

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: SAINTS



My Story

There are many people who are a good example to you. Maybe they are really good at something you enjoy doing, or they have great faith, or they encourage you. They could be people you know or people you have seen, read about, or heard about.



AND THINK

- *Whom do you hope to be like?*
- *Why do you hope to be like that person?*



God's Story

Saints are holy persons. This means that they stay connected to God through prayer, by following God's Commandments, and by loving and serving God and their neighbor. The Church names them saints and shares their stories with us so that we might learn from their examples and stay strong in faith.

Although we do not call her "saint," Mary, the Mother of God, is Queen of all saints. She is a special model of holiness. She said yes to God so that God's plan of Salvation could be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Other saints whose stories you may know by now include Saint Francis, Saint Teresa of Jesus, Saint Justin Martyr, Saint Joan of Arc, and Saint Paul. These and all of the saints are not only an example to us, they pray for us to God.



Our Response

If you want to become good at something, you find a teacher or coach to help you. To become more holy, pay attention to the stories of Jesus, Mary, and the saints. Follow their example.



- *What names and stories of saints do you know?*
- *What do these stories teach us about living as People of God?*

Sharing God's Word

With your family, read one or more of the Scriptures listed below. Share what each passage says about becoming a **saint**.

1 Corinthians 6:1-2

(Lawsuits Before Unbelievers)

Romans 1:7

(Greeting)

Matthew 13:43

(The Explanation of the Parable of the Weeds)

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

Faith Words

Mother of God

Mother of God is one of the titles, or names, by which Mary is known. The Church teaches that because Mary is the Mother of Jesus, she is the Mother of God.

.....

saints

Saints are holy people whose love for God is stronger than their love for anything or anyone else. The Saints lived holy lives on earth. Now they live with God in Heaven.

Witness of Faith



Saint Francis de Sales (1567–1622)

Saint Francis de Sales was ordained bishop of Geneva, Switzerland, in 1602. He ministered to the people of his diocese through writings. This was unusual, because most writings in his time were for priests. One of his best-known writings is *An Introduction to the Devout Life*. In it he encouraged ordinary, everyday people to choose God, to choose Heaven, and to choose everlasting life. He wrote that Jesus is inviting each of us to come to him, that Mary is inviting us to come to Jesus the Son, and that the saints are asking us to join them in Heaven. They are urging us to stay on the path of devotion to God. The Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Francis de Sales on January 24.