

Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. -Saint Augustine

Grades 6 - 8

Sunday, October 29 and Monday, October 30, 2017

VISION November 5, 2017...31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Connections

- Thank you very much for the “on-off” switches for the Marching With Saints Activity!
- In addition to handouts explaining where to find make-up for grades 6 – 8, I emailed families this week. Most people email work back, but some find it better to print it out and have their youth write answers. If you happen to get written make-up, just place it in your basket.

### Calendar

- November 5/6...Regular Class w/Adoration
- November 12/13...Evening Prayer...6:00 pm – 7:15 pm only on both nights...pick one...attendance will be taken
- November 19/20...CST Introduction
- November 26/27...Regular Class

### Share Experiences

- Coming in to class
  - **Cover activity...**“Who is greatest?”...great “reflection” time as they get ready to begin class. The inside/outside circle activity in your TG is a great way to get them moving and sharing.
- **Gathering Prayer...**in your TG...great quiet reflection and closure...
- **Story** “Never Too Young to Lead”...Timothy 4:12 “Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.” Good time to remind them that they can and do make a difference.

### All Saints and All Souls

Ask the young people how they celebrate Halloween. *What is occurring in nature around the time of Halloween that might make us think about death more?* (Nights are getting longer. Nature is dying or going dormant all around us.)

*People find death frightening because it seems to be the end of life. So at Halloween we make light of death. With our costumes, parties, and decorations, we try to make death less threatening. But as Christians, we know that death is not the end. We have eternal life through Jesus’ death and Resurrection. As Catholics, we begin November by remembering*

*those who have died. We call the first two days of November All Saints Day and All Souls Day. This offers us an even better way of thinking about those who have died. On All Saints Day and All Souls Day we remember that we are members of the People of God. United with God, we are also united with all Christians who have come before us in the Communion of Saints. We pray for those who have died because we have hope that they will live with God forever and that we will be reunited with them.*

Read, have them read, discuss or take as reflection to the Chapel “Communion of Saints” handout.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/~media/Images/saints/Student%20Handout%20B%20Communion%20of%20Saints.ashx?la=en>

This would be great time to reflect/give thanks/say prayers for all the people who have been and are currently a part of their lives.

### **Discover Gospel and Doctrine**

- **Sunday Gospel**...You can have your students read the Gospel from the Pflaum or directly from the Bible...you will already have Bibles out. In addition or in place of the **TALK** questions, here is the Loyola Press script
  1. *You’ve probably heard the words “You know better than that.” The older you get, the more people will look to you to be a good example for others. In other words, people will look to you for leadership.* Ask the group to name areas in which they are called to exercise more leadership. (Possible answers: in school, in extracurricular activities, in sports, at home)
  2. *What would you say are the qualities of a good leader?* (Accept all reasonable answers.)
  3. *In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus talks about leadership. Let’s hear what he has to say.*
  4. Invite a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 23:1–12.
  5. *Jesus tells the crowd to listen to what the scribes and Pharisees say because they are the teachers of the Mosaic Law. But then Jesus offers a warning about their leadership.* Ask a volunteer to read aloud the last sentence of verse 3: “For they preach but they do not practice.” *We are familiar with this saying, but we may not have known that it originated in the Bible. How do we phrase Jesus’ teaching today?* (Practice what you preach.)
  6. *Jesus explains to the crowds that the Jewish leaders are so wrapped up in the privilege and honor that come with their position that they neglect to exercise true leadership.* Ask: *What does Jesus say are the traits of a good leader?* (good example, service, humility) *And to whom does Jesus say that honor and glory belong?* (to God alone)
  7. *Let us conclude by praying silently for Church, political, business, educational, family, and youth leaders so that they may see their leadership as a responsibility to serve.* Allow a few moments for silent prayer. Then pray aloud together the *Glory Be to the Father.*
- **Connecting Gospel and Doctrine** talks about humility and Blessed Stanly Rother. You can find additional information at [archoke.org/rother](http://archoke.org/rother) cause.

On Sept. 23, 2017, Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, celebrated the Rite of Beatification for Blessed Stanley Rother during a Beatification Mass in downtown Oklahoma City. **Blessed Stanley is the first martyr born in the United States and the first U.S. priest to be beatified.**

Blessed Stanley Rother was an Oklahoma priest that was killed in Guatemala on July 28, 1981 in his own rectory. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City opened a Cause of Canonization for Blessed Stanley on October 5, 2007. The Archdiocesan phase of the Cause was closed on July 20, 2010.

On September 3, 2014, Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, presented the Positio of Father Rother to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints in Rome.

June 14, 2015, the Theology Commission of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints in Rome voted to formally recognized Oklahoma's Servant of God Father Rother, a martyr.

- **What The Church Believes and Teaches** (the book)...p. 25 -26...I would use the section in the VISIONS in place of doing this.
- **Our Catholic Faith...**"The Bible Uses Word Pictures of Fathers, Mothers, Children"...great continuing exploration of the Liturgy of the Word and "family"

### **Live the Gospel**

- **Living the Gospel...**"Sacraments of Service"....more colorful/interactive discussion of service in relation to these sacraments.

### **Close with Prayer:**

I will have copies of the Prayer of St. Francis...even if you close in another way, it is a beautiful prayer for them to have and so please hand them out.

Please contact me if you have questions or need help in any way.

Robin Burbrink    **260-1663** ©    [rburbrink@saint-max.org](mailto:rburbrink@saint-max.org)