



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

February 2007
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In this month let us try to encourage our children to love God and our neighbors, stressing how important it is to ask for forgiveness from any one we had offended.

Enclosed you will find the most important Feasts and Saints:

- February 02 *Presentation of the Lord and Mary's Purifications*
- February 03 *St Blasé—blessing of the throats*
- February 05 *St Agatha*
- February 06 *San Paul Miki and Companions*
- February 11 *Our Lady of Lourdes*
- February 14 *San Cyril & Methodius*
- February 14 *Valentine Day*
- February 17 *Leader's Workshop***
- February 18 *St. Bernadette Soubirois*
- February 24 ***Apologetics and Ecumenism Conference—Sheraton Mart Hotel***

Enclosed Material:

- 1) *Calendar of the month*
- 2) *Reflection on Sunday Gospel*
- 3) *Saints to prepare for the Consecration: St. Pelayo—St. Bernadette*

Activities for Lent

- A) *Way of the cross*
- B) *Advent week calendar*
- C) *Game the seven capital sins*

Suggested Videos: *(All available in the video club)*

1. *Our lady of Lourdes*
2. *The song of Bernadette*
3. *St. Bernadette & Lourdes*
4. *The Princess of Lourdes*
5. *Sharing Quigley's Village*
6. *Friendship*
7. *Love God Treasure his name (pbs kid)*
8. *Penance (shc)*

Try to plan the Mass of Consecration of the children to Jesus and Mary in one of the feast days of the Virgin Mary. In Miami we are planning the mass consecration on March 24, 2007 at St. Louis Church. We hope to see you there.

May God Bless You Always,

Friends of Jesus and Mary.



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Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

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Cycle C

February 07

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			0	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	S. Agatha	S. Paul Mikii & Companions		S Jerome Emiliani S Josephine Bakhita		S Scholastica
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day S Cyril, S Methodius			Leaders Workshop
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Presidents' Day		Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)	Chair of St Peter George Washington's Birthday	S. Polycarp	Apologetics and Ecu- menism conference Sheraton Mart Hotel
25	26	27	28			
1st Sunday Of Lent						

ADVENT CALENDAR



DAY
MONDAYS

We will pray three Hail Marys especially for sick children, who suffer hunger and war



DAY
TUESDAYS

We will remember all the children who are orphans, who live on the street despised by all and who have nobody who truly loves them. To help them we will eat everything that is given to us without complaining



DAY
WEDNESDAYS

We will pray an Our Father a Hail Mary and Glory to be the Lord asking Him to put an end to abortion in the world and so that mothers will allow their children to be born.



DAY
THURSDAYS

We will study and do our homework promptly, offering everything for those boys who will one day be priest, so that people won't try to crush their vocation but will help them to grow in their Christian life



DAY
FRIDAYS

We won't eat any sweet things and we will offer this sacrifice for the children who don't know God



DAY
SATURDAYS

We will console the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary by being more obedient at home and asking her to guard the purity of children



DAY
SUNDAYS

We will go to Mass, offering it for the children who blaspheme and mock God or holy things.

We will like this Lent to organize a rescue group of children. But do not worry we are not going to fight with weapons of war but of peace. We offering our good deeds and prayers. Do you like the idea? Then follow us !!!

Each day of the week made a prayer or a good deed. The day of Easter you will have a wonderful gift to offer Jesus as a thanksgiving gift for his great love for us.



Easter

What Does Success Mean?

What do these items stand for?

Write the meaning of each sign on the lines.







What is the sign of Jesus' success? _____

What made Jesus a success? _____

How can you be a success like Jesus? _____

List three things you can do to help others to be a success?

The Cross is a sign of Jesus' Love for us, which is stronger than death. Jesus died a painful death to save us. He died willingly; He told His friends ahead of time that it would happen. Peter did not even believe him. (Mt. 16:21-23; Mk. 8:31-33) Do you know about people who give themselves willingly to save other? Think of firemen, policemen and women, parents sacrificing their lives, children saving their little brother or sister from fire or from drowning.

Discuss with the children the reality of the cross and suffering in everyone's life and the importance of accepting it out of love for Jesus. If Jesus loves us enough to die for us, the least we can do is to express our love and faithfulness to Him daily in little and big ways. Brainstorm with the children how they can give their love to Jesus by offering Him the pains and disappointments found in everyday life. Have each child cut a simple cross and a number of small red hearts out of construction paper; they can attach a heart to the cross each time they accept their cross.



THE VIA CRUCIS

By Sr. Isabel Cuesta

We are going to learn some things about the Way of the Cross that Jesus followed. You know that you can pray it on your own or in company with your brothers and sisters, friends or family. Don't leave Jesus all alone!



1.- JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.
Pilate condemns Jesus to death.

2.- JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS.
He carried it with love, because He was carrying our sins.

3.- JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME.
Jesus fell to the ground. He was exhausted. But He got up again to give us the strength to get up again every time we fall into sin.

4.- JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER.
There were many curious people who came up to see Jesus. Many of them insulted Him... His Mother was there too and She accompanied Him. Only She consoles Him.

5.- SIMON THE CYRENE HELPS JESUS.
Jesus can no longer carry the cross on his own and the soldiers command a man from Cyrene named Simon to help Him. We can help Jesus too with our good actions.

6.- VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS.
A brave woman comes up to Jesus to clean his face, all dirty with blood and muck.

7.- JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME.
The cross is really heavy. The face of Jesus once again strikes against the ground. But because of his love for us, He wants to reach the end. Love makes us strong.



THE VIA CRUCIS

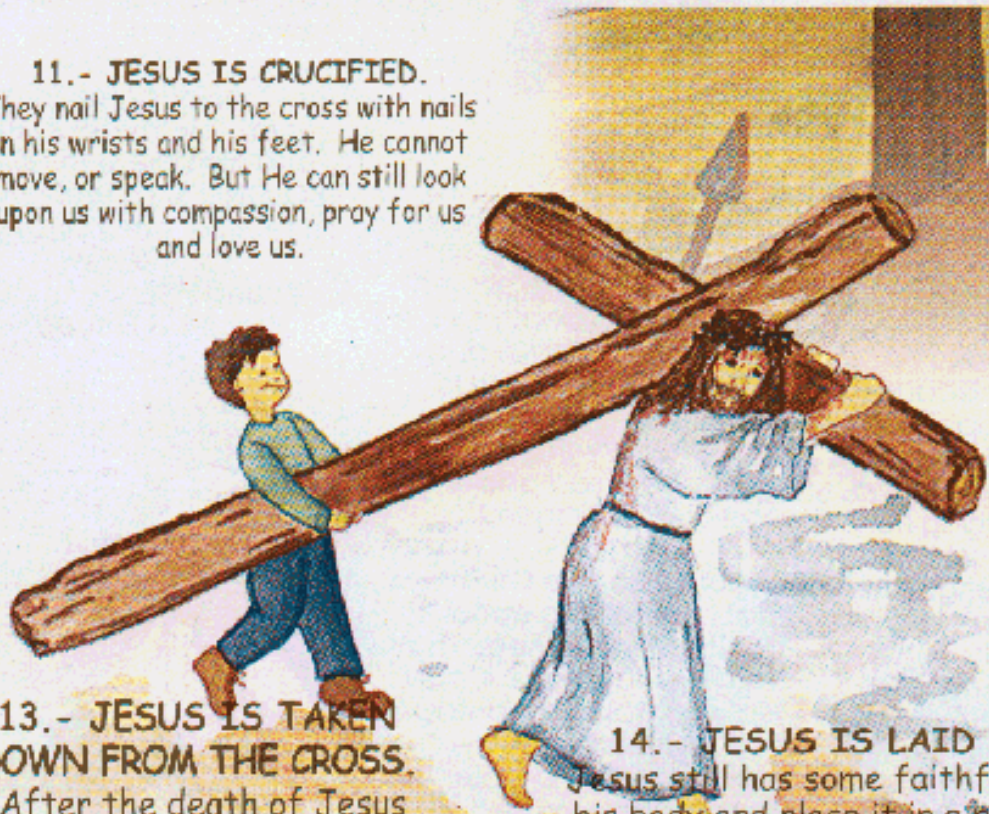
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9.- JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME.
Our sins make the cross heavier and heavier.
But He gets up again,
always ready to forgive.

8.- JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM.
There are some women nearby crying, they feel pity for Jesus. But suffering is not the worst thing. The worst thing is to live and to die in sin.

10.- JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS.
When He reaches Calvary, the soldiers take off his tunic and his clothes, and they raffle them. Jesus suffers an immense shamefulness. He feels the same shame when He sees that people don't dress properly.

11.- JESUS IS CRUCIFIED.
They nail Jesus to the cross with nails in his wrists and his feet. He cannot move, or speak. But He can still look upon us with compassion, pray for us and love us.



12.- JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS.
The death of Jesus, the death of God, on the cross, is a great mystery. He dies because of our sins. Beside Him is Mary, his Mother, whom Jesus has given to us from the cross to be our Mother.

13.- JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS.
After the death of Jesus the earth turned dark and silent. Sin has terrible consequences.

14.- JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB.
Jesus still has some faithful friends who take his body and place it in a new tomb. But hope remains alive only in the heart of the Virgin Mary. She is the only one who knows that He will rise again on the third day.

Jesus fulfills all our needs

February 4th:
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is. 6:1-2a,3-8;
1 Cor. 15:1-11;
Luke 5:1-11

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about the times they were unsuccessful in achieving what they wanted. Where their efforts for the good of others? When have they really felt successful? Ask what good qualities they have that they think they should develop?

Activities. Ask the children to draw, color, and cut out fish. On each they should write some things they are working on right now, things they will need Jesus' help on.

Final Prayer. Each child should put the fish in a basket that expresses his or her commitment. All respond: "Jesus, I will do what you want me to do". The basket should be presented at the Offertory.

You are there. Imagine you have been trying something for a long time and nothing works. Would you trust in Jesus and try one more time? What do you say to Jesus when he tells you to try again?



Q: When Jesus' friends were unable to catch anything while fishing, Jesus told them to try again and cast their nets. Soon their nets were full. Have you ever tried something that didn't work out? Did you ask for Jesus' help? Did you try again?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

B Jesus tells you not to get discouraged when your efforts seem to be useless. He has given you the ability to do good and beautiful things for yourself and others. What are you trying to achieve for yourself or loved ones? Do you trust Jesus?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him about the problems you are experiencing at home or school. Are you trying to do something good for yourself or others? What type of encouragement do you need? Ask Jesus for help. Tell him what you would like to do this week:

- ☺ For example: I will work hard on my homework.
- ☺ For example: Every morning I will ask Jesus what he would like me to do during the day.
- ☺ _____
- ☺ _____

WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish. Try to make a sentence with them:

Nets, Caught, Jesus, Fish, Told, Meter, Many, Cast, And, He

A	C	O	M	Y	A	R	T	I	R
P	E	S	C	A	D	O	S	S	T
E	G	L	E	S	I	A	C	D	C
D	G	H	J	J	N	M	N	E	
R	E	D	E	S	O	T	P	X	L
O	A	B	S	D	E	A	E	H	E
J	H	M	U	C	H	O	S	N	B
V	E	R	S	R	A	H	C	E	R
P	E	R	D	O	N	A	O	L	A
N	O	P	Q	R	C	T	U	V	R

Jesus turns things upside down

February 11th:
Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

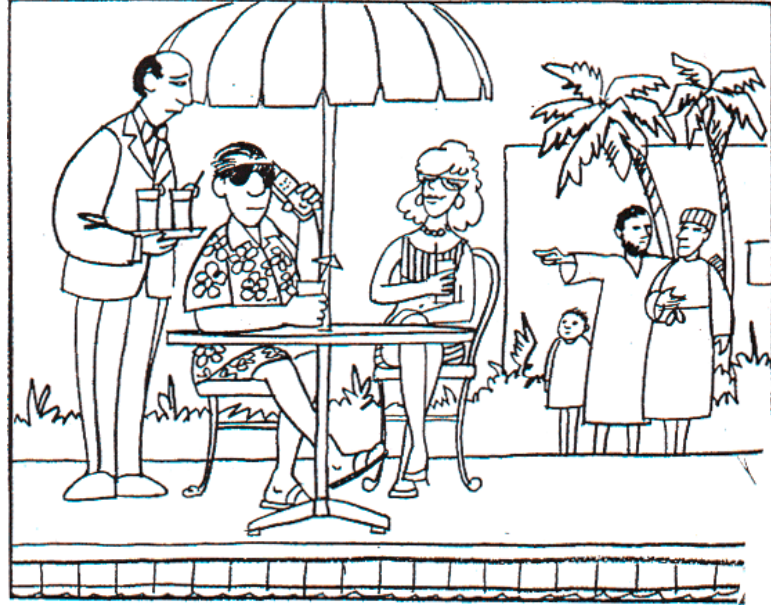
Jer. 17:5-8;
1 Cor. 15:12.16-20;
Luke 6:17-20

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about commercials on TV. What do they think the messages are? Do the children believe that owning these advertised products will make them happier? What are their most prized possessions? Have they ever felt rejected or ridiculed while trying to be good?

Activities. On a big piece of paper, draw a landscape with a stream of water. Ask the children to draw and cut out trees. They should write their names and a sentence such as "I trust God will give me (fill in the blank)," on the trunk of the tree. The children should place their trees near the stream.

Final Prayer. As each child places a tree by the stream, all respond: "Jesus, only you can make us truly happy".

You are there. Imagine that you are listening to Jesus. How do you feel about what he is saying? Do you want him to know how you are feeling—that it is better to have lots of money and never suffer? Would you laugh at what Jesus is saying?



☞ Jesus warned his friends that some rich people place more importance on their belongings than on God and others. When you receive gifts, do you thank God and share your luck with others?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

☞ Everything you have is a gift from God. Do you thank God every day for the many good things you have received? Have you ever been rejected or made fun of because you were doing something good? How did that make you feel?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him how you felt when you didn't have something you needed. Tell him how you felt when someone laughed at you because you were trying to be good. Tell him what you would like to do this week:

☺ For example: I will give up a gift I wanted from my family so that the money can be spent on something for the whole family or given to someone who really needs it.

☺ For example: I will let a classmate lead a game instead of trying to lead it myself.

☺

WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish. Try to make a sentence with them:

Rich, Things, Houses, Poor, Hunger, God, Bless Suffer, Jesus, Gift

A	P	O	S	P	A	R	T	I	R
M	O	D	I	O	S	F	R	S	T
I	B	L	E	S	C	A	C	D	C
G	R	H	I	J	R	I	M	N	R
B	E	N	D	E	C	I	R	X	I
S	S	B	G	D	A	O	G	H	R
J	H	A	E	S	S	S	S	N	F
V	L	R	D	A	A	M	R	A	U
O	J	E	S	U	S	A	R	L	S
H	A	M	B	R	E	T	U	V	R

We should not return evil with evil

February 18th:
Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time

1 Sam. 26:7-9,12-13;
1 Cor. 15:45-49;
Luke 6::27-38

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about revenge. Have they ever heard, “Do not get mad, get even?” What do they think about advantage of Saul while he was sleeping?

Activities. Dramatize the story of David and Saul. Ask the children who are not playing David, his friend, or Saul, to express how they feel when they find out that David did not kill Saul.

Talk to the children about the stories of people who forgave their aggressors, like John Paul II and Cardinal Bernardin.

Final Prayer. Invite the children to think about someone who has wronged them. If they feel ready to forgive that person, they should say out loud: “I forgive”. After they express their forgiveness, all respond: “Jesus, you teach us to be generous.”

You are there. You go into Saul’s camp with David and know Saul is danger. Would you take advantage of Saul while he slept? Have you ever taken revenge on a brother, sister, or classmate for something they did?



Jesus, your friend, invites you:

☞ Jesus says that God is good to everyone, both good and bad. Do you forgive those who have done something wrong to you? Are you willing to help others without any type of thanks or reward?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him about someone you do not like or who has done something wrong to you. Ask him to help you forgive and do good to that person. Tell him what you would like to do this week:

☺ For example: I will offer my help or belongings to those I don't like.

☺ For example: I will forgive someone who has insulted me or treated me badly.

☺ _____

WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish. Try to make a sentence with them:

Justice, God, Kill, David, Could, Leave, Saul, Hands, Jesus, Forgiveness

A M A N O S R T I R
M L A N O P F R S T
J U S T I C I A D C
G E H I A S N M N E
O P S P E R D O N L
S O B U D S A U L E
J D I O S O V Q N B
V R R D A D I R B R
P I R D O N D R L A
N A M A R C H A R R

We should not return evil with evil

Deut. 26:4-10;
Rom. 10:8-13;
Lucas 4:1-13

February 25th:
First Sunday in
Lent

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about the things that are easy for them to do. Do they ever feel inclined to do what they know is not right—to lie, disobey their parents, or neglect their studies? How can they resist such temptations?

Activities. Ask the children to act out the story in the desert. What does the devil say to them? What does he promise? How do they respond?

Final Prayer. Ask each child to write one of their most frequent temptations on a piece of paper. They should then fold the paper, so that no one can see it, and place it in the basket to be presented at the Offertory. As the children place their papers in the basket, all respond: “Jesus, I want to be with you”.

You are there. If you were in the desert, what would you advise Jesus to do? If you could get everything you wanted so easily, what would you do?



☞ went to the desert and gave up food so he could think about God. Like Jesus, during Lent, Catholics usually give up something special for 40 days. What are you planning to give up during Lent?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

☞ Jesus refuses to act against God: to seek material things and power. Do you sometimes feel tempted to do things that deep in your heart you know are not good?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him about a time when you felt tempted to do something you knew God would not like, such as lying, manipulating someone, or bossing your brothers or sisters around. Tell Jesus what would help you to resist temptation. Tell him what you would like to do this week:

☺ For example: I will give up something I like but I really do not need

☺ For example: I will ask for help instead of bossing my younger siblings around.

☺ _____

CRUCIGRAMA

Find the following hidden words in Spanish. Try to make a sentence with them:

Desert, Devil, Will, Temptation, Jesus, Hunger, Thirst, Power, Adore, Cliff, God, Bread

A D O R A R R T I H
M E I N O P F O S A
I S P O D E R I D M
G I J E S U S N N B
T E N T A C I O N R
S R B M P E A M H E
J T U E A O S E D B
V O L U N T A D B R
P E R D O N A R L A
P R E C I P I C I O



St Pelagius: June 26th

Consecration of your
strength to love, your
Heart and your feelings

This boy martyr of Spain lived in the days when the Moors ruled part of his homeland. The Moors were fighting the Spanish Christians. Pelagius was only ten when his uncle had to leave him as a hostage with the Moors in the city of Cordova. He would not be allowed to go free until his uncle sent him what the Moors demanded.

Three years passed and still the young Christian remained a prisoner. By this time, he was a handsome, lively boy of thirteen. Although many of his fellow prisoners were men who had acquired evil habits, Pelagius would not imitate their examples. Even though he was young, he had a strong will and knew how to keep himself good.

The ruler of the Moors heard good reports about Pelagius. He sent for the boy. Pelagius was handsome and well-behaved. The ruler felt generous and wanted to get him out of prison. After all, he was only a boy.

Pelagius was offered his freedom, plus fine clothes to wear. Not only that, he would receive beautiful horses and money. All of these would be his if he would give up his faith and become a Muslim like his captors. "All those things you named mean nothing to me", answered the boy firmly. "I have been a Christian. I am Christian now. I shall continue to be a Christian". The ruler was surprised. He changed his approach. Instead of promises came threats, but none had any effect.

Thirteen-year-old Pelagius died a martyr in the year 925.

Pelagius reminds us that our commitment to Christ is serious and has consequences in our daily lives. When we find ourselves weakening, unable to withstand peer pressure, we can ask St. Pelagius to make us as strong and mature in our faith as he was.

VIRTUE: PURITY



St Bernadette: February 18th

Consecration of our encounters with
God and Mary

St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France, on January 7, 1844. Her parents were very poor. Bernadette was frail and often sick.

On Thursday, February 11, 1859, Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood. A beautiful lady appeared to her above a rosebush in the grotto of Massabielle. The lady was dressed in blue and white. She smiled at Bernadette. Then she made the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette began to say it.

The beautiful lady was God's Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. She appeared to Bernadette seventeen times and spoke with her. She told Bernadette that she should pray for sinners and do penance. The lady also told her to have a chapel built there in her honor.

Many people did not believe Bernadette when she

spoke of her vision. She had to suffer very much. But one day Our Lady told Bernadette to dig in the mud. As she did, a spring of water began to flow. The next day it continued to grow larger and larger. Many miracles happened when the people began to use this water.

When Bernadette was older, she became a sister. She was always very humble. More than anything else, she desired not to be praised. She did not want to receive special treatment just because she had actually seen the Blessed Virgin. Although her own health was poor, she helped care for the sick and elderly sisters. She died in 1890 at the age of thirty-six. Her last words were: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me, a poor sinner". She was proclaimed a saint by Pope Pius XI on December 8, 1933.

Bernadette is declared a saint

On August 20, 1908, an ecclesiastical court was set up to study the case for her beatification. One of the first tasks of the court was to exhume Bernadette's body. After being buried for over thirty years, it was found to be incorrupt.

Her head inclined slightly to the left. Her arms crossed over her chest, still clasped her crucifix and rosary. Both were tarnished and full of rust.

The flesh was white and intact, and her parted lips were smiling.

On May 13, 1913, Pope Pius X signed the decree introducing the cause of Bernadette's beatification. She was beatified on June 14th, 1925. Eight years

later, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1933 she was canonized by Pope Pius XI.

During the Process of the canonization Pope Pius XI wrote: "We are pleased to say, for the greater glory of God, this life can be summed up in three words. Bernadette was faithful to her mission, she was humble in glory, and she was valiant in her sufferings."

Now her incorrupt body can be seen as she lies in death in the side chapel of the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity at Nevers, where she lived and died as Sister Marie-Bernard.

VIRTUE: PATIENT

St. Bernadette

Text and drawings: Michelle Maes



Marie Bernadette Soubirous was born on January 7th, 1844, at 2:00 pm in the Boly Mill, in the village of Lourdes, France.

On January 9th, 1844, at St. Peter's church in Lourdes, Bernadette received the sacrament of Baptism.



On Thursday February 11th, 1858, in Massabielle.

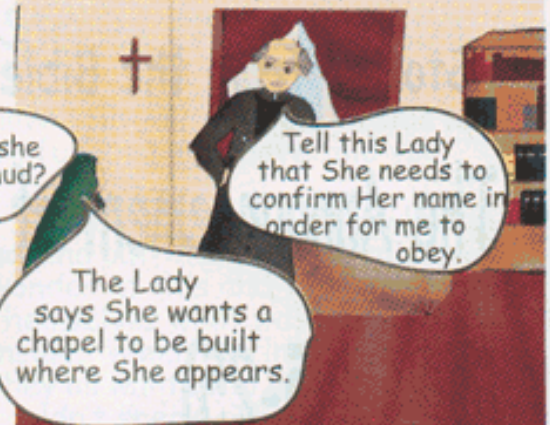


A lot of people come to see her, but many do not believe her and she is forbidden to go to the grotto.

On February 18th, she has another apparition. Our Lady tells her to wash herself in the spring that beforehand had not existed. Bernadette obediently washes herself in the dirt from which some time later water would miraculously spring forth.



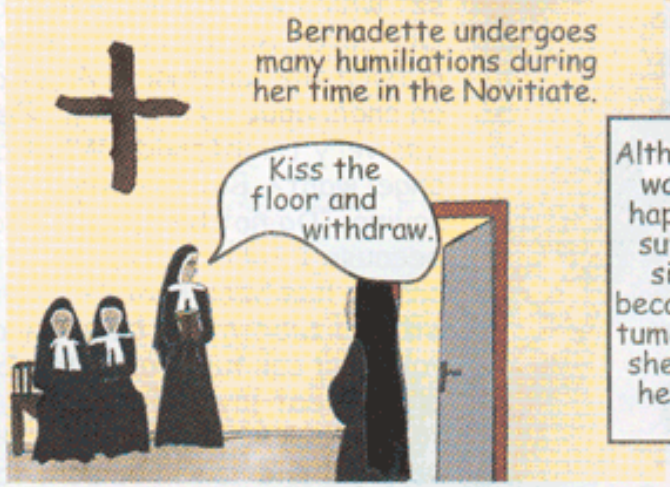
At the parish priest's office....



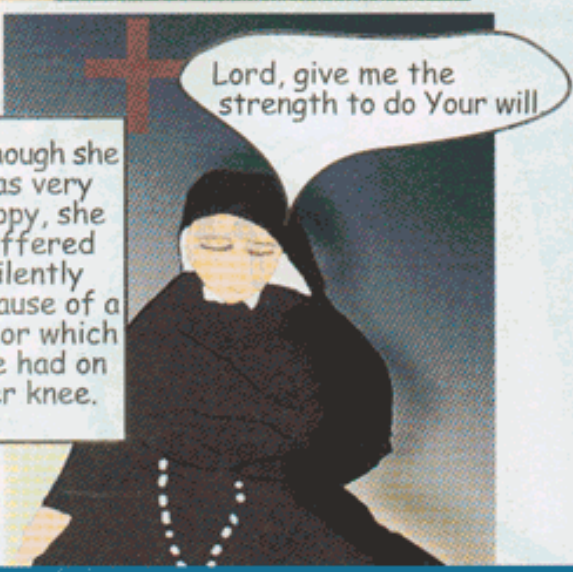
On March 25th, 1858, the Lady reveals Her name.



Bernadette, now 22 years old, leaves for Nevers to enter in the convent of the Sisters of Charity and Christian Instruction.



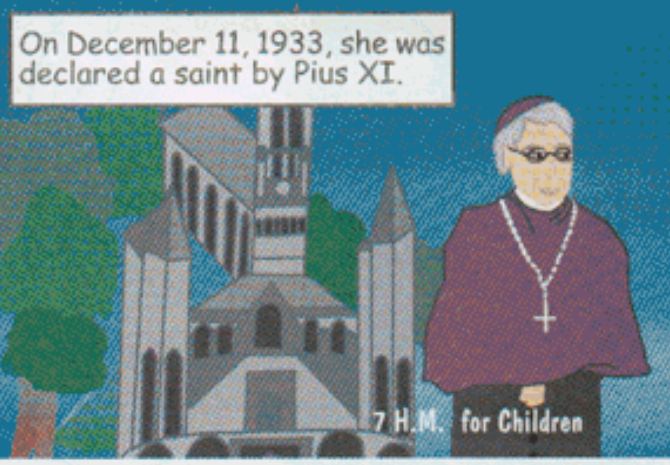
Bernadette undergoes many humiliations during her time in the Novitiate.



Although she was very happy, she suffered silently because of a tumor which she had on her knee.



On April 16th, 1879, her soul was taken to Heaven after suffering from tuberculosis.



On December 11, 1933, she was declared a saint by Pius XI.

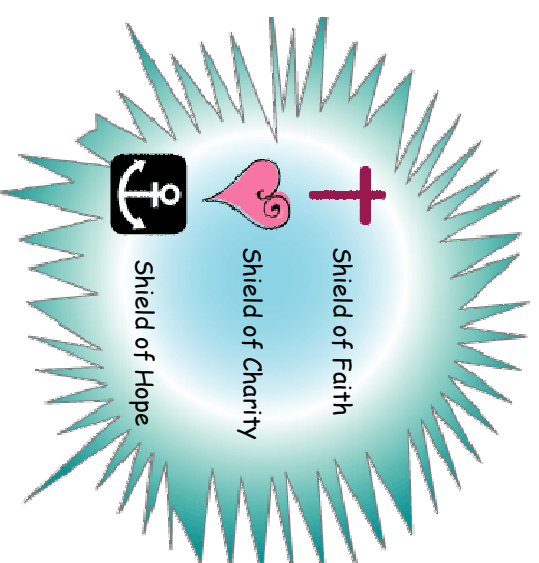
The 7 Capital Sins

QUESTIONS:

1. Tell me the first three commandments of the Law of God?
2. What is the name of the present Pope?
3. Which sacrament erases original sin?
4. Is the Eucharist a sacrament, a commandment or a prayer?
5. Whom for I receive in the Eucharist?
6. How should I receive Him?
7. How many gods are there? How many persons are there in God?
8. Who goes to Heaven?
9. How can we lose the state of grace?
10. Tell me the 7 sacraments.
11. Can I receive the Eucharist in mortal sin? What do I have to do?
12. Say a prayer that you know to our lady. What things are necessary to receive Holy communion well?
13. What is the sing of Christians?
14. Who is the Holy Spirit?
15. What are the fifth and the seventh commandments of the Law of God?
16. Which commandment are you disobeying when you do not go to Mass on Sunday?
17. What is the purpose of amendment?

QUESTIONS ON SINS:

- Pride:** What does it mean to be prideful? A: To want to be better than others.
- Greed:** What does it mean to be greedy? A: To want to have everything for my self.
- Lust:** What is the sin of lust? A: To look in a disorderly manner for comfort and pleasure for the body. It goes against the sixth and ninth commandment.
- Anger:** What is the sin of anger? A: To get angry quickly, shout ...
- Gluttony:** What is the sin of gluttony? A: To eat without control.
- Envy:** What does it mean to be envious? A: To be sad because of the good of others or be happy because of something bad.
- Laziness:** What is does it mean to be lazy? A: The boy or girl that does not like work or effort. They do not get up the first time that they are called ...



Materials: Tokens, one die, little boxes with the names of the virtues written on them, a marble, someone who does not participate in the game and is in charge of asking the questions and giving out the virtue boxes.

(You can make the virtue boxes yourself or you can wrap match boxes with paper and write one of the virtues on it. You have to have a total of 7 boxes).

The game begins on the star space. The first player rolls the die and moves the number of spaces on the outside circle, always moving to the right. If you land on a question and you answer incorrectly, the person who is not participating in the game puts a black dot under your name. If you land on a sin space, they are going to ask you what that sin is, and from then on you have to try to land on the space of the virtue that is contrary to that sin. To make it easier, the sin space and say the virtue that is contrary to it are the same color. **ATTENTION!** To be able to pass on the next circle you must land on the prayer space and say this sentence: "Death rather than sin", and then you can pass to the space directly below the prayer space. When you land on the virtue that is the contrary to the sin, they give you a box with the name of the virtue written on it and you go directly to the star space and you start over, repeat until you have obtained all of the virtues. You have to make a tower with the virtue boxes.

If you miss three questions (you will have three back dots), the player who is sitting in front of you, tries to knock down your tower shooting the marble from their seat, (but they only have one shot).

If they knock down some of your virtue you will have to get them again. **ATTENTION!** If you have landed on a shield space, then you have a protection card, that impedes the other player from shooting the marble, and after using it, you return the protection card. You can only have three protection card, one from each shield. For example, if you already landed on the shield of faith, if you land on it again, they will not give you another "shield of faith".

If at the beginning of the game the first space that you land on is the prayer space, say the sentence and roll again. You cannot pass on the next circle until you have landed on a sin space in the first circle, because that is when you have to try to get the virtue. The first player or team that obtains all of the virtues wins. Now its time to put into practice.

