

GROWING UP CATHOLIC

Faith Activities
on **SAINTS**

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The Pastoral Center

SAMPLE - DO NOT REPRODUCE

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INTRODUCTION

Most of us enjoy stories. We enjoy hearing stories about friends and relatives. Stories teach us lessons we don't even know we are learning. We also enjoy telling stories about our friends or about ourselves.

The stories of the saints contained in this book call us to reflect on the blessings we receive from the lives of these holy men and women. All of the saints laughed, cried, worked, played, believed, doubted, hoped, and despaired—but through it all they “acted with justice, loved tenderly, and walked humbly with their God” (Micah 6:8) in the ordinary everyday events of their lives.

Some of the saint stories deepen our courage and help us find a voice to speak out against injustices. Other stories propel us toward volunteering to help those in need. Still, other saint stories encourage us to take risks or create new paths as we too try to act with justice, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with God in the ordinary, everyday events of our lives.

This book can be used in several different ways. First of all, at times catechists need to work with small groups of children—what can the other children do while the teacher is working with a small group? The catechist can set up two or three learning stations, and the children who aren't working directly with the catechist can learn about the saints through these independent activities.

Another way to use this book is to set aside a couple of class times. Divide the class into small groups and have the students rotate through the different centers. The catechist can facilitate learning through asking questions and assisting students as they create the different projects.

A third way to use this book is to create an intergenerational evening focused on the saints. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and parishioners can be invited for a two-hour session focusing on the saints. All of the centers can be set up in advance, and people can rotate through the different centers.

Another possibility is to create a “Saint Museum.” Each student prepares a short talk about one of the saints and dresses like that saint. Saints are placed around the room, and when visitors stop in front of the saint, the saint begins talking about him/herself.

Finally, for the students in grades three through six, the catechist can take the saint stories and put them together one after the other to create a readers' theatre for the students. These can be performed for the younger students, parents, or other guests. Readers' theatres are great because the catechist doesn't need props, costumes, etc; only scripts are needed. The story is told using vocal expression.

Note that the step-by-step activity instructions are designed for use in whole family events, but you can reference them for classroom use or easily adapt the editable files for use in other settings.

This book can comfortably be used in a variety of ways, which allows it to meet the diverse needs of both teachers and students. Be creative! Use this book as a springboard to deepen your students' knowledge and love for the saints. May these holy men and women pray for us as our hearts find a home within their stories.

SAMPLE - DO NOT REPRODUCE



SAINT JOHN NEUMANN

Feast Day

January 5

Objectives

- To help children learn about Saint John Neumann (saint story)
- To learn about bishop symbols by making a wall hanging (activity 1a)
- To teach others about Saint John Neumann by making log cabins (activity 1b)
- To learn the characteristics of a good bishop by making a miter (activity 1c)
- To teach someone else about Saint John Neumann using capes (activity 1d)

Materials

1a Bishop Symbols

- Red ribbon or construction paper, 2" wide and 18" long
- Pectoral cross, ring, crozier, miter, and pallium template found on the activity page
- Markers and pens for writing

1b Saint John Neumann Cabin

- Tissue box
- Paper
- Pretzels
- Marshmallow cream
- Markers and pens for writing

1c Bishop Miters

- Colored paper strips
- Ribbon
- Glue
- Markers and pens for writing

1d Saint John Neumann Capes or Copes

- Ribbon
- Plastic tablecloth
- Markers and pens for writing

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN

Ages 8 and under

My parents lived in **Bohemia** and named me John when I was born. I had four sisters and a brother. When I grew up, I wanted to be a priest, but there were too many priests in Bohemia. I left Bohemia and went to America with the hope of becoming a **priest**.

I finished my studies before I left my homeland and was **ordained** a priest right after I arrived in America. I was sent to Buffalo, New York, to work with Father Pax, who asked me if I wanted to work in the city or the country. I chose to

work in the country. I helped the **farmers** build log churches and taught them about God. I enjoyed traveling from farm to farm.

I was made **Bishop** of Philadelphia in 1852. I built **50 churches** and began building a cathedral. I also built **200 Catholic schools**. I wanted children to learn about God as they learned to read and write. People were very surprised when I died at the age of 48. **I was the first American man and American bishop to become a saint.**

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN

Ages 9 and up

Reader 1: John Neumann was born in **Bohemia**, a part of the Czech Republic. He studied **theology**, but he was also interested in botany and astronomy. When he finished studying, he asked to be ordained. The bishop said “No. There are too many priests.”

Reader 2: John didn’t give up his dream, but he boarded a ship and sailed for **America**. There he was met by Bishop John Dubois who was very excited to ordain him. America had very few priests and needed as many as they could find. He worked with Father Pax in Buffalo, New York. Father Pax asked him if he wanted to work in the city or in the country. Father John chose to work in the **country**.

Reader 3: Father John liked being a priest but he wanted to join the Redemptorist Fathers. Bishop Dubois gave him permission to do this. He traveled from New York to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to become a novice in this order. A few years later, he made his vows.

Reader 4: In 1852, Father John Neumann was appointed as **Bishop** of Philadelphia. He had many dreams for his diocese. First of all, he established an organized Catholic school system; he built **200 Catholic schools!** That was simply amazing!

Reader 5: Another dream Bishop Neumann had was to have a lot of religious sisters and brothers in his diocese to care for the people.

Reader 6: Bishop Neumann was doing errands one day when he collapsed and died. Later, the doctor discovered that he had a stroke. People were very surprised to hear of their bishop’s death. He was only 48 years old.

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN • bishop symbols

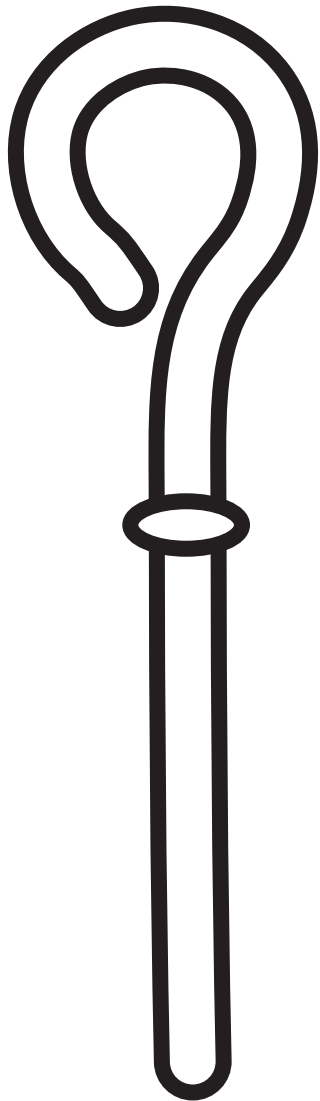
Objectives

- To learn about bishop symbols by making a wall hanging

Step-by-Step

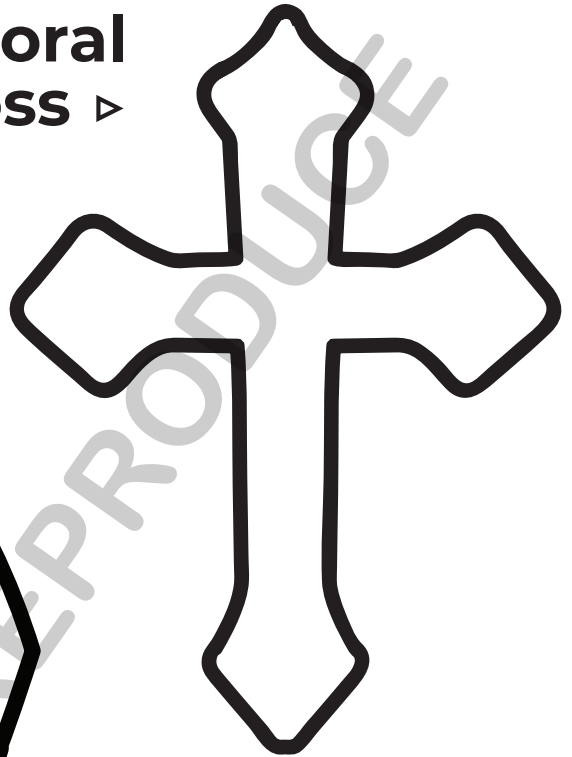
1. Explain that Saint John Neumann was a bishop. When bishops are ordained, they receive special symbols.
 - ▶ **Pectoral Cross:** The cross is worn on a chain close to the bishop's heart.
 - ▶ **Ring:** Each bishop chooses what design he wants on his ring. Wearing this reminds the bishop to care for all of the people in his diocese.
 - ▶ **Miter:** The bishop wears the miter when he says Mass. It is a special headdress which is a sign of victory. The bishop leads others to their victory in heaven.
 - ▶ **Crozier:** The crozier is a shepherd's staff. The bishop carries it to remind everyone that he is like Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
 - ▶ **Pallium:** The pallium is a huge white collar made from lamb's wool and embroidered with six black crosses. It is worn only by the pope and the most important archbishops.
2. Make a wall hanging with your child to remember the bishop's symbols.
 - ▶ Cut out each of the bishop symbols.
 - ▶ Decorate the symbols.
 - ▶ Glue the symbols on a strip of red ribbon or construction paper. Make a rectangle paper "name plate" and write the name of your bishop. Glue the "name plate" at the top and add the symbols underneath.
 - ▶ Hang it in your bedroom where you will remember to pray to St. John Neumann, for your bishop, and all bishops.
3. Teach your child this song to the tune of *Are You Sleeping?*

*Saint John Neumann, Saint John Neumann
Worked with farmers, Worked with farmers
He became a bishop, He became a bishop
Holy Man, Holy Man*

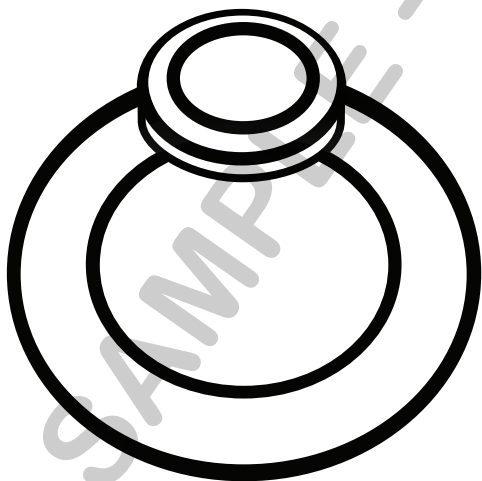


◁ Crozier

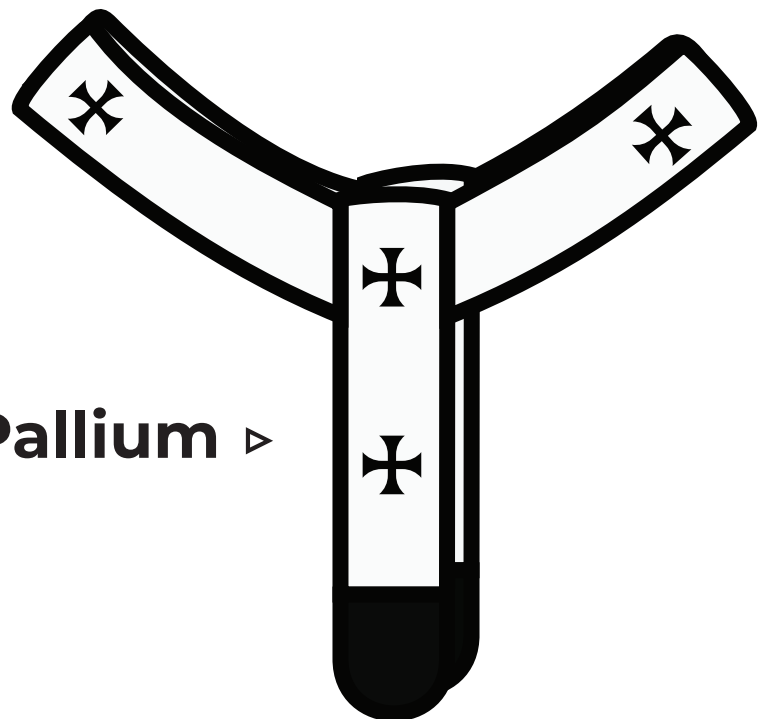
Pectoral
cross ▷



◁ Miter



△ Ring



Pallium ▷

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN • log cabin

Objective

- To teach others about Saint John Neumann by making log cabins

Step-by-Step

1. Explain that Saint John Neumann chose to work in the country where he helped farmers build log cabin churches.
2. Using the materials provided, build a log cabin with your child.
 - ▶ Get a square tissue box and cut off the top.
 - ▶ Fold paper to make a roof and glue it to the box.
 - ▶ Cut out a door and windows.
 - ▶ Use pretzel sticks for the logs and marshmallow cream for the mortar to make a log cabin.
 - ▶ Write two facts from the story about Saint John Neumann on the cabin.



SAINT JOHN NEUMANN • bishop miters

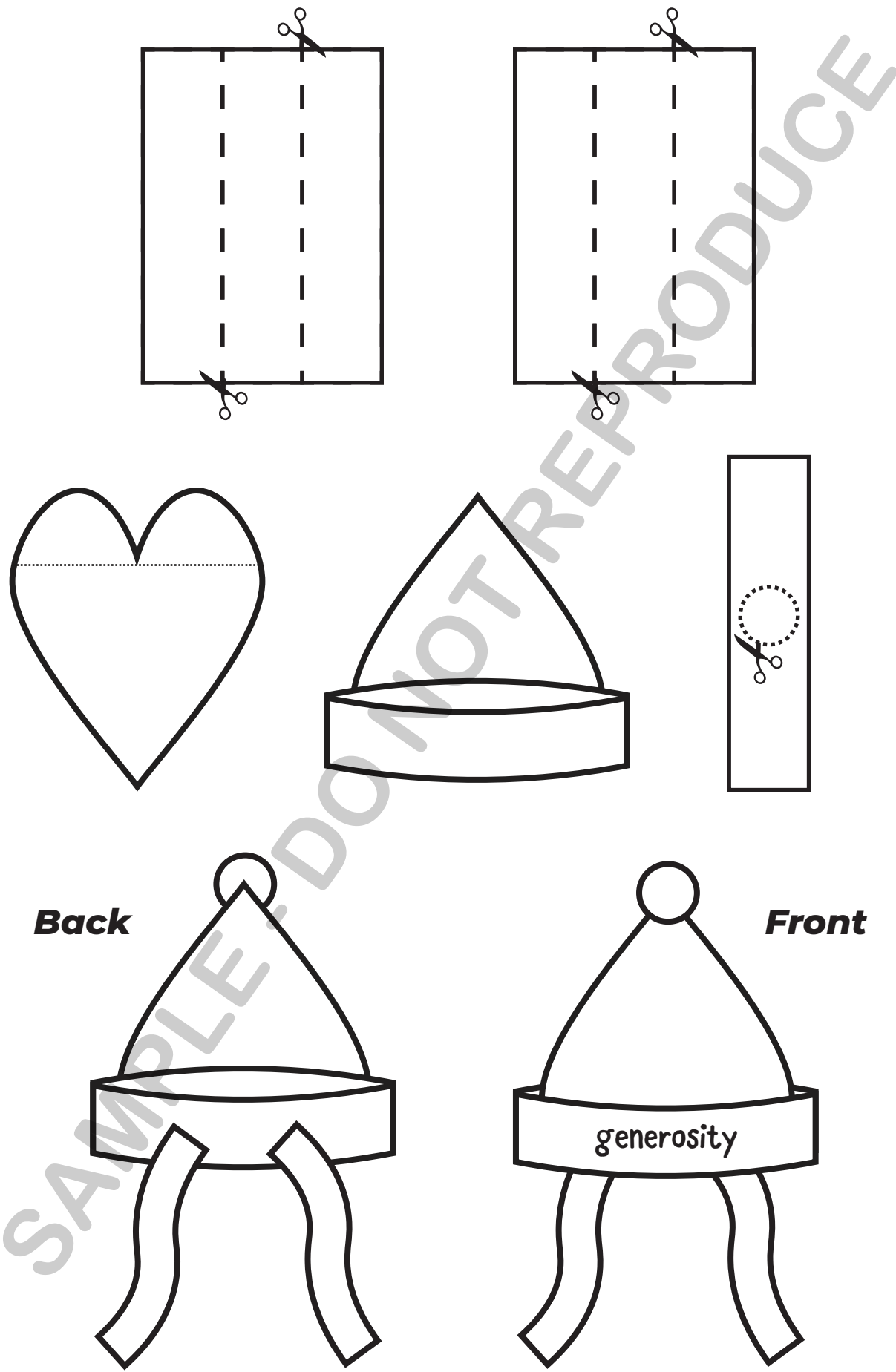
Objective

- To learn the characteristics of a good bishop by making a miter

Step-by-Step

1. Explain that Saint John Neumann received a miter when he was ordained a bishop. Today, bishops also receive miters when they are ordained. The miter symbolizes tongues to represent the fire of the Holy Spirit.
2. Brainstorm a list of characteristics a man needs in order to be a good bishop. Possible ideas:
 - ▶ generosity
 - ▶ person of prayer
 - ▶ ability to listen
 - ▶ kindness
3. With your child, create a miter.
 - ▶ Divide two sheets of paper into thirds. Cut the strips. Glue multiple strips together to make a paper ring that fits around your child's head.
 - ▶ Take another sheet of paper and draw a heart big enough to cover most of the page. Cut out the heart.
 - ▶ Put glue on the two humps of the heart and glue it to your paper ring.
 - ▶ With one of your leftover strips, draw a circle and cut it out. Glue the circle to the point of your hat.
 - ▶ Attach two thick pieces of ribbon to the back of the miter base.
 - ▶ Draw a cross on your miter and write five bishop characteristics somewhere on it.

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN **MITER DIAGRAMS**



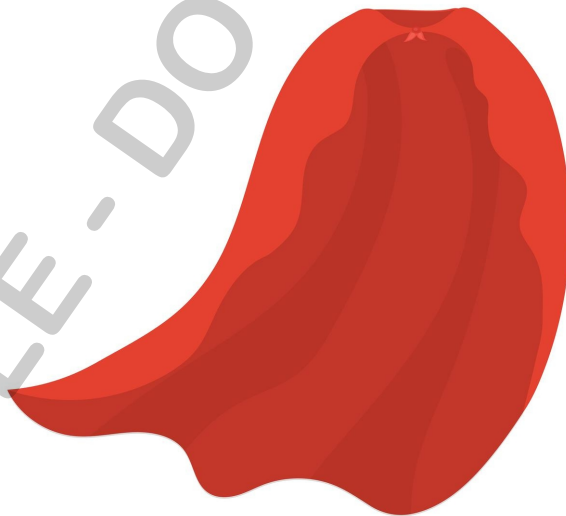
SAINT JOHN NEUMANN • cape activity

Objective

- To teach someone else about Saint John Neumann using capes

Step-by-Step

1. Explain that Saint John Neumann wore a cape as a bishop. The cape symbolizes the protection a shepherd gives his sheep.
2. With your child, create a cape.
 - ▶ Cut a plastic tablecloth to desired length.
 - ▶ Attach two, 12-inch strips of ribbon to each end to make ties.
 - ▶ Draw pictures and print words about Saint John Neumann on the cape.
 - ▶ Tie it on and wear it!



Feast Day

January 6

Objectives

- To help children understand Saint André Bessette's life (saint story)
- To help students understand the prayer of the Anointing of the Sick through designing a stole (activity 1a)
- To help students create a memory box for André Bessette (activity 1b)
- To write a news flash about André Bessette (activity 1c)

Materials

2a Prayer Stole

- Template of the anointing of the sick symbols for stole
- Felt pieces cut into strips of 60" x 5", one per student (extra pieces of felt could also be used to decorate the stole)
- Glue
- Markers
- Scissors

2b Memory Boxes

- Shoe boxes, one per student
- Markers and pens for writing

2c News Flash Posters

- Plain paper for posters

SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE

Ages 8 and under

My parents named me Alfred when I was born. Because I was ill, my parents baptized me right away. My family lived in Canada, and we spoke French. My father was a lumberman and was killed by a falling tree. I felt very sad and missed him a lot. My mom took care of us ten children. This was a big job for her. She died three years later, leaving us orphans. I went to live with my aunt and uncle. I tried to do small jobs but I was so sick that I couldn't work, so I spent most of my day **praying**.

At age 20, I went to live in the United States, where I worked in a factory that made material for clothes. I missed living in Canada. I moved back to Canada and answered **God's call** to become a religious brother.

I joined **The Congregation of the Holy Cross** in Canada and received the religious name Brother André.

My main job was to answer the door at Notre Dame College in Quebec. I really enjoyed meeting strangers and helping them. Can you believe I did this for forty years? My favorite saint was **Saint Joseph**, and I prayed to him every day. Sometimes I would touch a sick person and pray to Saint Joseph and this person would be **cured**. My dream was to build a special church in honor of Saint Joseph. My dream came true. I died when I was 91 years old. I'm in **heaven** and enjoy being with God and Saint Joseph.

SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE

Ages 9 and up

Reader 1: Alfred Bessette was very weak when he was born. His parents had him baptized immediately. His father was a carpenter and a lumberman, and his mother stayed at home to teach her ten children. His father died when a tree fell on him; his mother was now a single parent of ten children. Three years later, she died. Alfred went to live with his aunt and uncle.

Reader 2: Alfred tried to do small jobs to help out, but his health did not let him keep a job. He spent a lot of time praying and talking to his friends about God.

Reader 3: When Alfred was 20 years old, he went to the United States to work in a factory that made material for clothes. He worked very hard at this job.

Reader 4: Alfred decided to join the Holy Cross Brothers in Montreal. His religious name was Brother André. His main job was to answer the door at Notre Dame College in Quebec.

Reader 5: Brother André had a special devotion to Saint Joseph. Through Saint Joseph's help, Brother André was often able to heal people. One time when he was scrubbing the floor, two men brought in a lady who could hardly walk. Brother André stopped and prayed and then said to the men, "Let her walk." The woman walked. Brother André wanted people to know it was Saint Joseph who worked the miracles, not him.

Reader 6: Brother André had a dream of building a special church to Saint Joseph. With the help of many people, the church was built. Brother André died at the age of 91.

SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE • prayer stoles

Objectives

- To help students understand the prayer of the Anointing of the Sick through designing a stole

Step-by-Step

1. Explain that Brother André prayed for many people to be healed. When we receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest wears a special **stole** and says a special **prayer**.
 - ▶ Color the prayer page and the symbols (dove and praying hands).
 - Option 1: Cut out the words and the symbols.
 - Option 2: Put the symbols on your stole and keep the prayer as a take-home sheet.
 - ▶ Glue your cutouts onto a felt stole.
2. Do you know anyone who is sick? Take a moment to pray for that person (or for all who are sick) using your stole and the included prayer.
3. Wear your stole sometime during the day and pray for someone who is ill.

Through
this holy
anointing,
may the Lord
in his love
and mercy
help you with
the grace of
the Holy Spirit



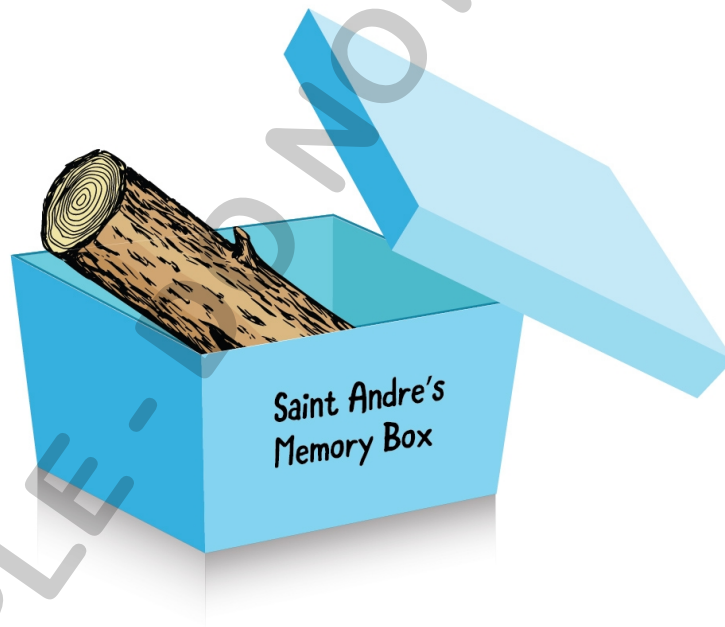
SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE • memory boxes

Objectives

- To help students understand the life of Saint André Bessette by creating a memory box

Step-by-Step

1. Decorate a shoe box.
2. Print “Saint André’s Memory Box” on it.
3. Go on a scavenger hunt to find four or five items to put in your box that represent memories from his life. For example, you might put a tree branch inside it to honor André’s father, who was killed by a falling tree.



SAINT ANDRÉ BESSETTE • news flash posters

Objectives

- To help students remember important facts about Saint André Bessette by writing a News Flash

Step-by-Step

1. Using blank paper, create a News Flash poster about something important from Saint André's story.
2. These posters could be displayed around the church to teach the rest of the parish community about Saint André.



Feast Day

January 23

Objectives

- To help children learn about Saint Marianne Cope (saint story)
- To review the corporal works of mercy through making a charm bracelet or clothesline (activity 3a)
- To review the important facts of Saint Marianne Cope's life through a memory clock (activity 3b)
- To review how to care for others by creating the ten commandments of caring for others (activity 3c)

Materials

3a Charm Bracelet or Clothesline

- Hole punch
- Symbols template
- Yarn for bracelets
- Markers for decorating
- Scissors
- Plain paper
- Twine
- Clothespins

3b Memory Clock

- Large paper plates
- Glue
- Markers and pens for writing
- Arrow template
- Scissors
- Brads

3c Ten Commandments

- Ten Commandments template
- Markers and pens for writing

SAINT MARIANNE COPE

Ages 8 and under

I, Maria Anna Barbara Cope, was born in Germany. My family moved to the United States when I was one year old. We lived in New York and I went to a Catholic school. My father became ill, so I quit going to school and worked in a factory so my family had money.

After my father died, I became a **Franciscan Sister**. My new name was Sister Marianne. My job was to **teach** students. A short time later, I was asked to work in a hospital. I took very good care of the patients.

At that time, there was a very bad disease called **leprosy**. People who had this disease could not live with their family and friends but had to live on a special island. I was not afraid of the disease so I went to the island to help. I took care of Father Damien, who also helped the lepers. But he caught the disease too. I took care of him until he died. I tried to be a very **brave** woman. I did not die of leprosy but died of natural causes.

SAINT MARIANNE COPE

Ages 9 and up

Reader 1: Maria Anna Barbara Cope was born in 1838 in Germany. When Maria was one year old, her family boarded a ship and sailed for America. They made their home in Utica, New York. When she was in 8th grade, her father became very ill. Maria dropped out of school to work in a factory. Her family needed the money she made in order to live.

Reader 2: After her father died, her brothers and sisters were old enough to care for themselves. Maria entered the **Franciscan** order and was given the name Sister Marianne. Sister Marianne taught in **schools**, and then she was asked to run a **hospital**.

Reader 3: At that time, there was a terribly contagious disease known as **leprosy**. Once people got this disease, they could no longer live with their families. Lepers were sent to live on a special island near Hawaii. Sister Marianne and six sisters went to work on this island. They were not afraid of catching the disease. The sisters knew the lepers needed lots of help.

Reader 4: Father Damien was also helping the lepers. One day, he felt ill, and the doctor told him he had leprosy. Sister Marianne and her sisters not only did their work, but they also took care of Father Damien's work. No one wanted to take care of Father Damien, so Sister Marianne nursed him until he died.

Reader 5: After Father Damien died, Sister Marianne was responsible for his work as well as her own work. Sister Marianne knew she needed assistance. So she looked for a **religious community** to take Father Damien's work, and she was able to find one. Sister Marianne stayed on the island until she died. She died of natural causes.

SAINT MARIANNE COPE • works of mercy

Objectives

- To review the corporal works of mercy through a craft project

Step-by-Step

1. Explain that Saint Marianne Cope practiced the corporal works of mercy. You will make a bracelet or a clothesline as a reminder of these works of mercy.
2. Choose an option below to remember the corporal works of mercy.
 - ▶ Option One: Charm Bracelet
 - Choose three different colors of yarn. Braid them together.
 - Cut out the seven works of mercy charms templates and decorate them.
 - Punch a hole in the top of each charm and put the braided yarn through each hole.
 - Tie the bracelet around your wrist and wear it to remember St. Marianne Cope and the corporal works of mercy!
 - ▶ Option Two: Clothesline
 - Draw a symbol for each of the seven corporal works of mercy or use the symbols provided and decorate. Write the work of mercy on the back of each.
 - Take a small rectangle piece of paper and write “The Corporal Works of Mercy” to hang on the clothesline.
 - Hang your symbols on a piece of twine using clothespins. Display your clothesline at home to remind you of Saint Marianne Cope and the corporal works of mercy.

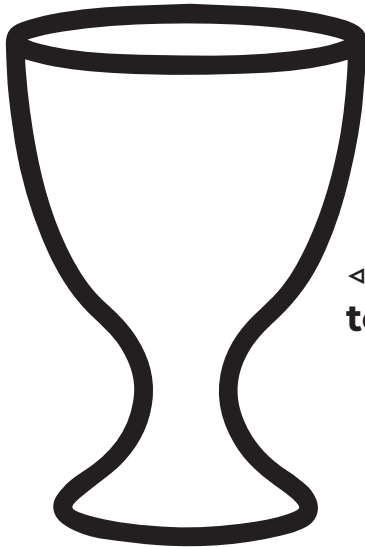
SAINT MARIANNE COPE **CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY CHARMS**



△ To feed the hungry



To shelter the homeless △

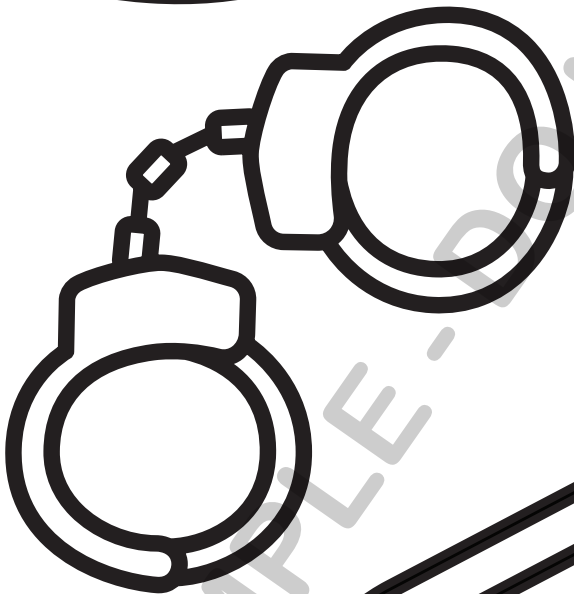


◁ To give drink to the thirsty

To clothe the naked ▷

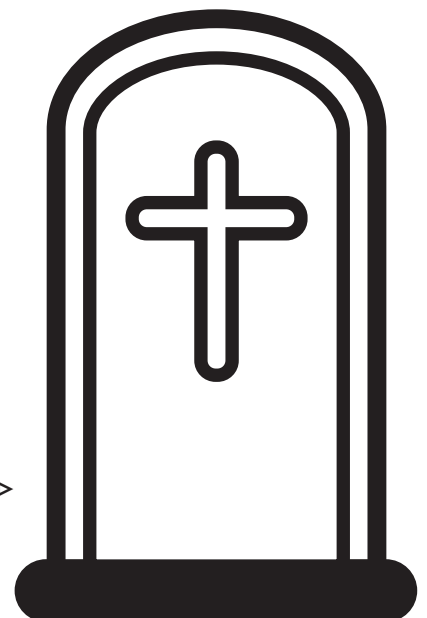


◁ To visit the imprisoned



△ To visit the sick

To bury the dead ▷



SAINT MARIANNE COPE • memory clock

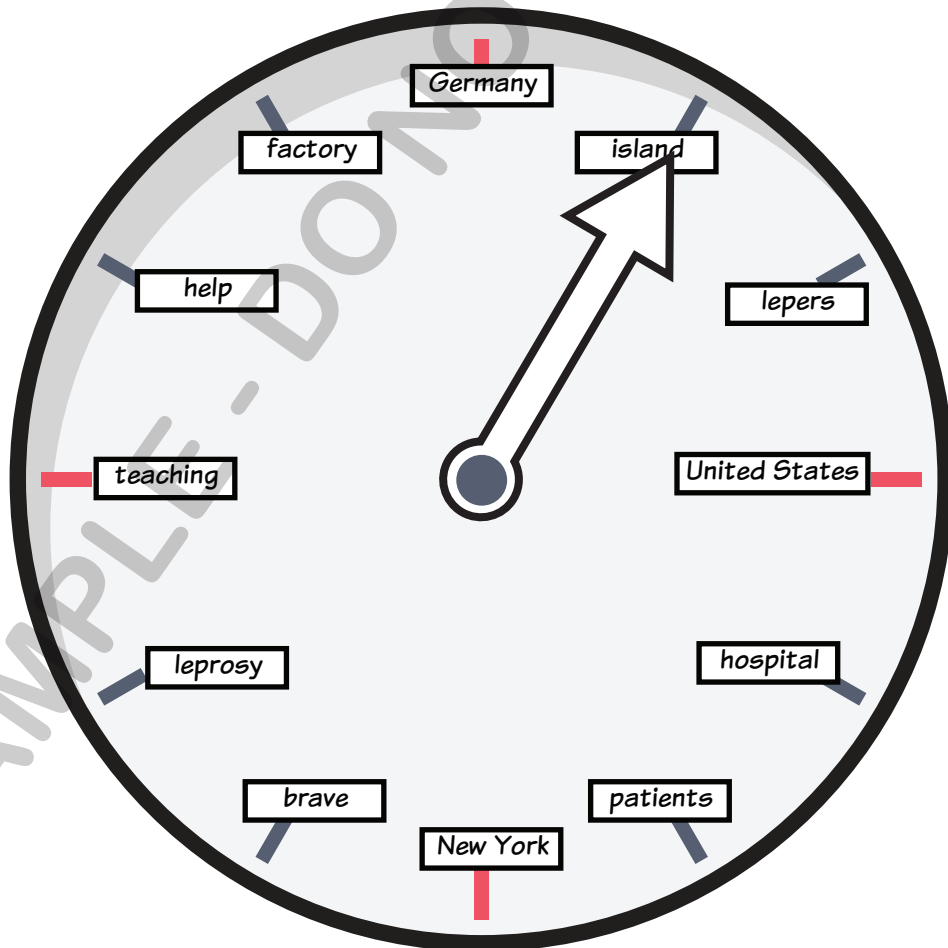
Objectives

- To review the important facts of Saint Marianne's life through a "Time to Remember" clock

Step-by-Step

1. Create a "Time to Remember" clock by following these steps.
 - ▶ Put lines on a large paper plate where the numerals would go on a clock.
 - ▶ Look back at Saint Marianne's story and choose 12 words that you find interesting.
 - ▶ Print one word on each strip.
 - ▶ Glue the strips where you drew the lines on the clock.
 - ▶ Cut out the arrow and put it in the center of the plate using a brad.
 - ▶ Take turns spinning the arrow and telling each other about the word that the arrow points to.

SAINT MARIANNE COPE **TIME TO REMEMBER**



SAINT MARIANNE COPE • care for others

commandments

Objectives

- ☐ To review how to care for others by creating the ten commandments of caring for others

Step-by-Step

1. Explain that Sister Marianne cared for everyone. We are encouraged to follow her example through writing the commandments of care and posting them in our home.
2. Brainstorm a list of ten rules that would help everyone care for all people.
3. Write them on the Ten Commandments template and decorate.

