

Primary Lesson Plan

Blessed Mother Teresa Casini, Woman Who Loved God

Objectives

The children will become familiar with the life of Blessed Mother Teresa Casini.

They will desire to imitate her love for God and be moved to pray to her.

Materials

A pink or red paper heart with the words *Love God*

A box

Flashcards: Saint, miracle, Blessed

Drawing paper

Crayons or felt-tipped pens

Procedure

1. Show the children a box that contains a heart with the words *Love God*. Ask:

- What is the most important thing to do in life? The answer is inside this box. Can you guess what it is? (Answers will vary.)

2. Invite a child to open the box and read the words. Comment:

- Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart. If we do this, someday we will live with God in heaven.

We will be saints. [Show the flashcard *Saint*.]

- There are many saints in heaven. These probably include your own relatives. Sometimes the Pope declares that a person is definitely in heaven. Before he does this, certain things are needed to make sure that the person is a saint. One of them is that a miracle happens because people prayed to him or her. [Show the flashcard *miracle*.]

- What is a miracle? (Something that can't be explained by the laws of nature)

- If a miracle like this occurs, then the Pope gives the person the title Blessed. [Show the flashcard *Blessed*.] If another miracle is worked through that person's prayers, then the Pope calls him or her a Saint.

3. Tell the story of Mother Teresa Casini with the children adding gestures.

- A woman named Mother Teresa Casini was recently declared Blessed. As I tell her story, when you hear the word *pray*, fold your hands. When you hear the word *love*, put your hand on your heart.

- Teresa was born in Italy in 1864. Her father taught her to love God and to love the poor. Teresa would often pray. When she was seven years old, she said, "I will be a saint." One day Jesus spoke to Teresa.

He told her that he had great love for us, but many people did not love him back. Teresa had a vision of the Heart of Jesus pierced by a thorn. Teresa decided to spend her life showing love for Jesus. She would make up for those people who caused him pain. She would work and pray that others would love him too.

- Teresa entered a convent but had to leave when she got sick. She joined another religious community, but it ended when its leader died.

- Women joined Teresa to pray together, and she began her own religious community. They became the Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and wore a white veil and dress.

- The Oblate Sisters love Jesus. Because priests directly do the work of Jesus by serving the Church, the Oblate Sisters pray especially for them.

- Mother Teresa had many difficult times, but she never failed to love God. When she died, people said she was a saint. By declaring Mother Teresa Casini Blessed, the Church tells us three things. We can honor her. We can imitate her by loving God and praying for priests. And we can ask Blessed Mother Teresa to pray for us.

4. Explain the miracle that led to Mother Teresa being declared Blessed.

- Are you wondering what miracle happened because of prayers to Mother Teresa? The miracle took place right here in our Youngstown Diocese. A five-year-old boy who went to one of the Oblate Sisters' schools fell into a pool and drowned. Doctors thought that he wouldn't live, and if he did, his brain would be damaged.

- The Sisters and all their friends prayed to Mother Teresa. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart, the boy woke up, and he was perfectly normal. The doctors were amazed.

5. Distribute the art materials and direct the children to draw a picture about Mother Casini's life. Ask them for ideas of what they might draw. (Possibilities: Teresa praying as a child, a heart pierced with a thorn, Teresa praying with women, Mother Teresa in a white habit, a priest celebrating the Eucharist, the recovered boy sitting up in bed)

6. Invite the children to show their pictures and tell what they drew.

Prayer

Lead the children in a prayer to Blessed Mother Teresa Casini.

- Let us pray to Mother Teresa. Repeat each line after me.

Mother Teresa, pray for me
That like you I come to be
Full of love for the Sacred Heart
And live with God eternally.

Amen.