

High School Lesson Plan

Blessed Mother Teresa Casini, Woman of Heroic Virtue

Objectives

The student will know the steps in the process of canonization.

They will realize why Mother Teresa Casini is beatified and be inspired to imitate her.

Materials

Words on the board (or poster paper): *Servant of God, Venerable, Blessed, Saint*

Handout: "Blessed Mother Teresa Casini: A Brief Biography"

Paper

Pens and pencils

Drawing paper

Crayons and markers

Computers (optional)

Procedure

1. Present the concept of canonization.

- In the comic strip "Wizard of Id," the king once asked a monk, "Any chance of ever being canonized, padre?" The monk replied, "The closest I could hope for is to be shot out of a catapult."
- What does it mean to be canonized? (To be officially declared a Saint by the Pope)

2. Direct the students to work with a partner to compose a definition of a Saint. Let them share their ideas with the class. You might add these:

A holy one

Someone the light shines through

Someone so grasped by religious vision and such a model of that vision that they teach others the value of it

A sign of contradiction

3. Explain the process of canonization, referring to the titles written on the board:

Servant of God, Venerable, Blessed, and Saint.

- Canonization has four steps.
- When a person is thought to be a candidate for sainthood, first the local bishop undertakes a study of his or her life. During this time the person has the title Servant of God. The results of the study are submitted to the Congregation of Causes of Saints in Rome.
- Experts study the documents. If the Congregation of Causes of Saints decides that the Servant of God has practiced heroic virtue, they recommend to the Pope that a Decree of Heroic Virtue be issued. When the Pope does this, the candidate is called Venerable.

- To be beatified, a miracle must occur through the intercession of the Venerable person. After a miracle, the Pope may declare the person Blessed. This means that people may honor and imitate him or her.
- After another miracle is worked, the Pope may declare the Blessed person a Saint.

4. Introduce Mother Teresa Casini.

- Mother Teresa Casini, the founder of the Oblates of the Sacred Heart, a religious community of women who work in the Youngstown Diocese, is on the way to being canonized. In 2015, she was beatified.
- The miracle required for her beatification occurred after a five-year-old boy who attended a preschool run by the Oblate Sisters drowned. The doctors had little hope for his recovery and predicted brain damage if he did survive. The Sisters and their friends prayed to Mother Teresa. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart, the boy regained consciousness. There were no signs of brain damage.

5. Distribute copies of the handout “Blessed Mother Teresa Casini: A Brief Biography.” Have the students read the biography silently.

6. Direct the students to produce a creative project related to Mother Teresa’s life. Allow them to work alone or with a partner. If possible, have the students gather more information from websites such as these:

www.oblatesister.org
<http://oblatesistershj.weebly.com>
<http://www.wfmj.com/story/28007893/boy>

Suggest these possible projects:

A prayer to Mother Teresa
 Her obituary
 A booklet of her life for small children
 A PowerPoint presentation
 A poem, for example, a cinquain, ballad, or rap
 A poster
 A report on the Oblate Sisters today

Prayer

Conclude with a prayer written by a student or students or pray this prayer:
 “Blessed Mother Teresa Casini, pray for us that we might love God as you did and strive to follow God’s will in all the choices we face. Amen.”