10th grade/Confirmation Week 3 9/25/17

1. Opening Prayer: see prayer card
2. Did anyone ask their parent(s) to

a) pick out qualities that they see in you and

b) characteristics that you could work on from last week’s class worksheet?

Would anyone like to share?

Were you surprised by the choices they made?

To you agree or disagree?

1. **Student writes a letter asking the person they chose to be their sponsor** (hand out SH stationary)

Example:

*Dear Uncle Joe,*

*This Spring I am being my Confirmed and I would like to ask you to be my sponsor. I admire you because you are committed to your faith, honest, and loving. These are qualities I hope to grow in myself. I know being my sponsor is a big responsibility. Besides helping my parents to guide me in the Catholic faith and being present on the day of my Confirmation, my sponsor and I have to complete a booklet together. We would meet or talk by phone/skype six (6) times. Each session is not longer than an hour. Maybe we can meet at Starbucks or Dairy Queen? I hope you will consider being my sponsor.*

*Love, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

1. Please have your parents mail your card.
2. **If your sponsor is not from S.H. they must have a letter sent by their parish saying that can fulfill the responsibilities of being a sponsor. It should be mailed to the Rectory.**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Church & Shrine**

**Attn. Mrs. Pam Hoy**

5337 Genesee Street **Bowmansville, NY** 14026

1. **Today’s objective: Why bother learning about the Saints? What can they do for me?**

**“Choosing the best patron saint for me.”**

**Exactly how many saints are there?** There are over 10,000 named saints and beatified from history, the Roman Martyology and Orthodox sources, but no definitive "head count".

**How does the Church choose saints?** ***Canonization***, the process the Church uses to name a saint, has only been used since the tenth century. For hundreds of years, starting with the first martyrs of the early Church, saints were chosen by public acclaim. Though this was a more democratic way to recognize saints, some saints' stories were distorted by legend and some never existed. Gradually, the bishops and finally the Vatican took over authority for approving saints.

**In 1983, Pope John Paul II made sweeping changes in the canonization procedure.**

1. The process begins after the death of a Catholic whom people regard as holy.

2. Starts many years after death in order give perspective on the candidate.

3. The local bishop investigates the candidate's life and writings for heroic virtue (or martyrdom) and orthodoxy of doctrine (nothing in their life contradicts Church doctrine).

4. Then a panel of theologians at the Vatican evaluates the candidate.

5. After approval by the panel and cardinals of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints

6. The pope proclaims the candidate "venerable."

7. The next step, beatification, requires evidence of one miracle (except in the case of martyrs).

Since miracles are considered proof that the person is in heaven and can intercede for us,

8. The miracle must take place after the candidate's death and as a result of a specific petition to the candidate.

* When the pope proclaims the candidate beatified or "blessed," the person can be **venerated** by a particular region or group of people with whom the person holds special importance.
* Only after **one more miracle** will the pope canonize the saint (this includes martyrs as well).
* The title of saint tells us that the person lived a holy life, is in heaven, and is to be honored by the universal Church.
* Canonization does not "make" a person a saint; it recognizes what God has already done.
* Though canonization is infallible and irrevocable, it takes a long time and a lot of effort.
* So while every person who is canonized is a saint, not every holy person has been canonized.
* You have probably known many "saints" in your life, and you are called by God to be one yourself.

**When did the Church start honoring saints?**

* By the year 100 A.D., Christians were honoring other Christians who had died, and asking for their intercession.
* Many people think that honoring saints was something the Church set up later, but it was part of Christianity from the very beginning.
* As a matter of fact, this practice came from a long-standing tradition in the Jewish faith of honoring prophets and holy people with shrines.
* The first saints were martyrs, people who had given up their lives for the Faith in the persecution of Christians.

**Is keeping statues or pictures of saints idolatry?**

Look at the pictures of your loved ones in your wallet or around your home or office.

Why do you keep these particular pictures?

You might answer that you carry those pictures to remind you of people you love, to help you feel that they're close to you when you're not together, or to share with people you meet.

But you probably didn't say you worshipped them. T

hose are some of the same reasons we have statues and pictures of saints.

Seeing a statue of Saint Therese of Lisieux who lost her mother when she was a child might make us feel less alone when we are grieving.

A picture of Saint Francis of Assisi might remind us of how much he loved God's creation and make us more aware of our environment.

**Do Catholics pray to saints?**

We pray ***with*** saints, *not to them*.

Have you ever asked anyone to pray for you when you were having a hard time?

Why did you choose to ask that person?

You may have chosen someone you could trust, or someone who understood your problem, or someone who was close to God.

Those are all reasons we ask saints to pray for us in times of trouble.

Since saints led holy lives and are close to God in heaven, we feel that their prayers are particularly effective. Often we ask particular saints to pray for us if we feel they have a particular interest in our problem.

For example, many people ask Saint Monica to pray for them if they have trouble with unanswered prayers, because Monica prayed for twenty years for her son to be converted. Finally her prayers were answered in a way she never dreamed of -- her son, Augustine, became a canonized saint and a Doctor of the Church.

**What is a patron saint?**

* Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life.
* A patron saint can help us when we follow the example of that saint's life and when we ask for that saint's intercessory prayers to God.
* Patron saints are often chosen today because an interest, talent, or event in their lives overlaps with the special area.

**Saint Biography Presentations**

St. Name Patron of Inspiring qualities\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John Massia

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John Bosco

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Paul the Apostle

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Isaac \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Catherine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Margaret Mary

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Bl. Mary of New France

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Thomas Aquines

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St. Name Patron of Inspiring qualities\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pauline Jaricot

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Philip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Rose of Lima

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St. Catherine Labouré

1. Closing Prayer: Our Father