions

Inspirational Quotes:

“Teach us to give and not count the cost.”

“If God sends you many sufferings it is a sign that He has great plans for you, and certainly wants to make you a saint.”



2. St. Catherine of Siena

In the 14th century, it's not easy for a woman to go against her family's wishes especially when it comes to marriage. But Catherine's fortitude and deep faith enabled her to do just that. Instead of marrying, she chose to spend her life helping those in need. She is also an advocate of peace and her letters influenced powerful political figures – a deed only very few women of her time would ever dare.



Inspirational Quotes:

“If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!”

“Nothing great is ever achieved without enduring much.”

3. St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein)

As a teenager, Edith admitted being an atheist. Later, she wrote that her longing for truth was a single prayer. She converted to Catholicism in 1922 and later on became a [Carmelite nun](#). Because of her Jewish background, she was arrested and killed during the Nazi regime. Despite all the hardships she endured during this period, she remained steadfast in her prayers. Her firm faith in God amid suffering made her a true inspiration to the world.

Inspirational Quotes:

“The nation doesn’t simply need what we have. It needs what we are.”



4. St. Gregory Nazianzen

Priesthood did not come by choice for Gregory. This made him reluctant to accept the responsibility at first. Still, he rose to become one of the most acclaimed theologians of the Catholic church. He persisted with his missionary works even despite the insults, slanders and even death threats.

Inspirational Quote:

“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.”

6. St. Therese of Lisieux

Dubbed as the “little flower of Jesus”, Therese lived a simple life of prayer. She spent most of her life battling tuberculosis and eventually succumbed to death at a young age of 24. Despite her short life, her spirituality and unwavering faith in God have inspired people from all over the world



Inspirational Quote:

“You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all.”

“The value of life does not depend upon the place we occupy. It depends upon the way we occupy that place”

7. St. Clare of Assisi

As the eldest daughter of a wealthy noble family, Clare had a privileged future ahead of her. But she gave it all up, cut her hair short, dressed in rags and follow the Franciscan way. She chose to live her life in manual labour, piety and simplicity which made her happier than when she was living as the daughter of a count.

Inspirational Quote:

“Love God, serve God; everything is in that.”

8. St. John Vianney

As a child, John's family would always help the poor. This left an impression on him and would influence his decision to become a priest. He worked tirelessly to convert people back to the faith and has gained fame as the champion of the poor.

Inspirational Quote:

– Do not try to please everybody. Try to please God, the angels, and the saints – they are your public.

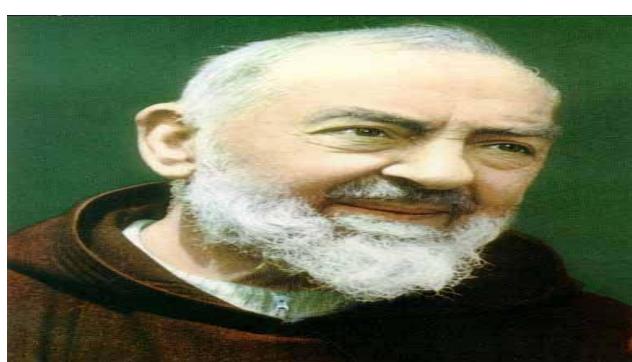
9. St. Pio of Pietrelcina

At only 5 years old, Pio would make the momentous decision of dedicating his life to God. His life is characterized by various illnesses which plagued him into adulthood. Despite his ill health, St. Pio continued his priestly duties and even built a hospital for the sick and poor. He is one of the most famous stigmatist of the 20th century.

Inspirational Quote:

“Our Lord loves you and loves you tenderly; and if He does not let you feel the sweetness of His love, it is to make you more humble and abject in your own eyes.”

“Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry”



10. St. Francis of Assisi

One of the most well-known saints in history, Francis inspired many people in his time and after. He is best known for discarding his family's wealth to live a vow of poverty. He cared for lepers at a time when most people derided them. His examples eventually drew followers which led to the founding of the Franciscan Order.

Inspirational Quote:

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."



11. St. Teresa of Calcutta

St. Teresa of Calcutta, or Mother Teresa as she was more commonly known, showed the world what charity should be like. She never hesitated to help the poorest of the poor. She put up care homes for people dying of AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis. Her work inspired thousands of others to join her cause. She was also instrumental in bringing to light various social issues that were otherwise not known to the public. Mother Teresa lived her life in service to others, even until her last breath.

Inspirational Quote:

"We can do no great things; only small things with great love."

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."



Hilda Campbell (D.A. Kildare and Leighlin)