

Grade 4 - Chapter 11

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objective

- Describe a Saint as a person whom the Church declares has led a holy life and is enjoying eternal life with God in Heaven

Holy Ones of God

Ask: Who models faith for us?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.
- Invite the children to silently read the paragraph.

Work with Words

Point out the Catholic Faith Words.

- Invite volunteers to read aloud the definitions of each term.
- Have the children make vocabulary cards for all three terms.

Saint Catherine of Siena

Gather the children in a story circle.

- Show them the location of Italy on a map. Tell them that you are going to read a story about a woman who lived in Italy many years ago.

- Read aloud the biography of Catherine of Siena.

Saint Catherine of Siena, *continued*

Point out the illustration of Saint Catherine on page 166.

- Invite the children to describe what they see.

Explain that Saint Catherine had a great deal of influence for a woman of her time (1347-1380).

- *Ask:* What do you admire about Saint Catherine of Siena?
- For more information on the Saints, refer the children to page 311 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book.

► *Music Option:* Have the children sing, "Litany of Saints" or "We Gather Around Your Throne," downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- Have the children work independently to write their ideas.
- After a short time, have them discuss with a partner.

Quick Review

Saints are holy people who are models of faith for Catholic Christians.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Identify Mary as the perfect model of holiness, accepting God's will throughout her life and remaining faithful to him
- Recognize the Immaculate Conception as the truth that God kept Mary free from sin from the first moment of her life
- Recognize that Mary is called the Mother of the Church because she holds her Son's followers close to her heart

Model of Holiness

Ask: How is Mary a model of holiness?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

- Tell the children to listen to learn about Mary, the greatest Saint of the Catholic Church.
- Have the children make a vocabulary card for *Mary*.

Scripture

Invite a volunteer to proclaim "The Cantic of Mary."

- Explain that many people still call Mary's cantic by its Latin name, the *Magnificat*.

Your Will Be Done

Read aloud the first two paragraphs.

- Point out that Mary's Immaculate Conception makes her unique among all the Saints.
- ★ Have the children circle the ways in which Mary is the perfect model of holiness.

Work with Words

Read aloud the definition of *Immaculate Conception*.

- Have the children create a vocabulary card for the term.

Invite volunteers to finish reading "Your Will Be Done."

- Ask: Have you ever been given a very big responsibility? What did you say or do?

A Guide for You

Have a volunteer read aloud the paragraph.

- Have the children create a vocabulary card for *patron Saint*.
- Encourage the children to find information about their patron Saint and share it with the group during the next session.

Activity

Point out the Connect Your Faith activity and read aloud the directions.

- Have the children work with a partner to complete the activity.

Quick Review

No one can see God, but we know a lot about him through his creation.

Catechist Tips: Famous People

Explain that the people quoted cared deeply about human rights.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931–present) helped blacks who were oppressed by the government in South Africa.
- Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962) worked for better societal conditions throughout her life.
- Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1948) led the people of India in their efforts to become an independent nation; he emphasized nonviolent resistance to injustice.

Catechist Tips: Holy Heroes

Characters in the media may exhibit saintly qualities.

- Ask the children to think about heroes from TV shows, movies, or books. What holy qualities do these heroes possess?
- What actions by people in the news contribute to the Kingdom of God?

Catechist Tips: Working in Groups

Children of varying learning styles can benefit from completing the activity as a group. In each group, try to include.

- a child who is good at recalling information.
- a child who can graphically organize information.
- a child who likes to present information to the whole group.

Catechist Tips: Immaculate Conception

The children may not be familiar with the word *conception*.

- Explain in your own words that it refers to the moment a human life begins in a mother's womb.
- Tell the children that the Immaculate Conception is an important Church teaching defined in a solemn declaration by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

Catechist Tips: Peaceful People

In 1983 the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote a pastoral letter called *The Challenge of Peace*.

- The faithful are to advocate actively for peace by treating all people with justice and understanding.
- Share with the children the story of Elizabeth of Portugal or of another peacemaking Saint.

Catechist Tips: Patron Saints

The children may be interested to learn that trades and professions also have patron Saints.

- Give a few examples, such as Saint Joseph, patron of carpenters; Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of ecologists; and Saint Cecilia, patron of musicians.

Catechist Tips: Make Saints Real

Forms of media such as DVDs and videos will help the children discover how saints affected those around them.

- The school media specialist can help find age-appropriate media that may also be available through your diocese.
- Review media for quality and suitability. If a DVD or video is long, you may wish to show only excerpts.

Glossary Activity: Beatification

Have the children research the steps to beatification and create a flow chart.

- Allow the children to work in pairs.
- Provide resource material or supervised access to the Internet.
- After finding the steps to beatification, have them create a flow chart to show the succession of stages.

Additional Activity: Reminder Bracelets

The children can make reminders of Saints or special sayings.

- Purchase beads with letters on them.
- Have the children use the beads to spell out a Saint's name or a short version of a commandment or beatitude.
- Have the children make bracelets with the beads.

Additional Activity: Crests

Have the children make personal crests as well as Saint crests.

- Review with the children their personal beliefs and the ways of making a difference.
- Have the children use these as the basis for personal crests.
- If possible, have mottos translated into Latin.

Additional Activity: Living Conversations

Supplies:

- handouts (one per learner; [download here](#))
- pens or pencils

Distribute the handouts and go over the directions with the children. Suggest that the children choose people whom they know and feel comfortable talking to. Emphasize the importance of filling in the bottom part of the handout after their conversation. If you choose to have the children do this activity, set a time when they will talk about what they learned from their conversation in an upcoming class.

Parish Video Connection: Saint Catherine of Siena

After you've completed the Catechist Edition instruction on page 167, show this video to the children.

Ask: What is something new or interesting that you learned about Saint Catherine?

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/CF2bycKbS4c>

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