

Middle Grade Lesson Plan

Blessed Mother Teresa Casini, Supporter of Priests

Objectives

The children will learn why Mother Teresa is called Blessed. They will honor, support, and pray for priests as she did.

Materials

Copies of the handout "The Life of Mother Teresa Casini"

Pens or pencils

Priest written in a circle on the board or poster paper with at least six spokes radiating from it

Prepared thank-you cards or drawing paper

Crayons or felt-tipped pens

Procedure

1. Point to the word *priest* and explain that a priest is a man who has a special vocation, or call from God, to serve God's people. He does the work of Jesus.

2. Ask the children to name what a priest has done for them or others and write their answers on the spokes. (Administer the sacraments; preside at the Eucharist; anoint the sick; counsel; lead the parish; preach; teach; serve as chaplains at hospitals, prisons, and military units)

3. Introduce Mother Teresa Casini.

- Today you will learn about a woman who had a special vocation, or call from God. Jesus asked her to serve him by supporting his priests. Her name is Mother Teresa Casini, and she is a step closer to being declared a saint by the Pope. Recently she was given the title Blessed.

4. Distribute copies of the handout "The Life of Mother Teresa Casini." Direct the children to complete the story by using the code. After they are finished, ask volunteers to read the story. (*Answers: Saint, pray, poor. Heart, thorn, Oblates, priests, boys, will, Blessed, miracle, brain, Brazil*)

5. Explain the word *oblation*.

- An oblation is an offering or sacrifice. Mother Teresa's community is called Oblates of the Sacred Heart because they offer themselves to God for priests.

6. Elicit ways the children can support priests.

- When a person is declared Blessed, we are encouraged to imitate him or her. We can imitate Mother Teresa by supporting priests. What are some ways we can do this? (Pray for them, sacrifice for them, tell them we like their homily, send them a card, invite them to dinner, help them with parish activities)

7. Distribute art materials and have the children create a thank-you card for a priest or bishop they know. Plan to deliver these.

Prayer

Lead the children in a litany.

- Respond to each request with “Mother Casini, pray for them.”

For priests who are newly ordained . . .

For priests who are sick . . .

For priests who are tempted . . .

For priests who are overworked . . .

For priests who are missionaries . . .

For priests who have provided sacraments for me . . .

For priests who are discouraged . . .

For priests who are worried about their parish . . .

For priests who are faithful . . .

For priests who are in purgatory . . .

For the priests who minister in our parish . . .

For our bishop . . .

Jesus, bless all priests and make them more like you day by day.

Amen.