

## Junior High Lesson Plan

### **Blessed Mother Teresa Casini, Doer of God's Will**

#### **Objectives**

The children will learn the story of Blessed Mother Teresa Casini's life.

They will be motivated to imitate her by doing God's will and know how to discern it.

#### **Materials**

A picture or statue of the Sacred Heart

Seven copies of the handout "Documentary on Blessed Mother Teresa Casini"

A large question mark at the top of the board or poster paper

Notebook paper

Pens or pencils

#### **Procedure**

1. Show an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and ask the children what they know about it. Supplement their answers with the following information:

- A heart is a symbol of love. The Sacred Heart stands for the love Jesus has for us.
- After Jesus died on the cross, his heart was pierced by a soldier's lance.
- Jesus told St. Margaret Mary to spread devotion to his Sacred Heart.

2. Explain Blessed Mother Teresa Casini's connection to the Sacred Heart.

- In 2015, a woman named Mother Teresa Casini, who was born in Italy in 1864, was declared Blessed.
- Like St. Margaret Mary, Mother Teresa was devoted to the Sacred Heart. She had a vision of the heart of Jesus pierced by a thorn. Jesus told her that he loves people, but many of them do not love him in return, not even those who are consecrated to him like priests and religious women.
- Mother Teresa founded a religious community for women called Oblates of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. An oblation is an offering or sacrifice to God. The Oblates offer themselves to make up for those who do not love Jesus.

3. Introduce the documentary on Blessed Mother Teresa.

- A television program or film on someone's life is called a documentary. During it, people who knew that person are usually interviewed. Today we will pretend to watch a documentary on the life of Blessed Mother Teresa.

4. Ask for volunteers to read the parts of the Narrator, Mr. Casini, the Abbess, the Abbot, the boy, the Pope, and the Oblate. Give these students copies of the handouts (if you haven't provided them earlier for practice). Let these readers come to the front of the class and present the documentary.

5. Discuss following God's will.

- Because Mother Teresa loved God so much, she wanted to do whatever he wanted. How did she know what God wanted? (The Ten Commandments, the

teachings of Jesus and the Church, what Jesus told her when he spoke to her, what her superiors in the convent and her spiritual director told her to do)

- Mother Teresa is on her way to being declared a saint because she did God's will. She was a woman of heroic virtue, and she obeyed Jesus speaking in her heart.

- Sometimes we know what God wants us to do, but not always. What are some important decisions you might have to make? (Possible answers: What high school to attend, what sports team to join, what to do during the summer, what career to prepare for)

6. Ask the students what steps they might take in making the right decision. Invite each student who responds to record his or her answer under the question mark. (Pray to the Holy Spirit, read about the choices, talk to people who are involved in the choices, consult people who know you, know yourself, list the pros and cons, follow your heart)

7. Explain how the work of Blessed Mother Teresa continues.

- Because Blessed Mother Teresa did as God wanted, today there are Oblates of the Sacred Heart working in Italy, Brazil, Peru, India, and West Africa. In the Diocese of Youngstown they run two retirement houses for priests and a preschool and they are involved in parish ministry.

- The Oblate Sisters, like their founder, make up to the Sacred Heart for those who do not love him.

### **Prayer**

1. Direct the students to write a prayer to Blessed Mother Teresa.

- Once people are declared Blessed, we can honor them, imitate them, and pray to them. In the next few minutes, compose a prayer to Blessed Mother Teresa. Ask her to pray that you have the grace to do God's will. You might write your prayer in the form of a poem.

2. Ask for three volunteers to lead the class in praying their prayers.