**Post-Primary Diocesan Advisor R.E. Resources - October 2020 / Deireadh Fómhair 2020**

Welcome to the month of October Resources.

I hope you all managed to navigate your way through the first month without too much difficulty! As we all try to find ways to adapt to these challenging times, I hope that this page will be useful for you as an educational resource in your work in schools and parishes. Please feel free to offer any opinions or suggestions, which we will be happy to receive so we can support you in your work.

**Month of the Holy Rosary**

The month of the Holy Rosary is October and this entire month is dedicated to the Rosary. The feast day of the Holy Rosary in particular is October 7th. The feast of the Rosary is held in memory of the glorious and triumphant victory at the battle of Lepanto in 1571. That battle was the most convincing military victory that proved without a doubt the great power of the Rosary.

The rosary is a living prayer form and continues to develop even in recent times. An invocation known as the Fatima Prayer was commonly added in the early 20th century. In 2002 Pope John Paul II added a new set of five reflections called the Luminous Mysteries which encourage additional meditations on the life of Jesus. The rosary is an invitation to experience the grace of Mary’s spiritual motherhood as she leads us to her Son, Jesus. For this reason, it has been an invaluable source of countless spiritual graces for the saints. The month of October is a good time to commit to praying the Rosary every day. Click on the link below for further information.

<http://www.how-to-pray-the-rosary-everyday.com/month-of-the-holy-rosary.html>

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland has called for a Family Rosary Crusade against Covid-19 during the month of October.

“I invite families all over Ireland to pray the Rosary together at home each day for God’s protection during this time of Coronavirus”. Archbishop Eamon is also inviting families to spread the word online. He said, “Using the #FamilyRosaryCrusade or #OctoberFamilyRosary hashtags please feel free to share a picture or a short sound clip of your family saying a “Hail Mary”, “Our Father” or “Glory Be”! on social media.”

For further information see:

[**https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/09/24/archbishop-eamon-martin-calls-for-family-rosary-crusade-against-covid-19-2/**](https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/09/24/archbishop-eamon-martin-calls-for-family-rosary-crusade-against-covid-19-2/)

**St Teresa of Avila – Feast Day October 15th**

St. Teresa of Ávila, a sixteenth-century Spanish saint and mystic, was very aware that every Christian has a role to play in making Christ present in the world. St. Teresa (1515-1582) was born in Avila and died in Alba, Spain.

When only a child of seven, she ran away from home in the hope of being martyred by the Moors; in this way, she said she could come to see God. At the age of eighteen, she joined the Carmelite Order and chose Christ as her heavenly Spouse. With the help of St. John of the Cross, she reformed most of the Carmelite convents and founded new ones. She reached the highest degree of prayer and through prayer obtained such knowledge of divine things that in 1970 Pope Paul VI named her the first woman Doctor of the Church. This was a great honour, especially for a woman of her time. She was canonized in 1622. Click on the link below to find more information on St Teresa and a short YouTube clip.

<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/st-teresa-of-avila/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhBwlI90n4U-> YouTube clip (3mins)

**St John Paul II- Feast Day -October 22nd**

Pope John Paul II sometimes called Saint John Paul or John Paul the Great, born Karol Józef Wojtyła; (18 May 1920 – 2 April 2005), was the head of the Catholic Church from 16 October 1978 to his death in 2005. He was the second longest-serving pope in history.

As a Pole, he was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years. The last non-Italian pope was Pope Adrian VI, who died in 1523. He is the first ever pope to visit the White House, and a mosque. He travelled more than any other pope before him, visiting many of the countries of the world. He is also famous for starting the annual World Youth Day

After he was beatified, his title was changed to Blessed John Paul II. John Paul II was canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014 which means that the Polish Pope is now known as Saint John Paul II.

Below is a link to a short documentary on his life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYI4FCQCLsA-> YouTube clip (34 mins)

**Blessed Chiara Badano- October 29th**

This is a beautiful and inspiring story to share with your students.

Sometimes we’d prefer that our lives be a story than the one God seems to be writing. In our fragile existence it doesn’t take much to turn a romance into a drama, or an adventure into a tragedy. Briefly, the story of Chiara Badano—an only child conceived after 11 years of marriage, who died at 18 after a bout with a painful form of bone cancer—looks like an empty tragedy, but not from the perspective of the Divine Author.

Chiara seemed to have everything going for her as a teen. She had a loving, holy family and a rock- solid faith that was nurtured by retreats and youth ministry programs. She was popular amongst her friends and was liked by boys. It’s not hard to see why. She was beautiful. Chiara loved to hang out in coffee shops. She was great at tennis, swimming and mountain climbing. Her outgoing personality and adventurous spirit made her dream of becoming a flight attendant.

Chiara Badano was a modern teenager: She liked to sing, dance, play tennis and skate. She was a member of the Focolare Movement, founded in Italy by Chiara Lubich in 1943. Chiara had a bright life ahead of her. One day while playing tennis, Chiara experienced excruciating pain in her shoulder. Shortly afterwards she was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma. She watched her bright future slip away.

But it’s here that the real story of her life begins—the story of heroic virtue. Chiara is now Blessed Chiara Badano (the step before becoming a Saint). She was beatified on 25th September 2010. Her feast day is celebrated on 29th October. She is blessed because of the good life she led and because of a miracle that happened through her prayers. Read her story and share her story with your students through a power point presentation, YouTube Clip and resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EMMJYq3kHc-> YouTube clip ( 9 mins)

<http://saintsresource.com/chiara-luce-badano/>