

C E L E B R A T E

All Saints Day

On November 1, all consecrated persons who do not have a celebration of their own in the liturgical calendar are venerated, or honored. This celebration is called All Saints Day. It is a tradition instituted in honor of all the saints of the Church, known and unknown. According to Pope Urban IV, this feast was to make up for any feast that might have been missing for these holy people.

The history of All Saints Day goes back to Pope Gregory III, who consecrated a chapel in Saint Peter's Basilica (at the Vatican) to all saints on November 1. Later, in the ninth century, Pope Gregory IV extended the celebration to the whole Church. This date is a holiday, a day off from work in some countries, and a holy day of obligation for Catholics. This means that, as Catholics, we should participate in the Holy Mass.

The following activity will help children understand and celebrate All Saints Day.

Race of Virtues: Seven stations are placed on a table, each with a sign and with the materials necessary for the game. Each child will visit each of the stations. Two adults are needed to coordinate this activity, one who keeps time (if this is desired, the child who finishes first, wins) and the other one to set up the station for the next child. The stations are as follows:

- **Feed the hungry like Saint Elizabeth of Hungary:** You will need a basket and a bag with several loaves of bread. The child should transfer the loaves one by one from the bag to the basket.
- **Build a church like Saint Francis:** Place large wooden blocks, interlocking blocks, or boxes for the child to build a tower.
- **Pray like Saint Cyprian:** The child will pray for all those who are present and for their deceased relatives. (This could be an Our Father, a Hail Mary, etc.)
- **Clothe the naked like Saint Martin of Tours:** Place a doll for the child to dress or wrap in a blanket.
- **Give drink to the thirsty like Saint Mother Teresa:** Place a pitcher or a large water bottle and an empty glass for the child to fill with water.
- **Help the poor like Saint Nicholas:** Leave several coins of different amounts and a sock. The child will place the coins in the sock.
- **Evangelize like Saint Patrick:** Provide a clover for the child to color. Above the clover, have the child write *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Triune and One God*. (You may want to adjust the wording for younger children.) You can also make a clover puzzle for the child to put together.