



TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

NOVEMBER 2016

Sacred Space

Gracious God, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

by Mary Fairchild



FOR YOUR FORMATION...

As follower of Jesus, Thanksgiving Day should be every day! Why? For many reasons! All of us should strive to give constant thanks to God our supreme and most generous Benefactor.

First, the Psalmist commands us to give thanks: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever."

Second, St Paul invites us in his letters to give thanks to God constantly; that means, at all times!

Third, Jesus rejoices in gratitude and suffers when faced with ingratitude. And **finally**, Jesus was the epitome of *Gratitude*. Before working the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus raised His eyes to heaven and gave thanks. At the Last Supper Jesus took bread and "Gave thanks". "Eucharist", a word coming from Greek actually means "Thanksgiving." Therefore the greatest gift, "The Gift of Gifts", from God Himself, the "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving".

Check out **WHY** we should give thanks at the following link. Living the Catholic faith as teachers and catechists should be gratitude-filled.

<http://catholicexchange.com/a-little-litany-of-thanksgiving>

An All Saints Idea from Regis Middle School

Last year, middle school teacher Angie Cummings' students put together a "Saints Posse" to share with their classes. Instead of doing the traditional saints report, they each had to find and figure out which of our saints make up their "posse" (just like they have to figure out who makes up their posse of friends!). They had to have a minimum of five saints and each saint had to relate to their own needs/personality/etc. In this way they had a good, solid list of which saints they could reference for their own special needs.

For example, a seventh grader may have five saints that look something like this:

St Matthew (their parish)

St Elizabeth of Hungary (after whom they were named)

St Anthony (because they lose stuff a lot)

St Cecilia (because they love music)

St Thomas More (because they want to be an attorney)

The lesson includes a research part (but not extensive), a reflective part (imagine an "All About Me" poster but related to how the saints relate to the student), and a prayer piece for future use and intercessions.

Thank you to Principal Beth Globokar for passing on this idea!



Thanksgiving Day Lesson Plans on the Eucharist as Thanksgiving

By Jared Dees



Eucharist means first of all “thanksgiving” (CCC, 1360). There is no better lesson to teach to our students this Thanksgiving week than this. There are many images that express the intense mystery that is the Eucharist, but the Eucharist as thanksgiving is the most appropriate for November. A simple connection that you can help your students make is that every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we share a Thanksgiving meal. Check out the link below from the [religionteacher.com](http://www.thereligionteacher.com). Jared Dees provides elementary, middle school and high school lesson plans linking Eucharist and Thanksgiving. You can modify the lessons as you wish!

<http://www.thereligionteacher.com/catholic-thanksgiving-day-lesson-plans-on-the-eucharist-as-thanksgiving/>

From the Education Resource Center (ERC):



The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to a close on November 20, 2016. In these remaining weeks, you might consider reviewing the Works of Mercy as well as the Catholic tradition of Pilgrimage. You can find a short lesson on each of these topics in *Enriching Faith: Lessons And Activities On What Makes Us Catholic* (BK #269781). Also, check out the opportunities on the website of The Cathedral of St. Raphael in Dubuque:

<https://cathedralstpats.org/yearofmercy/>

as well as the following videos:

What Is A Pilgrimage?

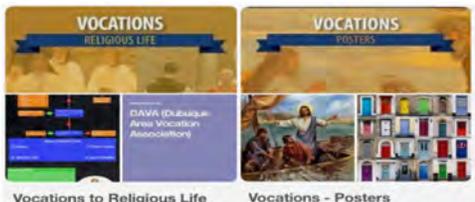
<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss57fd295d175a4>

Pittsburgh Catholic: What Is A Pilgrimage?

https://safeshare.tv/x/32qoXtHHS_g

The following Archdiocese of Dubuque Pinterest Boards (*Vocations to Religious Life and Vocations Posters*) can help you celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week (beginning November 6, 2016)!

 <https://www.pinterest.com/dbqarch/>



Have You Ever Heard of the Vietnamese Martyrs?

The **Vietnamese Martyrs**, also known as the **Martyrs of Indochina, Martyrs of Tonkin, Annam, and Cochinchina**, are saints who were canonized by Pope John Paul II. On June 19, 1988, thousands of Overseas Vietnamese worldwide gathered at the Vatican for the Celebration of the Canonization of 117 Vietnamese Martyrs. Their memorial is on November 24

(although several of these saints have another memorial, as they were beatified and on the calendar prior to the canonization of the group).

The Vatican estimates the number of Vietnamese martyrs at between 130,000 and 300,000. John Paul II decided to canonize those whose names are known and unknown, giving them a single feast day. The Vietnamese Martyrs fall into several groupings, those of the Dominican and Jesuit missionary era of the 18th century and those killed in the politically inspired persecutions of the 19th century. The Catholic Church in Vietnam was devastated during the Tày Sơn rebellion in the late 18th century. The tortures these individuals underwent are considered by the Vatican to be among the worst in the history of Christian martyrdom. Missionaries and lay people alike who held fast to the Catholic faith were executed. Go to Wikipedia for more information on these saints.



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