

For Intermediate Grades

Materials Needed:

- **Costumes and props** (*optional*)
- **Writing paper**
- **Pencils or pens**
- **Materials on Laudato Si' from the Catholic Resources section of rclbenziger.com** (*specifically, "Activities with Children for a Better World" section on water*)
- **Materials needed for the Laudato Si' activities you have chosen** (*refer to the "Activities with Children for a Better World" resource*)

Faith Connection

Before Telling the Story

1. Invite a volunteer to explain the meaning of the word abundance.
2. Ask the young people to name things they have in abundance. List their responses on the white board or flip chart.
3. Encourage the young people to listen for examples of abundance in the story of Our Lady of Abundance.

Telling the Story

Tell in your own words the story of Our Lady of Abundance. This would be an excellent story to dramatize, with costumes and props as suggested by the text.

After Telling the Story

1. Invite the young people to work with partners to recall the story. Ask the pairs to identify the main characters in the story and the roles they played, as well as examples in the story of abundance.
2. Lead a group discussion of the young people's thoughts. (*Main characters: women, Baglio, pastor, parishioners; Roles played: prayer, relating Mary's message, processing to the spot, building a church; Abundance: faith and prayer, rain, crops, thanksgiving. Welcome additional responses and ideas.*)

Putting Faith into Action

1. Have the young people continue to work with partners to create acrostics using the letters of the word abundance.
2. Challenge the young people to think of a word or phrase that begins with each letter and describes one way they can show they have an abundance of faith in God. Begin by doing one example together. For example, for the letter "d," devotion to Jesus and Mary; devotion to the Blessed Sacrament; doing for others; denying ourselves and taking up our crosses; doing what Jesus asks us to do.

3. Invite the young people to share their acrostics with the group.

Curriculum Connection: Math and Social Studies

Before Telling the Story

1. Invite volunteers to share what they know about droughts. What is a drought? What are some famous droughts in history? How do droughts impact crops, people, and livestock?
2. Ask the young people to listen for the connection between a drought and Our Lady of Abundance as you tell her story.

After Telling the Story

1. Invite volunteers to tell what part a drought had to play in the story of Our Lady of Abundance. (*The people had suffered a long drought; Our Lady of Abundance heard their prayers for rain.*)
2. Engage the young people in the activity or activities you have chosen to do from the Laudato Si' "Activities with Children for a Better World" resource (*Catholic Resource section at rclbenziger.com*).

And Furthermore . . .

Brainstorm with the young people ways we use the gift of water every day. Ask them to name ways we waste water and ways we can conserve water. List their thoughts on the board. Vote on one way you will, as a group, quit wasting water, and one way you will make a stronger effort to conserve water. Ask the young people to invite their family members to join them in these efforts too.